**ACO 2024  
Richard Tognetti - Artistic Director   
National Concert Season**

How do we conjure experiences that define us and inspire you?  
We set our horizons wider than ever before.

“Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit … A little test to see if you

are reading this and to reassure you that this welcome has not been auto generated

by ChatGPT.

The dramatic rise of AI is impacting our creative industries. We live in a time of verisimilitude – where much that appears to be real, in fact is not.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be working in possibly one of the last unscathed bastions of

human endeavour. From centuries-old wooden instruments and gut strings, to the callouses

we develop on our fingertips from hours of practising, the beauty and power of live music

cannot be usurped by machines just yet.

So, we continue to celebrate *you*, our wonderful audiences, turning up to see real humans, performing real music, on real instruments, with real human emotions.”

* **Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director**

“Our 2024 Season champions the ACO as an orchestra without limits. From trailblazing productions of grit and ambition to collaborations with great artists from across the globe and across the pier, 2024 sees the ACO forging its own path and taking you with us. And the spark at the heart of it all: Richard Tognetti and our band of elite musicians performing the most extraordinary music, on the most extraordinary instruments, as only they can.

Each time the Orchestra walks on stage, you’ve been there to greet us with renewed vigor and support. Long may it continue.   
  
Welcome to ACO 2024.”

* **Richard Evans, Managing Director**

**2024 Season**

Our 2024 Season embodies the very essence of the ACO: vibrant collaborations, old friends, new friends, and the Orchestra showcased in music from the celebrated classics to the sounds of tomorrow.

**Book your 2024 Season**

Online at aco.com.au

Phone 1800 444 444

**River**

**1–16 Feb**

A cinematic odyssey exploring the waterways that have shaped our world, in all their majesty and fragility.

**Beethoven’s Emperor**

**9–24 Mar**

Step into the concert hall of Beethoven’s time in this joyful celebration directed by pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout.

**Mahler’s Song of the Earth**

**12–26 May**

Stuart Skelton and Catherine Carby star in this extraordinary encounter with Mahler’s monumental song cycle.

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**

**14–30 Jun**

The world-renowned cellist and master storyteller makes his ACO debut as soloist and guest director.

**Silence & Rapture**

**2–19 Aug**

An immersive collaboration with Sydney Dance Company featuring countertenor Iestyn Davies and the music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt.

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach  
5 - 23 Sep**  
Sparks fly and melodies soar when Richard Tognetti directs music close to the ACO’s heart

**Scotland Unbound**

**7–20 Nov**

Guitarist Sean Shibe makes his Australian debut in this inspired and thrilling season closer.

**River**

**1–16 Feb**

A cinematic odyssey exploring the waterways that have shaped our world, in all their majesty and fragility.

For millions of years, rivers shaped landscapes and sustained communities. In flow, flood and drought, rivers gave life and carried it away. In two short centuries, humans have begun to re-shape rivers. We build dams upstream to sustain our cities. We alter flood plains and vary flows. Downstream, the changes can be catastrophic.

ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti and Director Jennifer Peedom follow their acclaimed

Mountain with this cinematic exploration of the waterways that have shaped our world. On

screen, the rivers flow in rhythm and harmony with music from outstanding composers. The result is an awe-inspiring combination of timeless music, captivating cinematography, and distinctive narration from Academy Award™ winner Willem Dafoe.

The score features iconic works by composers including Bach and Ravel, music by Jonny Greenwood and Radiohead, and new original music by Richard Tognetti and peerless Indigenous composer William Barton. The soundtrack won ARIA & AACTA awards.

Performed live by Richard Tognetti and the ACO, alongside Jennifer Peedom’s astonishing visuals, the effect is even more powerful.

