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BENDIGO CHAMBER
MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 4 - 8, 2026



Directors' Welcome

Welcome to our seventh Bendigo Chamber Music Festival program.

After our largest festival in 2025, this year's program continues to grow with the support of the City of Bendigo and the artistry of international and Australian musicians. We are delighted to welcome Brazilian violinist Nathan Amaral and double bass soloist Will Duerden, appearing in Bendigo through our partnership with the Young Concert Artists Trust in London.

Our wonderful BCMF artist family of Sophie, Natsuko, Tobi and Daniel return, joined by much-loved tenor Andrew Goodwin and violist Amanda Verner. Flautist Joshua Batty and pianists Andrea Lam and Reuben Tsang make their festival debuts as does Bendigo-born violinist Patrick Savage. In true BCMF tradition we are thrilled to present the talented Osmana Quartet from ANAM and leading Opera Australia soprano Cathy-Di Zhang also joins us on the weekend.

The 2026 program offers a rich mix of music: iconic works by Beethoven, Brahms, Bach and Haydn sit alongside rarely heard pieces by Symth, Novak, Martinu, Villa-Lobos and leading Australian composers. Two special highlights will be new arrangements of a Prokofiev sonata and a Chopin concerto.

As always, BCMF unites an extraordinary range of artists and repertoire in Bendigo's beautiful venues, with the warmth, energy and distinctive atmosphere that make this festival so special. Platinum and Gold passes always sell out within a few days, so we encourage you to book early. We look forward to welcoming you in February.

Chris and Howard.

Festival Artists



Howard Penny (Cello) - COE member since 1989, principal cello of Vienna Chamber Orchestra and lecturer at University Mozarteum Salzburg. Presently Head of Strings at ANAM



Nathan Amaral (Violin/YCAT) - Born in Brasil, Nathan won the 27th Sphinx Competition, was a UK Classic FM Rising Star, and is now a YCAT artist, performing in Europe's preeminent concert halls.



Sophie Rowell (Violin) - Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Artistic Director and a pillar of chamber music in Australia. Outstanding violin soloist performing concertos and recitals regularly around the world.



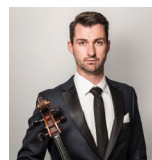
Patrick Savage (Violin) - Born in Bendigo and now resident in London, Patrick performs and records as soloist and chamber musician, and has had leading roles in London's main orchestras.



Natsuko Yoshimoto (Violin) - Soloist with leading orchestras in London, Japan and Australia, Natsuko is the much-loved concertmaster of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and an in-demand chamber musician.



Tobias Breider (Viola) - Principal Viola with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, having been a member of prestigious European orchestras and chamber music groups.



Chris Howlett (Cello) - Cellist, Director and Producer, performing extensively throughout Australia and Asia. Churchill 2022 Fellow and winner of the Creative Partnerships Australia Arts Leader Award.



Cathy-Di Zhang (Soprano) - Award-winning Australian soprano and Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, London, she has sung leading roles for the nation's major performing arts organisations since returning.



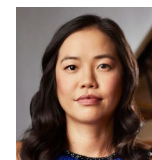
Amanda Verner (Viola) - Soloist, chamber musician and now member of SSO, Amanda has toured with the Verbier Festival Orchestra, Concertgebouw Kamerorkest, and ACO.



Will Duerden (Double Bass/YCAT) - A mesmerising protagonist of his instrument in every possible setting, and after several competition successes, Will has a flourishing career as a YCAT artist.



Daniel de Borah (Piano) - One of Australia's finest recitalists and chamber musicians and a regular soloist with the country's leading orchestras. Head of Chamber Music at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.



Andrea Lam (Piano) - A household name since ABC's TV series "The Piano", Andrea is loved equally as soloist and chamber musician in the U.S. and throughout Australia.



Reuben Tsang (Piano) - Multiple prizewinner at the 2024 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition and 2023 Sydney International Piano Competition, Reuben is making waves across Australia.



Osmana String Quartet (ANAM) - Formed at ANAM, where the members still study, the Osmana quartet has had notable performing successes, most recently at the Ukaria Chamberfest performing together with Brooklyn Rider.



