



# **2023 Annual Report**







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Images by Martin Ollman (CSO concert  
photography and portraits), Kaupo Kikkas  
(Jessica Cottis, p. 8) and Thomas Lucraft  
(Jessica Cottis onstage with the CSO, p. 9)  
Design by GRi.D, Canberra

# Chair's report



## The Canberra Symphony Orchestra continues to prove itself a vibrant and vital arts institution at both local and national levels, despite the persistent challenges of the post-COVID creative landscape.

In 2023, the CSO delivered outstanding results for the Canberra community, expanding community and training programs to meet the growing demand for accessible musical experiences, particularly for young people and families. In the concert hall, the orchestra continues to create 'a place for every story', centering Australian voices in a historically Eurocentric art form and presenting a program recognised nationally for its diversity. The CSO's commitment to Australian artists and composers permeates the orchestra's growing range of collaborations and professional musical services.

One of three CSO strategic pillars, collaboration remains central to the orchestra's ethos. The calibre of the CSO as a professional musical services provider ensures Canberrans can enjoy not only the great orchestral masterworks and contemporary Australian classical music, but also nationally touring commercial productions and other large-scale arts experiences.

Notable CSO collaborations in 2023 included a sold-out performance of Kate Ceberano's *My Life is a Symphony* in collaboration with Canberra Theatre Centre, and two performances of touring tribute show *To Barbra, With Love*, presented by Live Nation. The CSO continued to support the ACT Government's Enlighten Festival, drawing a crowd of over 2,000 to a memorable *Symphony in the Park* production with Electric Fields, and played a key role in the Lanyon Homestead activation together with local artist Rachael Thoms. The orchestra also returned to the banks of Queanbeyan River for another well-attended *Music by the River* event, presented by Icon Water in collaboration with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and featuring Darren Percival.

The orchestra continues to champion independent Australian artists, with CSO musicians performing in the 2023 Sydney premiere of *MOUNTAIN*, a dance collaboration by Australian choreographer Melanie Lane and British artist Clark. Meanwhile, core CSO programming continues to create local performance opportunities for internationally recognised Australian conductors and soloists.

Collaboration also underpins the growing impact of CSO community engagement. In 2023, the orchestra established a new relationship with Tuggeranong Arts Centre, piloting the CSO *Down South* concert series as well as family-friendly music program *Explore the Orchestra*, which integrated elements of drama and dance, with hands-on craft activities and opportunities for infants to engage, and children to try their hand at an orchestral instrument with the help of CSO musicians and staff.

Family-friendly programming is one of many CSO initiatives to expand access to live music. Another 2023 standout was the Diverse Abilities program, which brought meaningful music experiences to students with specialised needs, including neurodiversity and hearing impairment. Demand currently exceeds CSO resources, highlighting the strong appetite across ACT schools for accessible arts programming.

Local demand for specialised training is also strong, allowing the CSO to continue to expand and develop its Kingsland Pathways Program. In 2023, the CSO launched Kingsland Strings for musicians aged eight to 12 – a precursor to the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra – as well as the Kingsland Fellowship, a reimagined tertiary offering that creates pathways into professional performance and other arts industry opportunities. Significantly, participants are drawn from mostly public and private schools in approximately equal numbers, with additional students joining from home school and tertiary settings. I acknowledge the Australian National University as a vital partner for this work, as well as the generous support of private donors.

Despite these achievements, the CSO posted a loss in 2023, which reflects the considerable practical challenges the orchestra continues to face in the post-COVID landscape. Chief among these is the high cost of living, raising barriers to arts participation around the country as well as increasing operating expenditure.



This presents a significant obstacle to audience development, with Patternmakers research indicating trends of late audience decision-making and changing subscription models occurring across the industry. As a part-time orchestra in a small city, the CSO also faces structural barriers to delivering sufficient commercial programming to offset the costs of other activity, relative to Australia's full-time state orchestras.

The CSO is building resilience to these challenges by diversifying income streams, most notably through the expansion of professional musical services to local and touring entities. The CSO is also building long-term private investment across a range of philanthropic initiatives, including the new Australian Music Giving Circle. Meanwhile, the orchestra maintains a network of key corporate partnerships and continues to raise vital funds and engage a wide variety of local businesses through the annual CSO Fundraising Gala.

I would like to acknowledge our Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, for their continued support in 2023, particularly another successful fundraising concert at Government House.

I also acknowledge and commend Jessica Cottis, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, on another vibrant season of orchestral and chamber music. Ms Cottis visited Canberra twice in 2023 to conduct the orchestra, coach our young artists and connect with CSO audiences, concluding with two magnificent performances of the *Living Green* program on the Llewellyn Hall mainstage. On behalf of the CSO, I congratulate Ms Cottis on the extension of her appointment to 2025. I also applaud our dedicated musicians, under the leadership of Concertmaster Kirsten Williams and our exemplary cohort of Principals.

I thank Chief Executive Officer Rachel Thomas and her agile administrative team for their efforts to sustain and grow the CSO's artistic and community impact despite the challenges of our operating environment. I also acknowledge my fellow Board Directors for their commitment to the orchestra's long-term flourishing – particularly outgoing Director Lucille Halloran, who has made invaluable contributions as a knowledgeable and dedicated member of the Board over the past decade.

These are challenging times for the arts sector, but I am tremendously proud of what this orchestra has achieved and confident that its impact will continue well into the future.

**Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd)**  
Chair of the CSO



# CEO's report



## The Canberra Symphony Orchestra remains dedicated to engaging the Canberra community and the wider region, while fulfilling its role as the orchestra of the nation's capital.

In 2023, our community engagement reached its largest total audience since the beginning of the pandemic. While CSO concert programming is nationally recognised for its diversity, our vision includes being an orchestra for all audiences. The growth of our community and training initiatives reflects our commitment to create opportunities for all Canberrans to enjoy meaningful music experiences, responding to their needs and interests. Meanwhile, we continue to fulfil our role as a champion of Australian music in the nation's capital.

One of the strengths of CSO community engagement is its continuity. With the exception of COVID disruptions, a number of key programs have run near-continuously for many years, building their own communities and ties with local organisations. These include Rediscovering Music for people with hearing loss, delivered in partnership with Better Hearing Australia, Canberra; the provision of concert tickets to charities and community organisations through Heartstrings, in collaboration with Hands Across Canberra; and the regular involvement of CSO musicians in the Tingey Painting with Parkinsons art therapy program.

In 2023, the CSO made great strides in its offering for school-aged students and families, for many of whom traditional concerts are inaccessible due to format, programming and other factors. In a new collaboration with Tuggeranong Arts Centre (TAC), the CSO established *Explore the Orchestra*: a blend of music, dance and drama designed for infants and young children. Sessions were offered at Albert Hall and TAC, making the experience available to families in different parts of the city.

