

SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS



The Stars of Australian Chamber Music



Annual Report 2021





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Mentoring over 60 young emerging musicians and composers

Providing paid employment to over 420 artists and arts workers

Contributing an average of \$500,000 to the Queensland economy per year

Performing 22 regional Queensland concerts in last 3 years

Broadcasting via radio to 600,000+ audiences annually and 3,600,000 between 2016-2021

SXS at a glance: 2016-2021 Achievements

Creating digital content and digital engagement with over 100,000 views world- wide

Performing live for over 8000 patrons annually and 48,000 between 2016-2021

12 collaborations with First Nation's artists in the past 3 years

150% audience growth in past 12 months

Commissioning 22 new compositions and 150 new bespoke transcriptions

Presenting 56 workshops, school concerts, masterclasses and educational activities



CONCERT 1 Souvenirs de Aranjuez QPAC Concert Hall February, 2021, Patrons 900

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 marks the **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 will deliver in 2022, intoxicating virtuosity in its **13th QPAC Concert Series**. Enjoying the privilege of strong patronage SXS will perform in

standard mode at QPAC as its repertoire continues to gain notoriety and reaches new enthralled audiences.

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 120 World Premiere new works**. 2022 is no different with the announcement of the **SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project** featuring three Australian composers, and a highlight of the 2022 QPAC Concert Series.

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, 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, is a major event in the Australian arts calendar. Performing with Australian and international artists and providing meaningful community outreach to regional NSW.

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

Chair's Report



Dr Diana Khursandi

2021 has been yet another turbulent year, not only for SXS, but for all performing artists managing in a COVID-19 world.

The Board, consisting of myself as Chair, Alan Smith, James Wannan (both members of the Soloists), Michael Byrom, our lawyer, and Peter Collins (financial director), with our Artistic Director, soloist Tania Frazer had a busy year, nonetheless.

COVID-19 continued to have unprecedented effects on communities in Qld and Australia including on creative and cultural activity.

With a 26-year history of artistic excellence, SXS is one of Queensland's most acclaimed and celebrated chamber music ensembles with an outstanding national profile and presence.

Our Board and artists have spent much time over the past 18 months reimagining the needs of the Queensland arts sector, both in terms of the audiences, the artists and arts workers, to strategically plan a path forward for SXS which benefits the company long-term, as a strategic vision for the next 10 years.

Part of our new pathway forward for 2021 was our commitment to reactivating live performance in Queensland, with an evolved program that takes current restrictions into consideration, using them as a new source of inspiration and guidance for the needs of the people of Queensland and the sector. We also aimed to design new programs which responded to the needs of Queensland, including building confidence amongst audiences and consumers, and creating vital employment opportunities for freelance artists and workers in the arts sector, who have been the hardest hit from lockdowns.

Personnel

Laura Coutts our manager, left us in mid 2021. After a temporary manager Joumanna Haddad worked with us for a few months, we were able to appoint Maxine Williamson to a permanent part time position as manager, and Nikhil Deos for marketing and production. Both of whom have been excellent and assiduous in their work; we owe them a great debt of thanks. Tania Frazer continues as our brilliant and inspirational artistic director.

A successful donor drive in the second half of the year saw all our soloists being sponsored. Our generous donors ensured we went into 2022 as an extremely viable and valued ensemble, with an exciting series of great music planned.

Our 2021 outcomes and proposed 2022-2023 activities and programs will also contribute to:

- Rebuilding the Queensland economy and the arts sector.
- Enhancing community wellbeing.
- Increasing access to cultural experiences across regional Queensland.
- Assisting in the presentation of First Nation's collaborative creative projects, specifically the Didgeridoo Commissioning Project.
- Offering mentoring and performance training opportunities to emerging artists, who have also had their careers stalled due to Covid restrictions.

SXS is a Queensland ensemble of virtuoso soloists who are committed to presenting world class performances to Queensland audiences. Audiences are gifted the experience of an up-close connection with the performers and a rare insight into their unique artistry, unlike regular orchestra and chamber orchestra performances.

