

# An Exhilarating Celebration of Old and New

**TOGNETTI. MENDELSSOHN. BACH.**  
5–23 September

National Tour



The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** is renowned for adventurous and distinctive programming, that sees dynamic performances of beloved classics performed alongside ambitious new works. In its upcoming national tour, **Tognetti. Mendelssohn. Bach.**, the ACO will pair two of the most beloved pieces of music ever written, Mendelssohn’s vibrant Octet and Bach’s Violin Concerto in A minor, with two thrilling contemporary works – Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir’s pulsating *Illumine* and the world premiere of a new commission from one of Australia’s most exciting emerging musical voices, Jakub Jankowski.

Written when the great prodigy was just 16, Mendelssohn’s Octet bursts with youthful exuberance from beginning to end. In the hands of the high-octane musicians of the ACO, the work’s boundless optimism just about leaps of the stage, with the Orchestra’s critically acclaimed 2013 BIS recording of the work described as “a surging delight from the initial aspiring arpeggios to the ebullience of the last pages” (**The Age**).

Nearly 300 years after his death, Bach remains the most revered of composers. His music is celebrated for its profound spiritual and emotional expression as well as the extraordinary technical challenges it sets for musicians. For many, the elusive genius of Bach lies in the rich inventiveness of his music and its ability to connect deeply with musicians and listeners alike.

**Media Contact**

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

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ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti is hailed as one of Australia's great interpreters of Bach, earning three consecutive ARIA awards for Best Classical Album for his recordings of the composer's violin music. Tognetti will revisit Bach's Violin Concerto in A minor as soloist with the ACO, in what promises to be an intimate and electrifying experience.

*"JS Bach's music operates on so many different levels and that's why it resonates with so many people," says Tognetti. "There are those who have to understand how it works – who need to get under the bonnet of the car, so to speak, and see how it's all put together to wholly appreciate the musical and mathematical genius of it all. Then there are those who are content to simply sit back and let the music wash over them.*

*"As a musician, there is so much you can reveal in his music. As a listener, there is so much you can access without even needing to truly understand why or how it's affecting you."*

Anna Thorvaldsdottir's pulsating octet *Illumine* opens the program. The Icelandic composer is acclaimed around the world for her "seemingly boundless textural imagination" (**New York Times**) and has garnered awards from the New York Philharmonic, Lincoln Center, the Nordic Council, and the UK's Ivors Academy, as well as commissions from many of the world's top orchestras. Also on the program is a brand-new work from trailblazing young Adelaide composer Jakub Jankowski, specially commissioned by the ACO.

**Concert Details**

**TOGNETTI. MENDELSSOHN. BACH**

**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.

**Richard Tognetti** Director & Violin  
**Australian Chamber Orchestra**

**Newcastle City Hall**  
 Thu 5 Sep, 7.30pm

**Adelaide Town Hall**  
 Tue 10 Sep, 7.30pm

**Sydney • City Recital Hall**  
 Tue 17 Sep, 8pm  
 Wed 18 Sep, 7pm  
 Fri 20 Sep, 7pm  
 Sat 21 Sep, 7pm

**Melbourne Recital Centre**  
 Sat 7 Sep, 7.30pm  
 Mon 9 Sep, 7.30pm

**Canberra • Llewellyn Hall**  
 Sat 14 Sep, 8pm

**Melbourne • Arts Centre  
 Melbourne**  
 Sun 8 Sep, 2.30pm

**Brisbane • QPAC  
 Concert Hall**  
 Mon 16 Sep, 7pm

**Sydney Opera House**  
 Sun 22 Sep, 2pm

**Wollongong Town Hall**  
 Mon 23 Sep, 7.30pm

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