The CSO also launched the Diverse Abilities program, building on earlier autism-friendly pilots and many years of performing in specialist schools. Well-received by teachers, the Diverse Abilities program offers music experiences for small groups of students with specialised needs, including hearing impairment, neurodiverse and different learning accommodations.

New programming for young people has evolved in tandem with the Kingsland Pathways Program, which now comprises Kingsland Strings, the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra and the Kingsland Fellowship – with a brass ensemble launching in 2024. The Kingsland Pathways Program has a positive impact on individual participants and the wider arts ecosystem, with players selected not only for their technical skill, but also their willingness to contribute to the community. I thank our generous donors for their continued support, as well as the Australian National University, our long-term partner in artistic excellence for the ACT.



On the mainstage, the CSO continued its flagship Llewellyn Series, celebrating both canonic and Australian repertoire. Two of these programs were conducted by Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis, whose Canberra visits also included time working with our Kingsland artists. Responding to demand for choral programming, the CSO also presented J.S. Bach's *St John Passion*, mustering another CSO Chorus of local voices under the expert direction of Tobias Cole.

Our chamber programming continues to balance classics and contemporary Australian music. In 2023, Chamber Classics featured not only the likes of Debussy, Dvořák and Borodin, but also influential female composers Louise Farrenc and Clara Schumann, and contemporary Australians Sally Greenaway (a Canberra local) and Connor D'Netto. Meanwhile, the Australian Series continues to push creative boundaries, incorporating elements of improvisation, non-traditional instrumentation and varied uses of the performance space available to us at the National Museum of Australia through our Cultural Partnership.



Musical services is another growth area, creating opportunities to reach new audiences through a variety of performance styles. I acknowledge our long-term partners for *Music by the River* and *Symphony in the Park*, Icon Water and Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, and the ACT Government, respectively. Other notable collaborations included Canberra Theatre Centre, Live Nation, Melanie Lane and Clark, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra Museum and Gallery, and ACT Historic Places.

While this rich offering of community programming, core concerts and musical services reflects our vision, the post-COVID trend of decreased revenue from ticket sales and corporate partnerships has continued. The CSO also faced a challenging labour market in 2023, impacting administrative recruitment.

These factors, combined with changes in audience behaviour, increasing operational costs, and cost-of-living barriers, led to the CSO posting a loss for 2023. While disappointing, these circumstances have catalysed a range of activities that will position the orchestra for the future.

These include the development of a new commercial strategy to build our musical services capacity, and a fresh approach to corporate partnerships that reflects the orchestra we are today.

Philanthropic engagement continues to raise the visibility of our work in the community, while matching donors with programs that reflect their values. Our philanthropic community is growing; I extend a warm welcome to our new donors, and thank our existing donors for their generous, sustained support.

The CSO continues to receive vital funding from the Australian and ACT governments through Creative Australia and artsACT, respectively. I also thank our diverse network of corporate and community organisations and local businesses for their support in 2023, through partnerships and other contributions such as Fundraising Gala prize donations.

I commend the administrative team for their efforts throughout 2023. I thank outgoing staff members Diana Forrester, who made significant contributions to our external relations team over many years, and Sionna Maple, whose creativity significantly enriched our online presence.

I also thank outgoing marketing and communications manager Jacqui Douglas, whom we are pleased to retain as a part-time publication editor. I congratulate Chris Dixon, who moved into operations and quickly established himself as our stalwart Orchestral Operations Coordinator, and Janice Alalay, who joined the CSO as an Executive Assistant and has been an asset to the entire staff. I also thank Elsa Huber for her contributions across the board as Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

I also applaud our brilliant musicians: those new to the ranks, as well as our long-term players. I congratulate and thank Concertmaster Kirsten Williams and our Principals for their leadership and dedication, on and offstage. It's truly a joy to experience the music they make together.

Finally, I thank our Board of Directors for their enthusiastic engagement and commitment to this orchestra. It's a great honour to lead this innovative and community-oriented organisation, and I look forward to the year ahead.

**Rachel Thomas**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Chief Conductor and Artistic Director's report



## The Canberra Symphony Orchestra continues to lead the nation as a champion of Australian voices, while reaching further beyond the concert hall to share the joy of music with a wider local audience.

Titled *Chroma*, our 2023 season celebrated composers with a close connection or a particular affinity to colour. The seed of inspiration was filmmaker and polymath Derek Jarman's collection of essays also titled *Chroma*; as in Jarman's work, our 2023 season wove together the old and the new, the personal and the universal, poetry and philosophy, drawing also on the rich beauty of landscapes and visual art.

Key works included Rimsky-Korsakov's evocative *Scheherazade*; selections from Beethoven's Enlightenment-inspired *Creatures of Prometheus*; Tchaikovsky's soaring First Symphony, 'Winter Dreams'; and Sibelius' Seventh, an orchestral masterpiece in a single, seamless movement. Our esteemed Concertmaster, Kirsten Williams, performed selections from Korngold's *Der Schneemann*, while CSO musicians Kiri Sollis (Principal Flute), Ennes Mehmedbasic, Alan Vivian (Principal Clarinet), Ben Hoadley (Principal Bassoon), Robert Johnson (Acting Principal French Horn), Justin Lingard (Principal Trumpet) and Nigel Crocker (Principal Trombone) featured in Frank Martin's intriguing Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments, Timpani, Percussion and String Orchestra.

New Australian music continues to occupy an important place in CSO programming. It was an honour to conduct the world premieres of mainstage commissions from Miriama Young and Louisa Trewartha, as well as a special Harry Sdraulig composition for Principal Cello Patrick Suthers, commissioned by long-time CSO supporters Gisela Püllen and Karl Gordon, and performed in Gisela's memory.

Commissions across our chamber programming included new works from Yuwaalaraay storyteller Nardi Simpson, supported by Clive and Lynlea Rodger; Noongar violist Aaron Wyatt; and Connor D'Netto, our 2023 Composer-in-Connection. It was a pleasure to present a D'Netto premiere alongside enduring classical favourites in the Chamber Classics series, as well as his existing violin solo *susurrus* in our Australian Series, and a new work for the Kingsland Fellows.

Other Australian voices featured across the season included Peter Sculthorpe AO OBE, Elena Kats-Chernin AO, Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh, Andrew Ford OAM, Iain Grandage, Paul Stanhope, Katy Abbott, Kate Moore and Lisa Illean. In our dedicated Australian Series, it was an honour to collaborate with Kalkadunga composer and multi-instrumentalist William Barton, who performed his improvisatory *Square Circles Beneath the Red Desert Sand* with the CSO Chamber Ensemble. That same program was attended by Dr Ros Bandt, who gave an illuminating pre-concert talk before the performance of her work *Red*, commissioned by ABC Classic FM.