Southern Cross Soloists' programs and repertoire are completely unique to the ensemble. Every program is carefully curated and bespoke repertoire created through our team of musicians, composers, arrangers and guest artists.

Dr Diana Khursandi, May 2022

Chair SXS Board

Artistic Director's Report

After the challenges of 2020, SXS was looking forward to a return to normal in 2021. However, as we all know now, this wasn't how things panned out for 2021.

Despite these significant challenges, Southern Cross Soloists still had an extremely successful 2021 season, with many outstanding artistic highlights, new partnerships and creating substantial groundwork for exciting long-term projects, particularly in the cross-cultural and First Nation's sphere.

Our 2021 QPAC Season started with a record-breaking concert featuring guest soloist Slava Grigoryan. The concert (that was originally postponed from 2020) attracted an audience of 900, a record figure for SXS at QPAC. This prompted us to perform the concert in full mode, as opposed to our regular reverse/intimate mode, and led the way for us to perform all our concerts at QPAC this way for the first time since our QPAC residency started in 2010.

The sudden Covid shutdowns and border closures in July and August 2021 directly affected our mid-year programs. Our July QPAC concert was postponed to September and unfortunately our 2021 Bangalow Music Festival had to be cancelled only 4 weeks out from the event. This was disappointing and financially challenging as the festival had already incurred expenses that were unable to be recovered, such as marketing, PR campaigns and some flight expenses.

We were fortunate that it was again possible to perform from September 2021, and we presented two highly successful concerts at QPAC, two performances at the new HOTA Art Gallery at the Gold Coast and two SXS Next Gen concerts in Brisbane.

A major highlight was the world premiere performance of a new work by Joseph Twist for Didgeridoo and SXS, inspired by the paintings of Springbrook National Park by William Robinson and featuring SXS's Didgeridoo Artist in Residence, Chris Williams. The world premiere performance received a **5-star review from Limelight Magazine** and was performed at the William Robinson exhibition at the HOTA Art Gallery.

In preparation for the Bangalow Music Festival, extensive workshops were completed for our First Nation's astronomy project titled: **Maps and Journeys: The world's first astronomers**. Although the performances of this event had to be postponed to Bangalow **2022**, the workshops with First Nation's creatives **Eric Avery, Brenda Gifford, Paula Nazarski**, and **Chris Williams** alongside guidance from First Nation's aboriginal astronomy expert, **Karlie Noon**, were incredibly productive. New works by First Nation's composers were

workshopped by the SXS core musicians and the SXS Next Gen Artists performing alongside Chris Williams, Eric Avery and Paula Nazarski, with composition guidance from Sean O'Boyle and our assistant scribes Jordon He and Touki Wood.

The success of our new works written for solo Didgeridoo and SXS launched an exciting project to increase the canon of works for this combination. As a result, SXS filmed a **Didgeridoo workshop for composers** as part of the SXS Digital initiative. This series of videos are being released on YouTube to be easily available tools for Australian composers to reference as part of learning more about including the didgeridoo in new Australian works. The initiative has now launched into the **SXS Didgeridoo**

Commissioning Project that is committed to creating a new canon of distinctly Australian works that showcase the didgeridoo in preparation for 2032, when Brisbane takes to the world stage as the host of the **2032 Olympic Games**. This is now a major focus for SXS as a company going forward.

Despite the many challenges of 2021, SXS was able to nimbly pivot to quickly reimagine activities within the necessary Covid restrictions. **SXS was also able to offer financial support to our colleagues from other Qld small arts companies**. We were able to offer paid employment to musicians from the Camerata, The Orava Quartet and Ensemble Q who had lost substantial performance income from their own cancelled events.

Our Board and management team worked tirelessly to guarantee a positive outcome for the company, despite Covid issues. This was definitely achieved, with an excellent financial outcome for the year as well as achieving a substantially increased audience base, an increase in our geographical reach to both Regional Qld (Contra Concerts) and via digital channels nationwide, and ongoing creative projects showcasing the richness of our First Nation's valuable culture.



