



Australian String Quartet



MEDIA KIT

National Tour One – *Flight*

ADELAIDE, PERTH, SYDNEY, BRISBANE AND MELBOURNE

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NATIONAL PRESENTING PARTNER

ANZ Private Bank





MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: 18 January 2010

The Australian String Quartet commences its 2010 Season with *Flight: a program of emotionally charged compositions and superb musicianship, featuring guest pianist Lucinda Collins. National tour opens at Adelaide Festival on 10 March 2010*

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

PAUL STANHOPE* String Quartet no.1

BRAHMS Piano Quintet in f minor op.34

*Commission for Musica Viva Australia by Julia Hickman Potter, in honour of Peter Hickman's sixtieth birthday

"As usual, the ASQ demonstrated tight rhythmic unity, capacity for elegance and sublime moments." (The Australian, 26 October 2009).

Following rave reviews in 2009, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ), featuring violinists Sophie Rowell, Anne Horton, violist Sally Boud and cellist Rachel Johnston, kicks off its 2010 program in March with a national tour entitled *Flight* with performances in Adelaide (10 March), Perth (15 March), Sydney (18 March), Brisbane (24 March) and Melbourne (26 March).

Haydn's String Quartet op.33 no.3 *The Bird* opens this concert with sparkling clarity; bird-like motifs wittily appear in each movement giving this quartet its endearing nickname. This is followed by the atmospheric first **String Quartet no.1** from one of Australia's most exciting composers, **Paul Stanhope**, a work which also marks ASQ's continued dedication to Australian music and composers.

Closing this concert will be **Brahms' passionate, turbulent Piano Quintet in f minor op.34. Guest artist Adelaide-based pianist Lucinda Collins** joins the Quartet performing a work that the composer revised several times before forging its final dark, brilliant form.

Originally a String Quintet, Brahms transcribed it into a sonata for two pianos, after which the piece took its final form as a Piano Quintet. "In this extraordinary work Brahms' writing is both darkly intense and sublimely lyrical," said Lucinda Collins.

Having first performed together in 2007, the Quartet was thrilled when Lucinda accepted their invitation to join them for a national tour. "Lucinda is an exquisite chamber musician. When performing with her I am constantly awed by her ability to blend and harmonise with string instruments. I can't wait to perform Brahms' incredible Piano Quintet with her," said ASQ violinist Sophie Rowell.

Opening in the Quartet's hometown of Adelaide on Wednesday 10 March 2010, this concert is presented in association with the Adelaide Festival. This first national tour of 2010 also marks the start of a new presenting partnership with ANZ Private Bank.

ANZ Private Bank Managing Director, Catherine McDowell said "We are delighted to partner with the Australian String Quartet as the central element of ANZ Private Bank's 'Support the Arts' program. We are very impressed with the talent and passion of the ASQ and are proud to be a part of their 2010 season."

ASQ was established in 1985. The current membership of Sophie Rowell, Anne Horton, Sally Boud and Rachel Johnston was established in 2006. 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.

ASQ is Quartet in Residence at the University of Adelaide and is generously supported by the Government of South Australia and the Australia Council. For further information visit the website (www.asq.com.au) or ph: 1800 040 444. Follow the Quartet on www.facebook.com

Media enquiries: Prue Vercoe @ Vine Communications 0410 541 663, prue@vinecomms.com.au

CONCERT DATES, TIMES, BOOKING INFORMATION

NATIONAL TOUR ONE: FLIGHT	
Adelaide, SA	Wednesday 10 March 2010, 7pm - Adelaide Town Hall www.bass.net.au Ph: 131 246 \$57 adult / \$43 concession / \$22 student (service fees may apply)
Perth, WA	Monday 15 March 2010, 7pm - Perth Concert Hall www.bocsticketing.com.au Ph: 08 9484 1133 \$57 adult / \$43 concession / \$22 student (service fees may apply)
Sydney, NSW	Thursday 18 March 2010, 7pm - City Recital Hall Angel Place www.cityrecitalhall.com Ph: 02 8256 2222 \$63 adult / \$49 concession / \$22 student (service fees may apply)
Brisbane, QLD	Wednesday 24 March 2010, 7pm - Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank www.qtix.com.au Ph: 136 246 \$57 adult / \$43 concession / \$22 student (service fees may apply)
Melbourne, VIC	Friday 26 March 2010, 7pm - Melbourne Recital Centre www.melbournerecital.com.au Ph: 03 9699 3333 \$62 adult / \$48 concession / \$23 student (includes service fees)

OTHER CONCERTS	
Pymble, NSW	Friday 19 March 2010, 8pm - Sydney Mozart Society, Pymble Ladies' College 02 9416 1866, www.sydneymozartsociety.com.au \$25 adult / \$23 student / \$20 seniors and pensioners / free U13

Please note: this program includes **Haydn** String Quartet op.33 no.3 *The Bird*, **Mozart** Quintet in A for clarinet, two violins, viola and cello, K 581 with Catherine McCorkill and **Brahms** Piano Quintet in f minor op. 34 with Lucinda Collins

Noosaville, QLD	Sunday 21 March, 7.30pm - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Noosaville 07 5455 3500 \$36 adult / \$27 senior / \$9 students (under 25)
Mornington, VIC	Saturday 27 March 2010, 7pm - Peninsula Community Theatre 03 59755469, 03 59753040, 03 97898392, www.pmsmusic.asn.au \$35 adult / \$33 senior or groups of 10+ / \$25 pensioner / \$15 student / free U16 when accompanied by an adult

Presented by Peninsula Music Society

AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET



Sophie Rowell - Violin
Sally Boud - Viola
Anne Horton - Violin
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. The Quartet 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. It also holds the distinction of having won more international chamber music competitions than any other ensemble in Australian history: 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. 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

Image L to R: Sophie Rowell (Violin), Sally Boud (Viola), Anne Horton (Violin), Rachel Johnston (Cello)
Photographer: Jacqui Way

LUCINDA COLLINS – GUEST ARTIST – PIANO



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.

Image: Lucinda Collins (Piano)
Photographer: Jacqui Way