



AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET ANNOUNCES 2012 SEASON

2012 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Debut season for new line up featuring new members Kristian Winther (violin) and Stephen King (viola).
- National subscription season in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.
- National Season premiere performance as part of the 2012 Adelaide Festival of Arts.
 - Celebration of Australian composition with works from Peter Sculthorpe, Brett Dean and Wilfred Lehmann.
- Exclusive guest appearances from Daniel de Borah (piano), Brett Dean (viola) and Paul Dean (clarinet).
- Exclusive Weekend Music Events in Dunkeld – Victoria and Margaret River – Western Australia in April 2012.
 - Two International tours in 2012.





Australian String Quartet

MEDIA RELEASE
10 NOVEMBER 2011

DEBUT SEASON FOR NEW LOOK AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) is proud to announce its 2012 season, the first for its brand new line up comprising of, Kristian Winther (violin), Anne Horton (violin), Stephen King (viola) and Rachel Johnston (cello).

Kristian Winther and Stephen King were appointed to the ASQ in September following an extensive search. Both Winther and King are regarded as two of the most sought after classical musicians in Australia.

According to ASQ Executive Officer, Alison Beare there is great anticipation for the 2012 season.

"Kristian, Anne, Stephen and Rachel are all committed to the future of chamber music in Australia and abroad. They are an innovative group, with new ideas and territory to explore. The foundations have been set, and the future is incredibly bright", said Alison Beare.

The ASQ subscription season comprises of three national tours; *Towards Light* (March) in association with the Adelaide Festival, *Legacy* (June) and *Sunrise* (September).

The season focuses on celebrating Australian music on a grand scale with works from Peter Sculthorpe and a new viola and string quartet commission from Brett Dean, which has been co – commissioned by the ASQ.

2012 is also peppered with the great classics from the likes of Beethoven, Shostakovich and Brahms.

The quartet is delighted to welcome three of Australia's finest virtuosos to the stage including internationally renowned Australian composer and violist, Brett Dean, award winning pianist, Daniel De Borah and renowned clarinettist and nationally regarded music mentor Paul Dean.

"The Piano Quintet is vintage Shostakovich - a compelling portrait of the composer and the man behind the music. It is a deftly crafted, intensely personal and humane creation of exceptional beauty, and I am thrilled to join the wonderful ASQ to present this remarkable work" said Daniel de Borah of his March ASQ appearance.

In addition to the 2012 National Season, the Quartet will deliver its annual Weekend Festivals in April 2012, including the popular Dunkeld Weekend of Music and a return appearance at the Margaret River Weekend of Music.

"Taking the music we love to new audiences and spaces is an inspiring part of being an ASQ member. We're passionate about regional touring and in 2012 the ASQ will build on these amazing festival experiences. As a musician there is no greater thrill than allowing music to travel." said Rachel Johnston.



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Plans are also underway for the ASQ to perform internationally in 2012, with the Quartet expected to reveal touring plans in the coming months. The Quartet is beginning to make an impact on the international stage performing at some of music's most esteemed venues and festivals.

In 2012, audiences are invited to join the Australian String Quartet for a year of first class musical performances.

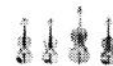
The 2012 subscription season is now on sale.

To purchase: phone 1800 040 444 **or** visit www.asq.com.au

For further media information, images or interview requests:

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Australian String Quartet

2012 CONCERT VENUES & DATES

TOWARDS LIGHT – March 2012

Peter Sculthorpe, String Quartet No 11

Dvorak, String Quartet No 10 in E flat major, Op 51

Shostakovich, String Quintet, Op 57
with Daniel de Borah, piano

Adelaide

Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide, SA

7.00pm

Wednesday 7 March

Brisbane

Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank, QLD

7.00pm

Thursday 14 March

Melbourne

Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank, VIC

7.00pm

Thursday 8 March

Perth

Perth Concert Hall, Perth, WA

7.00pm

Monday 12 March

Sydney

City Recital Hall Angel Hall, Sydney, NSW

7.00pm

Thursday 15 March



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LEGACY – June 2012

Beethoven, String Quartet in D Op 18 No 3

Brett Dean, Epitaphs for Viola and String Quartet

Brahms, String Quartet in G, Op 111
with Brett Dean, viola

Adelaide

Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide, SA

7.00pm

Tuesday 5 June

Brisbane

Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank, QLD

7.00pm

Thursday 7 June

Melbourne

Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank, VIC

7.00pm

Thursday 14 June

Perth

Perth Concert Hall, Perth, WA

7.00pm

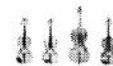
Monday 11 June

Sydney

City Recital Hall Angel Hall, Sydney, NSW

7.00pm

Friday 8 June



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SUNRISE – September 2012

Haydn, String Quartet No 78 in B flat, Op 76, No 4 *Sunrise*

Wilfred Lehmann, Clarinet Quintet

Weber, Clarinet Quintet

Bartok, String Quartet No 4
with Paul Dean, Clarinet

Adelaide

Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide, SA

7.00pm

Wednesday 12 September

Brisbane

Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank, QLD

7.00pm

Monday 17 September

Melbourne

Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank, VIC

7.00pm

Wednesday 19 September

Perth

Perth Concert Hall, Perth, WA

7.00pm

Friday 14 September

Sydney

City Recital Hall Angel Hall, Sydney, NSW

7.00pm

Tuesday 11 September



Australian String Quartet

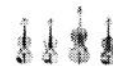


Kristian Winther Violin

Born in Canberra in 1984, Kristian Winther studied violin with Josette Esquedin-Morgan, and conducting with John Curro, with whom he also made his concerto debut, performing the Sibelius Violin Concerto in 2000. As soloist he has appeared with the Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Kristian has also appeared as Concertmaster of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in Europe and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and as Leader/Director of ACO2.

