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BENDIGO CHAMBER
MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 3 - 7, 2027



Directors' Welcome

With record attendance again last year, we wanted to build on this momentum with another fabulous program of leading national and international artists. Our Young Classical Artists Trust performers are pianist Callum McLachlan and violinist Charlotte Spruit, both exclusive to BCMF! Sophie, Natsuko, Tobi and Daniel return, alongside Anna Goldsworthy, Alexandra Osborne, Peter Luff and Damien Eckersley.

We have long wanted to perform Schubert's celebrated Octet, so we welcome Dean and Jackie Newcomb and ASO Principal Viola Justin Julian. It is also a special honour to welcome vocal royalty Emma Matthews to Bendigo. What a team!

Our nurturing of future talent continues with ANAM's Fiasco Quartet, fresh from winning Melbourne Recital Centre's Great Romantics Competition. For our much-loved Community Concert, regional community trailblazers Resonance String Orchestra join festival artists for Grieg's Holberg Suite, while our Saturday masterclass features more up-and-coming Bendigo musicians.

The program ranges from Beethoven to Bernstein, Debussy to Dvořák and Schumann to Strauss, alongside the epic Schubert Octet and rarities by Florence Price, Rebecca Clarke and Ignaz Moscheles. We couldn't resist indulging in famous soprano arias by Bellini and Verdi, before closing with Mozart's joyous Exsultate Jubilate.

With the support of the City of Greater Bendigo and our many valued partners, we look forward to welcoming you to Bendigo for five days of joyous music, beautiful venues and great company.

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.



Charlotte Spruit (Violin/YCAT) - Award-winning Dutch violinist and one of Europe's most exciting young artists. Bach Competition First Prize winner, Classic FM Rising Star and YCAT artist performing internationally.



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.



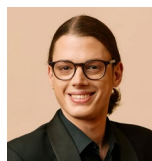
Alexandra Osborne (Violin) - Sydney Symphony Orchestra Associate Concertmaster and former National Symphony Orchestra violinist. Curtis and Juilliard graduate, international soloist and competition prizewinner.



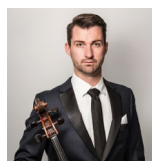
Natsuko Yoshimoto (Violin) - Soloist with leading orchestras in London, Japan and Australia, Natsuko is the much-loved concertmaster and an in-demand chamber musician.



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



Justin Julian (Viola) - Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Principal Viola and acclaimed soloist. Former ACO Emerging Artist and Australian quarter-finalist at two major international viola competitions.



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.



Damien Eckersley (Double Bass) - International double bassist and educator. Presently principal bass with NZSO, he has also performed with the Vienna Philharmonic and leading Australian and European orchestras.



Anna Goldsworthy (Piano) - Award-winning pianist, writer and founding member of Seraphim Trio. One of Australia's distinctive musical voices and incoming Artistic Director of ANAM.



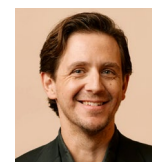
Daniel de Borah (Piano) - One of Australia's finest recitalists and chamber musicians and a regular soloist with the country's leading orchestras. Head of Chamber Music at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.



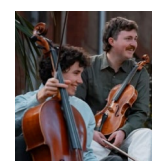
Callum McLachlan (Piano/YCAT) - Exciting British pianist and YCAT artist. Leeds and Santander semi-finalist and Schumann Competition finalist, performing at major venues and festivals internationally.



Emma Matthews (Soprano) - One of Australia's most celebrated sopranos and longtime Opera Australia principal artist. Seven-time Helpmann Award winner who has performed at leading international opera houses.



Dean Newcomb (Clarinet) - Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Principal Clarinet and one of Australia's leading orchestral and chamber musicians. Acclaimed soloist and Yamaha Artist performing throughout Australia.



Fiasco String Quartet (ANAM) - Exciting young quartet formed at the Australian National Academy of Music. Winners of the 2026 Great Romantics Competition at Melbourne Recital Centre.

The Festival Program

Wednesday 3rd February

Summer Nights Series 1 - Opening Gala

Date: Wednesday 3rd February, 7.45PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 80 minutes

H. I. F. Biber – Passacaglia in G minor (Charlotte)

G. Fauré – Rêve d'Amour

Les Berceaux

H. Duparc – Chanson Triste

Le Manoir de Rosamund (Emma, Anna)

L. Bernstein – Sonata for Clarinet and Piano
(Dean, Callum)

L.v. Beethoven (arr. Lachner) – Piano Concerto No. 4,
Op. 58 (Daniel, Tutti Strings)

Thursday 4th February

Morning Recital Series 1 - Australian National

Academy of Music – Fiasco Quartet

Date: Thursday 4th February, 11.00AM

Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church

Duration: 60 minutes

J. Haydn – String Quartet Op.20 No.5 in F minor

P.I. Tchaikovsky – String Quartet No.1 in D major



Inside and Out Conversation with Chris Howlett: Meet the Artists

Date: Thursday 4th February, 2.00PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

We meet four of festival artists Alex, Anna and Callum.

TBA Full Program

Dusk Series 1 and 2

Date: Thursday 4th February and Friday 5th
February, 5.00PM

Venues: Beehive Building Bendigo. Ulumbarra Theatre.