*River is a visceral experience that is both dream-like and urgent. At its one-off premiere performance in 2022, reviewers said – “River does not request your attention. It demands your surrender.”* – SMH ★★★★

**Program**

River: film live in concert, featuring music by Bach, Vivaldi, Mahler, Sibelius, Ravel, Thomas Adès, Peteris Vasks, Richard Tognetti, Radiohead, Jonny Greenwood and William Barton.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Musical Director, Composer & Violin

**William Barton** • Composer, Vocals & Didgeridoo

**Satu Vänskä •** Vocals & Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Jennifer Peedom** • Writer & Director

**Robert Macfarlane** • Writer

**Jo-anne McGowan, Jennifer Peedom, John Smithson** • Producers

**Joseph Nizeti** • Co-Writer & Co-Director

**Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Ben Knight, Sherpas Cinema, Renan Ozturk and Pete McBride** • Principal Cinematography

**Willem Dafoe** • Narrator

**Nigel Jamieson** • Staging Director

**Damien Cooper** • Lighting Design

**Dates**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 1 Feb 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 3 Feb 7.30pm

Mon 5 Feb 7.30pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 4 Feb 2.30pm

**Canberra Theatre Centre**

Wed 7 Feb 8pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Sat 10 Feb 7pm

Tue 13 Feb 8pm

Wed 14 Feb 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 11 Feb 2pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 12 Feb 7pm

**Perth Concert Hall\***

Fri 16 Feb 7.30pm

\*Presented in association with Perth Festival

**Beethoven’s Emperor**

**9–24 Mar**

Step into the concert hall of Beethoven’s time in this joyful celebration directed by pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout.

How do you find your way into the masterpieces of old? In this program, you’ll travel through the forebears and heirs, and the influencers and influenced, so that you can stand alongside the lucky few who had their hair blown back by the magic of Beethoven’s Emperor the very first time it was played.

Pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout returns to the ACO to direct this celebratory concert from the fortepiano, with Beethoven’s most beloved work at its heart. A longtime friend of the ACO,

Bezuidenhout has a special affinity for historical instruments. He relishes the challenge of their foibles and fickleness, coaxing out a sound the composer would have recognised. For a modern

audience, it’s an enlightening experience. Beethoven untamed.

Joining the ACO are wind and brass players from the world’s leading period-instrument orchestras, handpicked by Bezuidenhout to recreate Beethoven’s soundworld.

This is a joyful celebration of a great composer and the people he inspired. Hear music from Mozart – whom Beethoven revered; Schubert – the grieved admirer who carried his coffin; and,

bringing Beethoven’s legacy into the 21st century, Britta Byström – who composed her way through the silence of lockdown in a beautiful response to Beethoven.

Choose this program because you love Beethoven, but don’t be surprised to find yourself hearing his music as though for the first time.

**Program**

**Ludwig Van Beethoven** Piano Concerto No.5 “Emperor”

**Louise Farrenc** Symphony No.3: I. Adagio – Allegro

**Franz Schubert** Impromptu in B-flat major

**FRanz Schubert** Rosamunde: Entr’acte No.3

**Britta Byström** A Walk to Beethoven’s First Symphony (Australian Premiere)

**Ludwig Van Beethoven** (arr. Franz Liszt) Symphony No.1 (excerpt)

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Piano Concerto No.20: III. Allegro assai (Cadenza by Beethoven)

**Artists**

**Kristian Bezuidenhout** • Director & Fortepiano

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Sat 9 Mar 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 12 Mar 7.30pm

**Perth Concert Hall**

Wed 13 Mar 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 16 Mar 7.30pm

Mon 18 Mar 7.30pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 17 Mar 2.30pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Tue 19 Mar 8pm

Wed 20 Mar 7pm

Fri 22 Mar 7pm

Sat 23 Mar 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 24 Mar 2pm

**Mahler’s Song of the Earth**

**12–26 May**

Stuart Skelton and Catherine Carby star in this extraordinary encounter with Mahler’s monumental song cycle.

Standing face to face with death, Gustav Mahler did not cower from the abyss. He reached deep into his soul and conjured his final song cycle, Das Lied von der Erde (The Song of the Earth) – described by Leonard Bernstein as the greatest “symphony” of this master symphonist. It tells it all. The sweet bitterness of our brief lives. Darkness, light, cruelty, love, beauty and at last, catharsis.

Richard Tognetti directs this unusually intimate encounter with Mahler. Arnold Schoenberg, another titan composer of the 20th century, took Mahler’s signature mighty sound and arranged it for chamber ensemble, carefully preserving the texture and impact of the original. The arrangement gives two soloists room to shine.

Joining Richard and the ACO is Stuart Skelton, one of the great tenors of our time. Commanding a voice of incredible power and passion, he sings the most demanding music ever written for the human voice. This is a rare chance to hear him on his home stage, alongside celebrated Australian mezzo-soprano Catherine Carby.