Tania Frazer

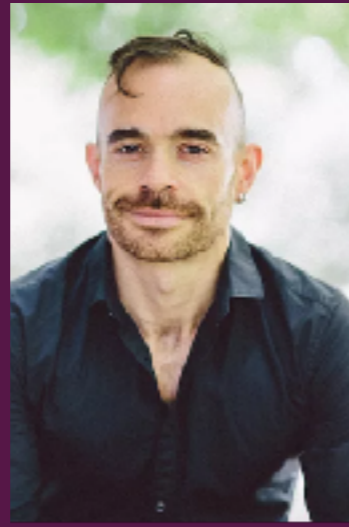
Tania Frazer, May 2022

2021 Principal Artists

Jonathan Henderson | Flute; Artistic Curator Contra Concerts



Ashley Smith | Clarinet



Tania Frazer | Oboe; Artistic Director



James Wannan | Viola



Alan Smith | Violin



Chris Williams | Didgeridoo



Nick Mooney | French Horn



Slava Grigoryan | Classical Guitar



Konstantin Shamray | Piano



Alexandra Flood | Soprano



2021 CHAIR SPONSORS

Southern Cross Soloists would like to thank our 2021 chair sponsors for their generous support:

Philip Dubois Cello Chair (Karol Kowalik, Trish Dean and Katherine Philp)

Cass George Violin Chair (Alan Smith and Susan Collins)

Jennifer Blake Clarinet Chair (Paul Dean, Dario Scalabrini and Drew Gilchrist)

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

Peter Collins Viola chair (James Wannan and Nicole Greentree)

Shirley Leuthner Flute Chair (Jonathan Henderson)

Margot Forgan-Smith Piano Chair (Alex Raineri, Roger Cui and Konstantin Shamray)

Kay Feeney, Christine Dauber

Didgeridoo Artist in Residence (Chris Williams)

Donor support
for 2021 reached
a significant :
\$124,683.85

2021

12th SXS QPAC CONCERT SERIES 2021

Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) continued their residency at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in 2021, as Company in Residence. The ensemble presented its well-regarded Subscription 12th QPAC Concert Series in the iconic QPAC Concert Hall, where the refined acoustics perfectly suit the ensemble.

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.

Moving from Reverse Mode to Standard Mode is indicative of the audience growth period SXS experiencing.

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



Alan Smith Southern Cross Soloists - Violin

CONCERT 1

Southern Cross Soloists' first QPAC performance for 2021 *Souvenirs de Aranjuez* was almost a full house as they were joined by SXS good friend Slava Grigoryan in a program of Spanish and French masterworks.

"For many in the audience, this may well have been their first live concert since COVID-19 began. They were probably hoping for something special. Southern Cross Soloists and Slava Grigoryan delivered."

Souvenirs de Aranjuez, Weekend Notes



Southern Cross Soloists once again presented their annual Subscription Series in the QPAC Concert Hall, as part of their position as **Company in Residence**. The Sunday afternoon concerts were again highly successful, with varied programs of both new and favourite works, gaining positive reception from media and a widening audience. SXS is experiencing an exciting audience growth phase and in 2021 has moved from Reverse Mode in the Concert Hall to Standard Mode to allow for more patrons.

With a 27-year history of artistic excellence, SXS is one of Queensland's most acclaimed and celebrated chamber music ensembles with an outstanding national profile and presence.



CONCERT 1 Souvenirs de Aranjuez QPAC Concert Hall February, 2021, Patrons 900

CONCERT 2

Dreams and Visions, highlights music's ability to paint a vision in our minds as we listen. For hundreds of years, composers have used music to create visual scenes, using musical notes as their paint brush.

