

**AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET
CONCERT MEDIA REVIEWS in 2011**

Shaker Dances – March 2011

The West Australian, 16 March 2011

Reviewer: Neville Cohn

"...the ASQ were beyond reproach in its evocation. Whether playing pizzicato that sounded as if violently ripped from the bodies of their instruments or essaying a slow movement that conjured up a mental image of a convocation of phantoms, this was a remarkable performance.

"Here was impressive evidence of an ensemble taking up an interpretative position at the emotional epicentre of the work."

"Its sunny, folksy qualities were evoked to the nth degree by four musicians very much on top of their game..."

The Australian, 17 March 2011

Reviewer: Graham Strahl

"The four musicians play out with natural, gripping enthusiasm and enhanced dynamics in a program that offers strong contrast..."

Adelaide Advertiser, 18 March 2011

Reviewer: Rodney Smith

"...Eleven years of performing together has ensured ASQ members are remarkably at one in their interpretations and tonal balance."

"Their playing has taken on added urgency and power of late, ensuring their artistic vision projects to listeners with real depth and, when necessary, guts and determination, too."

"The ASQ gave us focus rather than histrionics, the sign of a group with musical maturity."

Sydney Morning Herald, 21 March 2011

Reviewer: Harriet Cunningham

"Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 7 showed an ensemble at the height of its powers, passionately committed and full of finely nuanced emotions."

"The first movement unraveled with a light but acid fluidity, beautiful but disturbing. Second violinist Anne Horton laid the groundwork for the second movement with an impossibly silken ostinato, over which the others added smooth layers of inconclusive melody. The final movement crashed in, all grit and dash, overwhelming the crystalline melancholy of the previous movements with dark energy."

"The Australian String Quartet made a strong case for his [Graeme Koehne] argument, with clarity and precise articulation producing a transparent, even radiant, sound."

"Guest cellist Li Wei happily played the role of charismatic soloist in the cheeky ronde au finale, but never overwhelmed the delicately balanced polish of the core ensemble in this perfect performance."

"...it confirmed that great expectations - for all five players, whichever way they go - are justified."

The Age, 23 March 2011

Reviewer: Clive O'Connell

"...the players showed a sustained excellence of form in four works of varying demands."

"The group's reading of the Russian score, however, was the program's stand-out performance, articulated with awareness of the composer's temperament oscillations and as ferocious an attack as you could want in the last movement's opening pages, Rowell and second violin Anne Horton carving a relentless set of mirroring lines."