

SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

*'The Stars of Australian
Chamber Music'*



Annual Report 2022



A QPAC COMPANY IN RESIDENCE



Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Concert Hall

Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) are the stars of Australian chamber music.

Since 1995, SXS have firmly established themselves as one of Australia's pre-eminent classical music ensembles. Championing chamber music globally and nationally, SXS, each year, continue to reach new heights. The collaborative nature of the ensemble and its creative direction, ensures a commitment and desire to form long-lasting, diverse cultural partnerships with Australia's and, the world's, most notable musicians, and composers.

Pursuit of excellence in the magical art of music making, connecting, and inspiring, a healthy, vibrant community, innovating, and creating new Australian works, is at the heart of SXS, who are synonymous with delivering quality music in Australia and abroad.

Composed of leading soloists from across Australia, SXS creates and performs dynamic, unique, and world-class musical experiences for audiences of all ages. 2022 marked SXS's **27th year of excellence in music making.** SXS balances breathtaking virtuosity with vibrant storytelling and unique, considered artistic programming.

Company in Residence at the preeminent cultural precinct in Brisbane, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, SXS delivered in 2022, intoxicating virtuosity in its **13th QPAC Concert Series.**

Enjoying the privilege of strong patronage and critical success, SXS performed in standard mode at QPAC as its repertoire continues to gain notoriety and reaches new enthralled audiences of 600 attendees for each of the three concerts.

Passionate exponents for commissioning new Australian music and renowned for fostering creative partnerships with leading international soloists and composers, SXS has commissioned, to date, **over 160 World Premiere new works.**

February 2022 saw the pivotal announcement of the ten-year cultural legacy project, the **SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project 2022 - 2023** featuring three new works for didgeridoo and chamber music by Australian composers, each year.

SXS are committed cultural ambassadors through metropolitan and regional areas, and are dedicated educators and mentors, of the rising stars of chamber music.

Through its flagship SXS Next Gen Artists Program and Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship, SXS nurtures some of Australia's most in-demand young musicians today.

The 19th Bangalow Music Festival 2022, owned, operated, and presented by Southern Cross Soloists, was a resounding success and is a major event in the Australian arts calendar. Performing with Australian and international artists and providing meaningful community outreach to regional NSW. 2022 saw the world premiere of the **Maps and Journeys: the world's first astronomers,** exploring the astronomical knowledge of Australia's First Nation's people.

In 2022, SXS welcomed **didgeridoo soloist Chris Williams** to continue as SXS's permanent **Artist in Residence** and enthusiastically welcomed back world-acclaimed, award-winning pianist **Konstantin Shamray** as **2022 SXS Artist in Residence.**

2022 Performance Season

13th QPAC Concert Series

2nd Contra Concerts Regional Recital Series

19th Bangalow Music Festival

New Australian Works

10-year Didgeridoo Commissioning Project (2022-2032)

Maps and Journeys: the world's first astronomers *World Premiere*

Educational Programs

9th SXS Next Gen Artists Program

7th Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship

4th ADFAS Northern Rivers Young Musician Award

2022 Overview

Employed 128 artists and arts workers

Performed for 5795 audience members

Premiered 20 new Australian works

Chair's Report



Dr Diana Khursandi
Chair

2022 has been a careful and prudent management year, not only for SXS, but for all performing artists managing in a COVID-19 world.

The year continued to see disruptions with artist replacements due to border restrictions. The Board, consisting of myself as Chair, Alan Smith, James Wannan (both members of the Soloists), Michael Byrom, and Peter Collins (financial director), with our Artistic Director Tania Frazer have had a busy year, nonetheless.

We have made strong gains in our brand development, marketing and publicity and we see the fruits of this labour in our audience numbers for our QPAC concerts and Bangalow Music Festival. Both the 13th QPAC Concert Series and the 19th Bangalow Music Festival were successful from audience numbers, revenue, and critical media response perspectives.

We managed to successfully address finances over the year, ending with a small negative amount on the budget balance for 2022. My thanks go to all members of the team for this outcome, especially our financial director Peter Collins. Maxine Williamson our General Manager, has worked extremely hard with the assistance of our Producer and Marketing Manager Nikhil Deo, who graduated from the Griffith Conservatorium this year. Strong budget control across all the projects is assisting tremendously with our governance and accountability. We said a sad farewell to Jonathan Henderson, our core flute artist, who was also managing our website. Nikhil Deo has taken up the website role. We continue to achieve excellence in music making although we are at administrative capacity within our administrative team with reduced Arts funding.

