



SOUTHERN CROSS  
SOLOISTS



Season

ANNUAL  
REPORT

SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

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“...Southern Cross Soloists, is a Brisbane based chamber music ensemble who deliver extraordinarily complex and innovative performances.”

The talent within the core group of instrumentalists is outstanding. They are not only masters of their craft but an absolute joy to watch.

With each recital you catch glimpses of their personalities and lives; a connection with the audience that enhances these truly intimate performances...”

**Weekend Notes, Feb 2019**

# Southern Cross Soloists

## ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

One of Australia's most formidable chamber music ensembles, Southern Cross Soloists has reimagined the live classical music experience since their establishment in Brisbane in 1995.

The ensemble has helped set the benchmark for Australian chamber music, and created a connected, enthusiastic, and ever-growing audience, whom they continue to delight with their constantly evolving programs.

Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) has an unparalleled reputation for artistic excellence, and as trailblazers in the Australian classical music scene. An ensemble of individually talented and collectively powerful musicians, the Soloists come together to create something special each time they perform. Their performance style, perfected over the years, creates an intimate, inviting and deeply engaging experience.

As Company in Residence at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), the ensemble enjoys a busy schedule of regional and national performances, and is regularly joined by eminent visiting international artists. Southern Cross Soloists present an annual program of first-rate events, including their subscription concert series at QPAC, the Bangalow Music Festival, and their APRA award-winning education program.

The ensemble seeks to incorporate new and innovative work every season, by means of specially commissioned new works, talented guest musicians, unique cross discipline-art form collaborations, and a fluid repertoire selection.

Despite the ensemble's considerable success and critical acclaim, the Soloists approach each performance as a unique opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting impression on the people that matter most – the audience members.

Captivating audiences with music that is truly alive, the Soloists deliver exciting, enriching and uplifting performances that never disappoint.



"...As Patron, I have witnessed the ensemble's impressive artistic growth and dynamic evolution across the years..."

**Dame Quentin Bryce  
AD CVO  
Patron of the  
Southern Cross  
Soloists**



# Chair's Report

2019 was a hugely successful artistic year: audiences once again enjoyed world-class music making by the talented soloists of the Southern Cross ensemble, with three almost sold out QPAC subscription concerts, a sparkling diverse and exhilarating Bangalow Festival, a successful performance at the Melbourne Recital Centre and many regional concerts in south east Queensland.

We are grateful to the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and to the Brisbane City Council for their funding towards presenting our many 2019 programs.

Bangalow Music Festival, in its 18th year, once again proved to be a hit with long-term and new audiences, with many concerts sold out. An education program, which took place before and after the festival weekend, provided musical learning experiences for school children that will remain with them for life.

We are also grateful to Zentveld's Coffee Plantation & Roastery for hosting a concert at the start of each festival weekend, the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Byron Bay, the stunning First Nation's art gallery: Ninbella Gallery, who partnered with us to present the Bangalow Art Prize as well as the support of many local businesses.

Our donors were extremely generous, providing our best donation year ever. All our musicians gained Chair Sponsorships. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity, which did indeed enable Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) to end the year on a high note !

In December 2019, the long-standing Chair of the Board, Greg Thomson resigned and Jonathan Blocksidge took over as acting chair until the new Board was appointed in early 2020.

Our partnership with QPAC as Company-in-Residence is highly valued and we thank John Kotzas and the team at QPAC who ensure the concert experience is world-class. The intimate nature of reverse mode while enjoying the full Concert Hall acoustic is one of many reasons why audiences return and why newcomers are impressed.

Thank you to our Patron Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO, for continual advocacy and enthusiasm for all that Southern Cross Soloists stand for. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the new Board of Directors for their time, expertise and governance this year.

We are grateful to individuals, families and organisations that donate money or sponsor services to Southern Cross Soloists. Many have been supporting the organisation from the 'beginning', 25 years ago.

Thank you to Philip Bacon Galleries for ongoing support, particularly for his support of the Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship. The 2019 recipient of this scholarship, Xenia Puskarz-Thomas thrilled us at the Bangalow Music Festival before she embarked on an international career in Europe. I would also like to thank Fiona Stager and the team at AVID Reader Bookshop for hosting the Coffee Conversations Series held on the Friday prior to our QPAC concerts.

We are looking forward, post Covid-19, to being able again to provide music lovers with our scintillating and adventurous concert programs when "normal life" resumes.

Di Khursandi  
**SXS Chair 2020**

Di Khursandi  
Chair



"...a remarkable group of Australian musicians whose unique interpretations breathe fresh life into classical repertoire..."

**John Kotzas**  
Chief Executive  
QPAC



# Artistic Director's Report

Humans are innately inquisitive creatures that are hard wired for curiosity. Our 2019 season focused on topics of humanity as we explored and celebrated diverse cultures, human curiosity, communication, stories, and scientific discovery through the unifying global language of music.

2019 was an exciting and successful year artistically, and a year of creating new relationships that will have a significant ongoing impact for SXS going forward into our 25th season in 2020. As a transitional year of growth and exploration, these new relationships signify new opportunities for financial growth, increased community and regional reach, and expanded artistic influence that will carry on into 2020 and beyond.

Southern Cross Soloists welcomed four new musicians to the ensemble including cellist Blair Harris, French Horn Alex Miller, violist James Wannan and associate flute Jonathan Henderson, increasing our national reach to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth and successfully implemented a new chair sponsorship program for each of the core musicians.

New partnerships became a major theme of 2019. For our 18th Bangalow Music Festival, SXS established a new partnership with the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Association of Byron Bay/Bangalow, establishing a new scholarship program for an outstanding young artist from Northern NSW as well as hosting our festival launch. The 2019 recipient was UQ flute student Jemima Drews, who was also invited to be a part of SXS's 2019 Next Gen Artists program. This program is continuing into 2020 and beyond.

Other new 2019 BMF initiatives included the establishment of the Bangalow Art Prize, in partnership with Ninbella Art Gallery director, Grant Rasheed, as well as closer ties with Mary O'Connor of Bangalow Real Estate, the Bangalow CWA, and Zentveld's Coffee Plantation.