It is love that makes us grieve death, so balancing Mahler’s powerful exploration of the human condition is the tender warmth of Wagner’s Siegfried Idyll – a musical gift to his wife, and the songs of Alma Mahler-Werfel sung by Catherine Carby – exquisite expressions of

love and beauty.

The ACO will be joined on stage by guest artists on percussion, mandolin, harmonium and an array of wind and brass instruments for a thrilling spectacle. When this program debuted at the Edinburgh Festival it received rave reviews and audiences were in raptures.   
*“It was phenomenal… incredibly stimulating.”* – Herald Scotland.

Give yourself over to this extraordinary music, as Mahler captures the very human struggle that unites us and, ultimately, the quiet ecstasy of acceptance that brings us inner peace.

**Program**

**Richard Wagner** Siegfried Idyll

**Alma Mahler-Werfel** (arr. David Matthews) Laue Sommernacht; Die stille Stadt; Bei dir ist es traut (World Premiere of new arrangements)\*

**Gustav Mahler** (arr. Arnold Schoenberg & Rainer Riehn) Das Lied von der Erde

\*Arrangements commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Director & Violin

**Catherine Carby** • Mezzo-Soprano

**Stuart Skelton** • Tenor

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 12 May 2pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Mon 13 May 7.30pm

Wed 22 May 7.30pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Wed 15 May 7pm

Fri 17 May 8pm

Sat 18 May 7pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 20 May 7pm

**Canberra • Llewellyn Hall**

Fri 24 May 8pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 26 May 2.30pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**

**14–30 Jun**

The world-renowned cellist and master storyteller makes his ACO debut as soloist and guest director.

When the cello sings, we hear something akin to the human voice: sensuous, rich, profound. When Nicolas Altstaedt holds the bow, the cello is all that and more, becoming a master storyteller.

It’s been more than a decade since the young cellist burst onto the world stage as a BBC New Generation Artist, with his unruly curls, unorthodox concert attire and pure talent. Since then, he’s piled up musical accolades from the stages of New York, London and beyond. Now is your chance to see his ACO debut as both director and soloist.

Haydn’s Cello Concerto in C major is such an audience favourite, it’s hard to believe it was nearly lost to history. Found in a Prague library just 60 years ago, the score reveals Haydn’s gift for invention. For all his form and symmetry, Haydn was a visionary, breaking musical boundaries with each new work. Two centuries later, his influence is still felt in the music of 20th-century masters Xenakis and Kurtág.

Tchaikovsky’s Rococo Variations hark back to the classical style of Haydn from a completely different musical world. These enchanting variations for cello and orchestra are by turns virtuosic and lyrical, and will be performed in a new arrangement for cello

and strings.

The spirit and jubilation of Haydn is matched by the thrilling energy and wistful defiance of Four Transylvanian Dances by the Hungarian-born Sándor Veress. Written as an ode to a home

he could never return to, they remind us that, for all its Classical elegance, Haydn’s music was steeped in the same folk-infused Hungarian rhythms.

Altstaedt’s debut will showcase the many voices of his cello along with the vitality and dynamism of the ACO. This promises to be a very special collaboration.

**Program**

**Joseph Haydn** (arr. strings) Seven Last Words of Christ (selections)

**György Kurtág** (arr. strings) Officium breve in memoriam Andreae Szervánszky (selections)

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (arr. strings) Rococo Variations

**Sándor Veress** Four Transylvanian Dances

**Iannis Xenakis** Aroura

**Joseph Haydn** (arr. strings) Cello Concerto in C major

**Artists**

**Nicolas Altstaedt** • Director & Cello

**Australian Chamber** Orchestra

**Dates**

**Canberra - Llewellyn Hall**

Fri 14 Jun 8pm

**Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 17 Jun 7pm

**Sydney • City Recital Hall**

Tue 18 Jun 8pm

Thu 20 Jun 7pm

Sat 29 Jun 7pm

**Newcastle City Hall**

Fri 21 Jun 7.30pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 23 Jun 2.30pm

Mon 24 Jun 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 25 Jun 7.30pm

**Perth Concert Hall**

Wed 26 Jun 7.30pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 30 Jun 2pm

**Silence & Rapture**

**2–19 Aug**

An immersive collaboration with Sydney Dance Company featuring countertenor Iestyn Davies and the music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt.

