**ACO 2025**

**50 Years Of Pushing Boundaries, Igniting Curiosity, Transcending the Ordinary, Leading the Way.**

In 2025, the Australian Chamber Orchestra celebrates half a century. As a wide-eyed 20-something New Zealander, I sat in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, astounded as I experienced for the first time the mastery and crackling musical curiosity of an audacious Australian Chamber Orchestra. The more audience members I meet over the years, the more I find that my experience is shared by you and, if anything, has become more pronounced.

Under Richard Tognetti’s artistic leadership, the ACO’s journey has been one of growth and innovation, accompanied by a pursuit of excellence. You, our audience, have been partners in this growth. Our National Concert Season is at the heart of our musical offering, which in recent years has been vastly expanded.

I am thrilled to announce that our long term partner Wesfarmers Arts has become Principal Partner of the Australian Chamber Orchestra as we enter our 50th year. I acknowledge the depth of our relationship and thank them for taking this significant step.

As we look towards the future, we acknowledge and celebrate our past, and I thank all of the musicians, staff and music lovers who have brought us to this point. Now, explore the program, book your subscription, and let’s get on with the next 50.

* **Richard Evans, Managing Director**

**New Brand for a New Era**

Since its inception 50 years ago, the ACO has playfully, but pointedly, disrupted expectations of what an orchestra, and an orchestral experience, can be. For many of you, that is one of the things you love most about the ACO, and that mission has imbued our brand and our identity. From Greg Barrett’s iconic and quirky logo featuring an in-action Richard Tognetti, through the various incarnations that have brought us to today, our brand has continued to evolve.

For our 50th Anniversary we unveil a new brand and new logo, designed by our long-term creative partners Moffitt.Moffitt. Elegant and sophisticated, open and inclusive, it pays homage to the past while celebrating our ambition and commitment to the future.

In 2025, the Australian Chamber Orchestra celebrates half a century. As a wide-eyed 20-something New Zealander, I sat in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, astounded as I experienced for the first time the mastery and crackling musical curiosity of an audacious Australian Chamber Orchestra. The more audience members I meet over the years, the more I find that my experience is shared by you and, if anything, has become more pronounced.

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Now, explore the program, book your subscription, and let’s get on with the next 50.

* **Richard Evans, Managing Director**

**A tribute to John Painter**

Welcome to this anniversary year. Gold cups all around.

My own love of being in a chamber orchestra was born out of my time in SYCO! (Sydney Youth Chamber Orchestra). We were a group of recalcitrant children who met every Friday at the Sydney Conservatorium, where we were tamed by the quietly authoritative visionary cellist and conductor Mr. John Galloway Painter.

Fifty years ago, this extraordinary Australian, John Painter, formed the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He also played a crucial role in the evolution of our Australian National Academy of Music and served as the Director of both the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Canberra School of Music.

John Painter was part of an era of trailblazers who defied norms to create new paths. He inspired me to be resilient, and imbued us with a well-placed and deserved sense of sarcasm and irony; using humour to express disdain or scepticism towards pomposity, self-hubris, or lax behaviour.

Mr. Painter never proclaimed his achievements, so this is our opportunity to declare the importance of his legacy in the history of Australia.

While he might be somewhat horrified by the unconventional musical directions we’ve taken, he encouraged the free thinking that characterises the ACO and its audiences. For this, we thank you, Mr. Painter.

* **Richard Tognetti, Artistic Director**

**ACO 2025**

Fifty years in the making, our 2025 National Concert Season honours our history while embracing our vision of the future. We are thrilled to share it with you.

**Book your 2025 Season**

Online at aco.com.au

Phone 1800 444 444

**Brahms & Beethoven**

6 – 17 Feb

Brahms’s Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No.7 form an epic opener to our 50th Anniversary Season.

**Abel Selaocoe**

3 – 15 Apr

The international cello sensation brings a kaleidoscope of rhythm and sound to his highly anticipated Australian debut.

**Bach to the Beach Boys and Beyond**

8 – 20 May

Explore new musical frontiers as you take a deep dive into the thrilling soundworld of the theremin, the world’s first electronic instrument.

**Death and the Maiden Revealed**

21 Jun – 2 Jul

A Schubert odyssey directed by the electrifying violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja.

**Gershwin & Shostakovich**

1 – 18 Aug

A celebration of the power of music featuring Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No.1 with superstar pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk.