Joshua Batty (Flute) - Former principal flute with SSO, Joshua focusses on his worldwide solo, chamber music and teaching career.



Andrew Goodwin (Tenor) - Andrew Goodwin has performed with opera companies, orchestras and at festivals in Europe, the UK, Asia and Australia.

The Festival Program

Wednesday 4th February

Summer Nights Series 1 - Opening Gala

Date: Wednesday 4th February, 7.45PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 70 minutes

V. Novak - Piano Trio No. 2, "Quasi una ballata", Op. 27
(Andrea, Nathan, Chris)

C. Saint-Saëns – Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso Op. 28
(Josh, Reuben)

F. Schubert Song Selection
(Daniel, Andrew)

F. Prokofiev - Carmen Fantasy
(Will, tutti strings)

Thursday 5th February

Morning Recital Series 1 - Australian National

Academy of Music – Osmana Quartet

Date: Thursday 6th February, 11.00AM

Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church

Duration: 60 minutes

J. Haydn – String Quartet Op. 76/2 in D minor

N. Westlake – String Quartet No. 3 (selections)

C. Debussy – String Quartet in G minor Op. 10



Inside and Out Conversation Concert 1 -

"Meet the artists" with Chris Howlett

Date: Thursday 5th February, 2.00PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

We meet four of festival artists Andrea, Patrick, Amanda and Nathan.

M. Eötvös - Bachram (Andrea)

Waxman/Wagner - Love Music from Tristan and Isolde (Patrick, Daniel)

A. Beach - Romance Op. 23 (Amanda)

P. Bosisio - Aboio e Dança Negra (Nathan)

Dusk Series 1 and 2

Date: Thursday 5th February and Friday 6th February, 5.00PM

Venues: Beehive Building Bendigo. Ulumbarra Theatre.

Duration: 60 minutes

Concert 1 - Beehive Building Bendigo

W.A. Mozart – Flute Quartet No. 3 in C major, K.285b
(Josh, Osmana Quartet)

E. Macens – Resting with Angels
(Osmana Quartet)

J.B. Vanhal – Divertimento in G major, W.VIb:13
(Patrick, Tobi, Will)

Concert 2 - Ulumbarra Theatre

E. Smyth – Piano Trio in D minor
(Reuben, Sophie, Chris)

P.I. Tchaikovsky – Selected Songs
(Daniel, Andrew)

H. Villa-Lobos - Elegia para violino e piano

F. Braga - Tango Capriccioso
(Daniel, Nathan)

Summer Nights Series 2 – Concerto Soiree

Date: Thursday 5th February, 7.45PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 70 minutes

C.P.E. Bach – Flute Concerto in D minor, H.484.1
(Josh, tutti strings)

F. Schubert – Rondo in A major D.438
(Natsuko, tutti strings)

F. Chopin (arr. Hoffmann) – Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

(Andrea, Sophie, Nathan, Amanda, Howard, Will)



Friday 6th February

Morning Recital Series 2 - Will Duerden and Reuben Tsang Recital

Date: Friday 6th February, 11.00AM

Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church

Duration: 60 minutes

M. Bruch - Kol Nidre

V. Montag - Sonata in E minor

G. Faure - Berceuse

E. Tabakov - Motiv

A. Piazzolla - Ave Maria

G. Bottesini - Alla Mendelssohn

Inside and Out Conversation Concert 2 - "Symphony, Sonata or Chamber Work? Brahms' Piano Quintet" with Howard Penny

Date: Friday 6th February, 2.00PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

J. Brahms - Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34
(Daniel, Natsuko, Patrick, Amanda, Howard)

Dusk Series 1 and 2

Date: Thursday 5th February and Friday 6th February, 5.00PM

Venue: Beehive Building Bendigo. Ulumbarra Theatre.

Duration: 60 minutes

Alternate program of Dusk Series for festival pass holders.