Composing three centuries apart, Johann Sebastian Bach and Arvo Pärt’s timeless music speaks to the human soul. From rockstars and writers to artists and filmmakers, these composers are revered by music lovers across genres and generations. The last time the ACO performed their music together, it was a sell-out.

Richard Tognetti directs this mesmerising collaboration between the ACO and Sydney Dance Company that brings together music, movement and evocative lighting to create something truly extraordinary.

Expressing the luminous longing at the heart of this music is choreography from Rafael Bonachela, Artistic Director Sydney Dance Company, while Gramophone Award-winning countertenor Iestyn Davies, whose performances have been described as “*a pleasure that verges on the sublime*” (The Guardian) makes his Australian debut, bringing these stirring melodies to life.

Bach and Pärt’s music is rooted in human experience while reaching towards the divine. This program traces a profound journey through three Gardens at the heart of the Biblical narrative they both hold so close: from the hope and temptation of the Garden of Eden to the tragedy and passion of the Garden of Gethsemane, ascending into the Garden of Heaven and, at last, the meditation of silence. Featuring Part’s Fratres and selections from Bach’s most loved cantatas, orchestral and solo music, this promises to be a season highlight and a deeply affirming experience.

**Program**

*Prelude*

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Kanon zu acht Stimmen, BWV1072

**Arvo Pärt** Collage über B-A-C-H: I. Toccata

*Garden of Eden*

**Bach** Cantata “Wiederstehe doch des Sunde”, BWV54: Aria “Wer Sünde tut, der ist vom Teufel”

**Bach** Sonata for Violin and Keyboard in A major: I. Dolce

**Bach** Cantata “Ich bin ein guter Hirt”, BWV85: Aria “Jesus ist ein guter Hirt”

**Pärt** Fratres

*Garden of Gethsemane*

**Bach** Sonata for Solo Violin No.2 in A minor: III. Andante

**Bach** St Matthew Passion: “Erbarme Dich”

**Pärt** Für Lennart in memoriam

**Pärt** My Heart’s in the Highlands

*Garden of Heaven*

**Bach** Cantata “Der Herr denket an uns”, BWV196: Sinfonia

**Pärt** Vater unser

**Bach** Cello Suite No.3 in C major: I. Prelude

**Bach** Magnificat: “Et exultavit”

*Into Silence*

**Pärt** Pari intervallo

**Bach** The Art of Fugue: Fuga a 3 Soggetti (unfinished)

**Paul Hindemith** Trauermusik: IV. Sehr langsam

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Director & Violin

**Iestyn Davies** • Countertenor

**Rafael Bonachela** • Choreographer & Artistic Director, Sydney Dance Company

**Stefanie Farrands** • Viola

**Timo-Veikko Valve** • Cello

**Chad Kelly** • Organ & Harpsichord

**Artists from Sydney Dance Company**

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Fri 2 Aug 7pm

Sat 3 Aug 7pm

Tue 6 Aug 8pm

Wed 7 Aug 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 10 Aug 7.30pm

Mon 12 Aug 7.30pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 11 Aug 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 13 Aug 7.30pm

**Perth Concert Hall**

Wed 14 Aug 7.30pm

**Canberra - Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 17 Aug 8pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 18 Aug 2pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 19 Aug 7pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach  
5 - 23 Sep**  
Sparks fly and melodies soar when Richard Tognetti directs music close to the ACO’s heart

Mendelssohn’s music is pure pleasure. One of the great prodigies, he wrote his sunny Octet at just 16 years of age. It’s one of the most loved pieces of chamber music ever written and a favourite of the ACO. In their hands, its youthful exuberance just about leaps off the stage.

Moving from one young genius to another: the ACO presents a new commission from trailblazing young composer Jakub Jankowski in his first work for string orchestra. Hailing from Adelaide, he’s a fresh voice in classical music. Opening the program, Anna Thorvaldsdottir’s pulsating octet Illumine makes a striking contrast with the Mendelssohn.

If Mendelssohn is pleasure, then Bach is worship.

Bach sought God in his music and became like a god for musicians, a touchstone to which all other music is compared. His music is filled with drama, joy and remarkable discipline. Hearing it, playing it, is an act of worship.