**A Musical Awakening**

4 – 21 Sep

The music of Beethoven, Pēteris Vasks and Max Richter centres this exploration of music’s ability to nurture, heal and nourish.

**Cocteau’s Circle**

8 – 22 Nov

Join us on an adventure to Paris as we close the Season with a night of celebration and surprise.

***Special Gala:* Mountain**

27 – 30 Oct

We’re bringing back one of our most groundbreaking, award-winning and popular cinematic collaborations for a series of limited gala performances.

**Brahms & Beethoven**

**6 – 17 Feb**

Brahms’s Violin Concerto and Beethoven’s Symphony No.7 form an epic opener to our 50th Anniversary Season.

The ACO has been redefining classical music for half a century. We invite you to celebrate with us as we open the Season with these two masterpieces.

Joining the Orchestra will be current and former stars of our Emerging Artist Program – which celebrates its 20-year anniversary in 2025 – and wind players hand-picked from ensembles around the world, to create a big, bold and brilliant sound.

Richard Tognetti, who marks 35 years at the helm of the ACO, brings all his characteristic flair and feeling to perform one of the pinnacles of the violin repertoire. Brahms’s Violin Concerto is a monumental work of exquisite, lyrical melodies and acrobatic rhythms. Experiencing Richard perform this extraordinary concerto is a season highlight.

Beethoven’s Symphony No.7 is beloved for its intensity, driving rhythms and blissful exuberance. At its premiere, the audience was so delighted they demanded an encore mid-way through!

These two giant composers of classical music meet in the talented hands of one of Australia’s own giants, as the Australian Chamber Orchestra celebrates 50 years of innovation and excellence.

**Program**

**Johannes Brahms** Violin Concerto in D major, Op.77

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Symphony No.7 in A major, Op.92

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Director and Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

With musicians from the **ACO Emerging Artist Program**

**Dates**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 6 Feb 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 8 Feb 7.30pm

Mon 10 Feb 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 9 Feb 2.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Tue 11 Feb 8pm

Wed 12 Feb 7pm

Fri 14 Feb 7pm

Sat 15 Feb 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 16 Feb 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 17 Feb 7pm

**Abel Selaocoe**

**3 – 15 Apr**

The international cello sensation brings a kaleidoscope of rhythm and sound to his highly anticipated Australian debut.

When Abel Selaocoe makes music, he gathers together an unbelievable harmony of classical cello, African traditions, throat singing, percussion, and unbridled joy. He performs with equal parts grace and fire, whether he’s directing his own compositions, improvising, or inhabiting Baroque music. Feeling him perform is a joyful surrender to his irresistible beat. Bringing the rhythm is Selaocoe’s regular collaborator, percussionist Sidiki Dembélé.

The curiosity and calibre of the ACO is a perfect match for Selaocoe’s charisma, as he makes his Australian debut performing his original works alongside a new commission from renowned Australian composer Nigel Westlake and excerpts from cellist and composer Giovanni Sollima’s electrifying double concerto *When We Were Trees.*

Selaocoe’s rare affinity for the cello is the thread that draws together the musical worlds he inhabits, as he explores and celebrates the sounds of the South African culture that made him. He’s now in demand all over the world, making his mark on classical music by bringing his infectious exuberance and drive for innovation to orchestras and ensembles everywhere.

*In a classical music industry that encourages performers to be either/or, Selaocoe has chosen both — and more.*

— The New York Times

**Program**

**Abel Selaocoe** Qhawe, Tsepho, Lerato, Ka Bohaleng (Australian Premieres)

**Giovanni Benedetto Platti** Cello Concerto in D major, WD650 (Australian Premiere)

**Nigel Westlake** New work (World Premiere) \*

**Igor Stravinsky** (arr. Bernard Rofe) Three Movements from Petrushka

**Giovanni Sollima** When We Were Trees: Selections (Australian Premiere)

\* Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Artists**

**Abel Selaocoe** **•** Director and Cello (Australian debut)

**Sidiki Dembélé** **•** African Percussion (Australian debut)

**Helena Rathbone •** Lead Violin

**Timo-Veikko Valve** **•** Cello

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 3 Apr 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 5 Apr 7pm

Tue 8 Apr 8pm

Wed 9 Apr 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 6 Apr 2pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Mon 7 Apr 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 12 Apr 7.30pm

Mon 14 Apr 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 13 Apr 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 15 Apr 7.30pm

**Bach to the Beach Boys and Beyond**

**8 – 20 May**

Explore new musical frontiers as you take a deep dive into the thrilling soundworld of the theremin, the world’s first electronic instrument.