Another major partnership was established with the Qld Churches of Christ, generating a multitude of performance outcomes which are being expanded in 2020 onwards. 2019 saw the establishment of the SXS Kenmore Concert Series with assistance from the Brisbane City Council. This exciting, new project for our SXS Next Gen Artists' Mentorship Program provided 360-degree career training for our emerging artists to curate, self-manage and perform chamber music concerts at the new Kenmore Churches of Christ Auditorium, passing on invaluable insights into running a professional chamber music ensemble. This series has also nurtured a new audience base in the western suburbs, providing meaningful community engagement in an area where there is limited professional live concerts for older generations or those with accessibility needs.

Alongside this, the Southern Cross Soloists core ensemble partnered with Churches of Christ to present a highly successful SE Qld regional touring program for Seniors Week, with plans to expand on this in 2020 and 2021 to reach more regional Qld communities.

Tania Frazer  
Artistic Director



"...the scale of the achievement, the originality of programming, and the brilliance of the performances - a real privilege to attend..."

**Australian Stage**

“....It’s easy to hear why the Southern Cross Soloists are considered one of Australia’s leading chamber ensembles.

Maps and Journeys represents yet another show in which the group both enlightens and entertains with great technique and passion.

All musicians were absolutely excellent as you would expect from a show of this calibre.

The reverse staging made for a wonderfully intimate experience.

This was a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon...”

**Kiesten McCauley**  
**Stage Whispers,**  
**21 July, 2019**

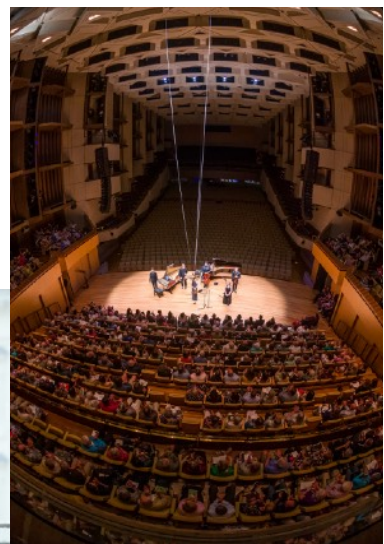
From Top:

SXS in performance at the QPAC Concert Hall in ‘Intimate’ Reverse Mode;  
Amalia Hall, violin;  
George Gao erhu;  
Li Wei Qin cello

Increased community engagement extended throughout our flagship QPAC Subscription Series, with a program that featured elements of cultural identity; celebrations and customs; history and scientific discovery; and our unique, natural environment and landscapes. New relationships were developed with the Australian Centre for Chinese Culture and Arts, the Aus-Oriental Orchestra, SUNPAC, the Chinese immersion program at McGregor High School and the Australian Chinese communities of Brisbane and Melbourne through our Lunar New Year program, which also created a significant developmental step in our national profile building. In partnership with the Queensland Music Festival, Concert 2: Maps and Journeys explored Aboriginal astronomy and featured didgeridoo soloist, Chris Williams, who will be joining SXS as an Artist in Residence in 2020-2021. Our guest for concert 3 was international violin soloist from NZ, Amalia Hall, with future plans to tour this program in New Zealand in 2021-2022.

As a pivotal year, 2019 has seen SXS establish vital structures and nurture new relationships that position the company well to solidify and expand upon these through 2020-2021. This will create a strengthened company with increased reach and developing income streams that will fortify SXS company activities into the next 10 years.

Tania Frazer  
**SXS Artistic Director**



# Artist Biographies

## Tania Frazer | Artistic Director, Oboe

Artistic Director of Southern Cross Soloists since 2011, Tania Frazer completed her degrees at the Guildhall School of Music in London on a full scholarship. Tania has performed as Principal Oboe with the Schleswig-Holstein Orchestra under Maazel, Rostropovich and Solti; the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and Valery Gergiev; the Royal Scottish National Orchestra; the New Zealand Symphony; the Jerusalem Symphony; Stavanger Symphony in Norway; the Montreal Chamber Orchestra, and she was Principal Cor Anglais of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. From 2004-2008, Tania was Principal Oboe with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and performed as a soloist on their 2006 European tour.

As Southern Cross Soloists' Artistic Director, Tania has been the Musical Director of many productions including *The Red Shoes* and *The Host with Expressions* Dance Company and *Invisible Me* for QPAC's 2012 *Out of the Box*; in addition she has been the Artistic Director of the successful *Bangalow Music Festivals*. In 2015, Tania performed as a guest soloist with the Daejeon Philharmonic in Korea.

## Linda Andonovska | Flute

Lina Andonovska leads a diverse career as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player, collaborator and educator. Quickly gaining recognition internationally as a fearless and versatile artist, she has collaborated and performed with *Crash Ensemble*, *Australian Chamber Orchestra*, *stargaze*, *Southern Cross Soloists* and *eighth blackbird*. She is critically acclaimed for her interpretation of new music; *Rolling Stone Magazine* hailed her performance of *Bun-Ching Lam's* piccolo concertino at the *Bang on a Can Summer Festival* at *Mass MoCA* as "superbly played..."

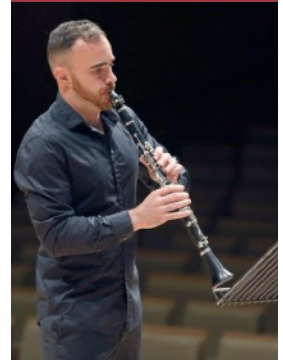
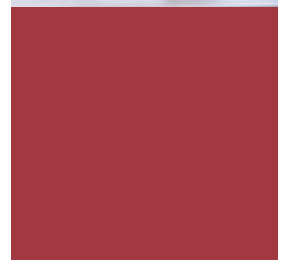
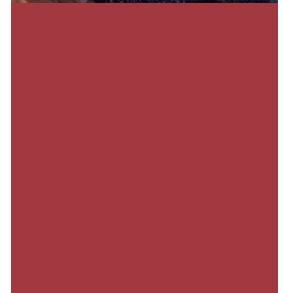
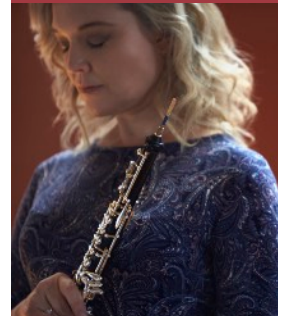
Recent performance credits include the German premiere of *Dean's* flute concerto *Siduri Dances* with the *Deutsches Kammerorchester*, recitals at the *Tokyo Experimental Festival*, and guest appearances with *stargaze* across Germany. In the 2017/2018 season, she joined the *Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra* and *Southern Cross Soloists (AU)* as *Guest Principal Flautist*.

