



Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Dance Company present



Featuring Grammy Award-winning countertenor Iestyn Davies in his Australian debut

Two of Australia's most innovative and daring performing arts ensembles, the **Australian Chamber Orchestra** and **Sydney Dance Company**, will join forces for ***Silence & Rapture***, a spectacular showcase of dance, music, vocals and breathtaking lighting that will tour nationally from 2–19 August.

Silence & Rapture is an immersive and mesmerising new collaboration that sees the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Dance Company reunite for the first time since 2015 to celebrate the ethereal music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt – two composers whose timeless music reaches across centuries to speak to the very core of the human soul. The world's most performed living composer since 2010, Arvo Pärt is one of today's most distinctive and revered musicians who has been credited as a major inspiration for artists including Björk, Nick Cave, Thom Yorke and PJ Harvey.

Featuring an all-star line-up including choreography by internationally acclaimed Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director **Rafael Bonachela** and performances by **Sydney Dance Company** dancers **Emily Seymour** and **Liam Green**, Grammy Award-winning countertenor **Iestyn Davies** in his Australian debut, and **musicians of the Australian Chamber Orchestra** directed onstage by ARIA and Helpmann award-winning ACO Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, ***Silence & Rapture*** traces a profound journey through the human experience. In the hands of these two world-renowned ensembles, this performance promises to be as moving as it is life-affirming, as it travels through hope and temptation to tragedy and passion, and finally, into joy and redemption.

Media Contact

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

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Australian Chamber Orchestra is supported by the NSW Government through Creative Australia.



Tognetti describes *Silence & Rapture* as a highlight of the 2024 Season that he is eagerly anticipating performing for audiences around the country.

“The ACO first collaborated with Raf and the outstanding Sydney Dance Company in 2012, with Project Rameau, a scintillating exploration of the physicality of Rameau’s music,” says Tognetti. *“Ever since the success of this performance, and our 2015 collaboration Illuminated, we’ve been dreaming and scheming of collaborating anew and have arrived on a performance that celebrates the spiritual, otherworldly music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt.”*

“Arvo Pärt’s music forms an incredibly important part of the musical psyche of the last 50 years. His style is almost an island unto itself and provides an antidote, if you like, to 20th-century modernism, while sitting in perfect resonance with the music of JS Bach, who is himself a God-like figure to musicians.”

This sentiment is shared by Bonachela, who says, *“I am thrilled to collaborate with Richard and the Australian Chamber Orchestra to bring Silence & Rapture to the stage. Choreographing and performing to live music is always an incredibly enriching experience; doing so to the music of JS Bach and Arvo Pärt is a privilege. Sydney Dance Company dancers Emily Seymour, Liam Green and I are very excited to be a part of this project, as we connect with audiences across six cities in Australia with the extraordinarily ACO.”*

Concert Details

SILENCE & RAPTURE

Richard Tognetti Director & Violin
Iestyn Davies Countertenor
Rafael Bonachela Choreography & Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director
Stefanie Farrands Viola
Timo-Veikko Valve Cello
Chad Kelly Organ & Harpsichord
Liam Green Dancer
Emily Seymour Dancer
Australian Chamber Orchestra

Sydney • City Recital Hall Fri 2 Aug 7pm Sat 3 Aug 7pm Tue 6 Aug 8pm Wed 7 Aug 7pm	Arts Centre Melbourne Sun 11 Aug 2.30pm	Canberra • Llewellyn Hall Sat 17 Aug 8pm
Melbourne Recital Centre Sat 10 Aug 7.30pm Mon 12 Aug 7.30pm	Adelaide Town Hall Tue 13 Aug 7.30pm	Sydney Opera House Sun 18 Aug 2pm
	Perth Concert Hall Wed 14 Aug 7.30pm	Brisbane • QPAC Concert Hall Mon 19 Aug 7pm

Program

Featuring music by **JS Bach** and **Arvo Pärt**.

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Australian Chamber Orchestra

The Australian Chamber Orchestra lives and breathes music, making waves around the world for its explosive performances and brave interpretations. Led by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti since 1990, the ACO embraces celebrated classics alongside new commissions, and is renowned for its adventurous cross-artform collaborations with artists and musicians who share its ideology, from instrumentalists to visual artists and film makers.

More information, aco.com.au

Sydney Dance Company

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, presenting new works in Sydney, around Australia and internationally, under artistic direction of Rafael Bonachela. Since 1985 the Company has been resident in purpose-built studios on Gadigal Land at Wharf 4/5 in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct. Its studios house the largest public in-studio dance class program in Australia. A legendary force in contemporary dance in Australia, Sydney Dance Company celebrated its 50th year in 2019.

More information, sydneydancecompany.com

Iestyn Davies

"Iestyn Davies reigns supreme among countertenors." – **The Independent**

Gramophone and Grammy award-winning countertenor Iestyn Davies has astounded audiences the world over with his vocal agility, intelligent and considered interpretations and versatility, performing music from Handel to collaborations with contemporary composers including Thomas Adès and Nico Muhly. He has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera, New York and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden as well as on Broadway.

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