The theremin is utterly unique. It’s a sound you’ve definitely heard, even if you’ve never heard of it. Following the success of our sold-out tour *of A Clockwork Orange & Beyond* comes this series showcasing the range and power of the world’s first electronic instrument.

Richard Tognetti directs an eclectic program starring Carolina Eyck, the internationally renowned superstar of the theremin. When Eyck plays, she stands poised, hands aloft, making intricate moves but touching nothing. Out pours a melody that speaks of other worlds. It looks, and sounds, like magic.

The theremin can create a thousand different colours and moods. Come with us as we experience them all: serenity and beauty, longing and danger, mystery and wonder. From the swinging sounds of The Beach Boys and the unmistakable *Star Trek* theme, to a new commission from Australian composer Holly Harrison, and closing with the riotous thrumming of the *Flight of the Bumblebee*, this is a concert full of fun that will take you to other worlds.

**Program**

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Orchestral Suite No.3 in D major, BWV1068: II. Air

**Holly Harrison** New work (World Premiere) \*

**Jacques Offenbach** Orpheus in the Underworld: Can-can

**Camille Saint-Saëns** The Carnival of the Animals: Selections; Danse macabre, Op.40

**Brett Dean** Short Stories: IV. Komarov’s Last Words\*

**Mikhail Glinka** A Farewell to St Petersburg: X. The Lark

**Erwin Schulhoff** Five Pieces for String Quartet

**Jörg Widmann** 180 beats per minute (Australian Premiere)

**Carolina Eyck** Fantasias: Oakunar Lynntuja (Strange Birds) (Australian Premiere)

**Brian Wilson** Good Vibrations

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov** Flight of the Bumblebee

And selections from the soundtracks to:

**Miklos Rozsa’s** Spellbound, **Jonny Greenwood’s** There Will Be Blood,

**Alexander Courage’s** Star Trek, **Ennio Morricone’s** The Good, The Bad and The Ugly and **Jim Parker’s** Midsomer Murders.

\* Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti •** Director & Violin

**Carolina Eyck** **•** Theremin

**Tamara-Anna Cislowska** **•** Piano

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Thu 8 May 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 10 May 7pm

Tue 13 May 8pm

Wed 14 May 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 11 May 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 12 May 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 17 May 7.30pm

Mon 19 May 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 18 May 2.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Tue 20 May 7.30pm

**Death and the Maiden Revealed**

**21 – 30 Jun**

A Schubert odyssey directed by the electrifying violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja.

Patricia Kopatchinskaja (aka PatKop) is experimental, unpredictable and brilliant. For her, music is alive and made in the moment, and as an acclaimed soloist, reinventive director and ground-breaking composer, she creates an ephemeral magic that can never be replicated.

*Her body and her instrument and the music she makes all seem one. She is ever thrilling and alive to the moment.* — Los Angeles Times

Kopatchinskaja is happiest with an ensemble that likes to blur lines and push boundaries, so the ACO is a natural home. She returns after more than a decade to direct the Orchestra in a program that showcases her dynamic virtuosity and enormous range, from Ravel’s showpiece *Tzigane,* to Schubert’s semi-autobiographical *Death and the Maiden* arranged for string orchestra.

This remarkable work represents Schubert’s grappling with impending death. Schubert’s maiden is beautiful, young, and determined to live. Death is resolute, alluring, comforting and kind. Their conversation is filled with tenderness and melancholy, resulting in music that is at once heartbreaking and reassuring. Interspersed will be the world premiere of PatKop’s *Danses Macabre*, an extraordinary new work full of spirituality and drama that further reveals the heart of Schubert’s masterpiece.