## Ashley Smith | Clarinet

Described as "incandescent... a masterly display of skill and insight... as an apologist for contemporary music-making, you would search hard to find this young clarinetist's equal" (*The Age*), *Ashley William Smith* is an internationally demanded clarinet soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. A graduate of *Yale University* and the *Australian National Academy of Music*, Ashley is a laureate of numerous prestigious prizes, including the *APRA Performance of the Year* (for *Lachlan Skipworth's Clarinet Concerto* with the *WASO*), the *Freedman Fellowship*, an *ABC Symphony International Young Performer Award*, and a *Churchill Fellowship*. Ashley is also a *Buffet-Crampon Artist*.

Ashley has performed throughout Australia, the USA, Europe and Asia with *Bang on a Can*, the *Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center*, *Chamber Music Northwest*, the *Kennedy Center*, the *Beijing Modern Music Festival*, and *IRCAM*.

Ashley is an Assistant Professor at the *University of Western Australia* where he is the *Head of Winds and Contemporary Performance*.





### **Alex Miller | French Horn**



Alex Miller completed his Bachelor of Music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2015, and was appointed Tutti Horn of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in 2016. In May 2018, Alex was appointed as the Associate Principal Horn of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. As a freelance artist, he has played principal and tutti horn with a number of major Australian orchestras including the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Alex has also appeared as a soloist on several occasions, having performed concertos by Strauss, Mozart, Haydn, and Schumann with orchestras including the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Youth Orchestra, and the Burnside Symphony Orchestra. During his studies at the Conservatorium, he played principal horn with the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Queensland Youth Orchestra, and toured internationally with both ensembles.

### **Alan Smith | Violin**



Alan Smith was born in Brisbane. His early teachers included John Curro and Elizabeth Morgan. He completed a Bachelor of Music (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours) at the Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide, studying with Beryl Kimber.

Alan was awarded a DAAD scholarship for postgraduate studies at the Robert Schumann Institute in Dusseldorf with Gottfried Schneider, and chamber music studies with the Amadeus Quartet in Köln. He has had extensive experience as a Concertmaster, both within Australia and overseas, and has been a soloist with the Adelaide, Melbourne and Queensland Symphony Orchestras as well as appearing in various chamber music ensembles in Australia and Europe.

Alan teaches part-time at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and is also a regular tutor for the Conservatorium orchestras as well as the Queensland Youth Symphony. He was director of music at the McGregor Summer School, USQ Toowoomba for 18 years. In 2020, he was head of the chamber music program at the Cuskelly Summer School in Brisbane.

He plays a violin made by Jose Contreras in 1770.

### **Blair Harris | Cello**



Blair is a highly regarded solo cellist and chamber musician, known particularly for his strikingly individual interpretations and innovative collaborative projects. Blair is passionate about the creation and performance of new music. He is a member of Ensemble Offspring, one of Australia's leading contemporary music groups, and prior to this enjoyed many years performing with Syzygy Ensemble. His work with these award-winning groups has seen the commissioning and performance of more than 60 new works by Australian composers.

Blair is in no way defined by this genre and takes pleasure interpreting the works of all epochs, especially with his acclaimed duo partner, pianist Caroline Almonte. Over his career he has worked with numerous chamber music ensembles including the Australian String Quartet, Streeton Trio, Inventi Ensemble and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. As a soloist Blair has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria on numerous occasions. Blair is currently guest principal cello of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, and is on contract with the Australian String Quartet for numerous performances throughout 2019. Blair performs on a cello crafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, Piacenza, circa 1743. It is on loan from UKARIA and was purchased through the generosity of its donors.



## Alex Raineri | Piano

Described by Limelight Magazine as “a soloist of superb virtuosic skill and musicality”, Australian classical pianist Alex Raineri is internationally active as recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician. International performances include tours throughout California, South-East Asia, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Germany and Austria.

Alex has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Radio NZ, California Capital Public Radio, ABC Classic FM and all of the Australian MBS Networks. As a concerto soloist he has featured with the Queensland, Tasmanian, Darwin and West Australian Symphony Orchestras, Southern Cross Soloists, Orchestra Victoria, Four Winds Festival Orchestra, Bangalow Festival Orchestra and the Queensland Pops Orchestra.

Alex has been the recipient of a number of major awards including the Kerikeri International Piano Competition and Australian National Piano Award. Alex is the pianist with the [Southern Cross Soloists](#) and other notable chamber partnerships include; Andreas Ottensamer, eighth blackbird, ELISION, Sara Macliver, Natalie Clein, Greta Bradman, Li Wei Qin, Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Jack Liebeck, Kathryn Stott, Slava Grigoryan, Brett Dean and many others.

He is the artistic director of the annual [Brisbane Music Festival](#) and is a passionate exponent of contemporary music having given 129 world premieres and 89 Australian premiere performances to date.

## Jonathan Henderson | Associate Artist Flute

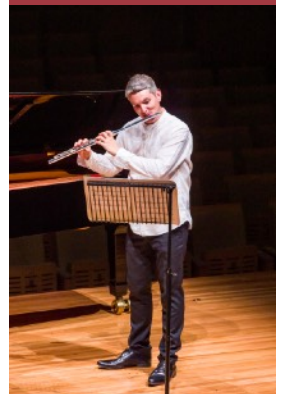
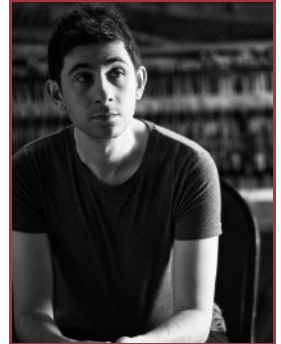
Jonathan Henderson trained with Europe’s leading flute professors and has carved out a multifaceted musical career spanning from Australia to the Nordic countries. Whilst still a student at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, Jonathan was appointed Principal Flute of the Estonian National Opera Orchestra at age twenty-four. He has appeared as a guest principal flute with the Turku Philharmonic and Tampere Philharmonic Orchestras (Finland), and has performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Nordic Symphony Orchestra and MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra. Orchestral engagements and recitals have seen him perform at the Lucerne Festival, Tallinn Chamber Music Festival, Audi Sommerkonzerte and BBC Proms.

