

Australian String Quartet

Australian String Quartet 2010 Season

ADELAIDE, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE, PERTH, SYDNEY AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA



ASQ: Anne Horton (violin), Sally Boud (viola), Sophie Rowell (violin), Rachel Johnston (cello)

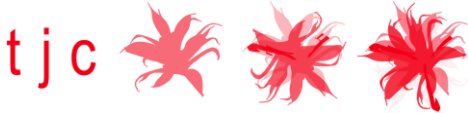
Media kit

Media interviews and images

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September 2009



EMBARGOED: until 1 September 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

2010 sees the Australian String Quartet enter new ground with its first national tour featuring acclaimed baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes, a new weekend festival in Margaret River, an ABC Classics recording and its first National Composers Forum. Season starts March 2010.

"During the past three years, the Australian String Quartet's musical unity has grown considerably. Audiences readily immerse themselves in musical ideas barely noticing superb rhythmic unity, well-matched phrasing or uniformly beautiful tone; the players make these appear effortless and intuitive." (The Australian, 12 May 2009).

"The ASQ players oozed concentration, taking such care with the little notes that beats remained the frame, not the picture." (The Advertiser, 7 April 2009).

When Joseph Haydn offered his opus 33 quartets to patrons and publishers in 1781, he proudly announced that they were written in "a new and special way". Inspired by his innovation the Australian String Quartet unveils its 2010 season, which includes some notable additions to the program and its most ambitious line-up to date.

Showcasing the incredible diversity of the string quartet, the subscription season includes three national tours; **Flight** (March) presented in association with the **Adelaide Festival, Songs of Travel – Gala Concert** (May/June) and **Unity** (November).

ASQ welcomes two first-time guest artists. The superb musicianship of Adelaide-based pianist **Lucinda Collins** will be heard on tour one, in a performance of Brahms' turbulent piano quintet. Tour two showcases internationally-acclaimed baritone **Teddy Tahu Rhodes**, who becomes the vagabond wayfarer of Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*, followed by Samuel Barber's sumptuous setting of *Dover Beach*.

"It is the prospect of being able to create harmony with each other, because of the time spent together, that makes touring so exciting. The intimacy of performing in a small group means we can really feed off each other's energy; it enables you to become the other instrument. Sophie, Sally, Rachel and Anne are so amazingly talented and vibrant and to be able to create music with them is one of the highlights of my year," said Teddy.

In addition to its 2010 National Season, the Quartet will perform at a number of festivals. Adding to the success of the **Dunkeld Weekend of Music** (9-11 April) the ASQ announces its inaugural festival for 2010; **Margaret River Weekend of Music** (16-18 April). It will feature three days of concerts complemented by delectable meals and premium wines, framed by the iconic Australian backdrop of Margaret River.

Committed to fostering new Australian music, the Quartet will host its first **National Composers Forum** at the University of Adelaide (27-29 August). Led by Carl Vine, one of Australia's most distinguished composers, the Forum is aimed at encouraging and supporting emerging composers. It will provide a rare opportunity for these artists to workshop their compositions and hear them played by one of Australia's finest quartets.

Making a name for itself on the international stage, ASQ returns to the UK and Germany in 2010. The players will also be recording their second album for **ABC Classics**.

Since its formation in 1985, ASQ has been a strong supporter of Australian composers and taking music beyond city centres. ASQ continues this tradition in 2010 performing works by Australian composers Paul Stanhope and Peter Sculthorpe and touring to regional areas including Bangalow, Townsville, Meningie, Bendigo, Albany and Mornington.

The 2010 subscription season is now on sale. Ph: 1800 040 444 or visit www.asq.com.au

MEDIA: For information, interviews or images please contact Prue Vercoe at tjc – 02 8904 0822, prue@tjc.com.au, 0410 541 663, www.tjc.com.au

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET: NATIONAL SEASON 2010

TOUR ONE: MARCH 2010

Flight

Haydn String Quartet op.33 no.3 *The Bird*

Paul Stanhope* String Quartet no.1

Brahms Piano Quintet in f minor op.34

With Lucinda Collins – Piano

*Commissioned for Musica Viva Australia by Julia Hickman Potter, in honour of Peter Hickman's 60th birthday.

Presented in association with Adelaide Festival

TOUR TWO: MAY/JUNE 2010

Songs of Travel - Gala Concert

Barber String Quartet op.11

Vaughan Williams *Songs of Travel*, Arr. Quentin Grant for String Quartet and Baritone

Mendelssohn String Quartet in E flat major op.12

Barber *Dover Beach* for Baritone and String Quartet op.3

With Teddy Tahu Rhodes - Baritone

TOUR THREE: NOVEMBER 2010

Unity

Beethoven String Quartet in B flat major op.18 no.6

Peter Sculthorpe String Quartet no.6

Dvorak String Quartet in A flat major op.105 no.14

LOCATIONS DATES TIMES

Adelaide: 7pm

Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street, Adelaide

Wednesday 10 March

Wednesday 26 May

Wednesday 10 November

Brisbane: 7pm

Conservatorium Theatre, Queensland Conservatorium, 16 Russell Street, South Bank

Wednesday 24 March

Tuesday 1 June

Wednesday 17 November

Melbourne: 7pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Cnr of Southbank Boulevard & Sturt Street, Southbank

Friday 26 March

Monday 31 May

Thursday 11 November

Perth: 7pm

Perth Concert Hall, 5 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Monday 15 March

Thursday 3 June

Monday 8 November

Sydney: 7pm

City Recital Hall Angel Place, 2-12 Angel Place, Sydney

Thursday 18 March

Friday 28 May

Friday 19 November

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET: BACKGROUNDER

Sophie Rowell - Violin
Anne Horton - Violin
Sally Boud - Viola
Rachel Johnston - Cello

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) was established in 1985 and is Quartet-in-Residence at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide. It tours both nationally and internationally, and has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia. The current membership of Sophie Rowell and Anne Horton, violins, Sally Boud, viola, and Rachel Johnston, cello was established in 2006.