Highlights for 2022 were the announcement of our 10-year legacy project the SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project which sees us well prepared with new Australian works in time for the Cultural Program of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. We have also enjoyed the patronage of Phil Brown, Arts Editor Courier Mail and Sunday Mail who has supported the SXS and Bangalow Music Festival with exceptional media coverage throughout the year. The SXS administrative team has worked closely with QPAC marketing to promote the QPAC Concert Series in standard mode to reach new audiences. Our Artistic Director Tania Frazer continues to program exceptional concerts to enthral audiences and is always seeking to find fresh, new creative artists at the top of their game to wow Queensland audiences.

A successful donor drive continued throughout the year and in the second half of the year we saw all our soloists sponsored for the 2023 Season. Our generous donors ensured we go into the next year as an extremely viable and valued ensemble, with an exciting series of great music in 2023.

Dr Diana Khursandi
Chair, SXS
June 2023



Tania Frazer
Artistic Director

Artistic Director's Report

2022 witnessed remarkable expansion for Southern Cross Soloists as a company across multiple fronts, positioning the company for immense growth over the next 10-year period. This encompassed substantial advancements in audience reach and ticket sales and a comprehensive focus on organisational and artistic enhancement, laying a solid foundation for further development and successes in both the short- and long-term futures.

2022 marked the first year that SXS has not received operational funding from Arts Qld, which resulted in having to work with a reduced budget. However, despite these constraints, we have managed to not only maintain our operations but to turn 2022 into a major year of growth and long-term strategic planning for the company to take it into the next 10 years.

The first year since 2019 without any interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has allowed us to focus on delivering world class live performances, educational activities and community engagement events.

One of the highlights of the year was the successful launch our ground-breaking SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project (DCP), which garnered significant national coverage. This project holds a special place in Australia as the first of its kind, and it received widespread attention and recognition from national media including TV News outlets and major newspaper editorial. The project involved the collaboration of three composers and SXS Didgeridoo Soloist in Residence Chris Williams to create innovative and unique chamber music works with a distinctly Australian essence. The 10-year project aims to create a canon of didgeridoo and Chamber ensemble works to showcase to the world when Brisbane hosts Olympic Games in 2032.

Essential to the DCP was the establishment of the DCP Advisory Executive Committee, consisting of Wakka Wakka musician Chris Williams, Wakka Wakka elder Uncle Kevin Wirra Williams, international composer and SXS Ambassador Sean O'Boyle OA and myself. The committee plays a crucial role for guiding the DCP's activities and observing all cultural protocols. With this leadership, we secured grants from the Australia Council for the Didgeridoo Project new commissions, educational workshops and recording the new works in collaboration with ABC Classics. These grants have enabled us to bring our vision to life and share our artistic endeavours with a wider audience.

Another major achievement was the world premiere of our Maps and Journeys: the world's first astronomer production, which explores Australia's First Nation's 65,000 years of astronomical knowledge and practices. The show featured 17 new works in collaboration with four First Nations creatives: Chris Williams, violinist/composer Eric Avery, actor Paula Nazarski and composer Brenda Gifford.

Thanks to the generous grant received from Festival's Australia, this Maps and Journeys has become a significant investment initiative as an ongoing touring production with a multi-year lifespan and significant public interest. We aim to establish Maps and Journeys as a flagship program that showcases the diversity and richness of Australian music and culture both nationally and internationally over the next few years.

Artistically, SXS delivered an impressive line-up of artists and programs in 2022, including our 2022 Artist in Residence, internationally renowned piano soloist Konstantin Shamray and recently returned artists from overseas (due to the pandemic), offering them quality performance platforms as well as invaluable promotion and branding opportunities to support their careers and contribute to the revitalization of the arts sector in the post-pandemic era.

Through this collaboration of SXS's core musicians, First Nations artists, and international guest soloists, we are determined to maintain a high level of artistic excellence and deliver exceptional performances that resonate with audiences worldwide.

Our management team and Board of Directors have remained secure throughout the year, allowing us to focus on strategic planning, philanthropic engagement and good governance to achieve our company goals.

General Manager Maxine Williamson has 20 years plus multi-skilled experience as an arts leader within Brisbane, Australia and the international communities, and recent Qld Conservatorium of Music graduate, Nikhil Deo brought his own unique skillset to the team. Nikhil received on the job training throughout the year to develop his skills in Production and Marketing, particularly with regards to delivering a world class music festival and the QPAC subscription series. SXS is committed to long term development and up skilling of Deo's role to ensure Queensland has a robust, capable producer in the arts market, as well as upskilling other music graduates in arts management to offer them employment opportunities in their chosen profession.

The strength of the management team resulted in the successful delivery of the 2022 Bangalow Music Festival, marking our first festival since the pandemic as well as creating outstanding growth in our QPAC audience numbers. The impressive artistic quality of the 2022 program garnered increased media attention, which has further enhanced our visibility and reputation nationwide.

Looking forward, we are committed to a year of growth and strategic planning in preparation for the next ten years. Our focus will be on expanding our Didgeridoo Commissioning project with its connected educational outcomes and workshops.

