

MEDIA KIT



MUSICA VIVA 2018

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SEASON
SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF GALA PIANO RECITALS
COFFEE CONCERTS

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Media Release



From Avi Avital to Sir Andrés Schiff: Musica Viva presents a stand-out 2018 season

Musica Viva is delighted to announce a 2018 program that glitters with dazzling talent and unexpected gems. The **International Concert Season** is brimming with treasures, from young superstars **Avi Avital**, **Ray Chen** and **Joyce Yang** to eminent clarinetist **Sabine Meyer**, the legendary **Borodin Quartet**, the immersive magic of **Tafelmusik** and the all-star **Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio**.

The popular **Coffee Concerts** return with a stellar line-up of local favourites, while the **Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition** enters a new era under Musica Viva's management.

To crown what promises to be an exceptional year, world-renowned pianist **Sir Andrés Schiff** makes his **first visit to Australia in more than two decades**, appearing in two exclusive **Gala Recitals** in Sydney and Melbourne.

Subscription packages are available now via www.musicaviva.com.au or ph. 1800 688 482.

"I try to make every season as diverse as possible, but it is hard to imagine a chamber music smorgasbord more varied than this," says **Carl Vine AO**, Artistic Director of Musica Viva.

The International Concert Season begins with *Fantasia*, a journey of musical fairy tales that mixes the talents of legendary clarinetist **Sabine Meyer** with the **Alliage Quintett**, a unique ensemble of four saxophones and piano. Touring from late **February**, the group will be heard by Australian audiences for the first time.

"This is a program of orchestral favourites in brilliant arrangements written especially for this unusual ensemble," Vine remarks. From Bernstein's exuberant *Candide* to Dukas' unlucky little magician, and Russian fables reimaged by Stravinsky and Borodin, *Fantasia* follows a path full of wonder and dramatic characters.

"In **April**, electrifying mandolin wizard **Avi Avital** joins the energetic young **Giocosio String Quartet** to present masterworks old and new," continues Vine. Avi's bright yet intimate playing is a perfect foil for the warm strings of the Berlin-based quartet, who won the Musica Viva and Audience prizes at the 2015 Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and have since earned widespread acclaim across Europe and Asia.

This rare combination demands fascinating repertoire, ranging from a Bach Chaconne to two works written especially for Avi: **David Bruce's** tribute to the Celtic sun god, *Cymbeline*, and **Elena Kats-Chernin's new piece**, sparkling with her trademark theatricality. The quartet also takes to the spotlight for the wordless, epic poetry of Schumann's first quartet.

"Canadian superstars of the Baroque, **Tafelmusik**, return in **May** with another incredible theatrical expedition in *Bach and His World*," says Vine. Like its predecessors *The Galileo Project* and *House of Dreams*, Tafelmusik's latest creation is a miraculous blend of sights and sounds, drawing on spoken word, stunning projected video, and detailed images to explore the work of the artisans who helped Bach realise his musical genius.

Under the leadership of new Music Director and lead violin, **Elisa Citterio**, Tafelmusik will polish some of the composer's most beloved works to a historically-informed sheen. The group's special relationship with Australian audiences was cemented in 2012 with a Helpmann Award, recognising the uniquely engaging quality of its performances.

“On her very first national recital tour, pianist **Joyce Yang** offers two powerhouse programs of scintillating music,” continues Vine. Joyce shot to fame as the youngest contestant of the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition – a performance that won her the Silver Medal and two other major prizes.

Appearing for Musica Viva in **July**, she presents music that pianists love to play, and piano lovers love to hear, from Grieg, Debussy, Chopin and Schumann in Program One to Rachmaninoff, Janáček and Liszt in Program Two. A world premiere from young Australian composer **Elizabeth Younan**, written especially for Joyce, adds a new chapter to this spectacular overview of music for a most beloved instrument.

Once an Australian, but now a leading virtuoso fêted the world over, violinist **Ray Chen** undertakes his second national tour for Musica Viva in **August**, this time with pianist **Julien Quentin**.

Moving easily between heartfelt artistry and jaw-dropping violin pyrotechnics, his programs of Beethoven, Franck and other favourites offer a terrific celebration of the violin in all its moods. With playing so comfortable and assured, Australian composer **Matthew Hindson** was free to create a work where there are no technical limitations – making for an exciting world premiere.