Limelight Magazine

★★★★★

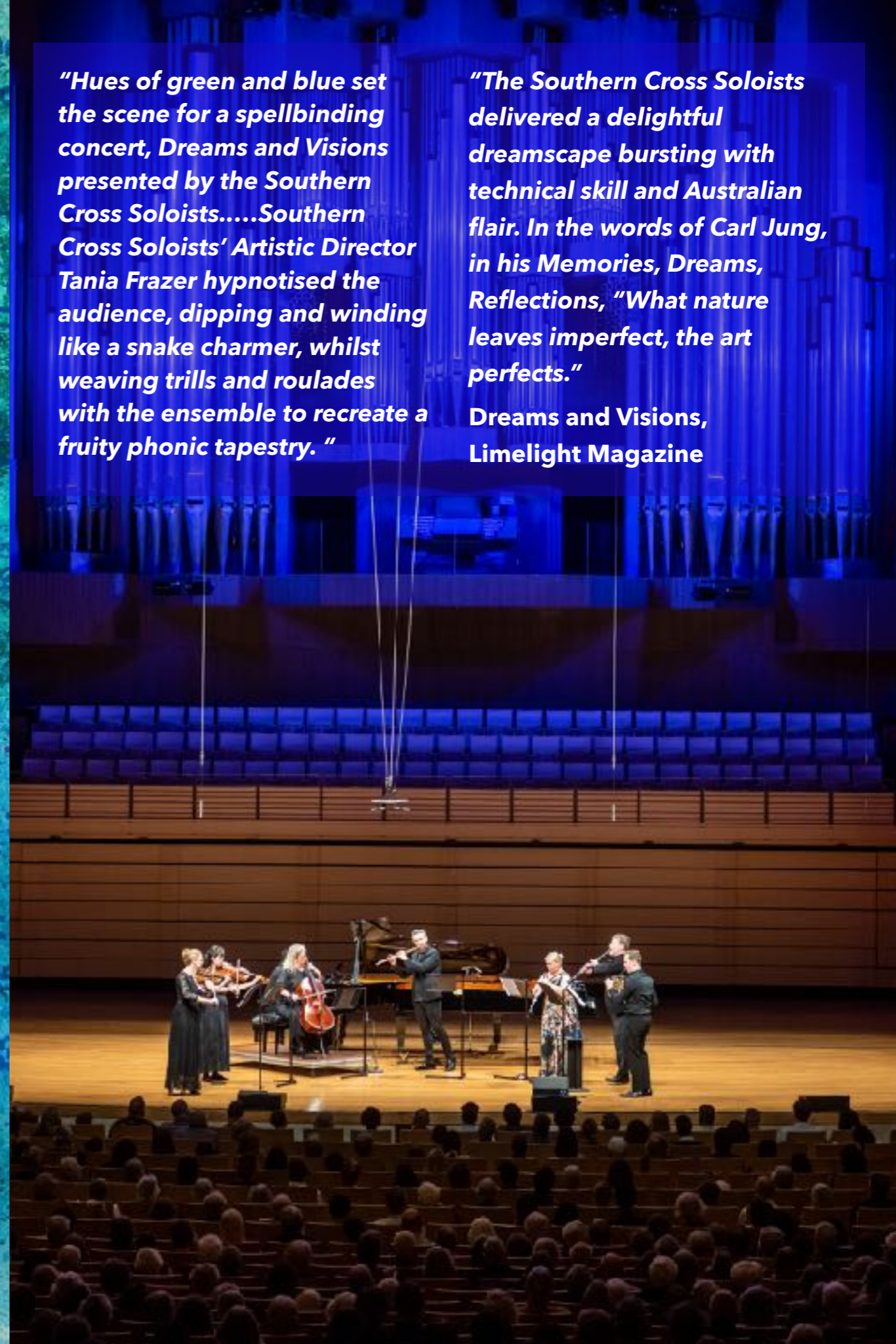
"The Southern Cross Soloists delivered a delightful dreamscape bursting with technical skill and Australian flair."

CONCERT 2: DREAMS and VISIONS
QPAC Concert Hall
September, 2021 including
WORLD PREMIERE
Commissioned New Work

"Hues of green and blue set the scene for a spellbinding concert, Dreams and Visions presented by the Southern Cross Soloists.....Southern Cross Soloists' Artistic Director Tania Frazer hypnotised the audience, dipping and winding like a snake charmer, whilst weaving trills and roulades with the ensemble to recreate a fruity phonic tapestry."

"The Southern Cross Soloists delivered a delightful dreamscape bursting with technical skill and Australian flair. In the words of Carl Jung, in his Memories, Dreams, Reflections, "What nature leaves imperfect, the art perfects."