Our partnership to deliver Contra Concerts as our regional touring project was highly successful and lay strong foundations to continue to develop our regional activities into 2023 and beyond to continue to bring our music to diverse communities throughout Queensland and Australia.

Overall, in 2022, our organisation focused strategically on building a solid foundation for the company to thrive and grow over the next ten years. We are actively developing and launching our ten-year strategy, which encompasses areas such as preparing for the 2032 Olympics, expanding our regional touring locations, developing attractive educational initiatives in response to community needs, and upskilling and establishing a highly experienced management team with an eye on delivering our long-term strategic goals as a small arts company.

Tania Frazer
SXS Artistic Director
June 2023



2022, a year of growth for SXS

2022 was a year of immense growth for Southern Cross Soloists, in all areas including artists, management, fundraising and governance.

In 2022, SXS has:

- Launched the ground-breaking 10-year SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project, including 6 new Australian commissions for the QPAC Series to date with a 50/50 collaborative artistic input from Chris Williams
- Presented 17 new Australian works featuring the didgeridoo and First Nations violin soloist, Eric Avery at our festival in Bangalow including 4 by First Nation's composers
- 6 performances of Maps and Journeys: The World's First Astronomers with Eric Avery, Paula Nazarski and Chris Williams
- Showcased First Nations content in 90% of our live performances
- Released six free online workshop videos as a resource for composers to learn how to include didgeridoo in their compositions
- 6 First Nation's events at the 2022 Bangalow Music Festival including two school concerts and three Q&A events
- Presented 4 open rehearsals and Q&A at UQ School of Music
- Presented a live and simultaneously streamed Didgeridoo Composer Workshop, including over 200 views from all over the world in partnership with QPAC
- Workshopped five pieces by young emerging composers for didgeridoo
- Broadcast 2 concerts with ABC Classics FM
- Broadcast 4 concerts with Australian Digital Concert Hall
- Increased our 100% Audience growth by 100% in 2022, with over 1800 audience attending our performances at QPAC (pre-Covid our annual audience numbers were 900 per annum)
- offered 128 paid employment opportunities to musicians, artists and arts workers
- mentored 8 emerging musicians through the SXS Next Gen Artists program
- mentored one emerging opera singer through the SXS Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship
- Umbrellaed a new regional touring concert series: Contra Concerts, which has now evolved into the SXS Sunset Soiree Series in 2023
- Extended our audience reach to new regional venues in Toowoomba, Stanthorpe, Warwick and Caloundra
- Presented our QPAC 13th series in 2022 including 3 World Premieres, all with didgeridoo as the soloist
- Presented 20 New work commissions
- Presented 28 works by Australian composers
- Presented 4 live streamed concerts
- SXS is highly experienced at delivering successful events, with 28 years of experience, a skilled management team and a qualified Board of Directors to oversee the governance and fiscal management of the series.
- Performed for a total of 5795 audience members over all activities for 2022
- Presented 14 events at the 2022 Bangalow Music Festival

"Southern Cross Soloists is a remarkable group of Brisbane musicians whose unique interpretations breathe fresh life into classical repertoire. Their concert seasons offer an array of familiar classics and world premieres, masterfully showcasing the talents of the individuals of the ensemble. QPAC is committed to ensuring that as many people as possible are able to experience our ensemble in residence."

John Kotzas
Chief Executive,
Queensland Performing Arts Centre

"The Southern Cross Soloists have to be from Queensland. Their playing is full of Queensland sunshine. One might, paraphrasing the old slogan about Queensland, say of their playing: Beautiful one minute, perfect the next."

Australian Stage Online

"It's easy to hear why the Southern Cross Soloists are considered one of Australia's leading soloist chamber ensembles."

Stage Whispers

"The Southern Cross Soloists really are one of the ensembles that make Queensland music unique. Every member of the audience walked away from this performance with a smile on their face."

Limelight Magazine

"In all, it was a thoroughly refreshing concert, taking the listener on a journey through chamber music that danced, breathed, uplifted, haunted and stimulated."

The Creative Issue



2022 Principal Artists

Jonathan Henderson | Flute; Artistic Curator Contra Concerts



Ashley Smith | Clarinet



Tania Frazer | Oboe; Artistic Director



James Wannan | Viola



Alan Smith | Violin



Nick Mooney | French Horn



Chris Williams | Didgeridoo



Konstantin Shamray | Piano



Jonathan Békés | Cello



2022 CHAIR SPONSORS

Southern Cross Soloists would like to thank our 2022 chair sponsors for their generous support:

Philip Dubois and Leanda Elliot Cello Chair (James Wannan)

Cass and Ian George Violin Chair (Alan Smith)

Jennifer Blake French Horn Chair (Nick Mooney)

