

Dazzlingly Inventive Guitar Virtuoso Sean Shibe to make Australian Debut

SCOTLAND UNBOUND

7-20 November

National Tour

"Shibe's music-making is masterful, beautiful and convincing in every way."

– **The Times**

"This masterful, mercurial artist compels us to question what a 'classical guitarist' should sound like."

– **NPR**

"Capable of playing any type of guitar in any style he chooses."

– **The Guardian**

"I don't expect that Wigmore Hall had previously heard anything quite like the primal scream that exploded from Sean Shibe's electric guitar... At the extremes of both silence and shock-wave, this was miraculous and mesmerising music-making."

– **Seen and Heard**



Electric and acoustic guitar virtuoso Sean Shibe is a musical chameleon of the new generation. The Scottish-Japanese guitarist transcends genres and conventions, renowned for his dazzling performances of both ancient and new works that have established him as a truly original mind at the frontier of contemporary music.

Shibe will make his much-anticipated Australian debut with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, in a national tour directed by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti that celebrates the guitarist's Scottish heritage. Shibe will take to the stage with both electric and acoustic instruments, playing music ranging from the irresistible melodies of traditional Scottish folk songs to exhilarating and inventive new music including Martyn Bennett's *Bothy Culture*, which draws inspiration from Edinburgh's iconic 90s rave scene, Julia Wolfe's *Lad*, described by the composer as a "dive into a psychedelic landscape", and a brand-new work by Canadian composer Cassandra Miller, *Chanter*; that involved Shibe contributing vocals to be used in the creation of the work.

Media Contact

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

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Shibe’s experimental and open-minded approach to music-making makes him a perfect match for the electric energy and musical curiosity of the ACO.

“I am looking forward to this tour with every bone in my body; excited to forge friendships anew with the fabulous musicians of the Australian Chamber Orchestra,” Shibe says.

“I am beyond delighted that the program is one that represents the sounds and influences of Scotland, its history and its future; a heady, oxymoronic mashup of Wee Free Church of Scotland, guilty 90s dance house hedonism and reflectively ornamented pibroch-adjacent meditations.”

Born in Edinburgh in the early 90s, Shibe was the first ever guitarist awarded selection in the prestigious BBC New Generation Artist program and has won awards including the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and the Leonard Bernstein Award. He has released seven critically acclaimed recordings, with his 2020 recording of JS Bach described as *“the best ever Bach recording on guitar”* (*Gramophone*) while his 2022 recording *Lost & Found* was praised by *The Guardian* in its 5-star review as *“another bonkers-at-first-glance, brilliant album”*. In addition to being a revered performer of baroque and renaissance music, Shibe is an ardent supporter of contemporary music, taking a hands-on approach to new commissions and working with composers to experiment with and expand the guitar repertoire.

SCOTLAND UNBOUND

7-20 NOVEMBER

Artists

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin
Sean Shibe Classical & Electric Guitars
Australian Chamber Orchestra

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 Chanter (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 Dunedin Consort (supported by John Ellerman Foundation), Barbican Centre, Saffron Hall, Australian Chamber Orchestra, and Cheltenham Festival.

Wollongong Town Hall
 Thu 7 Nov, 7.30pm

Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall
 Mon 11 Nov, 7pm

Adelaide Town Hall
 Tue 19 Nov, 7.30pm

Sydney • City Recital Hall
 Sat 9 Nov, 7pm
 Tue 12 Nov, 8pm
 Wed 13 Nov, 7pm

Canberra • Llewellyn Hall
 Sat 16 Nov, 8pm

Perth Concert Hall
 Wed 20 Nov, 7.30pm

Sydney Opera House
 Sun 10 Nov, 2pm

Melbourne • Arts Centre Melbourne
 Sun 17 Nov, 2.30pm
 Mon 18 Nov, 7.30pm

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In addition to his national tour with the ACO, Sean Shibe will perform an intimate solo recital at ACO On The Pier on Friday 15 November.

ACO UP CLOSE: SEAN SHIBE SOLO

15 NOVEMBER

Artist

Sean Shibe Guitars & Lute

Program

THOMAS ADES Forgotten Dances [Australian premiere]

Solo Scottish works for solo lute

ACO On The Pier

Friday 15 November, 7pm

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