As concerto soloist, Jonathan gave the world premiere of a new flute concerto composed for him by Australian Composer Lisa Cheney, and has also appeared as soloist with the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and Estonian National Opera Orchestra. In Australia, Jonathan has performed as guest artist at the Craven Creek and Brisbane Music Festivals. Jonathan studied at the Queensland Conservatorium; Hochschule für Musik Freiburg and the Haute École de Musique Genève.

## John Rotar | Composer In Residence

Growing up in a musical family, John started piano at the age of six, and composition at nine, and at twelve had his first orchestral work performed by the Bundaberg Youth Orchestra. Since then John has had his works performed and commissioned by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Southern Cross Soloists, Australian Youth Orchestra, Queensland Youth Orchestras, Flinders String Quartet, UQ Symphony Orchestra, Southern Cross Voices, among others, and has garnered such awards as the 2013 Queensland Wagner Society National Composition Prize, the 2014 Fanfare Artology Prize, 2015 Percy Briar Memorial Prize, and the 2016 Jean Bogan Youth Prize.

Since 2013, John has worked as an arranger with the Southern Cross Soloists on a number of projects including their QPAC subscription concerts and Bangalow Music Festival concerts, as well as their ballet collaborations with Expressions Dance Company. John is currently undertaking his doctorate studies in composition at the University of Queensland.



## 2019 GUEST SOLOISTS

# QPAC Residency



Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) continued their residency at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in 2019, as the Ensemble in Residence. The ensemble presented its well-regarded 2019 Subscription Series concerts in the iconic QPAC Concert Hall, where the refined acoustics perfectly suit the ensemble. The three concerts were presented in reverse mode, providing a unique and more intimate experience for the audience.

QPAC has provided generous assistance to Southern Cross Soloists, including office and rehearsal space, production management, and publicity, among other benefits. This has allowed the small SXS administrative team to run the office in a more efficient manner.

The opportunity to perform regularly in the QPAC Concert Hall has inspired the members of the ensemble to aim for new levels in their performance standards. The provision of technical production teams and an increased budget allocation for guest artist fees has seen the group expand its repertoire, and furthered its ability to collaborate with a wider range of musicians.

The ensemble thanks QPAC for their continuous support and assistance, and looks forward to further developing this partnership.

## 2019 Subscription Series

Southern Cross Soloists once again presented their annual Subscription Series in the QPAC Concert Hall, as part of their position as Company in Residence. All three Sunday afternoon concerts were again highly successful, with varied programs of both new and favourite works, gaining positive reception from a widening audience.

Well-renowned guest artists joined the ensemble for the 2019 season. In February, cellist Li-Wei Qin, pianist Kristian Chong, and erhu superstar George Gao shared the stage with Southern Cross Soloists to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

For the second concert, in July, master of the Didgeridoo and Trumpet, Chris Williams, and ABC Classic FM's Lucas Burns, narrated a program that explores the routes of both our nation's First People, and the English, and their eventual intersection joined the Soloists.

In the final concert of the year, Southern Cross Soloists welcomed superstar violinist Amalia Hall. This program included Vaughan Williams' hauntingly beautiful violin solo work, *The Lark Ascending*, and Elgar's moving *Enigma Variations*.

Southern Cross Soloists would like to offer thanks to QPAC and its staff for their assistance in making the 2019 Subscription Series so successful in particular their wonderful producer Alexander Rozynski, campaign coordinator Cindy Ullrich PR and Phoebe Wowor in Marketing. We would also like to thank Rumble Creative for the brochure design for both QPAC series and Bangalow and Steve Henry for the images.



Top: George Gao, erhu

Middle: Chris Williams,  
didgeridoo

Bottom: Amalia Hall, violin

## **Concert One: *Lunar New Year: Memories from Childhood***

Sunday 17 February 2019, QPAC

Tuesday 19 February 2019, 7:30 pm // Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre

**Guest Artists:** *George Gao (erhu), Li Wei Qin (cello), Kristian Chong (piano), Jordan Schulte (actor)*

To celebrate the 2019 Lunar New Year with Australia's leading chamber ensemble, Southern Cross Soloists, and an impressive lineup of guest soloists bid adieu (zàijiàn) to the Chinese Year of the Dog and ushered in the Year of the Pig – a year which promises to be full of good fortune and luck.

Brilliant colour and sheer exuberance featured in this jubilant concert of East meets West, with a vibrant mix of modern and age-old traditional folk songs, as Southern Cross Soloists shared the stage with special guests: cello virtuoso Li-Wei Qin, piano soloist Kristian Chong, and international erhu superstar George Gao, one of the most exciting, innovative and respected erhu masters of our time.

From Chinese folk song and virtuosic artistry to Saint Saens' grand zoological fantasy and Stravinsky's elusive Firebird Suite, a highlight of the concert was the world première of a new work by Australia's own Lyle Chan, inspired by the ancient folk story of the animals of the Chinese Zodiac.

## **Concert Two: *Maps and Journeys: Navigating the Sky***

Sunday 21 July 2019, QPAC

**Guest Artist:** *Chris Williams (didgeridoo)*

Navigation is one of the greatest challenges that humans have faced since the beginning of time, although with today's technology we take it for granted. However, it actually took centuries of trial and error for man to find ways to navigate the world we live in through charting the sea, the land and the sky. Long before Europeans set foot on Australian soil, Indigenous Australians had rich astronomical traditions, and extraordinary navigational abilities. Through their unique understanding of the star constellations and their creation of star maps and Songlines, they were able to establish sophisticated trade routes covering vast distances across the Australian continent. Likewise, in later centuries, European explorers were using star navigation to explore the unknown east and southern oceans. Maps and Journeys will explore the routes of both these cultures and their eventual intersection. The concert will also feature a world premiere of a new work called Ginan: the Southern Cross star given a new Indigenous name to recognise Aboriginal astronomy.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Ed Ayres had to withdraw as narrator for Maps and Journeys. However, we were delighted to have another ABC presenter **Lucas Burns** step into this role.