Dreams and Visions,
Limelight Magazine





“Composer Joe Twist, was commissioned to compose *The Ancient Rainforest*. It was inspired by the song of the butcher bird outside his West End apartment window and by the giant paintings of the Queensland rainforest at Springbrook by **William Robinson.**

*He encapsulated the mystery of the ancient forest in a musical portrait using the mystical, guttural sound of the didgeridoo, played by **Artist in Residence Chris Williams**. Williams, a versatile musician and descendent of the Wakka Wakka people entered to the side of the auditorium filling the concert hall with the dawn chatter of the butcher bird combined with rhythmic flicking and the drone of the didgeridoo. The screaming glissando of the cello accompanied by oboe and strings created a subliminal lullaby that delved into a forested fantasy. Twist’s film soundtrack experience was evident, as the music ebbed and flowed to the rhythm of the rainforest. When the last note of the digeridoo faded into oblivion the audience became ecstatic with cries of “Bravo”, raucous applause and stamping feet.” **Limelight Magazine, Dreams and Visions***



World Premiere *The Ancient Rainforest* by Joseph Twist QPAC Concert Hall September, 2021



Dreams and Visions QPAC Concert Hall September, 2021



CONCERT 3 HEAVENLY LIFE QPAC Concert Hall October, 2021, Patrons 650

"The divine symbiosis between the Southern Cross Soloists achieved Mahler's heavenly vision with guest artists Konstantin Shamray and Alexandra Flood as the jewels in the crown". "The Southern Cross Soloists delivered a celestial conclusion to their 2021 concert series with Heavenly Life featuring two highly acclaimed artists, Australian pianist Konstantin Shamray and International coloratura soprano Alexandra Flood. Patron The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO was present to give an uplifting speech of joy and gratitude for the musicians and for the support of the QPAC through these difficult times. She had found the pandemic lockdowns to be a powerful awakening as to how important music is for the heart, mind and soul."

"It was to have been a heavenly end to the Southern Cross Soloists sublime concert series until Flood and Shamray returned to the stage with rapturous applause for a Rachmaninov encore to crown the concert with a bonus jubilant jewel."

Lyrical Reflections, 4ZZZ Reviews Gemma Reagan



CONCERT 3

HEAVENLY LIFE takes its name from the libretto of Mahler's Fourth Symphony which offers a depiction of life in heaven. However, the real theme behind the program is that life itself, is heavenly, and music greatly enhances this by offering colour, spice, and beauty. Just imagine what life would be like without any music whatsoever. Music adds an indescribable colour to the world we live in.



Heavenly Life QPAC Concert Hall October 2021

"The whole concert was superb. When Flood sang the last note of the concert, the Bellini aria, we both spontaneously wept with the beauty of the note: high, perfect." Audience testimonial QPAC Vox Pop

CONTRA CONCERTS: A NEW CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Curated by SXS solo flute, Jonathan Henderson in collaboration with SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

Bach Out Loud/Digital Debussy/Sonic Beethoven concerts performed in Brisbane and Toowoomba

Audience testimonials:

"A brilliant evening of music by a stunning group, with work by my musical god! Thank you so much."

"Blow the federal budget, your performances provide us with the most effective (and cheapest) form of mental health therapy! What would we do without you providing the music to 'soothe the savage beast'? It's better than Valium too but unfortunately it's twice as addictive!"

"Thank you for your wonderful work! Very much appreciate you being in Toowoomba."

"Fabulous, fabulous. Thank you very much!"

"The concert was very enjoyable. The playing was incredibly sensitive and colourful! Thank you! We hope that

we managed to speak to all of you about how your music touches us. You are all amazingly talented. We can't imagine that the net concert could top that one but we were proven wrong today as we didn't think that you could be better than concert one!"

"Wonderful program choices – amazing that the Debussy sounds so fresh, contemporary, and is inspiring of today in a new medium. Fabulous ensemble playing, so tight. Communication between performances evident and enjoyable to watch. I loved the sound matching – viola to flute, viola to harp. Some fancy harmonic nuances. Loved the viola solo melody in the second movement Debussy. Beautiful lines and phrasing."