“For more than 70 years the unparalleled **Borodin Quartet** has encapsulated generations of Russian string-playing tradition,” Vine says. “It is a rare thing to be able to pause for the length of a concert, to honour and appreciate such a rich heritage brought to life in the present.”

Dubbed ‘the gold standard for Russian chamber music’ in *The Guardian*, the Quartet makes a welcome return in late **September** with two programs shaped by its special relationship with Shostakovich. Program One highlights the Classical threads that underpin Shostakovich’s music, from Haydn to Beethoven and onwards; Program Two looks to the lyricism of the Romantic period, with Tchaikovsky’s gloriously Russian work and Wolf’s sunny Serenade forming a perfect balance to the darkness of Shostakovich’s final quartet.

“In an arresting ending to the International Concert Season, violinist **Nicola Benedetti**, cellist **Leonard Elschenbroich** and pianist **Alexei Grynyuk** form a piano trio on which to dream,” muses Vine. Having garnered glowing reviews across the Northern Hemisphere, the trio makes its southern debut in **November**, lighting up the stage in programs that combine peerless works of Brahms and Ravel with solo sonatas by Strauss and Prokofiev, as well as Australian composer **Gordon Kerry**’s evocation of impending winter, *Im Winde*.

Exclusive recitals by Sir Andrés Schiff

“It is a thrill to announce **two special Gala Concerts** in 2018 featuring one of the grand masters of the piano, **Sir Andrés Schiff**,” says Vine. “This is a rare coup for Musica Viva and a wonderful opportunity for Australian audiences.”

Appearing in Australia for the **first time in more than 20 years**, Schiff will give two performances only: on **Saturday 20 October** at **Arts Centre Melbourne** and **Monday 22 October** at the **Sydney Opera House**. As always with this artist, Bach is at the heart of everything: his ingenuity and virtuosity, as well as his deep faith and humanity, shine through the music of the famous 19th-century composers who followed in his steps.

Subscribers to the 2018 International Concert Season or 2018 Coffee Concerts series receive a **special discount and priority seating** at these October recitals, which go on sale to the general public in 2018.



Coffee Concerts: chamber music with cake

The beloved Musica Viva Coffee Concerts are back in 2018, promising great music, new friends, tea, coffee and cake on five mornings a year in Sydney and Melbourne.

"All of next year's performers are chosen for the mastery and joy they bring to the concert platform," says Vine. "From the unexpected but compelling guitar-cello duo of **Karin Schaupp and Umberto Clerici** to the burnished golden tones of the **Australian Brass Quintet** or the Australian debut of violinist **Ioana Cristina Goicea**, these hour-long recitals showcase the finest musical talent from here and further afield."

At the **Independent Theatre** in North Sydney, the much loved **Goldner String Quartet** offers classic fare with customary flair, as will whichever young piano trio or string quartet emerges as the Grand Prize Winner of the 2018 Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition. "That won't be known until just a few days before their Sydney Coffee Concert appearance," reveals Vine.

Fans at the **Melbourne Recital Centre** can also look forward to Baroque gems from the ARIA-nominated **Latitude 37**, in a rare sextet formation, as well as the outstanding

artistry of Melbourne's own clarinet trio, **Ensemble Liaison**.

Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition shines under new leadership

From **1 to 8 July 2018**, the world's leading young ensembles will vie for **prize money totalling over \$150,000** at the eighth **Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition (MICMC)**. 2018 heralds an exciting new era for MICMC: For the first time, it will be delivered by Musica Viva Australia in partnership with the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) and the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

Wilma Smith, former Concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, has been appointed Artistic Director of the competition. "It's an exciting, rejuvenating time for MICMC!" she says. "We're inviting the world's best young string quartets and piano trios to come and show us what they've got and sample some genuine Melbourne hospitality and passion." Entries can be submitted until 29 September 2017 via Musica Viva Australia's official application partner, **Accepted**.