## **Concert Three: *Lyrical Reflections***

Sunday 3rd November, 2019, QPAC

**Guest Artist:** *Amalia Hall (violin)*

A favourite at the 2018 Bangalow Music Festival, international superstar violinist Amalia Hall, joined Southern Cross Soloists for their final concert of 2019, Lyrical Reflections.

This program promised to awaken the senses with musical compositions of splendour and beauty that paint vivid imagery of lush rolling hills and reflect on times gone by. Visions of the beautiful and gently tranquil countryside have long inspired composers to recreate images of rural idylls through their music, offering listeners a pastoral and reflective escape to memories of wandering alone through nature. The highlights of this concert include Vaughan Williams' hauntingly beautiful violin solo work, The Lark Ascending, and Elgar's moving Enigma Variations.



# Bangalow Music Festival

9-11 August, 2019

The Southern Cross Soloists once again delivered the Bangalow Music Festival, held from 8-11 August 2019. The Festival consisted of nine concerts, as well as the community, school and coffee concerts. With an outstanding line-up of featured artists, the festival resulted in high subscription sales and was well-received by all.

The festival was first established by Southern Cross Soloists in 2002, and has been described by esteemed Australian composer, Peter Sculthorpe, as “the finest music festival outside of a capital city I have attended anywhere in the world!”

It has attracted many distinguished guest artists, including violin virtuosos Jack Liebeck (UK) and Ilya Konovalov (Russia), the Australian String Quartet, William Barton, Karin Schaupp, Sara McLiver, Piers Lane, and many, many more.

In 2019, the Bangalow Music Festival celebrated its eighteenth year as one of Australia’s leading chamber music festivals. As such, the theme of the Festival was that of human achievement; of musicians and composers overcoming both physical and mental challenges, pushing their technical and personal limitations, and surviving through social and financial struggles in order to propel the evolution of classical music throughout the years.

Southern Cross Soloists welcomed several familiar faces back to Bangalow for the 2019 Festival, and welcomed a few new faces.

Tickets were sold out for many of the concerts, ranging from the Schools and Coffee Concerts to the main Festival Concerts held on the weekend. Audience responses to the varied programs, including music from many Australian composers, were overwhelmingly positive.

The Festival involved over 50 performers. Artists included:

**Karin Schaupp:** Guitar  
**Christopher Dragon:** Conductor  
**Victoria Sayles:** Violin  
**James Wannan:** Viola  
**Adam Mikulicz:** Bassoon

## Southern Cross Soloists:

**Tania Frazer:** Oboe  
**Alan Smith:** Violin  
**Ashley Smith:** Clarinet  
**Alex Raineri:** Piano  
**Blair Harris:** Cello  
**Alex Miller:** French Horn  
**Lina Andonovska:** Flute

## NZ Chamber Soloists:

**Amalia Hall:** Violin  
**James Tennant:** Cello  
**Katherine Austin:** Piano

## Orava Quartet:

**Daniel Kowalik:** Violin  
**David Dalseno:** Violin  
**Thomas Chawner:** Viola  
**Karol Kowalik:** Cello

**Douglas Rutherford:** Double Bass

**Scott Mullen:** Actor

**Richard Fomison:** Trumpet

**Philip Sametz:** Interviewer

**John Rotar:** Composer in Residence

**Xenia Puskarz-Thomas:** Mezzo Soprano  
(Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship 2019 recipient)

**Jemima Drews:** Flute  
(ADFAS Byron Bay inaugural scholarship recipient)

## **2019 SXS Next Gen Artists:**

### Islay Piano Trio:

**Rollin Zhao:** Violin  
**Daniel Chiou:** Cello  
**Caleb Salizzo:** Piano

### Undine Duo:

**Jemima Drews:** Flute  
**Katya Willett:** Flute

### Sunrise Quartet:

**Helena Wang:** Violin  
**Ann Carew:** Violin  
**Liam Mallinson:** Viola  
**Rory Smith:** Cello

# 2019 Festival Highlights

## Highlights in 2019 included:

OSVALDO GOLIJOV	The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind Ashley Smith and the Orava Quartet
STRAUSS	Til Eulenspiegel arranged Rotar Southern Cross Soloists and friends
GUSTAV MAHLER	Das Knaben Wunderhorn arranged Rotar Xenia Puskarz-Thomas, Orava Quartet, SXS,
ROSS EDWARDS	String Quartet No. 3 Summer Dances Orava Quartet
RACHMANINOV	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Alex Raineri and SXS
MOZART	Sinfonia Concertante Amalia Hall, Thomas Chawner, Chris Dragon
RIMSKY KORSAKOV	Scheherazade arranged Rotar SXS and friends, Chris Dragon
RODRIGO	Aranjuez ma pensee Karin Schaupp, Tania Frazer
DOHNANYI	Sextet NZ Chamber Soloists and SXS
JOE CHINDAMO	Sanctuary Tania Frazer, Ashley Smith, SXS
ROSS EDWARDS	String Quartet No. 3 Summer Dances Orava Quartet
ROBERT DAVIDSON	Landscapes Karin Schaupp and the Orava Quartet
CONCERT 4	Winds of the Southern Cross with guest bassoon Adam Mikulicz
CONCERT 8	Intriguing Journeys: Karin Schaupp, Orava Quartet Phillip Sametz interviewer

## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Thursday August 8	Festival Prelude: Emerging Stars of the Region Community Concert
Friday August 9	School Concert Zentveld's Coffee Concert Festival Welcome Orava Quartet and Friends
Saturday August 10	Karin meets Dragon Winds of the Southern Cross New Zealand Chamber Soloists Southern Cross Soloists
Sunday August 11	Sinfonia Concertante Intriguing Journeys Scheherazade



## 2019 Festival Launch

The Festival was launched on the 27th of May at The Manor House in Bangalow.