"Really enjoyable – wonderful combination but such a different sound. Congratulations."

BRISBANE:

Concert 1. BACH OUT LOUD

Venue: Holy Trinity Hall, Date: Saturday April 3, 2pm

Concert 2. DIGITAL DEBUSSY

Venue: Holy Trinity Hall, Date: Saturday May 22, 3pm

Concert 3. SONIC BEETHOVEN

Venue: Holy Trinity Hall, Date: Friday June 11, 6pm

TOOWOOMBA:

Concert 1. BACH OUT LOUD

Venue: St Luke's Hall, Date: Tuesday May 11, 6pm

Concert 2. DIGITAL DEBUSSY Venue: St Luke's Hall

Date: Sunday May 23, 3pm

Concert 3. SONIC BEETHOVEN

Venue: Old Hall- Grammar School, Date: Sunday June 13, 3pm



Contra Concerts 2021: Jonathan Henderson flute, James Wannan viola, Emily Granger harp.



Jonathan Henderson flute, Tania Frazer oboe, Katherine Philp cello and Alex Raineri harpsichord

HOTA LYRICAL LANDSCAPES: DARKNESS AND LIGHT - October 2 & 3, 2021

Music Meets Art: Southern Cross Soloists presented a stunning program of chamber music inspired by the life and works of Australia's greatest living artist, William Robinson AO.

The program traced William's love of music, with a particularly focus on the piano, with works by Bach, Chopin and Rachmaninov performed by Southern Cross Soloists (SXS) and SXS Artist in Residence, Wakka Wakka didgeridoo soloist Chris Williams.

In a program that explored the nexus between music and art, the highlight was the performance of the new work by Gold Coast/Hollywood based film composer, Joseph Twist inspired by William Robinson's Creation series.

The new composition The Ancient Rainforest brought alive visions of the Gondwana rainforest of the Springbrook National Park.

Presented by HOTA, Home of the Arts, Gold Coast





"At once sublime and exhilarating, on October 2 and 3 a glorious concert celebrating art and beauty, music in the wonder of our rainforest will take place. This weekend SXS will perform in the magnificent new HOTA Gallery on the Gold Coast, supported by Lyrical Landscapes, an exhibition of William Robinson's greatest works filled with stunning paintings of mystery, reverence, and joy. This will be an evening that is sure to take your breath away."

Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO,
Patron

Southern Cross Soloists,
Guest Exhibition Curator

HOTA Art Gallery



Melbourne Digital Concert Hall

August performance: O'Boyle Didgeridoo Concerto

"The first half of this digital concert began with the Southern Cross Soloists performing the new chamber version of Sean O'Boyle's Didgeridoo Concerto: Earth, Wind, Water, Fire, originally written for William Barton.

I reviewed them playing a pair of movements from this version late last year, and was very impressed at the way that the intense power of the orchestral original came across, even reduced down to violin, cello, oboe, piano, and didgeridoo soloist. Here, hearing the full four movements back-to-back showcased a remarkable evolution of an already excellent piece, and, now that there's an alternative version that doesn't require a full symphony orchestra, one that I hope will be performed more often.

The first movement Earth begins with ominous figurations from the strings and piano before Tania Frazer's oboe steps forward, wrapping around motifs from the piano, later echoed and developed by Chris Williams' didgeridoo. Wind gives Williams a echoing and droning ostinato which the ensemble builds from rhythmically, with particularly impressive ensemble work ensuring clarity. Water brought Frazer's oboe to the forefront in an aching melody later supported by the didgeridoo, before the entrance of stuttering rhythms in the fourth movement Fire. Shifting into a head-banging groove led by Williams' didgeridoo, this last movement truly showcased the extraordinary range of colours, sounds, and textures that such a quintessentially Australian instrument is capable of."

LIMELIGHT





NEXT GEN 2021

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 be mentored by and perform alongside leading soloists, and to also develop their skills in curating and delivering their own concert series which offers these outstanding young talented musicians invaluable professional experience, networking, exposure and skills development opportunities.