From 2007-2008 Kristian was violinist with the TinAlley String Quartet, winning the 2007 Banff International String Quartet Competition, which was followed by critically acclaimed tours of the USA, Canada and Europe. He has performed the Australian and New

Zealand premieres of Brett Dean's Violin Concerto *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*, and Australian premieres of works by Andriessen, Salonen, Calvin Bowman and Rihm, among others. As conductor, Kristian has performed Gubaidulina, Pärt, and Andriessen at the Melbourne International Arts Festival and the Canberra International Music Festival, and in 2011 he conducted *The Planets* of Gustav Holst with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra.



Anne Horton Violin

Violinist Anne Horton holds a Masters degree from the Australian Institute of Music (AIM) where her teacher was Alice Waten. She was awarded the Margaret Bello Prize for Chamber Music from The University of Western Australia and is a recipient of several scholarships including an arts grant from the Australia Council to study in New Zealand.

Anne has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Sinfonia and has appeared as a soloist in the Sydney Opera House. She was the co-concertmaster of the Western Australia Youth Orchestra including a tour of Europe.

A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Music, Anne has taught violin and chamber music at the AIM and was a nominee in the Arts category of the 2004 Australian of

the Year Awards for Western Australia.

A longstanding member of the Australian String Quartet, Anne has played a formidable role in the rise of the ASQ on the local and international stage. Amongst her many career highlights are ASQ wins in the prestigious 2005 Cremona String Quartet Competition and the 2002 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition.



Stephen King Viola

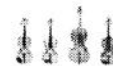
A seasoned performer, violist Stephen King joins the Australian String Quartet following eight years with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Stephen grew up in Canberra and after an architecture degree, commenced formal viola studies with Elizabeth Morgan in Brisbane, then James Dunham, Kathy Murdock and Michael Tree in the USA. Stephen holds a Doctorate in Chamber Music from the University of Maryland and has worked closely with the Emerson and Guarneri String Quartets.

From 1997 Stephen was violist of the Coolidge String Quartet based in Washington D.C., performing in venues from Carnegie Hall, to the Jerusalem Music Centre and Hong Kong's City Hall, and festivals

including Aspen, Tanglewood and La Jolla. While living abroad, Stephen was the Associate Principal Viola of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and played with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. He has been on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory Division in Boston, the American String Teachers Association Music Workshops and Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp.

Joining the ASQ in 2012, Stephen has recently relocated to Adelaide with his family, Kylie, Ollie, Sam and Max.



Rachel Johnston Cello

A native New Zealander, cellist Rachel Johnston has performed as a soloist in Austria, Milan, Kuwait, Edinburgh, Belfast, Paris, Australia, England and the United States.

She was awarded First Prize in her debut international competition - the Wettbewerb für Violoncello in Austria in 1998. Rachel has been awarded an Honours Degree in Cello Performance from the Canterbury University in Christchurch, Masters in Performance with Distinction at London University and an Artist's Diploma in Performance from the acclaimed Juilliard School in Manhattan.

A member of the Australian String Quartet since 2006, Rachel has toured extensively throughout Australia and Europe, including performances in Far North Queensland and the Pilbara Region in Western

Australia with soprano Fiona Campbell and performances with pianist Kristian Chong in China and Singapore.

As a soloist, Rachel maintains a diverse calendar of concert commitments in Australia and abroad and has toured for Musica Viva Australia and Chamber Music New Zealand, recorded extensively for radio and premiered works by Sofia Gubaidulina, Alexei Denisov, and Shawn Crouch.



**Guest Artist – National Season 2012
Concert 1 – Towards Light**

Daniel de Borah
Piano

Australian pianist Daniel de Borah (formerly Hill) was 3rd Prize winner at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2004 and has since appeared as soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, and with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican and Cadogan Hall, London. In Australia he has performed with the Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. He has given recitals on four continents and

has featured alongside many leading soloists including Rivka Golani (viola), Li-Wei Qin (cello), Thomas Indermühle (oboe) and Andrew Goodwin (tenor) at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, the Canberra International Music Festival, the Oxford Lieder Festival and London's Wigmore Hall. Daniel now divides his time between Melbourne and London.



**Guest Artist – National Season 2012
Concert 2 – Legacy**

Brett Dean
Viola / Composer

One of the most internationally performed composers of his generation, much of Brett Dean's work draws from literary, political or visual stimuli. He has been commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra and LA Philharmonic among other leading orchestras, and in 2009 Dean won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for his violin concerto *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*. Recent premieres have included Dean's first full-length opera *Bliss* in a highly-acclaimed production by Opera

Australia in Sydney, Melbourne and at the Edinburgh Festival and in a new production at the Hamburg Opera, and his String Quintet *Epitaphs* at the Cheltenham Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla SummerFest and the Cologne Philharmonie. Dean combines his composing activities with a rich musical life performing internationally as soloist, chamber musician and conductor with the world's leading orchestras.



**Guest Artist – National Season 2012
Concert 3 – Sunrise**

Paul Dean
Clarinet

Paul Dean is the Artistic Director of the Australian National Academy of Music and has made a name for himself as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. He is also the Artistic Director Laureate of the Bangalow Music Festival and the Sunwater and Stanwell Winter Music School. He has commissioned and premiered over 100 works, including his brother Brett's clarinet concerto *Ariel's Music* and Andrew Schultz's *Clarinet Quintet*. Between 1987 and 2000 he was Principal Clarinet with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and appeared as soloist with the Orchestra on over thirty occasions. Throughout the years, Paul has performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, the Australian String Quartet, the Goldner Quartet, the Flinders Quartet, the TinAlley Quartet, and many of the major orchestras in Australia and New Zealand.