**Program**

**Maurice Ravel** (arr. violin, strings and percussion) Tzigane

**Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber** Battalia a 10

**PatKop** Danses Macabre (World Premiere)

**Franz Schubert** (arr. PatKop) String Quartet No.14 in D minor, D.810

“Death and the Maiden”

**Artists**

**Patricia Kopatchinskaja** **•** Director and Violin

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 21 Jun 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 22 Jun 2.30pm Maurice Ravel (arr. violin, strings and percussion) Tzigane

Mon 23 Jun 7.30pm Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber Battalia à 10

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 24 Jun 7.30pm

**Perth – Winthrop Hall**

Wed 25 Jun 7.30pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 28 Jun 7pm

Tue 1 Jul 8pm

Wed 2 Jul 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 29 Jun 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 30 Jun 7pm

**Gershwin & Shostakovich**

**1 – 18 Aug**

A celebration of the power of music featuring Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No.1 with superstar pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk.

Music is a powerful defence against darkness. Throughout history, composers have responded to adversity time and time again by creating music full of hope.

Richard Tognetti directs this profound program that features Ukrainian-born, internationally renowned pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk making his ACO debut in Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and Shostakovich’s witty, irreverent Piano Concerto No.1 with David Elton on trumpet.

Gershwin’s much-loved *Rhapsody in Blue* is a life-affirming explosion of jazz and joy, an exultant celebration of difference and dynamism. It’s a stark contrast to Shostakovich’s intense and emotional Chamber Symphony, dedicated to the victims of fascism and oppression. It tells a story of fear and melancholy but never loses hope. In response, we have commissioned a new work from Ukrainian composer Valentin Silvestrov, known for his lyrical, introspective and consoling style which he shares with his friend Arvo Pärt. This is a special piece, which the composer wrote for the ACO while sheltering from war after escaping his native Kyiv.

This is music that stands with victims of injustice. It lights the darkness and celebrates human ingenuity and courage.

**Program**

**George Gershwin** (arr. piano, trumpet and strings) Rhapsody in Blue

**Dmitri Shostakovich** (arr. Rudolf Barshai) Chamber Symphony in C minor, Op.110a

“Dedicated to the memory of the victims of fascism and war”

**Valentin Silvestrov** A Moment of Memory (World Premiere) \*

**Claude Vivier** Zipangu

**Dmitri Shostakovich** Piano Concerto No.1 in C minor, Op.35

\* Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti •** Director and Violin

**Alexander Gavrylyuk •** **Piano**

**David Elton •** **Trumpet**

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Fri 1 Aug 7pm

Sat 2 Aug 7pm

Tue 5 Aug 8pm

Wed 6 Aug 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 3 Aug 2pm

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 7 Aug 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 9 Aug 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 10 Aug 2.30pm

Mon 11 Aug 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 12 Aug 7.30pm

**Perth - Winthrop Hall**

Wed 13 Aug 7.30pm

**Wollongong Town Hall**

Sat 16 Aug 7.30pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 18 Aug 7pm

**A Musical Awakening**

**4-21 Sep**

The music of Beethoven, Pēteris Vasks and Max Richter centres this exploration of music’s ability to nurture, heal and nourish.

Music is visceral and vital. In *A Musical Awakening*, we invite you to take a breath and lean into this program designed to nourish your soul. Directed by ACO Principal Cello Timo-Veikko Valve, the Orchestra will be joined by friend and recorder virtuoso Genevieve Lacey, whose mastery of this most elemental of instruments is unsurpassed.

We’ll explore the different ways music can heal, culminating in Beethoven’s *Holy Song of Thanksgiving*, composed after his recovery from a life-threatening illness. Beethoven was forever facing down adversity with music, and this heartfelt masterpiece is filled with quiet joy and a deep gratitude for life and the chance to

live it.

Max Richter wrote his intimate *On the Nature of Daylight* after witnessing the suffering of the Iraq war, and itsbeauty has resonated with filmmakers and fans as an antidoteto tragedy. We premiere a new work from Pulitzer-prizewinning composer David Lang and enter Pēteris Vasks’ tranquilsound world with the lush warmth of *Musica Serena*. From amillennium earlier, abbess Hildegard’s sublime songs speakdirectly to the human soul, holy reflections that broke musicalbarriers then and remain potent today. Melody Eötvös’ *Meraki* embodies its title, a Greek word which means to create with soul or love. And that is what music is all about.

This concert is for everyone and anyone who wants to experience healing, renewal, invigoration and enlightenment.