Duration: 60 minutes

Concert 1 - Beehive Building Bendigo

J. Strauss – Wiener Blut

F. Kreisler – Schön Rosmarin

(Charlotte, Natsuko, Justin, Chris, Damien)

R. Clarke – Three Irish Country Songs

(Emma, Natsuko)

L.v. Beethoven – String Quartet op.59 no.3 in C major
(Fiasco Quartet)

Concert 2 - Ulumbarra Theatre

F. Price – Fantasies Nos. 1 and 2 for Violin and Piano

(Alexandra, Callum)

H. Sitt – Three Fantasy Pieces for Viola Alta and Piano, Op. 58

(Tobi, Anna)

J. Brahms – Clarinet Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120 No. 1

(Dean, Anna)

Summer Nights Series 2 – An Enchanted Evening

Date: Thursday 4th February, 7.45PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 80 minutes

L.v. Beethoven – Violin Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23

(Natsuko, Daniel)

S. Barber (arr. Pollio) – Knoxville: Summer of 1915

(Emma, Charlotte, Dean, Howard, Callum)

J.N. Hummel – Piano Quintet in G major, Op. 87

(Anna, Sophie, Tobi, Chris, Damien)



Friday 5th February

Morning Recital Series 2 - Charlotte Spruit and Daniel de Borah

Date: Friday 5th February, 11.00AM

Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church

Duration: 60 minutes

C. Debussy – Violin Sonata in G minor, L. 140

G. Dupont – Journée de printemps

R. Schumann – Violin Sonata No. 2 in D minor, Op. 121

Inside and Out Conversation with Howard Penny:

Bohemian Rhapsody - Dvorak's String Sextet

Date: Friday 5th February, 2.00PM

Venue: The Capital

Duration: 60 minutes

A. Dvořák – String Sextet in A major, Op. 48

(Natsuko, Alexandra, Tobi, Justin, Howard, Chris)

Dusk Series 1 and 2

Date: Thursday 4th February and Friday 5th
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: Octet!
Date: Friday 5th February 7.45PM
Venue: The Capital
Duration 70 minutes

J. Haydn – Piano Trio in E Flat major, Hob. XV:10
(Daniel, Natsuko, Chris)

F. Schubert – Octet in F major, D. 803
(Sophie, Charlotte, Tobi, Howard, Damien, Dean, Peter Luff, Jackie Newcomb)

Saturday 6th February

BCMF Masterclass Series
Date: Saturday 6th February, 9.30AM
Venue: Forest Street Uniting Church
Duration: 45 minutes - Free Event

Alexandra and Peter share their passion for chamber music with Bendigo's emerging artists.

Morning Recital Series 3: Callum McLachlan
Date: Saturday 6th February, 11.00AM
Venue: The Capital
Duration: 60 minutes

L.v. Beethoven – Piano Sonata No. 28 in A major, Op. 101
P. Grainger – Selected Works
M. Ravel – Miroirs
S. Rachmaninov – Études-tableaux, Op. 33

Community Concert: Resonance String Orchestra and BCMF Artists
Date: Saturday 6th February, 2.15PM
Venue: The Capital
Duration: 60 minutes

J.S. Bach – Concerto for two violins in D minor BWV 1043
(Ian Chiao and Lachlan MacLaren, BCMF strings)

E. Grieg – Suite “From Holberg’s Time”
(Resonance String Orchestra, BCMF strings)

Dusk Series 3
Date: Saturday 6th February, 5.00PM
Venue: The Capital
Duration: 70 minutes

I. Stravinsky - Suite from Soldier’s Tale (selections)
(Dean, Natsuko, Callum)
L.v. Beethoven – Selected Scottish Folk Songs
(Emma, Callum, Charlotte, Howard)
I. Moscheles – Grand Septet in E-flat major, Op. 88
(Daniel, Sophie, Justin, Chris, Damien, Dean, Peter Luff)

Summer Nights Series 4 – Festival Gala
Date: Saturday 6th February, 7.45PM
Venue: The Capital
Duration 80 minutes

V. Bellini – “Casta Diva” aria from Norma
G. Verdi – “Ave Maria” aria from Otello
(Emma, BCMF Strings, Dean)
J. Brahms – Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann, Op. 23 (Callum, Daniel)
A. Dvořák – String Sextet in A major, Op. 48
(Natsuko, Alexandra, Tobi, Justin, Howard, Chris)

Sunday 7th February

Farewell Concert – Until Next Year
Date: Sunday 7th February, 11.00AM
Venue: The Capital
Duration 70 minutes

W.A. Mozart – Sonata in D Major for piano four hands K.381 (Daniel, Callum)
B.H. Crusell – Concert Trio “Potpourri”
(Dean, Peter Luff, Jackie Newcomb)
E. Elgar – Introduction and Allegro for quartet and string orchestra Op. 47
(Fiasco Quartet, BCMF strings)
W.A. Mozart – Exsultate, Jubilate K.165
(Emma, BCMF tutti)

Ticket Options

The festival offers a range of different ticketing options for the 2027 festival.

Platinum Festival Pass \$915

- 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 \$735

- 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 \$460

- 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 (excluding Dusk 1 and Dusk 2).

Summer Nights Single Tickets: \$54/\$49
Morning Recitals and Conversation Concerts: \$42/\$37
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
Box Office: 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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