In 2023, the CSO also gave the Australian premiere of Simon James Phillips' experimental *Perto Do Ar (Close to Air)*, and the live premiere of Canberra composer Sally Greenaway's double bass quartet, *The Sky is Also Yours*, commissioned for the CSO 2021 Digital Series.

In 2023, the CSO welcomed another outstanding cohort of soloists to Canberra stages, including percussion virtuoso Claire Edwardes, who gave thrilling performances of Australian composer Iain Grandage's *Dances with devils*; soprano Eleanor Lyons, presenting Richard Strauss' poignant *Four Last Songs*; and pianist Sine Winther, who joined us for Scriabin's rarely performed F-sharp minor piano concerto. I also commend the soloists featured in our special performance of J.S. Bach's *St John Passion*: soprano Chloe Lankshear, who also appeared in our Chamber Classics series; counter tenor Tobias Cole, who once again directed the CSO Chorus; tenor Andrew Goodwin; bass-baritone Andrew O'Connor; and bass David Greco. I thank our esteemed guest conductors for helping bring this exciting season to life: Alexander Briger AO, Elizabeth Scott, and Dane Lam.





During my Canberra visits, I was pleased to work with our emerging artists through the Kingsland Pathways Program, including an open masterclass where I workshoped orchestral excerpts with the Kingsland Fellows. Opportunities like this are vital for young musicians, particularly in today's creative landscape, which demands a well-rounded set of professional and performance skills. I commend Concertmaster Kirsten Williams and the CSO administration on the expansion of this much-needed program, with the support of the CSO's philanthropic community and the Australian National University. I also thank guest coaches Katy Abbott, Justine Marsden, Connor D'Netto and Leanne Sullivan, and CSO musicians Kirsten Williams, John Ma, Patrick Suthers, Kiri Sollis, Lindy Reksten and Ben Hoadley, for sharing their skills and wisdom with these bright young players.

In 2023, I was deeply honoured to see the CSO recognised in *Limelight* as a leader among Australian orchestras in diverse programming.

As the orchestra of the nation's capital, the CSO has an important responsibility to grow and celebrate the incredibly rich canon of Australian classical and art music, and to showcase our world-class artists.

Importantly, the CSO is also committed to sharing music with diverse audiences, evidenced by the range of vibrant community performances and programs our musicians offer beyond the walls of the concert hall, many at no cost to participants.

Unfortunately, our creative aspirations are subject to a challenging economic climate and the limitations of the CSO's structure as a professional part-time orchestra. While Australian voices and new commissions remain central in 2024, the forthcoming Australian Series will comprise only two concerts, rather than three as in most years since it commenced in 2017. However, I'm pleased to see the establishment of a dedicated Australian Music Giving Circle in 2023 to build long-term support for this important pillar of our programming into the future.

I congratulate the musicians of the CSO, led by Williams and our Principals, for another year of uplifting music making. This brilliant orchestra has once again taken on a wide range of repertoire with great professionalism, musicality and its characteristic warmth. I also thank Rachel Thomas and her staff for their hard work to bring this season to life, as well as the CSO Board for their support and vision.

Finally, I thank our wonderful audiences – from the first-timers to those who have been faithful concertgoers, donors, volunteers and advocates for many years. I'm thrilled to extend my time with the CSO to 2025 and look forward to bringing you many memorable musical experiences in the years ahead.

**Jessica Cottis**

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

# Organisational evaluation report

**In 2023, the CSO continued to present its flagship orchestral Llewellyn Series, as well as Chamber Classics and the dedicated Australian Series. The core season included a special performance of J.S. Bach's *St John Passion*.**

The CSO continued to deliver established community programs including Rediscovering Music for hearing loss, performances in aged care settings, and the ongoing collaboration with the Tingey Painting with Parkinsons art therapy program. The CSO piloted its Diverse Abilities program for students with specialised needs, and collaborated with Tuggeranong Arts Centre on new, family-friendly programming.

The CSO delivered an expanded Kingsland Pathways Program for young artists, including the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra, and Kingsland Strings for younger players. The Kingsland Collective for tertiary-aged students was relaunched as the Kingsland Fellowship, with five inaugural Fellows.

Musical services and collaborations in 2022 included *Music by the River*, presented by Icon Water in collaboration with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council; *To Barbra, With Love*, presented by Live Nation; *Symphony in the Park* with Electric Fields for Enlighten Festival, presented by the ACT Government; *My Life is a Symphony* with Kate Ceberano, in collaboration with Canberra Theatre Centre and the *Spring Wonderland Picnic Concert* with Rachael Thoms at Lanyon Homestead, presented by the ACT Government.

*See pages 18 to 19 for a breakdown of performances and ticket sales, as well as approximate attendance for community programs.*

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chief Executive Officer:

Rachel Thomas

The CEO oversees all aspects of CSO operations and activity, accountable to the CSO Board for delivery of the *CSO Strategy 2023–26* and the CSO business plan.

### Director, Artistic Planning and Development:

Andy Baird

The DAPD is responsible for artistic planning in liaison with the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director. Reporting to the CEO, the DAPD also oversees relationship management, business management, philanthropy and corporate partnerships, with five direct reports.

### Chief Financial Officer:

Lou Malfone

Reporting to the CEO, the CFO is responsible for the financial stewardship of the organisation, including budget management, financial reporting and audit management, with one direct report.

### CSO administration FTE:

12.9

## OPERATIONAL POLICY

*No updates to report*

## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

- A combination of changes in audience behaviour and cost of living barriers within a post-COVID operating environment, have resulted in decreased box office revenue.
- Structural obstacles to commercial musical services delivery relative to other Australian state orchestras.
- Recruitment delays in a challenging labour market.



# Artistic evaluation report

**Titled *Chroma*, the 2023 artistic season centred on composers with a close connection to colour, drawing inspiration from visual art, philosophy and the natural world.**

Key works included Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Scriabin's Piano Concerto in F-sharp Minor, Tchaikovsky's Winter Dreams symphony, Sibelius' Seventh Symphony and Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*.

Australian programming included new commissions from Miriama Young, Louisa Trewartha, Harry Sdraulig, Nardi Simpson, Aaron Wyatt and Connor D'Netto, alongside existing works by Peter Sculthorpe AO OBE, Elena Kats-Chernin, Ros Bandt, Andrew Ford OAM, William Barton, Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh, Iain Grandage, Simon James Phillips, Paul Stanhope, Katy Abbott, Sally Greenaway, Kate Moore and Lisa Ilean. D'Netto was featured as Composer-in-Connection.

Guest artists included conductors Alexander Briger AO, Elizabeth Scott and Dane Lam, didgeridoo player and multi-instrumentalist William Barton, percussionist Claire Edwardes, sopranos Eleanor Lyons and Chloe Lankshear, counter tenor Tobias Cole, tenor Andrew Goodwin, bass baritone Andrew O'Connor, bass David Greco, and pianist Sine Winther.