Marg O'Donnell, Dr Diana Khursandi Oboe Chair (Tania Frazer)

Peter Collins Clarinet chair (Ashley Smith)

Shirley Leuthner Flute Chair

James Pearson, Gillian and Ed Frazer

Piano Artist in Residence (Konstantin Shamray)

Kay Feeney, Christine Dauber, Michelle May

Didgeridoo Artist in Residence (Chris Williams)

2022

2022
QPAC
CONCERT
SERIES



Alan Smith Southern Cross Soloists - Violin

SXS 13TH QPAC 2022 CONCERT SERIES



WHITE NIGHTS QPAC Concert Hall October, 2022

CONCERT 1

FIREWORKS AND FURY

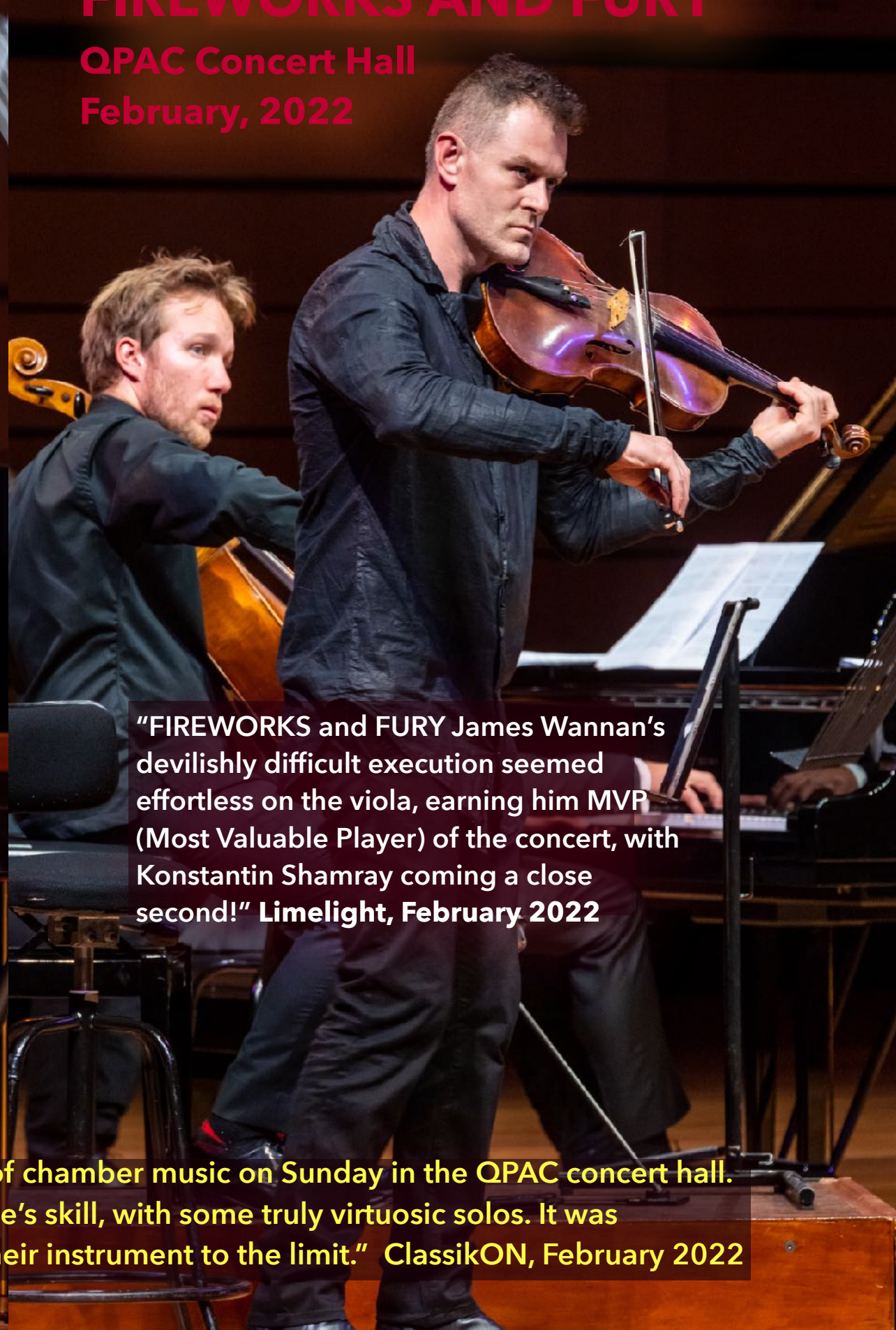
QPAC Concert Hall

February, 2022



"In 2022, Queensland's Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) celebrate more than 25 years of creating music together, working with world-class soloists and commissioning more than 120 world premieres. They started the year with Fireworks and Fury, which saw the debut of one of their new pieces for their SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project, featuring guest soloist and didgeridoo Artist in Residence, Chris Williams, and a special performance by 2022 guest artist in residence, the acclaimed Russian-Australian concert pianist Konstantin Shamray."