**Program**

**Hildegard von Bingen / Erkki Veltheim** Ave Generosa / Illuminations

**Max Richter** On the Nature of Daylight

**Melody Eotvos** Meraki\*

**David Lang** flute and echo (World Premiere) \*\*

**Pēteris Vasks** Musica Serena

**Claudio Monteverdi / Barbara Strozzi / Antonio Vivaldi / Erkki Veltheim** Imaginary Cities: A Baroque Fantasy

**Ludwig van Beethoven** (arr. Timo-Veikko Valve) String Quartet in A minor, Op.132: III. Molto adagio “Holy Song of Thanksgiving”

\* Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

\*\*Commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, generously supported by Ulrike Klein AO.

**Artists**

**Timo-Veikko Valve** **•** Director and Cello

**Genevieve Lacey** **•** Recorders

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Newcastle City Hall**

Thu 4 Sep 7.30pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 6 Sep 7.30pm

Mon 8 Sep 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 7 Sep 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 9 Sep 7.30pm

**Perth – Winthrop Hall**

Wed 10 Sep 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 13 Sep 7.30pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 15 Sep 7pm

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Tue 16 Sep 8pm

Wed 17 Sep 7pm

Fri 19 Sep 7pm

Sat 20 Sep 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 21 Sep 4pm

**Cocteau’s Circle**

**8 – 22 Nov**

Join us on an adventure to Paris as we close our 50th Anniversary National Concert Season with a night of celebration and surprise.

Step into the intimate, dreamy light of Le Boeuf sur le toit, the legendary cabaret bar of 1920s Paris. The liquor is strong and spirits are high. War is over and art is flourishing. Here, Europe’s most fashionable mingle with the city’s greatest minds: Coco Chanel, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway Gertrude Stein…

And you’re invited to join their circle.

Richard Tognetti directs the Australian Chamber Orchestra as we dive into an era of innovation and wonder,featuring renowned Australian soprano Alexandra Oomens.

Le Gateau Chocolat, of *La Clique* and *La Soirée* fame, will be our maitre d’. Brilliant bass and exceptional entertainer, he’ll take you on a journey into *les années folles (the crazy years)*.

We’ve always been rule-breakers, so this program shines a light on the innovators who paved the way for future trend-setters. You’ll hear the music of Erik Satie, Lili Boulanger and the group dubbed ‘Les Six’ – composers including Francis Poulenc and Darius Milhaud, who took their inspiration from the transgressive jazz they heard at Le Boeuf as well as Cocteau’s avant-garde poetry.

Directed by Circa’s Yaron Lifschitz, who always brings the unexpected, this will be a spectacular evening of storytelling, song and surrealism.

**Program**

Music by **Claude Debussy, Germaine Tailleferre, Erik Satie, Francis Poulenc,**

**Darius Milhaud,** and **Nadia** and **Lili Boulanger.**

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** **•** Director and Violin

**Yaron Lifschitz** **•** Staging Director

**Le Gateau Chocolat •** Maitre d’

**Alexandra Oomens** **•** Soprano

**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Dates**

**Sydney – City Recital Hall**

Sat 8 Nov 7pm

Tue 11 Nov 8pm

Wed 12 Nov 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Sun 9 Nov 2pm

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 10 Nov 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**

Sat 15 Nov 7.30pm

Mon 17 Nov 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Sun 16 Nov 2.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**

Tue 18 Nov 7.30pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Sat 22 Nov 7.30pm

Special Gala

**Mountain**

**27 – 30 Oct**

We’re bringing back one of our most groundbreaking, award-winning and popular cinematic collaborations for a series of limited gala performances.

After more than a decade of producing films, *Mountain* premiered in 2017 as one of our boldest explorations of music and nature. Only three centuries ago, the idea scarcely existed that wild landscapes might hold any sort of attraction. Mountains were places of peril, not beauty. An upper world to be shunned, not sought out. Now they hold us spellbound, drawing us into their dominion, often at the cost of our lives.

Created in collaboration with BAFTA-nominated director and filmmaker Jennifer Peedom (*Sherpa* 2015, *River* 2021), *Mountain* pushed the creative possibilities of presenting music and film live in concert in an innovative new direction. Tognetti and Peedom worked closely to assemble footage and soundscapes that collectively showcased the serenity, magnitude and terror of these jaw dropping landscapes. Music became an equal participant in the cinematic experience.

*Mountain* is shot by the world’s leading high-altitude cinematographers, with narration by celebrated British writer, Robert Macfarlane and spoken by award-winning actor Willem Dafoe. It is a visceral and immersive musical journey through vistas few have visited, and none have seen quite in this way. Don’t miss this limited opportunity to experience an ACO classic.

