

AS
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**AUSTRALIAN
STRING
QUARTET**

Kristian Winther – *Violin*
Anne Horton – *Violin*
Stephen King – *Viola*
Rachel Johnston – *Cello*

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) was established in 1985 and is Quartet in Residence at The University of Adelaide. The Quartet has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia, touring widely to capital centres and regional communities and commissioning many works by leading Australian composers. One of Australia's finest music exports, the Quartet has appeared at international music festivals and toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand and Asia in recent years. The Quartet is broadcast frequently on ABC Classic FM and regularly record for commercial release.

Featuring four of the most sought after musicians in Australia, the ASQ's membership comprises Kristian Winther and Anne Horton – violins, Stephen King – viola and Rachel Johnston – cello. New to the Quartet in 2012, Kristian and Stephen join long-standing members, Anne and Rachel as the Quartet launches its next exciting era of music making.

The Quartet's performance calendar for 2012 comprises national subscription tours in five Australian capital cities, regional music festivals including Dunkeld, Port Fairy and Freshwater festivals and a host of intimate performances in regional communities across Australia. Other highlights include two international tours, which will see the Quartet perform at the Trasimeno Music Festival in Italy and the Automne Musical d'Ollon in Switzerland among other prestigious concert halls across Europe and the UK.

Through the generosity of the Ngeringa Farm Arts Foundation and the Swiss Global Artistic Foundation the members of the ASQ are loaned very fine Italian instruments. These instruments, two Gaudagnini violins, a Guadagnini viola and a Grancino cello further support the Quartet in its delivery of musical performances of the highest international calibre.

With a commitment to developing the next generation of Australian music makers, 2012 will see the launch of the ASQ's String Quartet Mentoring Program across Australia.

KRISTIAN WINTHER

Violin

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

From 2007-2008 Kristian was violinist with the TinAlley String Quartet, winning the 2007 Banff International String Quartet Competition, which was followed by critically acclaimed tours of the USA, Canada and Europe. He has performed the Australian and New Zealand premieres of Brett Dean's Violin Concerto *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*, and Australian premieres of works by Andriessen, Salonen, Calvin Bowman and Rihm, among others. As a conductor, Kristian has performed Gubaidulina, Pärt, and Andriessen at the Melbourne International Arts Festival and the Canberra International Music Festival, and in 2011 he conducted *The Planets* of Gustav Holst with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra.



**ANNE
HORTON**

Violin

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

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

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

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



**STEPHEN
KING**

Viola

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

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

From 1997 Stephen was violist of the Coolidge String Quartet based in Washington D.C., performing in venues from Carnegie Hall, to the Jerusalem Music Centre and Hong Kong's City Hall, and festivals including Aspen, Tanglewood and La Jolla. While living abroad, Stephen was the Associate Principal Viola of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and played with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. He has been on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory Division in Boston, the American String Teachers Association Music Workshops and Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp.

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



**RACHEL
JOHNSTON**

Cello

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

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

A member of the Australian String Quartet since 2006, Rachel has toured extensively throughout Australia and Europe, including performances in Far North Queensland and the Pilbara Region in Western Australia with mezzo soprano Fiona Campbell and performances with pianist Kristian Chong in China.

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