That is an altar to which Richard Tognetti will return to again and again. His recordings of Bach’s violin music won three successive ARIA Awards. Live, his interpretation of the great Violin Concerto in A minor is a powerful experience: intimate and electrifying.

Like all the best performances, this concert will remind you of why you love music.

**Program**

**Anna Thorvaldsdottir** Illumine

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Violin Concerto in A minor

**Jakub Jankowski** New Commission (World Premiere)\*

**Felix Mendelssohn** Octet

\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Director & Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 5 Sep 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 7 Sep 7.30pm

Mon 9 Sep 7.30pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 8 Sep 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 10 Sep 7.30pm

**Canberra - Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 14 Sep 8pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 16 Sep 7pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Tue 17 Sep 8pm

Wed 18 Sep 7pm

Fri 20 Sep 7pm

Sat 21 Sep 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 22 Sep 2pm

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Mon 23 Sep 7.30pm

**Scotland Unbound**

**7–20 Nov**

Guitarist Sean Shibe makes his Australian debut in this inspired and thrilling season closer.

Sean Shibe plays guitar without limits. He is a chameleon of the new generation: he’s met with acclaim in the great recital halls of the world (and his recent Bach album was described by Gramophone Magazine as “*the best-ever Bach recording on guitar*”), but he also forges new horizons by ranging fearlessly beyond classical music. You can’t help but get carried away with his magic.

For his Australian debut, Shibe celebrates his Scottish heritage in a thrilling ride through the Highlands and beyond.

With Shibe on classical guitar and Tognetti directing the strings of the ACO, the concert opens with a Scotland steeped in lore. Lady Margaret Wemyss died in 1648 at the untimely age of 18, but her legacy lives on in the haunting solo music she collected in her family’s Fife castle. These tunes are interspersed with the irresistible rhythms of Scottish folk songs, while a new commission from Cassandra Miller, one of the most soul-stirring composers writing today, brings this rich history right up to date.

Then tradition is thrown to the wind as Shibe takes up his electric guitar and the ACO steps into a technicolor world of musical invention. Martyn Bennett’s Bothy Culture takes inspiration from the 90s rave scene in Edinburgh while being rooted in the traditions of the Highlands and ancient cultures. Lad, by Julia Wolfe, originally composed for nine bagpipes and arranged here for electric guitar and strings, has been described by the composer as a “*dive into a psychedelic landscape, at once multilayered, fractured, ecstatic, silent, driving, cacophonous, and direct.*”

At just 32, Shibe is one of the most exhilarating young stars performing today, and a perfect match for the electric energy and musical curiosity for which the ACO is famous. This is the concert you’ll reflect on in years to come: “*I saw him when…”*

**Program**

**Traditional Scottish** Solo lute manuscripts compiled by Lady Margaret Wemyss

**James Macmillan** (arr. George Duthie) From Galloway

**Traditional SCOTTISH** Suite of folk songs

**Cassandra Miller** New Commission for solo guitar and strings (Australian Premiere)\*

**Julia Wolfe** (arr. electric guitar and strings) Lad (Australian Premiere)

**David Fennessy** Hirta Rounds (Australian Premiere)

**Martyn Bennett** (arr. electric guitar and strings) Bothy Culture: Selections

\*Co-commissioned by the Dunedin Consort (supported by John Ellerman Foundation), Barbican Centre, Saffron Hall, Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Cheltenham Music Festival.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Director & Violin

**Sean Shibe** • Classical & Electric Guitars

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 7 Nov 7.30pm

**Sydney - City Recital Hall**

Sat 9 Nov 7pm

Tue 12 Nov 8pm

Wed 13 Nov 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 10 Nov 2pm

**Brisbane - QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 11 Nov 7pm

**Canberra - Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 16 Nov 8pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 17 Nov 2.30pm

Mon 18 Nov 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 19 Nov 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Wed 20 Nov 7.30pm

**City Guide**

**Adelaide**Spend Tuesday nights with the ACO in these five concerts at Adelaide’s landmark Town Hall. **Adelaide Town Hall  
Beethoven’s Emperor**   
Tue 12 Mar 7.30pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**   
Tue 25 Jun 7.30pm