Masterclasses shed new light

In 2018, hundreds of talented young artists around Australia will learn from the world's finest chamber musicians, offering unique perspectives on interpretation, technique and performance. Each Masterclass is conducted by artists touring as part of Musica Viva's International Concert Season and provides students, music teachers and audiences of all ages with an entertaining and enriching learning experience.

Musica Viva also offers many other opportunities to engage more deeply with the music, from pre- and post-concert events to videos and 'meet the artist' sessions. Details are published in the weeks leading up to each tour. For more information, visit musicaviva.com.au/insights

"Small ensemble music attracts the most discerning audiences," concludes Vine. "And when the quality of both performers and repertoire is at its peak, the rewards for the listener are unequalled."



TICKET ON-SALE DATES

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SEASON

SUBSCRIPTIONS from 10 August 2017
SINGLE TICKETS from 8 November 2017
Bookings: musicaviva.com.au/2018
or 1800 688 482

2018 COFFEE CONCERTS Sydney & Melbourne

SUBSCRIPTIONS from 10 August 2017
SINGLE TICKETS from 8 November 2017
Bookings: musicaviva.com.au/coffee2018
or 1800 688 482

SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF GALA PIANO RECITALS

PRIORITY BOOKING period for 2018
subscribers from 10 August 2017
GENERAL PUBLIC SALES
will open in 2018
Bookings: musicaviva.com.au/Schiff
or 1800 688 482

2018 MASTERCLASSES

ALL TICKETS on sale 8 November 2017
Bookings: musicaviva.com.au/masterclasses
or 1800 688 482

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

GENERAL PUBLIC SALES
will open in 2018
Details: musicaviva.com.au/competition

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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2018 CONCERT SEASON DATES

SABINE MEYER & ALLIAGE QUINTET musicaviva.com.au/meyer

Newcastle
Fri 23 Feb, 7:30pm

Sydney
Mon 26 Feb, 7pm
(Charles Berg Tribute Concert)

Melbourne
Tues 27 Feb, 7pm
(Graeme Watson Tribute Concert)

Brisbane
Thurs 1 Mar, 7pm
(Steven Kinston Tribute Concert)

Melbourne
Sat 3 Mar, 7pm

Canberra
Tues 6 Mar, 7pm

Adelaide
Thurs 8 Mar, 7:30pm
(In association with Adelaide Festival)

Sydney
Sat 10 Mar, 2pm

Perth
Mon 12 Mar, 7:30pm

AVI AVITAL & GIOCOSO STRING QUARTET musicaviva.com.au/avital

Sydney
Sat 7 Apr, 2pm

Sydney
Mon 9 Apr, 7pm
(Kenneth W Tribe Tribute Concert)

Brisbane
Wed 11 Apr, 7pm

Newcastle
Thurs 12 Apr, 7:30pm

Melbourne
Sat 14 Apr, 7pm

Adelaide
Tues 17 Apr, 7:30pm

Canberra
Thurs 19 Apr, 7pm

Perth
Sat 21 Apr, 7:30pm

Melbourne
Tues 24 Apr, 7pm



TAFELMUSIK BACH AND HIS WORLD musicaviva.com.au/tafelmusik

Perth
Sat 19 May, 7:30pm

Melbourne
Tues 22 May, 7pm

Canberra
Thurs 24 May, 7pm

Melbourne
Sat 26 May, 7pm

Adelaide
Tues 29 May, 7:30pm

Brisbane
Thurs 31 May, 7pm

Sydney
Sat 2 Jun, 2pm

Sydney
Mon 4 Jun, 7pm

JOYCE YANG musicaviva.com.au/yang

Adelaide
Tues 10 Jul, 7:30pm

Newcastle
Thurs 12 Jul, 7:30pm

Sydney
Sat 14 Jul, 2pm

Perth
Thurs 19 Jul, 7:30pm

Sydney
Mon 23 Jul, 7pm

Melbourne
Tues 24 Jul, 7pm

Canberra
Thurs 26 Jul, 7pm

Melbourne
Sat 28 Jul, 7pm

RAY CHEN WITH JULIEN QUENTIN musicaviva.com.au/raychen

Newcastle
Thurs 9 Aug, 7:30pm

Brisbane
Sat 11 Aug, 7pm

Melbourne
Tues 14 Aug, 7pm

Canberra
Thurs 16 Aug, 7pm

Sydney
Sat 18 Aug, 2pm

Perth
Tues 21 Aug, 7:30pm

Adelaide
Thurs 23 Aug, 7:30pm

Melbourne
Sat 25 Aug, 7pm

Sydney
Mon 27 Aug, 7pm

BORODIN QUARTET musicaviva.com.au/borodin

Brisbane
Thurs 20 Sept, 7pm
(In association with Brisbane Festival)