Stage Whispers, February 2022



"FIREWORKS and FURY James Wannan's devilishly difficult execution seemed effortless on the viola, earning him MVP (Most Valuable Player) of the concert, with Konstantin Shamray coming a close second!" **Limelight, February 2022**

"Southern Cross Soloists presented a dazzling afternoon of chamber music on Sunday in the QPAC concert hall. 'Fireworks and Fury' was a brilliant display of the ensemble's skill, with some truly virtuosic solos. It was thoroughly entertaining to see each of the soloists push their instrument to the limit." **ClassikON, February 2022**





Fireworks and Fury presented a scintillating program of brilliance and colour that opened with the dramatically anguished aria 'Mea tormenta, properate' by Johann Adolf Hasse transcribed for oboe. We welcomed back SXS clarinet soloist, **Ashley Smith** in the stormy and dazzling clarinet concerto by Carl Maria Von Weber, and SXS viola soloist, **James Wannan** in Berlioz's viola masterpiece *Harold in Italy* that was commissioned by the master virtuoso, Paganini. The concert featured the WORLD PREMIERE of a new work by Brisbane/UK/USA composer, SXS International Ambassador Sean O'Boyle AM - the first of our 2022 SXS *Didgeridoo Commissioning Project*, featuring Wakka Wakka didgeridoo soloist Chris Williams.

CONCERT 2

A MOMENT IN TIME

QPAC Concert Hall

June, 2022

"With a touch of something a little different for chamber music fans, and even for those who are not, Southern Cross Soloists concerts are well worth a visit." **Stage Whispers, June 2022**

"A Moment in Time explores some of life's defining moments with a particularly poignant program from Southern Cross Soloists' dynamic Director Tania Frazer as we reflect and still feel the impact of the last few years of COVID chaos."

Limelight, June 2022



"It was an enthralling concert from the Southern Cross Soloists highlighting the virtuosic skills of the musicians to aurally encapsulate an emotive moment in time."
Limelight June 2022



CONCERT 3



WHITE NIGHTS

QPAC Concert Hall

October, 2022

"From music of sorrow and anguish to love and romanticism, this concert was a powerful experience. It was the perfect escape on a rainy weekend."
ClassikON, October 2022



SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project

2022 marks the launch of an exciting new SXS initiative: the **SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project**. Having appointed Wakka Wakka didgeridoo soloist, Chris Williams as our permanent Artist in Residence in late 2019, SXS is committed to commissioning and performing new works for didgeridoo and chamber ensemble to create a substantial new canon of works by the time Brisbane takes to the world stage with the 2032 Olympics. This multi-season project explores the use of didgeridoo in classical music to create new hybrid sounds with a quintessentially unique Australian flavour. This year we are featuring three Australian composers, two from Queensland (Sean O'Boyle AM and Catherine Likhuta) and Australian/Los Angeles based composer Leah Curtis.



www.southernxsoloists.com/dcp

In February 2022 the **SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project** launched in the foyers of QPAC with national media from television, print and radio in attendance. The media call received exceptional outcomes with significant Television national news coverage along with print and radio. *See via website link below left.

In May 2022, SXS through Chris Williams received an Australia Council grant for this project.

Composers 2022



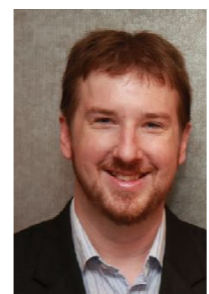
Sean O'Boyle AM

Awarded the Order of Australia in 2015 for services to music, Sean's compositions have been performed and/or recorded by all the major Australian orchestras. European Orchestras include; Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre Symphonique Divertimento, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, and by North American orchestras including the Dallas, Atlanta, Tacoma, Lexington, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Sean has written and produced music for more than 150 CDs recorded in collaboration with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, numerous television shows, sporting events and for film. Sean is proud of his 25-year relationship with the Southern Cross Soloists.



Leah Curtis

Leah Curtis scored the acclaimed Sundance thriller *'Killing Ground'*, praised as a "first rate score" (Variety). Awarded a Fulbright, and former visiting film composer at USC SMPTV, her music has received nominations from APRA, seven from the HMMA, with wins for Kuwaiti war film *'To Rest in Peace'* and historical epic *'Exitus Roma'*, across best score and song. Her work has been featured in marquee festivals in Dubai, Cannes, New York and at the Aspen Music Festival where she studied over a summer with Oscar winning composer John Corigliano (*The Red Violin*). She works out of Los Angeles and internationally, writing, orchestrating and recording music for international cinema and the concert hall.