**Silence & Rapture**

Tue 13 Aug 7.30pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**

Tue 10 Sep 7.30pm

**Scotland Unbound**   
Tue 19 Nov 7.30pm  
  
**Brisbane**  
For the perfect start to your week, enjoy these six Monday evenings on the Brisbane river at QPAC.

**QPAC Concert Hall**

**River**   
Mon 12 Feb 7pm

**Mahler’s Song of The Earth**    
Mon 20 May 7pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**

Mon 17 Jun 7pm

**Silence & Rapture**   
Mon 19 Aug 7pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**   
Mon 16 Sep 7pm

**Scotland Unbound**   
Mon 11 Nov 7pm

**Canberra**   
We’ll be opening our Canberra season with River at the Canberra Theatre Centre before returning to our Canberra home at Llewellyn Hall for our five remaining concerts.

**Canberra Theatre Centre**   
**River**   
Wed 7 Feb 8pm

**Llewellyn Hall**

**Mahler’s Song Of The Earth**   
Fri 24 May 8pm  
**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**   
Fri 14 Jun 8pm

**Silence & Rapture**   
Sat 17 Aug 8pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**Sat 14 Sep 7pm  
**Scotland Unbound**   
Sat 16 Nov 8pm

**Melbourne**

Melbourne is our home away from home. From Sunday matinees at Arts Centre Melbourne to Saturday nights and weekday concerts at Melbourne Recital Centre, there’s a package to suit all schedules.  
  
**Arts Centre Melbourne**

**River**Sun 4 Feb 2.30pm

**Beethoven’s Emperor**Sun 17 Mar 2.30pm

**Mahler’s Song Of The Earth**   
Sun 26 May 2.30pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**Sun 23 Jun 2.30pm

Mon 24 Jun 7.30pm

**Silence & Rapture**Sun 11 Aug 2.30pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**   
Sun 8 Sep 2.30pm

**Scotland Unbound**   
Sun 17 Nov 2.30pm   
Mon 18 Nov 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

**River**Sat 3 Feb 7.30pm   
Mon 5 Feb 7.30pm

**Beethoven’s Emperor**Sat 16 Mar 7.30pm   
Mon 18 Mar 7.30pm

**Mahler’s Song Of The Earth**Mon 13 May 7.30pm   
Wed 22 May 7.30pm

**Silence & Rapture**Sat 10 Aug 7.30pm   
Mon 12 Aug 7.30pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**

Sat 7 Sep 7.30pm   
Mon 9 Sep 7.30pm

**Newcastle**   
The bus makes for a nice change when we drive up to Newcastle for three concerts at the heritage listed Newcastle City Hall

**Newcastle City Hall**   
**River** Thu 1 Feb 7.30pm   
**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky** Fri 21 Jun 7.30pm   
**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.** Thu 5 Sep 7.30pm

**Perth**

We’re thrilled to be back to our pre-covid season of five concerts in Perth. With Perth Concert Hall closing for renovations at the end of 2024, our final concert will take place at Winthrop Hall.

**Perth Concert Hall**   
**River** Fri 16 Feb 7.30pm   
**Beethoven’s Emperor** Wed 13 Mar 7.30pm   
**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky** Wed 26 Jun 7.30pm   
**Silence & Rapture** Wed 14 Aug 7.30pm

**Winthrop Hall   
Scotland Unbound** Wed 20 Nov 7.30pm

**Sydney**

Join us for Sunday afternoons at Sydney Opera House or evening concerts in the CBD at City Recital Hall. Whether you prefer weekend nights out or something to look forward to mid-week, we’ve got you covered.

**City Recital Hall**

**River**

Sat 10 Feb 7pm

Tue 13 Feb 8pm

Wed 14 Feb 7pm

**Beethoven’s Emperor**

Tue 19 Mar 8pm

Wed 20 Mar 7pm

Fri 22 Mar 7pm

Sat 23 Mar 7pm

**Mahler’s Song Of The Earth**

Wed 15 May 7pm

Fri 17 May 8pm

Sat 18 May 7pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**

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**Silence & Rapture**

Fri 2 Aug 7pm

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**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**

Tue 17 Sep 8pm

Wed 18 Sep 7pm

Fri 20 Sep 7pm

Sat 21 Sep 7pm

**Scotland Unbound**

Sat 9 Nov 7pm

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Wed 13 Nov 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