Tania Frazer, Jemima Drews and The Islay Piano Trio entertained the crowd with an hour long performance of much loved music.

We thank John and Carol Griffiths from The Manor House for hosting such a lovely event.







Photos:

Bangalow Music Festival  
2019 highlights

Photography:  
Stephen Henry



## Next Gen Artists Program

Southern Cross Soloists have a long and proud history of providing accessible music education programs of the highest standard.

The **SXS Next Gen Artists** program offers mentoring, professional development and performance opportunities to outstanding young musicians at the cusp of their professional careers. Providing a bridge between tertiary study and a professional music career, it offers the artists opportunities to work alongside leading international and Australian artists, and to develop their skills in the area of chamber music (where there is no formal training pathway).

The program was started in 2015 and mentored 9 early career musicians in 2015-2016, including the Armilla String Quartet, flute and clarinet players, and composer John Rotar. The 2017 program recipients include the Meraki String Quartet, John Rotar, Annie Larsen clarinet and Cassie Slater, flute.

Former Next Gen artist Alex Ranieri's recent appointment as a core SXS ensemble member attests to the quality of this program, introduced by Tania Frazer as a priority upon her commencement as Artistic Director. Cognisant that most Queensland music performance graduates will make careers as portfolio artists across a range of small scale freelance and teaching projects (rather than securing a limited number of permanent orchestral roles) and that chamber ensemble skills are vital to all music career paths, SXS offers mentorship to a select group of elite emerging artists, along with paid professional performance experience in its expanding regional, education and community programs.

SXS has also developed a strong intern program to feed into the Next Gen program, offering intern opportunities for outstanding students from the Queensland Conservatorium and University of Queensland.

SXS gives these young musicians the opportunity to perform in high profile venues such as QPAC and the Bangalow Music Festival, alongside leading Australian and international performers, as well as valuable mentoring from these prominent musicians. The recipients of the program also receive management and career advice, with the program offering 360° career training in chamber music.

SXS reinforces its commitment to providing performance opportunities for emerging/early career artists through 'SXS Next Gen Artists' Mentoring Program. This flagship program runs parallel with SXS's performance outputs, nurturing some of Australia's most in-demand young musicians today.

The 'SXS Next Gen Artists' is a unique mentorship program integral to the ensemble's commitment to outreach and education. The program focuses on giving emerging performers the opportunity to collaborate with SXS and guest artists through a 'side-by-side' model. Participants join the ensemble for chamber music coaching and professional development, with the aim to bridge the gap between tertiary studies and an early professional career.



Top: Undine Duo

Middle: Sunrise Quartet

Bottom: Islay Trio



# 2019 SXS Next Gen activities

## Kenmore Series

2019 saw the establishment of the SXS Kenmore Concert Series with assistance from the Brisbane City Council. This exciting, new project for our SXS Next Gen Artists' Mentorship Program provided 360-degree career training for our emerging artists to curate, self-manage and perform chamber music concerts at the new Kenmore Churches of Christ Auditorium, passing on invaluable insights into running a professional chamber music ensemble.

This series has also nurtured a new audience base in the western suburbs, providing meaningful community engagement in an area where there is limited professional live concerts for older generations or those with accessibility needs.

Under the mentorship of SXS Artistic Director Tania Frazer, flute soloist Jonathan Henderson and the SXS management team, the Kenmore Series will now become an annual event and a key program for SXS to provide professional development opportunities for 20 early career chamber musicians. These concerts offer young musicians the opportunity to develop their creative arts practice, whilst learning real world skills in how to manage their own careers, in preparation for portfolio careers in the arts, which have become necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Concert 1: *Our Land***

Friday 25th & Sun 27th October, 2019

### **Concert 2: *Emergence***

1st December, 2019

### **Concert 3: *Folk Tales from Eastern Europe***

Saturday December 7th, 2019

### **Concert 4: *Southern Cross Soloists Gala Fundraising Concert***

November 17, 2019

The 2019 SXS Next Gen Artists recipients were:

#### Islay Piano Trio:

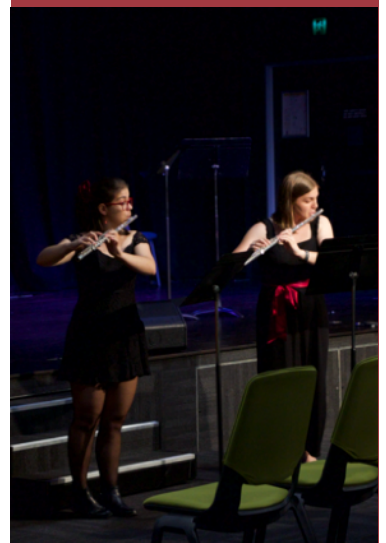
**Rollin Zhao** Violin  
**Daniel Chiou** Cello  
**Caleb Salizzo** Piano

#### Sunrise Quartet:

**Helena Wang** Violin  
**Ann Carew** Violin  
**Liam Mallinson** Viola  
**Rory Smith** Cello

#### Undine Duo:

**Jemima Drews** Flute  
**Katya Willett** Flute





## SXS Next Gen Artists Dance collaboration

**Sunday, 14 April 2019: *Cerulean***

**Southern Cross Soloists Next Gen Artists** collaborated with new elite pre-professional dance company, **Method X Performance Centre (MXPC)** to present the world premiere of an original work, ***Cerulean***.

Choreographed by the brainchild of former Expressions Dance Company (EDC) dancer, Rebecca Hall (MethodX) with Brisbane Ballet's Emrys Goldsworthy, *Cerulean* premiered on **Sunday, 14 April 2019** at the dynamic, warehouse-style venue **The Joinery, West End**.

The production combined the talents of seven outstanding young dancers from Australia and Singapore working alongside 12 young musicians from the University of Queensland School of Music who are also part of the SXS 2019 SXS Next Gen Artists Program, led by the music director and Artistic Director of SXS, Tania Frazer.

This project offered the emerging artists of dance and music the chance to experience a professional cross art form collaboration, in a similar project as SXS has done with Expressions Dance Company and the Qld Ballet.