New initiatives included *Explore the Orchestra*, a family-friendly collaboration with Tuggeranong Arts Centre; the inaugural Kingsland Fellowship; and the premiere of *MOUNTAIN* by choreographer Melanie Lane and artist Clark, featuring CSO musicians. The Australian Music Giving Circle was established to support the continued programming and commissioning of Australian classical and art music.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The CSO's 2023 season was recognised in *Limelight* as having 'offered the most diversity' amongst Australian orchestral programs, '...with 28 percent of its works written by women (11/40), and 45 percent of its works Australian (18/40). Three of these were by First Nations composers, and one by an Australian composer of colour' (Briggs 2024).

CSO community engagement reached its largest audience since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the fast-growing Diverse Abilities program in schools. Demand for the Kingsland Pathways Program remains strong, with plans to launch a dedicated brass ensemble in 2024.

The CSO also continues to ensure Canberra is a viable tour stop for major commercial orchestral productions such as *To Barbra, With Love (Live Nation)* and Kate Ceberano's *My Life is a Symphony* (Canberra Theatre Centre).

## ARTISTIC/PROGRAMMING CHALLENGES

*See operational challenges on page 10.*

# Finance report

**In 2023, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra proactively addressed financial hurdles within a challenging operating environment, positioning itself for a more promising trajectory in the years ahead.**

For the financial year ending 31 December 2023, the CSO recorded a loss of \$496,640. This figure includes the Board-approved investment of \$121,829 in the development of the new CSO website.

Contributing factors to this loss include diminished ticket sales compared to pre-COVID figures, as well as higher operating costs, particularly for orchestral concerts at Llewellyn Hall.

The impact of these challenges was mitigated by the sustained growth of professional musical services as a revenue stream, alongside targeted philanthropic and fundraising activities.

The CSO maintains a robust cash flow position, with cash holdings standing at \$2,344,969 at 31 December 2023, compared to \$3,098,357 in the previous year. We thank our dedicated subscribers, partners, and donors for their generous, continued support.

## LEGACY AND RESERVES

The Legacy Fund had a balance of \$1,591,625 at 31 December 2023. Established in 2009 to support identified projects undertaken by the CSO, the Legacy Fund is funded by identified donations, bequests and other identified funds. This initiative has enabled supporters of the CSO to donate knowing that the capital will be preserved, and that the income earned will support emerging orchestral projects in the longer term. Income earned is reinvested to accelerate the growth of the Fund and the future income stream.

The Kingsland Fellowship fund had a balance of \$440,137 at 31 December 2023. Established in 2012 from a one-off donation of \$150,000, this fund was created to provide professional development opportunities for early career musicians.

### Christine White

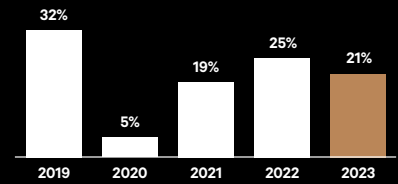
Chair, Finance, Audit, Investments and Risk Committee



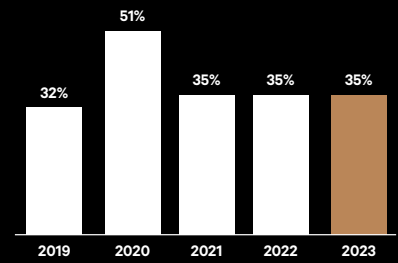




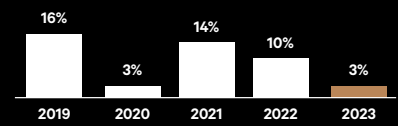
#### Concert income\*



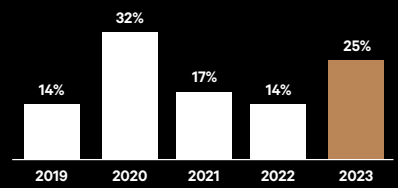
#### Grant income\*



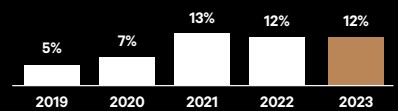
#### Partnership income\*



#### Philanthropy income\*



#### Musical services income\*



\* as percentage (%) of total income

**2023 season**





**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
MUSIC BY THE RIVER**

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4 February 2023

Queen Elizabeth II Park, Queanbeyan

*Presented by Icon Water in collaboration with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council*

**George Ellis** Conductor

**Darren Percival and band**

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

Celebrating the hits of Elton John.

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
TO BARBRA, WITH LOVE**

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10/11 February 2023

Canberra Theatre Centre

*Presented by Live Nation*

**Caroline O'Connor** Vocalist

**Katie Noonan** Vocalist

**Elise McCann** Vocalist

**Ainsley Melham** Vocalist

**Vanessa Scammell** Conductor

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

A musical tribute to Barbra Streisand.

**CHAMBER CLASSICS:  
WATERCOLOURS**

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5 March 2023

Albert Hall, Yarralumla

**Chloe Lankshear** Soprano

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**Claude Debussy** Sonata in G Minor for Violin and Piano

**Gabriel Fauré** Violin Sonata No. 1 in A major, Op. 13

**Claude Debussy** Selections from *Ariette oubliées* (Forgotten Songs) (Text by Paul Verlaine)

**Connor D'Netto** *white flowers* (after wood and garden) for soprano, violin and piano (Text by Gertrude Jekyll) (world premiere, new CSO commission)

**Claude Debussy** 'Colloque sentimental' from *Fêtes galantes, 2ème recueil*, FL. 114 (Text by Paul Verlaine)

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
CSO GOES SOUTH:  
KIRSTEN WILLIAMS AND  
EDWARD NEEMAN**

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9 March 2023

Tuggeranong Arts Centre

**Kirsten Williams** Violin

**Edward Neeman** Piano

**Claude Debussy** Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano

**Amy Beach** *Ballade*, Op. 6

**Gabriel Fauré** Violin Sonata No. 1 in A major, Op. 13

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
SYMPHONY IN THE PARK**

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12 March 2023

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park

*Presented by the ACT Government*

**Electric Fields**

**Vanessa Scammell** Conductor

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

Electric Fields live in concert with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

**LLEWELLYN SERIES:  
FIRE & SHADOW**

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22/23 March 2023

Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

**Dane Lam** Conductor

**Claire Edwardes** Percussion

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

**Igor Stravinsky** Divertimento from *Le baiser de la fée*

**Iain Grandage** *Dances with Devils*: Concerto for percussion and orchestra

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Selections from *The Creatures of Prometheus*

**LLEWELLYN SERIES:  
ELECTRIC BLUE**

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26/27 April 2023

Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

**Jessica Cottis** Conductor

**Sine Winther** Piano

**Patrick Suthers** Cello

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

**Miriama Young** *KINDS OF BLUE*

(world premiere, new CSO commission)