**River**

Sun 11 Feb 2pm

**Beethoven’s Emperor**

Sun 24 Mar 2pm

**Mahler’s Song Of The Earth**

Sun 12 May 2pm

**Altstaedt Plays Haydn & Tchaikovsky**

Sun 30 Jun 2pm

**Silence & Rapture**

Sun 18 Aug 2pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**

Sun 22 Sep 2pm

**Scotland Unbound**

Sun 10 Nov 2pm

**Wollongong**

It wouldn’t be an ACO Season without concerts in Richard Tognetti’s hometown. Join us for three nights at Wollongong Town Hall.

**Wollongong Town Hall**

**Beethoven’s Emperor**

Sat 9 Mar 7.30pm

**Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**

Mon 23 Sep 7.30pm

**Scotland Unbound**

Thu 7 Nov 7.30pm

**ACO Collective - The Lark Ascending**

A concert that will set your heart aflight with music full of beauty and spirit.

With its soaring melodies and joyful trills, Ralph Vaughan Williams creates a radiant portrait of a lark in flight, trailing a silver chain of sound as it rises. Bound to the ground, we can only bask in its beauty. ACO Collective plays this eternal favourite as the centrepiece of an uplifting program directed by ACO Principal Violin Helena Rathbone.

Rathbone has guided ACO Collective since its founding in 2007, offering audiences across the country the opportunity to hear Australia’s brightest young musicians performing alongside members of the ACO.

The program spans five centuries from Henry Purcell’s Fantazia upon One Note to Max Richter’s cinematic On the Nature of Daylight. Continuing its commitment to fostering Australian voices, ACO Collective will premiere a new commission by award-winning Australian composer Anne Cawrse, sought after for her captivating lyricism and her ability to express the inexpressible.

The concert closes with Suk’s glowing Serenade for Strings. Inspired by Dvorák and Brahms, it is the sound of pure happiness. Chosen for their beauty and spirit, these six works will set your heart aflight.

“For all to hear and all to know that he is joy, awake, aglow”  
George Meredith, The Lark Ascending

**Program**

**Anne Cawrse** New Commission for strings (World Premiere)\*

**Hugo Wolf** Italian Serenade

**Max Richter** On the Nature of Daylight

**Henry Purcell** Fantazia upon One Note

**Ralph Vaughan Williams** (arr. Adam Johnson) The Lark Ascending

**Josef Suk** Serenade for Strings

\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra

**Artists**

**Helena Rathbone** - Director & Violin

**ACO Collective**

**Dates**

**Bendigo - The Capital**

Thu 9 May 7pm

**Healesville - The Memo**

Sat 11 May 7.30pm

**Cowes Cultural and Community Centre**

Sun 12 May 2pm

**Nowra - Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre**

Wed 15 May 8pm

**Sydney - The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3**

Fri 17 May 7pm

**Sutherland - The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre**

Sat 18 May 7.30pm

**ACO On Demand**

Experience the magic of Richard Tognetti and the ACO wherever you are.  
  
Our new streaming platform features our award-winning ACO StudioCast films, live concert streams, ACO audio recordings, Pier 2/3 Sessions and so much more.

Download the ACO On Demand Apple TV and Android mobile apps, Chromecast to your Smart TV or view via your browser on desktop, tablet or mobile devices.

There is a wealth of free content for you to enjoy including performance videos, interviews, features and audio recordings. Or you can rent and purchase ACO StudioCast films and full-length concerts from just $9.99. Our highly anticipated ACO StudioCast film *The Four Seasons* will be released in November 2023.

Register and stream at acoondemand.com.

**Special Events**

In 2024 we return to two of Australia’s most stunning wine regions for exclusive weekend festivals, and embark on international tours to North America and Hong Kong.

**TarraWarra Festival  
4–5 May**

Our annual festival at the TarraWarra Museum of Art in Victoria will feature performances from the ACO set amongst some of the most breathtaking views in the Yarra Valley. Book early for this intimate and exclusive cultural weekend.

**Vasse Felix**

**6–8 Dec**

ACO Principal Violin Helena Rathbone and ACO Collective end the year on a high at the Sound and Sense Festival at Vasse Felix in Western Australia’s Margaret River. Places are limited for this celebration of music, wine and culinary art.