Matthew Dewey

Matthew Dewey is a composer and music director based in Sydney and Hobart in Australia. He composes powerful, lyrical music for the concert hall, the theatre and for film. His first chamber opera was written and staged when he was just 18 and at the age of 24, his first symphony and first orchestral suite were recorded in Moscow by the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition to his work as a freelance composer, Matthew is the music director of Australia's national classical music radio network, ABC Classic FM. Matthew's compositions have been commissioned and perform Chatterton" (2005); and released two full albums to date.

DCP Education TIER

SXS Digital and Didgeridoo Composition Workshop

Parallel to the commissioning and performance deliverables, SXS has created an Educational Tier to the project to nurture the next generation of composers as well as introducing school students to this unique project.

The first part of this was the premiere and release six free online composer workshop videos in February 2022, as a resource for composers to learn how to include didgeridoo in their compositions. This series is part of SXS's ongoing SXS Digital initiatives and activities.

In September 2022, SXS presented a live and simultaneously streamed Didgeridoo Composer Workshop in partnership with QPAC, including over 200 views from all over the world, which allowed composers to have their pieces workshopped in real time and receive feedback from both Chris Williams, SXS musicians and presenter, Sean O'Boyle.

The aim of these workshops is to encourage and inform composers who wish to include the didgeridoo in their compositions and/or learn more about the didgeridoo's musical language as well as discussing the essential cultural protocols involved in collaborating with First Nation's artists.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuf-3lywV3oYMao17ztjDeVLoPUEVRnEQ>
<https://fb.watch/g0zqhyCLKL/>



19th BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022

***3 NIGHTS *4 DAYS *14 EVENTS *5 WORLD PREMIERES BY AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS *28 ARTISTS *33 COMPOSERS *APRA AMCOS NOMINATED FOR EXCELLENCE IN A REGIONAL AREA**

The Bangalow Music Festival, presented by the **Southern Cross Soloists (SXS)**, is a world-class classical music festival in regional NSW. A platform for artistic excellence in chamber music, the festival presents the highest calibre of professional musicians from across Australia and the globe to Australian audiences.

The festival has been a catalyst for premiering new and innovative Australian works; promoting interactive educational programs for students and emerging artists; and offering opportunities to local amateur and professional musicians to perform at the Festival Prelude (Local's Night). Sought after as an environment suited to fostering artistic excellence, Bangalow's beautiful hinterland setting provides inspiration for creativity. The range of venues available in Bangalow, with its intimate galleries, coffee houses and heritage venues, not only affords audiences and artists a unique festival experience, but also strengthens community involvement in the spirit of the event.

The Bangalow Music Festival plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region, particularly for the township itself. It provides tourist dollars and economic vitality through winter months by

attracting a national audience of music lovers to the region and assists in the ongoing promotion of the region as a holiday destination. Paramount to the success of the festival has been the close media relationship with The Bangalow Herald, who take an active role in maximising the benefits the festival brings to the township. Many local businesses contribute to and benefit from the festival weekend of activity, and these economic benefits are mutually recognised between all stakeholders. Two festival editions were cancelled due to the world pandemic covid-19. The 2020 and 2021 editions did not proceed. The 2022 19th edition of the festival was therefore managed very carefully to ensure a creative and critical success but also a financial profit had to be achieved.

In 2023, the festival will be 20 years old, which is a significant achievement. Based on the success of the 2022 19th festival, with a developing robust program, record ticket sales and patronage, the festival's growth in the region is assured. The branding for the 20th edition will include Chamber in the title. The 20th Bangalow Chamber Music Festival, will be held August 17 - August 20, 2023.

"THE BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL IS A JEWEL IN THE CLASSICAL MUSIC LIFE OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS."
Australian Stage Online



'Maps and Journeys: the world's first astronomers' set to premiere at the 2021 Bangalow Music Festival, received its *World Premiere* at the 19th BMF 2022 Festival. The program explored the rich astronomical traditions and extraordinary navigational abilities of our First Nations people over the past 65,000 years, a culture of astronomical traditions believed by experts to be the oldest in the world. The project featured new works by First Nations composers Brenda Gifford and Eric Avery, working alongside didgeridoo soloist Chris Williams (Wakka Wakka people), Actor/writer Paula Nazarski (Ngugi Woman from North Stradbroke Island), composer Sean O'Boyle, SXS AD Tania Frazer and SXS musicians and Next Gen artists. The World Premiere received an enthusiastic three-minute standing ovation from an enthralled full house.