**Alexander Scriabin** Piano Concerto in F-sharp Minor, Op. 20

**Harry Sdraulig** *Beyond the ridge, the ranges far* (world premiere, commissioned by Gisela Püllen and Karl Gordon, and dedicated to Gisela)

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

*Scheherazade*, Op. 35

**CHAMBER CLASSICS:  
DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

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21 May 2023

Albert Hall, Yarralumla

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**Clara Schumann** Piano Trio in G Minor, Op. 17

**Antonín Dvořák** Piano Trio No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 26

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
CSO DOWN SOUTH: NIGHT AND DAY**

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25 May 2023

Tuggeranong Art Centre

**Kirsten Williams** Violin

**Patrick Suthers** Cello

**Edward Neeman** Piano

**Handel / Halvorsen** Passacaglia for Violin and Cello

**Dvořák** Piano Trio No. 2 in G minor, Op. 26

**CANBERRA SYMPHONY  
YOUTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:  
TERM 2 CONCERT**

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14 June 2023  
All Saints Church, Ainslie

**Kirsten Williams** *CSO Concertmaster*  
**Tobias Cole** *Conductor, Vocal Fry Director*  
**Katie Cole** *Vocal Fry Assistant Director*  
**CSYCO ensembles**  
**Vocal Fry + Friends**

Selections and works by Brahms,  
J.S. Bach, Handel, Charles Wood,  
Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi.

**AN AFTERNOON WITH THE FELLOWS**

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17 June 2023

**Kingsland Fellows**

Selections from works by Beethoven,  
Piazzolla and Randy Newman.

**AUSTRALIAN SERIES:  
RED DESERT SAND**

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22 June 2023  
National Museum of Australia

**William Barton** *Voice, Didgeridoo*  
**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**William Barton** *Square Circles Beneath  
the Red Desert Sand*

**Ros Bandt** *Red*

**Peter Sculthorpe AO OBE** *String Quartet  
No. 7 Red landscape*

**Katy Abbott** *Re-echo*

**Aaron Wyatt** *The Coming Dawn*  
(world premiere, new CSO commission)

**CSO SPECIAL:  
ST JOHN PASSION**

---

30 June 2023  
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

**Elizabeth Scott** *Conductor*  
**Andrew Goodwin** *Evangelist / Tenor*  
**David Greco** *Pilate / Bass*  
**Andrew O'Connor** *Jesus*  
**Chloe Lankshear** *Soprano*  
**Tobias Cole** *Counter Tenor,  
CSO Chorus Director*  
**CSO Chorus**  
**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
*St John Passion, BWV 245*

**AUSTRALIAN SERIES:  
CLOSE TO AIR**

---

27 July 2023  
National Museum of Australia

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**Simon James Phillips** *Perto Do Ar  
(Close to Air)* (Australian premiere)

**LLEWELLYN SERIES:  
WINTER DREAMS**

---

16/17 August 2023  
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

**Alexander Briger AO** *Conductor*

**Kirsten Williams** *Violin*

**CSO Principal Musicians**

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

**Erich Korngold** *Der Schneemann: Vorspiel,  
Serenade and Walzer*

**Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh** *Icy disintegration*

**Frank Martin** *Concerto for seven wind  
instruments, timpani, percussion and  
string orchestra*

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** *Symphony No. 1  
in G minor, Op. 13 'Winter Dreams'*

**KINGSLAND FELLOWSHIP IN RECITAL**

---

21 August 2023  
ANU School of Music

**Ben Hoadley** *Bassoon*

**Kingsland Fellows**

Selections from works by Haydn and  
Beethoven, as well as Bridget Bourne's  
*Wood Grooves* and Ben Hoadley's  
*Cave Dances*.

**CHAMBER CLASSICS:  
NIGHT VISIONS**

---

27 August 2023  
Albert Hall, Yarralumla

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**Antonín Dvořák** *Nocturne in B Major,  
Op. 40*

**Sally Greenaway** *The Sky is Also Yours*  
(live premiere, CSO commission)

**Alexander Borodin** *String Quartet No. 2*

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
CSO DOWN SOUTH: TWILIGHT**

---

31 August 2023  
Tuggeranong Arts Centre

**Kirsten Williams** *Violin*

**Pip Thompson** *Violin*

**Lucy Carrigy-Ryan** *Viola*

**Samuel Payne** *Cello*

**Antonin Dvořák** *Nocturne in B major, Op. 40*

**Alexander Borodin** *String Quartet No. 2*

**Traditional arr. Stephan Koncz**

*'Waltzing Matilda'*

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
MY LIFE IS A SYMPHONY**

---

15 September 2023  
Canberra Theatre Centre  
*In collaboration with Canberra  
Theatre Centre*

**Kate Ceberano** *Vocalist*

**Vanessa Scammell** *Conductor*

**Canberra Symphony Orchestra**

Kate Ceberano live in concert with the  
Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

**AUSTRALIAN SERIES:  
PLAY OF LIGHT**

---

21 September 2023  
National Museum of Australia

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

**Lisa Illean** *Lightsense No. 1*

**Connor D'Netto** *susurrus*

**Andrew Ford OAM** *Soave sia il vento  
(May the winds be gentle)*

**Kate Moore** *Fern*

**Paul Stanhope** *All Air and Shadows*

**Nardi Simpson** *Winangaylaylala*  
(world premiere, new CSO commission  
supported by Clive & Lynlea Rodger)

**MUSICAL SERVICE:  
SPRING WONDERLAND  
PICNIC CONCERT**

---

7 October 2023  
Lanyon Homestead  
*Presented by the ACT Government*

**Rachael Thoms** *Vocalist*

**CSO Chamber Ensemble**

Arrangements of well-known music and  
songs spanning classical, jazz, opera and  
musical theatre.



## AN AFTERNOON WITH THE FELLOWS

---

15 October 2023

### Kingsland Fellows

Selections from works by Haydn, Joseph Horowitz and George Gershwin, and Bridget Bourne's *Wood Grooves*.

## CHAMBER CLASSICS: ALL THAT GLITTERS

---

29 October 2023

Presented by Shell

### CSO Chamber Ensemble

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Trio in B-flat Major for Clarinet, Bassoon and Piano, Op. 11 'Gassenhauer'

**Jacques Ibert** *Trois pieces brèves*

**Louise Farrenc** Wind Sextet in C Minor, Op. 40

## MUSICAL SERVICE: MOUNTAIN

---

1–4 November 2023

Phoenix Central Park, Sydney

Presented by Phoenix Central Park

**Tyrel Dulvarie, Sara Black, Yolanda Lowatta, Max Burgess and Melanie Lane** *Performers*

### CSO Chamber Ensemble with Clark

A sonic and choreographic work that contemplates the terror of descent and the transcendence of conquering unreachable peaks.