Since 2019, the Next Gen program has annually presented the SXS Kenmore Concert Series. This ongoing initiative provides 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.

The SXS Next Gen Artists perform to over 900 patrons annually.

On **Saturday the 20th and 27th of November, 2021** at **3pm**, the Next Gen young artists performed a delightful 60-minute programme of music they love, in the spectacular acoustics of **St Andrew's Uniting Church** in Brisbane's CBD. Audiences were at capacity.



NEXT GEN 2021: Francis Atkins piano, Julia Hill violin, Kyle Brady viola , Erna Lai cello, Amelia Cherry double bass , Drew Gilchrist clarinet , Jamie Dodd bassoon, Jordon He composer.



Over two weekends, the **Southern Cross Soloists Next Gen Young Artists**, mentored by SXS solo flutist **Jonathan Henderson**, performed two free chamber music recitals to capacity crowds at St Andrew's Uniting Church in the Brisbane CBD. **BEETHOVEN & STRAUSS** took place at 3pm on Saturday November 20, and **MAHLER & SCHUMANN** the following Saturday November 27 2021.



BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021



Despite postponing the 19th Bangalow Music Festival to 2022, we held successful launches in Brisbane at the Avid Reader Book Store and in Bangalow, hosted by John Griffiths and ADFAS Byron Bay. Tania and Jonathan were joined by the 2021 SXS Next Gen Artists for these performances.

'Maps and Journeys: the world's first astronomers' was workshoped in June and July. Originally set to premiere at the 2021 Bangalow Music Festival, this has now been postponed to the 2022 Festival. The program explores 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 features 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.



Maps and Journeys creative development and workshops June 2021



SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project

2021 and 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

The SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project

*See via website link below left.

The **Didgeridoo for Composers Workshop** (SXS Digital) has now launched into the SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project that is committed to creating a new canon of distinctly Australian works that showcase the didgeridoo in preparation for 2032, when Brisbane takes to the world stage as the host of the 2032 Olympic Games. This is now a major focus for SXS as a company going forward.

Composers 2021-2022



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 performed "Chatterton" (2005); and released two full albums to date.



Didgeridoo for Composers Workshop (SXS Digital)

The success of SXS new works written for solo Didgeridoo allowed SXS to launch an exciting project to increase the canon of works for this combination. As a result, SXS filmed a **Didgeridoo workshop for composers** as part of the **SXS Digital** initiative.

This series of videos are being released on YouTube to be easily available tools for Australian composers to reference as part of learning more about including the didgeridoo in new Australian works. In conjunction with the University of Queensland, the Southern Cross Soloists delivered a full day composition for didgeridoo workshop to composition students at the Uni of Qld.

The Workshop was very well attended by students and Music Dept lecturers and the *SXS Digital* business arm of SXS recorded the workshop and have edited a full package on how to compose in Chamber music with the didgeridoo. This is a first of its kind.

International composer Sean O'Boyle AM led the Workshop with Southern Cross Soloist - Artist in Residence - Chris Williams (didgeridoo) providing examples of the power of the instrument throughout. SXS performed compositional pieces for the didgeridoo arranged by Sean O'Boyle AM.

SXS's Didgeridoo Composers Workshop videos are aimed at a national and international audience, and are strategically primed to have a long-term correlation with SXS's new SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project 2022- 2032.

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

Management Team:

Maxine Williamson
Jonathan Henderson
Nikhil Deo
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
Alexandra Flood
Emily Granger
John Rotar

Roger Cui

Slava Grigoryan

Guest Associate Artists:

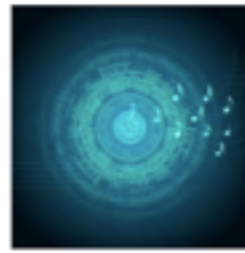
Katherine Philp
Trish Dean
Susan Collins
Anne Horton
Daniel Kowalik
Karol Kowalik
Nicole Greentree
Graeme McKean
Ruby Luck
Paul Dean

SXS Next Gen Artists:

Francis Atkins
Julia Hill
Kyle Brady
Erna Lau
Amelia Cherry
Drew Gilchrist
Jamie Dodd
Jordan He



SXS DIGITAL



SXS DIGITAL

Connecting through Music

- + Watch
- + Learn
- + Inspire
- + Enjoy



2021-2024 Digital Strategy

The SXS Digital project established a substantial base for cultivating further ongoing digital activities with income generating and increased branding potential for SXS.