<https://www.classikon.com/bangalow-music-festival-fine-food-stunning-scenery-exquisite-chamber-music/>

<https://www.australianstage.com.au/202208139408/reviews/sydney/maps-and-journeys-the-world-s-first-astronomers.html>

Clockwise from Left:
Brenda Gifford, Chris Williams, Eric Avery, Paula Nazarski

"Maps and Journeys: The World's First Astronomers is mesmerising, like a soundtrack to the birth of the earth, moon and stars movie, except the pictures are in our heads, conjured by composers and musicians and presented with passion." Marika Bryant
Australian Stage
August 2022



BANGALOW

2nd CONTRA CONCERTS CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2022

Curated by SXS solo flute, Jonathan Henderson in collaboration with SXS
Performances in Brisbane, Stanthorpe and Toowoomba

CONTRA MOZART

Classic quartets in dynamic contrast.

In a recital of dynamic contrast, the striking shift between Mozart and Peter Sculthorpe's music is intended to shock the senses. Side by side, their juxtaposition assists to emphasise the opposing sound worlds of these two masterful composers.

The pleasure of Mozart's full quartet is suddenly paired back to a restrained instrumentation of solo violin, and solo cello. Within these solitary mediums, Sculthorpe paints with music. The imagery is evocative and playful with melancholic undertones. Aesthetic differences aside, Sculthorpe, like Mozart, is driven by melody. By placing Sculthorpe's works within the familiar territory that Mozart's quartets offer, my hope is that the listener will be at ease and primed to receive Sculthorpe's music, and to enjoy each work with equal pleasure.

Mozart Flute Quartet in D major K.285
Flute Quartet in A major K.298

Sculthorpe Irkanda I for solo violin
Threnody for solo cello

Flute, Jonathan Henderson
Violin, Adam Chalabi
Viola, James Wannan
Cello, Hyung Suk Bae

BRISBANE: September 14, 2022, Holy Trinity Hall, Fortitude Valley
STANTHORPE: September 16, 2022, Stanthorpe Civic Center
TOOWOOMBA: September 18, 2022, Empire Church Theatre

CONTRA SCHUBERT

Nocturnal art song in exotic settings.

In an evocative hour of up-close, exotic art-song, cumulatively these compositions and their texts draw on evocative elements of nature and night to reconcile with raw emotion. Aromatic, sensual, mysterious and existential adventures are depicted in highly programmatic, sensitive music by Schubert, Sculthorpe and Ravel. Often their music is delicate, with fragile, transparent textures regaling cool, moonlit scenes. Their songs depict nocturnal birds, dried flowers and sweet-smelling herbs. Beneath the moon and a sky full of stars, swirling seas and cool evening winds set the scene for hymns, ceremonies and erotic rendezvous. At their climax however, dramatic and expressive peaks remind us of the power of nature, as we are humbled by the monumental grandeur of towering mountains and vast cosmic planes.

Schubert Variations on 'Trockne Blumen' for Piano and Flute

Sculthorpe The Stars Turn; Night Pieces; Mountains

Ravel Deux Mélodies Hébraïques
Chansons Madécasses

Shikara Ringdahl, mezzo-soprano
Jonathan Henderson, flute
Hyung Suk Bae, cello
Vatche Jambazian, piano

BRISBANE: October 7, 2022 Holy Trinity Hall, Fortitude Valley
TOOWOOMBA: October 9, 2022, The Annex - City Hall

CONTRA
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MEDIA 2022

Fireworks and Fury QPAC

<https://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/fireworks-and-fury>

<https://www.classikon.com/southern-cross-soloists-dazzle-in-fireworks-and-fury/>

A Moment in Time QPAC

<https://limelightmagazine.com.au/reviews/a-moment-in-time-southern-cross-soloists/>

<https://warwickstanthorpetoday.com.au/news/2022-06-21/a-moment-in-time-with-mum/>

<https://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/moment-time>

White Nights QPAC

<https://www.classikon.com/virtuosic-skill-from-southern-cross-soloists-at-qpac/>