***Cerulean*** is based on the Hindu belief of throat chakra which is represented by the colour, cerulean blue. The throat chakra is believed to be the centre of purity and truth in the human body.

The production was an exciting live performance experience for the audience in a unique up-close cocktail-style setting that brought this original work to life.

Photos:

"Cerulean"  
SXS Next Gen Artists  
MethodX Dance Company





## 2019 Commissioned Works

SXS performed three new works as world premieres during their QPAC subscription series in 2019 from Australian composers Lyle Chan, John Rotar and Gerard Brophy.

**LYLE CHAN'S 'Carnival of the Chinese Animals'** was commissioned by SXS with assistance from the Australia Council for the Arts for their first QPAC Subscription Concert of 2019 'Lunar New Year' - Memories from Childhood. The world premiere performance of this work for mixed chamber ensemble and narrator was on February 17th 2019 at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) Concert Hall, with a repeat performance in the Melbourne Recital Centre's Elisabeth Murdoch Hall on February 19th.

The work features SXS with guest artists Li-Wei Qin, George Gao (international erhu virtuoso), Kristian Chong and actor Jordan Schulte. Performed alongside the Saint-Saens Carnival of The Animals, Lyle's new work colourfully reacts to the premise of Saint-Saens masterpiece, and incorporates musical renditions of the multiple animals of the Chinese Zodiac. Masterfully crafted, the Carnival of the Chinese Animals successfully treads the bridge between immediate approachability and pushing the envelope of the art music genre, weaving a beautiful dialogue between Eastern and Western musical traditions.

**JOHN ROTAR'S 'Ginan- Songs of Knowledge'** was premiered on July 21, 2019 as part of the second QPAC subscription concert: Maps and Journeys: Navigating by the Stars.

The signature work of the program, Ginan- Songs of Knowledge is based on the dreamtime story from the Wardaman people of the Northern Territory. Ginan, the Wardaman name for one of the stars of the Southern Cross, Epsilon Crucis.

**GERARD BROPHY'S '...between two silences...'** was premiered on November 3rd, 2019.

All music emerges from and ends in silence and in doing so, it leaves glorious and delicate gossamer arches, which trace their narratives across our lives like a meteor trail bursting into existence, imprinting itself on our retinas, intersecting with an ambling walk through the bazaar of Isfahan at dusk as the colourful, hectic world is hurriedly packed away before it descends into the silent, voluptuous mystery of the perfumed night... '...between two silences...' was commissioned by the Southern Cross Soloists for their 2019 concert season and it is dedicated to them with great affection.



Top: Lyle Chan

Middle: John Rotar

Bottom: Gerard Brophy

# Community Engagement

## Lunar New Year Celebrations



To accompany the first Subscription concert at QPAC, Southern Cross Soloists hosted an array of community engagement events to celebrate the Brisbane Chinese-Australian community, including free open rehearsals, Q&A sessions, masterclasses, and community engagement events across Brisbane. These expanded activities were held at the University of Qld, SUNPAC, Avid Reader Bookshop and McGregor State High School.

The aim of this community program, and the associated Lunar New Year QPAC concert, was to celebrate the depth of Australia's cultural diversity, with a focus on our Chinese Australian communities and to introduce our existing audiences to varied arts practices.

Offering these cross-cultural collaborations to artists and audiences provides them with new perspectives and increased knowledge of other cultures, whilst promoting social inclusion and celebrating cultural exchange within the vast mixture of cultures in the wider Australian community today.

The community events included free workshops and seminars for the local Australian Chinese communities including the AusOriental Orchestra as well as the general public; free erhu lessons for local erhu enthusiasts; open forums and panel discussions; meet and greets at Brisbane's McGregor High School, and open rehearsals at UQ with guest erhu master George Gao.

Being able to expand on that event was a unique experience for both the company and for the local Chinese community, and increased SXS's engagement with new audiences. These additional community activities connected SXS with culturally diverse audiences, namely the Brisbane and Queensland-Chinese community, the ACCCA (Australian Centre of Chinese Culture and the Arts), the Mainland Chinese Association of Queensland, University of Queensland students and Chinese student groups, the AusOriental Chinese Orchestra (Brisbane's only traditional Chinese instrument orchestra) and Chinese Immersion High School students, as well as the general public in the series of free programs.

The community activities broadened the reach of our planned concert by opening up meaningful cultural dialogue within our own culturally diverse communities, to create a rich and rewarding experience for all involved, both artists, participants and audiences.

This project carried on from our 2017 *Journey along the Silk Road* initiative with QMF, UQ and MacGregor High School, and our 2018 collaboration with the Mainland Chinese Association of Qld in their Shangri-La Festival at Brisbane City Hall on November 3, 2018. The community engagement activities highlighted the demand and long-term advantages of building strong connections and deep community engagement, while diversifying audiences and promoting inclusivity within the arts sector.



This page and next page:

George Gao  
Masterclass  
SUNPAC  
Aus-Oriental  
Orchestra and

George Gao working  
with students from  
McGregor State High  
School







## Seniors Week Regional Tour 2019

In collaboration with Qld Churches of Christ, SXS toured South East Queensland to perform at venues in Kenmore, Warwick, and Little Mountain Caloundra as part of their Seniors Week program. All three venues were Churches of Christ campuses that house state of the art auditoriums.

The 2019 Seniors Week tour was the first stage of an ongoing relationship with Queensland Churches of Christ, with plans to expand on this tour in 2020 to Boonah as well as Kenmore, Warwick and Little Mountain Caloundra, and longer-term to include the Gold Coast as well as some of their North Queensland campuses.

All of the performances were sold out, with over 380 tickets sold in Kenmore and between 200 and 260 in the other two venues. The concerts were attended by the residents and their extended families as well as the general public.

## Other Community Concerts

Churches of Christ are active in the areas of children, youth and family services; community housing; retirement living; home and community care; and residential aged care services. They provide Christ-inspired care and compassion to vulnerable people at different stages of their life journey.

Their other missional services include children's, youth, women's ministry and second half ministry; chaplaincy support in community and residential aged care services; mission action partnerships; and global mission projects.