Substantial infrastructure updates were developed with ongoing benefits to the company included: Updating the website; increasing online capabilities including publishing software; distribution platform subscriptions; Online work and meeting subscriptions (eg Zoom), technical equipment for recording and editing digital content and upskilling the management team in IT and the use of equipment.

In house recording capabilities and ongoing partnerships with Melbourne Digital Concert Hall were established. Live performance footage became part of a new regional hybrid touring model for SXS as we developed a hybrid live/digital regional concert tour to offer flexibility to aged care residents to either view live or from private rooms in regional Qld aged care homes through our partnership with Qld Churches of Christ Aged Care.

SXS core artists recorded solo and small group recitals for online and streaming distribution, including world premieres of new Australian works for online distribution and cross marketing opportunities for composers.

SXS Digital: a multi-faceted digital platform offering unique and relevant content and value added experiences to the Qld community. SXS Digital is a responsive approach to the current restrictions that will increase our audience and community engagement whilst building strong fiscal foundations long term. The platform will offer high quality performance, educational and human interest content with the capacity for future expansion, and increased employment to arts professionals.

Touring a hybrid digital presentation throughout regional Queensland in partnership with Churches of Christ (CoC) enabled us to reach new audiences in remote areas which, during the height of the COVID pandemic, would not have been physically or fiscally viable otherwise. The true nature of survival via digital means was felt significantly during this project. Through this initiative, SXS was actually able to connect with more audiences through the streaming option than through the traditional concert/regional touring format. The expense to both SXS and CoC was greatly reduced through the hybrid presentation format and was distributed to a wider network, which we intend to build on in the next few years.

Through our own in-house streaming of performances as well as our partnership with Melbourne Digital Concert hall (MDCH), SXS substantially increased its national and international presence. These initiatives and partnerships will be continued in 2022 with further streamed performances as well as continuing our behind the scenes, podcast-style video interviews which have also appealed to a national and international audience.

SXS's Didgeridoo Composers Workshop videos are aimed at a national and international audience, and are strategically primed to have a long-term correlation with our new SXS Didgeridoo Commissioning Project 2022- 2032. This new initiative is committed to building a new canon of Australian chamber music works that showcase the didgeridoo with an unmistakably quintessentially Australian essence. Commissioning three works per year, the canon will consist of 30 new works by the time Brisbane takes the world stage to host the 2032 Olympic Games.

Southern Cross Soloists have been able to activate our online presence, engaging with a broader audience geographically (our website and social media analytics report interest not only from across Australia but has raised our profile and view count internationally), and increasing our reach to a younger audience through online content and digital media engagement as well as through promoting our SXS Next Gen Artists through these expanded channels.

Within Qld, SXS was able to maintain our audience engagement and even create substantial growth at QPAC through our improved online marketing channels, improved website and social media platforms as a direct result of the SXS Digital initiative.



Dreams and Visions QPAC Concert Hall September 2021

2022 SEASON LAUNCH PARTY

Celebrating 27 Years
of Excellence in
Chamber Music.



WHEN

3pm, Sunday December 5 2021

WHERE

Judith Wright Arts Centre
420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

27 Years of Southern Cross Soloists
19 Years of the Bangalow Music Festival
13 Years of our QPAC Concert Series

The Judith Wright's Arts Centre played host to a very successful 2022 Season Launch on **Sunday December 5, 2021**, where SXS announced the **2022 Season!** Guests enjoyed a **drink on arrival** and up-close **live performances** by the **Southern Cross Soloists**.



SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS

“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
QPAC



A QPAC COMPANY IN RESIDENCE

PO BOX 3679 SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101 maxine@southernxsoloists.com www.southernxsoloists.com