**International**

As an international orchestra and one of Australia’s biggest cultural exports, we’re thrilled to be touring to North America and Hong Kong in 2024. We’ll be returning to some of our favourite stages and forging partnerships with exciting new venues. Look out for further announcements over the coming months.

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**The Musicians**

**Richard Tognetti** - Artistic Director & Lead Violin

**Helena Rathbone** - Principal Violin

**Satu Vänskä** - Principal Violin

**Aiko Goto** - Violin

**Ilya Isakovich** - Violin

**Liisa Pallandi** - Violin

**Maja Savnik** - Violin

**Ike See** - Violin

**Stefanie Farrands** - Principal Viola

**Elizabeth Woolnough** - Viola  
**Timo-Veikko Valve** - Principal Cello  
**Melissa Barnard** - Cello

**Julian Thompson** - Cello

**Maxime Bibeau** - Principal Double Bass

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Do your 2024 self a favour and lock in a season of incredible music now.  
  
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Enjoy priority access to the best seats at the best price.

Full-season Subscribers save up to 35% off single ticket prices and have the option of paying in four instalments. You can access free ticket exchanges throughout the year and when it comes time to renew for 2025, we’ll hold your seats for you.

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**Thank You**

ACO Subscribers are the foundation of the Orchestra.

Whether you’ve been with us since day one or are subscribing for the first time, thank you for your support. We can’t wait to share our 2024 Season with you.

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1.The Best Seats   
2.The Best Price

3.More Flexibility

4. A Year Of Glorious Live Music

**How To Subscribe:**

Book Your 2024 Season

**Online** at aco.com.au

**Phone** 1800 444 444 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm AEST)

**Mail** to PO Box R21 Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**In Person** Pier 2/3, Suite 3, 13A Hickson Road, Dawes Point 2000

**Wed 16 Aug 2023**

Full-season and Flexi-subscriptions on sale.

**Wed 20 Sep 2023**

Full-season Subscription renewal deadline. 2023 Subscribers will need to renew their subscription by this date to retain their seats for the 2024 Season.

**Wed 18 Oct 2023**

Single ticket presale opens. Sign up to the ACO e-news to access tickets.

**Fri 20 Oct 2023**

Single tickets go on sale to the public

**Digital Tickets**

All 2024 tickets (including subscriptions) will be sent out as digital tickets to the email address registered on your account. Tickets will be emailed one concert at a time throughout the year, 48 hours ahead of each concert.

**Students & Under 35s**  
We offer discounted tickets to full-time students and those under 35 to keep the ACO accessible to the next generation of music lovers.

**Full-time Students**

• $20 per ticket in Full-season and Flexi-subscription packages.\*

• $25 single tickets.\*

**Under 35s**

• $30 per ticket in Full-season and Flexi-subscription packages.\*

• $35 single tickets.\*

Email proof of your full time student status/age to boxoffice@aco.com.au after you book online so your order can be finalised. See aco.com.au for full details

**Account Credit**

Credit can be redeemed online. You can view your credit amount in the My Account section of the website after logging in. Credit will be automatically applied to your order. If you don’t want to redeem your credit you can remove the credit and pay the full amount on your credit card.

If you need any assistance please call or email our Box Office.

**Concessions**

Patrons who hold a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card can access concession pricing. Please email a scan of your card to boxoffice@aco.com.auafter booking so we can process your order.

\*A–D reserve only.

Total subscription price varies depending on the number of concerts in your package.

Subscribe online at aco.com.au/subscribe, or contact our Box Office.

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The generosity of our patrons sustains and renews us.

**Our Future**

The generosity of our patrons sustains and renews us. Without it, none of what we do would be possible.Philanthropic support enables us to bring our creative vision to life and to pursue the artistic brilliance for which the ACO is renowned. Please consider adding a tax deductible donation when you purchase your 2024 Season tickets, to help us continue presenting unforgettable ACO experiences.

**Donate here**

**Online** at aco.com.au

**Phone** 1800 444 444

**#ACO24Season**

“In 2024 experience a season that celebrates the pure power of live music, and the one thing that makes it all possible – you, our audience.” - Richard Tognetti - Artistic Director

aco.com.au