## CELEBRATION OF KINGSLAND STRING PROGRAMS

---

1 November 2023

Ainslie Arts Centre

### Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra

#### Kingsland Strings

Selections from works by Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Tchaikovsky and Mozart.

## MUSICAL SERVICE: CSO DOWN SOUTH: RADIANCE

---

2 November 2023

Tuggeranong Arts Centre

**Alan Vivian** *Clarinet*  
**Ben Hoadley** *Bassoon*  
**Edward Neeman** *Piano*

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Trio in B-flat major

**Ben Hoadley** Four Preludes

**J.S. Bach arr. Ignaz Friedman**

'Wachet auf, ruf uns die Stimme', BWV 140

**Miriam Hyde** Rhapsody No. 1

## CSO FUNDRAISING GALA

---

3 November 2023

Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia

### CSO Chamber Ensemble

#### Kingsland Strings

Selections and works by Dukas, Rimsky-Korsakov, Piazzolla, Borodin, Debussy, Monti and Benny Goodman.

## LLEWELLYN SERIES: LIVING GREEN

---

22/23 November 2023

Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Presented by Canberra Weekly

**Jessica Cottis** *Conductor*

**Eleanor Lyons** *Soprano*

### Canberra Symphony Orchestra

**Antonín Dvořák** *In Nature's Realm*, Op. 91, B. 168

**Louisa Trewartha** "...and wood-spirits weave magic secrets..." (world premiere, new CSO commission)

**Richard Strauss** *Four Last Songs*

**Jean Sibelius** Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 105

**Jean Sibelius** *Karelia Suite*, Op. 11

## KINGSLAND FELLOWSHIP RECITAL

---

29 November 2023

Ainslie Arts Centre

### Kingsland Fellows

**Marie Searles** *Piano*

Selections and works by Neruda, Ginastera, Verbalov, Sibelius and Piazzolla; Matthew Hindson AM's *Lament*; and a subtle thrill, a new CSO commission from Connor D'Netto.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE FUNDRAISER

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9 December 2023

Government House, Yarralumla

Hosted by Their Excellencies General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia and Patron of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and Mrs Linda Hurley

Supported by Joan Boston

**Kirsten Williams** *Violin*

**Patrick Suthers** *Cello*

**Scott Davie** *Piano*

**Elena Kats-Chernin AO** *Calliope Dreaming*

**Felix Mendelssohn** Piano Trio No. 1 in

D minor, Op. 49

–  
*The Kingsland Pathways Program is delivered in collaboration with the Australian National University as part of a shared, long-term commitment to artistic excellence in the nation's capital.*

# 2023 activity

**The CSO attracted approximately 20,950 concertgoers to core orchestral and chamber programming in 2023. Meanwhile, community engagement reach was the highest since the onset of the pandemic, and the orchestra continued to deliver a wide range of musical services.**

In 2023, the CSO presented five orchestral programs: four Llewellyn Series concerts and a special performance of J.S. Bach's *St John Passion*. These mainstage events attracted approximately 7,300 patrons and garnered positive reviews in *The Canberra Times*, *Canberra CityNews* and *Limelight*.

The CSO premiered three works on the mainstage, conducted by Jessica Cottis: Miriama Young's *KINDS OF BLUE*; Harry Sdraulig's *Beyond the ridge, the ranges far*; and Louisa Trewartha's "...and wood-spirits weave magic secrets..." Other highlights included a captivating performance of Iain Grandage's *Dances with devils* with percussion virtuoso Claire Edwardes, as well as guest appearances from conductors Alexander Briger AO and Dane Lam, soprano Eleanor Lyons, and pianist Sine Winther. The CSO Special, *St John Passion*, featured conductor Elizabeth Scott; soloists Andrew Goodwin, David Greco, Andrew O'Connor, Chloe Lankshear, Tobias Cole; and the CSO Chorus (directed by Cole).

–

The CSO presented four Chamber Classics matinee concerts, with a total attendance of 1,290 across the series.

Highlights included the premiere of Composer-in-Connection Connor D'Netto's *white flowers*, with guest soprano Chloe Lankshear, and the live premiere of Canberra composer Sally Greenaway's *The Sky is Also Yours* for double bass quartet, commissioned for the CSO 2021 Digital Series.

The CSO presented three Australian Series concerts at the National Museum of Australia, with a total attendance of 640 across the series.

Highlights included the sell-out *Red Desert Sand* program, featuring guest artist and composer William Barton; the world premieres of Aaron Wyatt's *The Coming Dawn* and Nardi Simpson's *Winangaylaylaya*; the Australian premiere of Simon James Phillips' experimental *Perto Do Ar (Close to Air)* for brass sextet.

CSO community engagement reached its highest audience since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with approximate total attendance of 4,500 across Rediscovering Music for hearing loss; the Diverse Abilities program in schools; collaboration with the Tingey Painting with Parkinsons art therapy program; aged care performances; and family-friendly concerts. The CSO distributed approximately 350 concert tickets to charities and community organisations through the Heartstrings program, in collaboration with Hands Across Canberra.

The CSO's Kingsland Pathways Program delivered specialised training and mentorship to 40 young musicians through the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra, and the inaugural Kingsland Fellowship and Kingsland Strings programs. Public concerts were attended by over 481 audience members.

The CSO also supported a range of community organisations and events, including Radford College, Canberra Grammar School, Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation (CAPO), Daniela Dwyer Foundation, Orana Spring Fair, Hughes Primary School Trivia Night and Trish MS Research Foundation.

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The CSO continues to deliver a wide range of professional musical services and collaborations, ensuring Canberra remains a viable tour stop for national commercial productions. The total attendance for non-CSO events featuring the orchestra or CSO ensembles exceeded 11,400 people.

Highlights included *Symphony in the Park* with Electric Fields, presented by the ACT Government for Enlighten Festival; *Music by the River* with Darren Percival, presented by Icon Water in collaboration with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council; touring production *To Barbra, With Love* (Live Nation); Kate Ceberano's *My Life is a Symphony*, in collaboration with Canberra Theatre Centre; a significant new collaboration with the ACT Government at Lanyon Homestead; and the Sydney premiere of *MOUNTAIN* (Melanie Lane/Clark).