**Program**

**Mountain: film live in concert**, featuring music by Antonio Vivaldi, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Peter Sculthorpe and Richard Tognetti.

**Artists**

**Richard Tognetti** • Music Director • Composer and Violin

**Tamara-Anna Cislowska** • Piano

**Satu Vänskä** • Violin & Voice

**Jennifer Peedom** **•** Writer, Director & Producer

**Renan Ozturk** • Principal Cinematography

**Robert Macfarlane** • NarrationScriptwriter

**Willem Dafoe** **•** Narrator

**Jo-anne McGowan** **•** Producer

**Paul Wiegard**

**David Gross**

**Stephen Boyle**

**Martyn Myer AO**

Executive Producers

Dates

**Brisbane – QPAC Concert Hall**

Mon 27 Oct 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**

Tue 28 Oct 8pm

**Canberra – Llewellyn Hall**

Wed 29 Oct 7.30pm

**Melbourne – Arts Centre Melbourne**

Thu 30 Oct 7.30pm

Tickets to *Mountain* can be purchased as an add-on to your Full-season Subscription or as part of a Flexi-subscription. Single tickets will become available on Wednesday 16 October.

**50 YEARS**

The Australian Chamber Orchestra was founded by the legendary Australian cellist John Painter with the mission to present and perform chamber music of the highest possible standard, by a tight, mobile musical unit that would tour nationally and represent Australia on the world stage. Also central to this mission was providing opportunities for the country’s brightest young players.

Five decades later and this mission still rings true. Over the coming pages we have assembled a snapshot of the defining moments and lasting memories that have characterised our rich and varied history.

None of this would have been possible without you, our audience. Thank you for your unwavering support. We would not have made it to 50 without you.

**ACO On Demand**

Experience the magic of the ACO wherever you are.

Our streaming platform features our award-winning ACO StudioCast films, live concert streams, ACO audio recordings, Pier 2/3 Sessions videos, and so much more.

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, all our full-length live concerts will now be free to access along with a wealth of free short videos and audio recordings.

Register and stream at acoondemand.com

**Emerging Artist Program**

In 2025 we celebrate 20 years of our flagship talent development program.

The ACO Emerging Artist Program was founded in 2005 to support young musicians in building their professional music careers. Emerging Artists are partnered with musicians from the ACO for intensive learning, one-to-one mentorship and professional performance opportunities. We are incredibly proud of the program and its participants, many of whom now play in orchestras around the world, including the ACO.

You can see our 2025 Emerging Artists and esteemed alumni perform alongside the ACO in our season opener, *Brahms & Beethoven*, and with ACO Collective throughout the year.

**ACO Collective**

Under the guidance of Principal Violin Helena Rathbone, ACO Collective is our acclaimed ensemble comprised of Emerging Artists and their ACO mentors.

In 2025 ACO Collective will embark on two collaborative projects showcasing their vibrancy and virtuosity.

**Sat 17 May 2025** Ukaria Cultural Centre

A showcase of chamber music from Beethoven to the present day, including world premieres from Bryony Marks, in collaboration with playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer, and Jakub Jankowski.

**September 2025** Co3 Collaboration

We are thrilled to be collaborating with Perth’s Co3 contemporary dance company for a new production created by Co3 Artistic Director Raewyn Hill. Set to a curated musical world from Hildegard von Bingen, Philip Glass, John Dowland, Pēteris Vasks and Arvo Pärt, the work is a meditation on the human spirit, exploring human potential and the journey from emptiness to identity.

**Stay Up to Date**

For concert dates and ticket on-sale information please sign up to our e-news for the latest announcements.

**Special Events**

In 2025 we return to two of Australia’s most stunning wine regions for exclusive

weekend festivals, and embark on an international tour to Europe and the UK.

**Tarrawarra Festival**

Our annual festival at the TarraWarra Museum of Art will feature performances from Richard Tognetti and the ACO in the museum’s new performance space. Book early for this intimate and exclusive cultural weekend.

**1–2 March** TarraWarra Museum of Art – Victoria

**Ukaria**

Experience the ACO in nature at this two-day festival at UKARIA Cultural Centre in the Adelaide Hills. With exceptional acoustics and spectacular views of Mount Barker Summit through its glass-walled stage, you’ll hear and feel every note.