Summer Nights Series 3 – Poetry & Fire

Date: Friday 6th February 7.45pm

Venue: The Capital

Duration 70 minutes

J. Brahms – Waltzes Op. 39

(Daniel, Reuben)

G. Handel – As Steals the Morn HWV 55

(Cathy-Di, Andrew, tutti strings)

S. Prokofiev (arr. Bradshaw) – Flute Sonata in D

major Op. 94

(Josh, Sophie, Nathan, Tobi, Howard)

Saturday 7th February

BCMF Masterclass Series

Date: Saturday 7th February, 9.30AM

Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church

Duration: 45 minutes - Free Event

Patrick and Josh share their passion for chamber music with Bendigo's emerging artists.

Morning Recital Series 3 - Nathan Amaral and Daniel de Borah

Date: Saturday 7th February, 11.00AM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

W.A. Mozart – Sonata for Violin & Piano No. 26 in B-flat major, K.378

C. Franck – Sonata for Violin and Piano in A major

H. Villa-Lobos – Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5

Saturday Community Concert

Date: Saturday 7th February, 2.15PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

Our now traditional partnership with the Bendigo music community continues. Details to be announced.

Dusk Series 3

Date: Saturday 7th February, 5.00PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

L.v. Beethoven – Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor, Op.30 No.2

(Sophie, Daniel)

R. Schumann – Vier Duette, Op.34

(Cathy-Di, Andrew, Reuben)

W.A. Mozart – Piano Quartet in E-flat major, K.493

(Andrea, Sophie, Tobi, Chris)

Summer Nights Series 4 – Festival Gala

Date: Saturday 7th February, 7.45PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration 70 minutes

J.S. Bach – Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048

(Tutti strings)

J. Massenet - Elegie for Soprano, Cello & Piano

(Cathy-Di, Reuben, Chris)

B. Martinu – Promenades for Flute, Violin & Piano

(Josh, Andrea, Nathan)

J. Brahms – Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

(Daniel, Natsuko, Patrick, Amanda, Howard)

Sunday 8th February

Farewell Concert – Until Next Year

Date: Sunday 8th February, 11.00AM

Venue: The Capital

Duration 70 minutes

P. Taffanel – Die Freischütz Fantasie for Flute and String Quintet

(Josh, Sophie, Nathan, Amanda, Howard, Will)

J. Andrews - We'll Gather Lilacs in the Spring

C. Porter - Kiss Me Kate - So In Love

K. Greystone - Be My Love

L. Bernstein - West Side Story - One Hand One Heart

(Andrea, Andrew)

M. Rózsa – Peasant Songs

(Patrick, Daniel)

J. Haydn (arr. Salomon) – Symphony No. 104 in D major Hob.1:104

(Josh, Reuben, tutti strings)

Ticket Options

The festival offers a range of different ticketing options for the 2026 festival.

Platinum Festival Pass \$869

- Tickets to all 14 concerts plus masterclasses.
- Reserve seating at all venues.
- Saturday Tellurian wine lunch at Ms Batterhams.
- Invitation to the VIP Wednesday Welcome drinks.
- Access to Festival Pass holder exclusive Dusk Concerts including local wine tasting.
- Discounts at the Festival Food Hub.

Gold Festival Pass \$699

- Tickets to all 14 concerts plus masterclasses.
- Reserve seating at The Capital concerts.
- Invitation to the VIP Wednesday Welcome drinks.
- Access to Festival Pass holder exclusive Dusk Concerts including local wine tasting.
- Discounts at the Festival Food Hub.

Silver Festival Pass \$419

- Tickets to all 10 concerts at The Capital
- Reserve seating at The Capital concerts.
- Discounts at the Festival Food Hub.

The Bendigo Half Dozen Pass

Select any 6 concerts from the program (excluding Dusk Series 1 and 2) and receive a 10% discount off the ticketed price.

Single Tickets

Single Tickets to all events will be available online or by phoning the Box Office.

Summer Nights Single Tickets: \$51/\$47

Morning Recitals and Conversation Concerts: \$40/\$35

Community Concert: \$25

Book Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online, by phoning the Box Office or in person at The Capital.

Online: www.bendigocmf.com.au/tickets

Phone: 03 5434 6100

Boxoffice: 50 View Street Bendigo

For any further information please email

info@chrishowlett.net.au or call 0408 339 145



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Howard and Chris would like to thank all the donors and sponsors who make the Bendigo Chamber Music Festival possible.

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