<b>CSO CONCERTS</b>	<b>NO. PERFORMANCES</b>	<b>NO. TICKETS SOLD (2023)</b>	<b>NO. TICKETS SOLD (2022)</b>
Australian Series 1	1	317	261
Australian Series 2	1	146	149
Australian Series 3	1	177	301
Chamber Classics 1	1	319	354
Chamber Classics 2	1	310	339
Chamber Classics 3	1	313	297
Chamber Classics 4	1	348	360
CSO Special	1	971	2,107
Government House Fundraiser	2	86	80
Llewellyn Series 1	2	1,561	1,526
Llewellyn Series 2	2	1,639	1,642
Llewellyn Series 3	2	1,370	1,775
Llewellyn Series 4	2	1,774	1,809

<b>KINGSLAND PATHWAYS PROGRAM</b>	<b>NO. OF PERFORMANCES</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)</b>
A celebration of Kingsland string programs	1	97
An afternoon with the Fellows	2	35
CSYCO Term 2 Concert	1	160
Kingsland Fellowship Recital	1	177

<b>MUSICAL SERVICES</b>	<b>NO. OF PERFORMANCES</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)</b>
<i>MOUNTAIN</i>	4	480
<i>Music by the River</i> (Darren Percival)	1	5,000
<i>My Life is a Symphony</i> (Kate Ceberano)	1	1,128
<i>Spring Wonderland Picnic Concert</i>	1	750
<i>Symphony in the Park</i> (Electric Fields)	1	2,500
<i>To Barbra, With Love</i>	2	1,300

<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>NO. OF PERFORMANCES</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)</b>
Aged care/hospital performances	18	342
Music for Seniors	2	85
Family-friendly performances	8	513
Education outreach: autism friendly concerts	11	256
Education outreach: general	9	2,685
Children with hearing impairment	2	128
Rediscovering Music	3	280
Tingey Painting with Parkinsons	11	220

# Corporate partners

We thank our government, corporate and community partners

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## GOLD PARTNERS



## HONORARY SOLICITORS

MinterEllison

## CULTURAL PARTNER



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## PRINT PARTNER



## PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER

Martin Ollman  
Photography

## SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

RICHARD  
ROLFE



## VENUE PARTNER



# Donors

While the Canberra Symphony Orchestra receives some grant funding from government, we rely on philanthropic support to bring our artistic vision to life. The CSO thanks its generous family of donors for their dedication and support.

**The CSO gratefully acknowledges the significant contributions of:**

*The late* Dr Pamela Rothwell

*The late* Sir Richard & the late Lady Kingsland and family  
Ross Kingsland AM & Sue Kingsland

*The late* Betty Beaver AM

Anthony Hedley AM

The Kenyon Foundation

Prof Brian Anderson AC & Dianne Anderson AM

The Allen Family Foundation

*The late* Lou Westende OAM & Mandy Westende

The Mundango Charitable Trust

Joan Boston

Marjorie Lindenmayer *In Memoriam*

June Gordon

Sue Daw OAM

RA David Campbell AM (Retd)

The Tall Foundation

Anne Foote

CF Leung (& RH Dean) Memorial Trust

David & Noela McDonald

The Douglas Family

Iris Aldridge

Geoffrey White OAM & Sally White OAM

Virginia Berger

Raydon & Alison Gates

Allan Hall AM & Barbara Hall OAM

Mike & Stephanie Hutchinson

Muriel Wilkinson

Jim & Heather Leedman

*Anonymous* (2)





# CSO Board and governance report

The CSO is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The business of the CSO is managed by a Board of Directors.

Led by Sir Angus Houston AK AFC, the collective expertise and experience of the CSO Board spans government consulting, accounting, productivity and financial management, business, the law, architecture, and the arts. Many Directors also serve on other boards; all have a passionate commitment to the CSO, and insights into the local, regional and national strategic context in which the orchestra operates.

The CSO has a robust Governance Charter and regularly reviews Board and operational performance and progress against a Strategic Framework and Model; CSO risks, mitigation and management; and business continuity, including Board succession planning, operational resources, musician wellbeing, and performance readiness and quality.

In 2023, 33.3% of Directors identified as male and 66.3% as female. One Director has identified as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD). CALD status and diversity identifiers were not recorded in 2023. The CSO will be moving toward standardised recording of this information in 2024.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A Board Conflict of Interest Policy is in place. Declarations are made annually and declared in Board meetings where relevant or new conflicts arise. The Conflict of Interest register is maintained by the Company Secretary.

## CSO CONSTITUTION

No changes were made to the Constitution in 2023.

## MEETING DATES:

**6 March 2023**

**24 April 2023**  
(Extraordinary Meeting)

**22 May 2023**  
(Including Annual General Meeting)

**17 July 2023**

**18 September 2023**

**20 November 2023**

## CSO BOARD ATTENDANCE (2023)

Director	Meetings held during tenure	Meetings attended during tenure
Sir Angus Houston	6	6
Ms Chris Faulks	6	4
Ms Lucille Halloran	6	4
Ms Robyn Holmes	6	6
Ms Annabelle Pegrum	6	5
Ms Christine White	6	3
Ms Amanda Story	6	4
Mr Terry Weber	6	4
Mr Paul Lindwall	2	2

Ms Jenna Roberts (Company Secretary) attended all five meetings held during her tenure.



**Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd)**  
**FAICD** *Chair*

**Joined the Board in November 2012**

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) was awarded the Knight of the Order of Australia in January 2015 for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to Australia, through distinguished service in the Australian Defence Force, continued commitment to serve the nation in leadership roles, particularly the national responses to the MH370 and MH17 disasters, and in a variety of roles in the community.

Sir Angus retired from the military in July 2011 after serving for 41 years. He was Chief of the Australian Defence Force from 2005–2011 and prior to that was Chief of Air Force for four years.

Sir Angus is Chancellor for the University of the Sunshine Coast, Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority and Chairs several other boards. He also serves as a board member for numerous organisations. He is a Senior Counselor for The Cohen Group (an international business advisory firm) and a visiting fellow of the Australian National University National Security College. In addition, he is the Ambassador/Patron for a number of charitable organisations, including several mental health charities. Sir Angus has been awarded four honorary doctorate degrees from the University of South Australia, the Australian National University, the University of New South Wales and Griffith University.



**Chris Faulks GAICD** *Deputy Chair*

**Joined the Board in May 2016**  
**Member, Finance, Audit,  
Investments & Risk Committee**  
**Member, Nominations & Human  
Resources Committee**

Chris Faulks has extensive experience in corporate governance, public policy, business administration and government relations.

Chris is Deputy Chancellor of the University of Canberra (UC) and currently sits on a number of boards across the government, business and not-for-profit sectors. She is an independent director on the boards of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Service One Alliance Bank, the UC Council, and the ACT and Southern NSW Rugby Union. Chris recently completed terms on the boards of the National Capital Authority and the City Renewal Authority.

Chris was the CEO of Canberra Business Council from 2007 to 2014, and transitional CEO of the merged Canberra Business Chamber (2014–2015). She spent 13 years working as a Senior Adviser to a number of Federal Government Ministers and as Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diplomas in Education and Business Administration. In 2015, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Canberra for services to business and education. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Christine White CA GAICD**

**Joined the Board in 2018**  
**Chair, Finance, Audit,  
Investments & Risk Committee**

Christine White is an experienced business management executive with an industry background including education, government, mining, tourism, medical and not-for-profit. A Chartered Accountant whose early career began with KPMG in Business Advisory Services, Christine's expertise covers financial, risk, governance and resource management.