Long term, SXS and Churches of Christ aim to make this concert series an annual event, and grow it into an exciting cultural arts experience for the fast-growing population and community of western Brisbane and the other areas in which SXS performed in 2019. These concerts provide decentralised cultural experiences on the doorstep of the various communities; especially relevant for the elderly, providing the audience in several aged care homes in the region with interesting and quality musical events for their residents.

"...one of the ensembles that make Queensland music unique.

Their concerts are always a lot of fun and style..."

**Limelight Magazine**

"...Maps and Journeys: Navigating by the Sky was a stimulating and insightful musical journey through space and time with Ginan: Songs of Knowledge as a spectacular destination!"

**Dr Gemma Regan  
Limelight Magazine,  
July 22, 2019**



Mid left and far left:  
Avid Reader Series,  
July 2019

Left: Seniors Week Tour,  
Qld Churches of Christ,  
August 2019

## Avid Reader Series 2019

To accompany each QPAC subscription concert, Southern Cross Soloists hosted a free panel discussion at Brisbane's favourite bookshop, Avid Reader West End. This intimate event featured music, interviews, and behind-the-scenes insights into the world of each concert's guest virtuosos, composers, and Southern Cross Soloists.

- 15th February**      *East Meets West:* Featuring George Gao (international erhu soloist)
- 19th July**            *Navigating the Stars:* Featuring didgeridoo soloist Chris Williams, radio presenter Lucas Burns, and maritime navigation expert Trevor Hill
- 1st November**      *The Life of an International Violin Soloist:* Featuring Amalia Hall

## Other Performances

### January 24th: Chinese New Year function

SXS performed by themselves as well as in collaboration with Brisbane's own Aus-Oriental Orchestra in synthesis of traditional Chinese musical pieces to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Chinese Embassy. The Aus-Oriental Orchestra is the only Chinese traditional orchestra in Queensland.

## Supplementary Education Programs

### Masterclasses

Alongside the QPAC Subs 1 program, SXS delivered the following related free community activities:

#### 15th and 16th February

SXS hosted open rehearsals at the University of Queensland, with George Gao as a guest artist, for the general public, students, and Chinese interest groups from Brisbane and in particular, UQ, including the UQ Confucius Institute. A meet and greet with George Gao opportunity occurred after the rehearsal for the audience and students.

#### 16th February

George Gao seminar/masterclass for the AusOriental Orchestra and members of the public at SUNPAC, for ease of access by the local Brisbane Chinese community. AusOriental Orchestra is Qld's only traditional Chinese instrument ensemble. We also offered free erhu lessons for the 12 erhu players in the orchestra.

#### 18th February

MacGregor High School meet and greet with Chinese Immersion Excellence Program students and music students, plus erhu demonstration, to offer insight and exposure to the highest level of professional erhu playing

# Partners and Supporters

## Government Partners



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

## Residency Partner

Southern Cross Soloists are a Company in Residence at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.



## Program Supporters



## Donors

Our sincere thanks go to these individuals for their kind donations:

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Mr & Mrs J. and R. Hoffmann, Ms L. Orthwein, Mr P. Bacon, Mr & Mrs G. and G. Scanlan, Dr P. Dubois, Mr & Mrs I. and C. George, Ms Jennifer Blake; Dr Ross Forgan-Smith

### **DIAMOND \$2-\$k**

Mr & Mrs B. and M. Coles, Ms S. Leuthner, Justice H O'Sullivan, Ms M. O'Donnell

### **GOLD \$1-\$2k**

Margot Forgan-Smith, Dr D. Khursandi, Justice D Mullins, Ms D Wadley, Ms R. Shen, Mr C. Williams, Dame Q. Bryce AD CVO, Mr C Pegg, Mr Bruce Blocksidge, Ms Janye Graham; Dr Emma Proudman

### **SILVER \$500-\$1k**

Mr & Mrs P & S Garside, Mr J. Blocksidge, Ms J. Hickey

### **BRONZE \$300-\$500**

G. Kennard, Mr G. White, Ms G. Pauli, CWA Bangalow

### **FRIENDS \$100-\$300**

Ms Judith Dudley, Mr Robert Gordon, Mrs Yvonne Henry, Mr Adrian Batterby, Ms Amanda Peters, Mr Henri Bader, Mr Jason Catlett, Ms Margaret Goodfellow, Mr Ferdinand Gassauer, Ms Patricia Jackson, Ms Cindy Gallois, Ms June Calvert, Mr Justin Telfer, Ms Catherine Yelland, Mr Maurice Spatt, Ms Narelle Flood, Ms Cath McMurchy, Ms Lindsey Boileau, Ms Beverly Henderson, Juris Greste, Ms Patricia Mitchell, Ms Helen Williamson, Mr J. Clayton, Mr J. Deuchrass, Mr R. Gordon, Ms C. Harrod, Ms C. McMurchy, Ms J. Noble, Ms S. Nelson & Ms N. Pulsford, Mr B. O'Connor, Ms M. Ralph, Ms H. Williamson, Mrs R Barry, Ms J Campbell, Mr T Cox, Ms C Gallois, Ms J Giles, Ms M Goulet, Mr A Kennedy, Mr & Mrs J and M Macmillan, Ms S McCorkindale, Mrs Morris, Ms E.C Roe, Ms S Taylor, Ms J Uhr, Ms K Veron

## 2019 Company Details

**Patron** Dame Quentin Bryce

### **Board:**

<b>Greg Thompson</b>	Chair
<b>Jonathan Blocksidge</b>	Deputy Chair
<b>Anthony Brittain</b>	Treasurer
<b>Lynne Hu</b>	
<b>Tania Frazer</b>	

### **Musicians:**

Tania Frazer	oboe
Blair Harris	cello
Alan Smith	violin
Linda Andonovska	flute
Ashley Smith	clarinet
Alex Miller	French horn
Alex Raineri	piano

### **Management:**

Artistic Director	Tania Frazer
General Manager	Yvonne Henry
Producer	Elaine Seeto, Alexa Shephard
Finance Officer	Jeanette Saez
Administration Officer	Gabrielle Knight
PR manager	Maxine Williamson

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