Melbourne
Sat 22 Sept, 7pm

Melbourne
Tues 25 Sept, 7pm

Adelaide
Thurs 27 Sept, 7:30pm

Sydney
Mon 1 Oct, 7pm

Newcastle
Thurs 4 Oct, 7:30pm

Sydney
Sat 6 Oct, 2pm

Perth
Tues 9 Oct, 7:30pm

SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF GALA PIANO RECITALS musicaviva.com.au/schiff

Melbourne
Sat 20 Oct, 7pm
(In association with Melbourne Festival)

Sydney
Mon 22 Oct, 7pm
(In association with Sydney Opera House)

BENEDETTI ELSCHENBROICH GRYNYUK TRIO musicaviva.com.au/begtrio

Melbourne
Sat 3 Nov, 7pm

Perth
Mon 5 Nov, 7:30pm

Brisbane
Wed 7 Nov, 7pm

Sydney
Sat 10 Nov, 2pm

Sydney
Mon 12 Nov, 7pm

Canberra
Thurs 15 Nov, 7pm

Newcastle
Sat 17 Nov, 7:30pm

Adelaide
Mon 19 Nov, 7:30pm

Melbourne
Tues 20 Nov, 7pm

MORE ON MUSICA VIVA

Musica Viva is Australia's oldest independent professional performing arts organisation. Our story began in 1945 as a chamber music organisation focused on just one ensemble. Over the years we have evolved to embrace ensemble music of all styles and genres, presenting leading Australian and international artists to concert audiences and school students across the country. Today, our activities embrace digital technologies to reach an even wider audience, and we are at the forefront of artist development – inspiring musicians and audiences alike in a shared passion for ensemble music of quality, diversity, challenge and joy.

MUSICA VIVA IN SCHOOLS

Musica Viva In Schools has been setting the standard in music education since 1981. We are dedicated to ensuring all Australian children have the opportunity to experience the joy of music, and we support teachers with professional development and curriculum-linked resources.

MUSICA VIVA FESTIVAL

Presented in association with the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, our biennial chamber music festival showcases the best local and international chamber music artists in four days of concerts, talks and masterclasses. The next Festival will be held in April 2019.

HUNTINGTON ESTATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Australia's renowned chamber music festival is held in the beautiful surrounds of the Mudgee wine region, presented by Huntington Estate Winery in association with Musica Viva.

2017 Opening Weekend

Sat 18 Nov & Sun 19 Nov

2017 Huntington Estate Music Festival

Wed 22 Nov to Sun 26 Nov

2018 Opening Weekend

Sat 17 Nov & Sun 18 Nov

2018 Huntington Estate Music Festival

Wed 21 Nov to Sun 25 Nov

FUTUREMAKERS

Musica Viva's artist leadership initiative FutureMakers discovers and enables Australia's musical leaders of tomorrow. By providing them with extensive mentoring and extraordinary opportunities, these brilliant and curious musicians are equipped with advocacy tools, entrepreneurial skills, platforms, audiences and a global network. This gives them the foundation to create new work that will shape and inspire cultural life in the 21st century.

HILDEGARD PROJECT

The Hildegard Project in support of women in composition was launched in April 2015, and was made possible by generous initial funding given by Katherine Grinberg in honour of the late Adrienne Nagy and her sister Yolanda (Nagy) Daniel. Together with the Ken Tribe Fund for Australian Composition, and the support of many kind donors around Australia, Musica Viva is able to continue its proud tradition of creating new Australian work across all of its activities.

COUNTRYWIDE

Musica Viva's innovative regional touring program partners with performing arts centres, volunteer music societies and conservatoriums to deliver a range of exceptional music experiences to thousands of regional Australians each year.



MUSIC TO INSPIRE