**31 May – 1 June** Adelaide Hills – South Australia

**Vasse Felix**

End the year on a high with Richard Tognetti and the ACO at the Sound and Sense festival at Vasse Felix in Margaret River. Places are limited for this celebration of music, wine and culinary art so sign up to our e-news to be the first to

know when tickets go on sale.

**12 – 14 December** Vasse Felix – Western Australia

**International**

The ACO has maintained a thriving international presence through its 50-year history. In 2025 we’re thrilled to return to some of our favourite cities and concert hall stages in London, Amsterdam, Wrocław and Stuttgart. Look out for further announcements over the coming months as we unveil our full European tour itinerary.

**Our Musicians**

**Richard Tognetti** – Artistic Director and Lead Violin Richard

**Helena Rathbone** – Principal Violin

**Satu Vänskä** – Principal Violin

**Anna Da Silva Chen** - Violin

**Aiko Goto** – Violin

**Ilya Isakovich** – Violin  
**Liisa Pallandi** – Violin  
**Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba** – Violin  
**Ike See** – Violin

**Tim Yu** – Violin

**Stephanie Farrands** – Principal Viola

**Elizabeth Woolnough** – Viola

**Timo-Veikko Valve** – Principal Cello

**Melissa Barnard** – Cello

**Julian Thompson** – Cello

**Maxime Bibeau** – Principal Bass

**Why Subscribe?**

1. Access the best seats

2. Enjoy the biggest savings

3. Free and easy ticket exchanges

4. Book now and pay in instalments

5. Exclusive access to subscriber events and offers

6. Two subscription packages to choose from

**Full-Season Subscription**

A set package and a set seat in the venue of your choice.

Access the best seats in the house and save up to 35% off single ticket prices.

Sit in the same seat for all your concerts. When it comes time to renew for 2026,

we’ll hold your favourite seats for you.

Enjoy free and easy ticket exchanges throughout the year if your plans change.

Book now with the option of splitting your payment across four instalments.

Save 10% on additional tickets you purchase throughout the season.

Access exclusive subscriber offers and events.

**Flexi-Subscription**

Build your own package by choosing any three or more concerts in our season.

Access the best seats in the house and save up to 20% off single ticket prices.

Choose the venues and performance dates that suit you.

Enjoy free and easy ticket exchanges throughout the year if your plans change.

Access exclusive subscriber offers and events.

**Full-Season Subscription Packages**

Full-season Subscription packages have a set number of concerts in each venue, on set dates. You can view our tour dates in the Season Overview on pages 44–45.

Pricing varies according to the venue, program, ticket reserve and number of concerts in your package, so please use the table below as a guide only. For detailed pricing visit aco.com.au or call our Box Office on 1800 444 444 (Mon-Fri 9am–5pm AEST).

**Flexi-Subscription Packages**

Build your own season by choosing three or more concerts at any venue, on any performance date.

Visit aco.com.au or call the ACO Box Office for Flexi-subscription pricing.

**How to Subscribe**

**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

**Key Dates**

**Wed 21 Aug 2024**  
Full-season and Flexi-subscriptions on sale.

**Wed 18 Sep 2024**  
Full-season Subscription renewal deadline. 2024 Subscribers will need to renew their subscription by this date to retain their seats for the 2025 Season.

**Wed 16 Oct 2024**  
Single ticket presale opens. Sign up to the ACO e-news to access tickets.

**Fri 18 Oct 2024**  
Single tickets go on sale to the general public.

**Concessions**

We offer special pricing to those who hold means-tested Pensioner, Veterans’ Affair and Health Care cards, full-time students and those under the age of 35. Please have your proof of concession with you at the venue so staff may sight it upon entry.

**Digital Tickets**

Tickets will be sent out as digital tickets to the email address registered on your account. They will be emailed one concert at a time throughout the year, four days ahead of each concert.

**ACO Gold**

**50th Anniversary Circle**

Since its first performance in 1975, the ACO’s unwavering quest for artistic excellence has infused each and every note that the Orchestra has played. Help us blaze a trail into our next 50 years by joining ACO GOLD – our special golden anniversary circle – to celebrate this key moment in our story.

Find out more at aco.com.au/gold or call Celeste Moore, Head of Philanthropy, on 02 8274 3803.