In 2000, this combination of players originally came together as the Tankstream Quartet and was coached by Alice Waten at the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney. This ASQ is the only Australian group to have been participants in the prestigious chamber music class of the Alban Berg Quartet at the Cologne Hochschule für Musik, and also holds the distinction of having won more international chamber music competitions than any other ensemble in Australian history including First Prize at the 2005 Cremona International String Quartet Competition, the Gold Medal in the 2002 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition (Japan), first place in the 2001 Australian Chamber Music Competition, and Second Prize in the Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition in Italy in 2005.

The ASQ has performed in many major European cities including Hamburg, Berlin, Paris, London, Copenhagen, Cologne, Belgrade, Budapest, Zagreb, Frankfurt, Reggio Emilia (Italy), and in New York, USA. It has also toured throughout Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Japan and the UK. It was selected to perform celebratory concerts for the Danish Royal Wedding in May 2004. The Quartet has been broadcast extensively in Australia on ABC Classic FM and has been featured on NDR (North German Radio), the BBC and Radio France, and televised in Austria, Australia, Denmark and Japan.

Throughout its history the ASQ has commissioned, premiered and performed works by leading Australian composers including Brett Dean, Gordon Kerry, Nigel Westlake, Charles Bodman Rae, Ross Edwards, Andrew Ford, Miriam Hyde, Elena Kats-Chernin, Graeme Koehne, Richard Meale, Peter Sculthorpe, Roger Smalley and Paul Stanhope.

For further information visit: www.asq.com.au



L to R: Sophie Rowell (violin), Sally Boud (viola), Anne Horton (violin), Rachel Johnston (cello)

GUEST ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES:

LUCINDA COLLINS – Guest Artist for *Flight*

Adelaide born pianist Lucinda Collins studied at the Elder Conservatorium of Music with Noreen Stokes and Stefan Ammer. In 1984 she was awarded the prestigious Elder Overseas Scholarship to attend the Royal College of Music in London, where she undertook post-graduate studies with Peter Wallfisch. The following year she attained the ARCM Performance Diploma and was also awarded the Vivien Hamilton Chopin Prize.

She has been the winner of numerous scholarships and prizes including the Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Scholarship, and the ASKM National Bicentennial Piano Competition.

Lucinda has performed extensively throughout Australia and has also given concerts in the UK and Korea. She has performed on national television and given numerous recitals for ABC Classic FM. In August 2001, Lucinda was invited to Kuala Lumpur to adjudicate at the Malaysian National Piano Festival.



As a concerto soloist Lucinda has performed under the batons of David Porcelijn, Arvo Volmer and John Harding. She has also participated in both the Adelaide and Barossa Festivals and given recitals for the Australian Society for Keyboard Music. She performs regularly in the Elder Conservatorium's lunchtime concert series.

Lucinda is an avid chamber musician and has partnered many distinguished artists including the internationally renowned English cellist, Natalie Clein. Her performances with the Australian String Quartet have included the piano quintets of Schubert, Schnittke, Shostakovich and Schumann.

In 2006 Lucinda joined with violinist Sophie Rowell and cellist Janis Laurs to form the Elder Trio. Lucinda teaches full-time at the Elder Conservatorium of Music where she is Head of Keyboard and Co-ordinator of the Chamber Music Program.

TEDDY TAHU RHODES – Guest Artist for *Songs of Travel - Gala Concert*

Teddy Tahu Rhodes has established an impressive international career. He sings a wide-ranging repertoire, notable for several world and Australian premiere performances including his award winning performance as Joe (*Dead Man Walking*). He guests frequently with opera companies in the USA (Washington, Philadelphia, Houston, Cincinnati, San Francisco and Dallas), in Europe (Hamburg, Munich, Paris, Vienna) in the UK (Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera) as well as Opera Australia.

Recent and forthcoming opera engagements include Escamillo (Paris/Hamburg/Munich/Bilbao/Scottish Opera), Stanley/*A Streetcar Named Desire* (Vienna/Opera Australia), Count (Cincinnati), Don Giovanni (OA), Lescaut (Leipzig/OA) and Billy Budd (Santa Fe/OA). Following his critically acclaimed debut at the Metropolitan Opera he returns there in the 2009/2010 season.



Concert engagements include recitals at Sydney's Utzon Room and in Washington, tours with the ACO, BBC Proms, London Philharmonic, Bundaleer Festival 2002/2006, WASO, TSO, NZSO and a sell-out tour with David Hobson. He debuted at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2009.

His discography includes Faure's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, *Musical Renegades*, *Mozart Arias*, *The Voice* and *Vagabond*/ABC Classics. Other releases include *The Little Prince* (BBC/Sony International) and *You'll Never Walk Alone* (with David Hobson/ABC Classics).

Awards include an ARIA, two Helpmann Awards, MO Award and a Green Room Award.