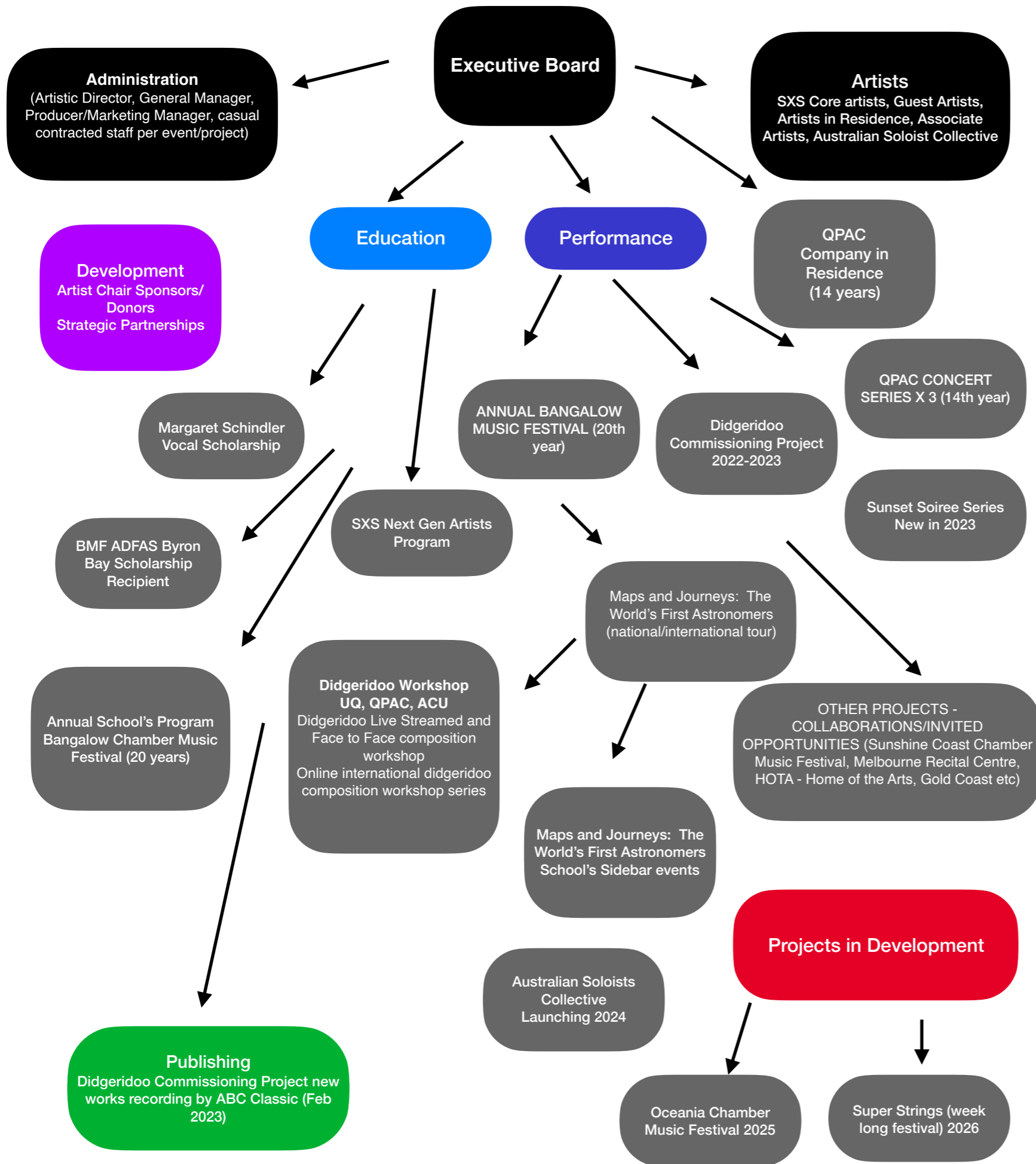
Radio 4EB Russian program did full review <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBGHWspjB4g>

Maps and Journeys: 19th Bangalow Music Festival, 2022

<https://www.classikon.com/bangalow-music-festival-fine-food-stunning-scenery-exquisite-chamber-music/>

<https://www.australianstage.com.au/202208139408/reviews/sydney/maps-and-journeys-the-world-s-first-astronomers.html>







OUR PEOPLE

Patron:

The Honourable Dame
Quentin Bryce AD CVO

Board of the Southern Cross Soloists:

Di Khursandi Chair
Michael Byrom
Peter Collins Finance Officer
Alan Smith
James Wannan
Tania Frazer

Our Team:

Artistic Director:

Tania Frazer

General Manager:

Maxine Williamson

Marketing:

Jonathan Henderson

Producer:

Nikhil Deo

Production Assistant:

Chloe Evans

Account Manager:

Jeannette Saez

Philanthropy and sponsorship:

Maxine Williamson

Tania Frazer

James Wannan

Education and

Regional Engagement:

Jonathan Henderson
James Wannan

Principal Artists:

Tania Frazer
Jonathan Henderson
Ashley Smith
Nick Mooney
Alan Smith
James Wannan
Chris Williams

Associate Artists:

Konstantin Shamray
Jonathan Bekes
Roger Cui
Amalia Hall
Julia Janiszewski
Natalia Edwards
Helena Wang
Dario Scalabrini
John Rotar
Sean O'Boyle AM

Guest Associate Artists:

Emma McGrath
Alexandra Flood
Alexander York
Vatche Jambazian
Max Foster
Jonathan Bekes
Orava Quartet
Eric Avery
Paula Nazarski
Brenda Gifford
Lachlan Skipworth
Tilly Jones

Education Programs

SXS Next Gen Artists:

Crystal Smith
Robert Smith
Drew Gilchrist
Jordon He
Jessica Walther
Erna Lai
Kyle Brady

Margaret Schindler Vocal Scholarship:

Sara Donnelly



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John Kotzas
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