She is currently the Director of Business Services for Marist College Canberra, a large independent school. In addition to the business operations of the school, Christine manages significant capital works programs, general facilities, and a related registered charity, which she was responsible for establishing.

Christine is an Executive Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, and Board member of the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT. She is also a graduate of the Institute of Company Directors.



**Annabelle Pegrum AM LFRAIA GAICD**

**Joined the Board in May 2018  
Chair, Nominations &  
Human Resources Committee  
Chair, Venue Committee**

Annabelle Pegrum is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, an Adjunct Professor in architecture at the University of Canberra, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a director of Pegrum and Associates, the Alastair Swayn Foundation, and Chair of the Swayn Gallery of Australian Design. She is a sessional senior member of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Annabelle was Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, a Professorial Fellow of the University of Canberra, a member of the University Council, and a Commissioner with the NSW Independent Planning Commission. She has also held executive positions with the ACT Government including as Chief Executive of business, arts, sport and tourism.

Annabelle was a President of the ACT Chapter of the Institute of Architects, is a recipient of a President's Award and was a member of the Institute's Venice Architecture Biennale Committee. She has been adviser to many design competitions, a member of design juries, and a member of the National Capital, and of the Western Australian State design review panels.

Annabelle is the recipient of Telstra ACT Business Womens awards, of the 2001 Centenary Medal, and in 2007 was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia for service to the planning, promotion, enhancement and development of Australia's National Capital, and to architecture, particularly as a mentor to women in the profession.



**Robyn Holmes FAHA**

**Joined the Board in February 2019  
Chair, Artistic Advisory Committee**

Robyn Holmes retired in 2018 from the National Library of Australia, where she was Senior Curator, Australian Collections, and formerly Curator of Music. She played a leading role in developing national research infrastructure to support access to Australian music, including the online service Music Australia (now incorporated into Trove).

As a musicologist, Robyn previously held academic positions in music at The University of Adelaide (1975–89) and at the Australian National University (1990–2000), where she headed the music studies, graduate and research programs. As a performing musician, she was Musical Director of several major choirs, including the Canberra Choral Society for almost a decade, and has commissioned several new works from Australian composers.

In 2010, Robyn was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, recognising the role she has played in taking scholarship from the confines of the musicological academy into the public arena. She has also been honoured for her excellence in and service to Australian music by the Australasian Sound Recordings Association (2016) and the Musicological Society of Australia (2017), and in 2018 received the Distinguished Services to Australian Music at the 2018 Art Music Awards, hosted by APRA-AMCOS and the Australian Music Centre.

Robyn continues to advise and assist many national music organisations and artists, is a member of the ANU Music Advisory Board, and brings her broad experience in the arts to the CSO Board.



**Lucille Halloran GAICD**

**Joined the Board in May 2013  
Resigned from the Board November 2023  
Member, Finance, Audit, Investments &  
Risk Committee**

Lucille has a 30-year career in professional services across Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific. She is recognised as a transformational leader with wide-ranging experience in growing organisations and implementing major policy reform, digital and citizen-centric service delivery in health and human services.

Lucille is a former managing partner of EY's Oceania Government and Health Sciences practice and strategic advisor for EY's Japan, China and ASEAN government and public sector practice. She was a member of EY's Global Government and Public Sector Executive and EY Oceania's Executive Team.

Lucille is a Non-Executive Director of the Calvary Healthcare Ltd. Board and Synergy Group. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Lucille graduated from the University of Ottawa and ESCP Europe in Paris, France. Lucille is a dual citizen of Australia and Canada and is fluent in English and French.





### **Amanda Story**

**Joined the Board in July 2021**  
**Member, Finance, Audit, Investments & Risk Committee**

Amanda Story is a Partner of MinterEllison and the National Leader of MinterEllison's Government practice.

Amanda has extensive experience across the government sector assisting clients to achieve their goals and to meet the challenges facing them. During her career, she has worked on some of the Australian Government's most significant projects including procurements, outsourcings, corporatisations and governance reviews.

Amanda is passionate about supporting government to achieve its objectives. Her expertise is in strategic procurement, particularly for information communications and technology projects, outsourcing and governance. Amanda's clients engage her for her depth of experience in advising government, hands-on management of matters and solutions driven approach. She is recognised in various legal directories including in the areas of corporate governance, and government and information technology. She has been independently recognised by Chambers and Partners and Best Lawyers including as a Lawyer of the Year 2022 in the Information Technology category, and Lawyer of the Year 2023 in the Governance category.

Amanda is an active supporter of MinterEllison's inclusion and diversity agendas and supports the progression of women in the legal profession.



### **Terry Weber FCA**

**Joined the Board in July 2021**

Terry is a Senior Partner in PwC specialising in the Government Sector. He is also Global Defence Leader for PwC.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia having received a Meritorious Service Award for services to the profession, government and the community.

Terry is currently the Chair of the National Capital Authority, a board member of the Canberra Raiders and serves on the Campus Planning Committee for the Australian National University.

He also serves on a number of charities in Canberra.



### **Paul Lindwall**

**Served on the Board from 2016 to 2021**  
**Rejoined the Board in September 2023**

Paul Lindwall recently retired as a full-time commissioner with the Productivity Commission, having served since 2013 and chaired the Commission's Audit and Risk Committee.

Paul has served as a senior official with the Australian Treasury, the Department of Finance, and the Productivity Commission, with a focus on macroeconomic policy, financial markets, industry policy, national security and social policy. He has also worked as a senior economic adviser to Treasurer Peter Costello.

Paul has represented Australia at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and as a diplomatic representative to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. Paul later worked as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary-General and the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD.

Paul holds degrees in economics from the Australian National University as well as a diploma in Ancient History and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He also holds a Private Pilot Licence.

# CSO administration

## ARTISTIC

Jessica Cottis *Chief Conductor  
and Artistic Director*

Kirsten Williams *Concertmaster*

## ADMINISTRATION

Rachel Thomas *Chief Executive Officer*

Jenna Roberts *Executive Assistant & Company Secretary*

Andy Baird *Director, Artistic Planning & Development*

Janice Alalay *Executive Assistant*

Donna Parkes *Artistic Operations Manager*

Chris Dixon *Orchestral Operations Coordinator*

Lindy Reksten *Orchestral Development Liaison*

Sally Walker *Donor Liaison*

Jacqui Douglas *Marketing and Communications Manager  
(until May 2023); Publications Editor (from May 2023)*

Elsa Huber *Marketing and Communications Coordinator*

Diana Hansen *Events and Partnerships*

David Flynn *Ticketing and Administration*

Lou Malfone *Chief Financial Officer*

Angela Lount *Partnerships Liaison, Fundraising Manager,  
Finance Assistant*

## NEW STAFF IN 2023

Janice Alalay

Elsa Huber

## FAREWELLS IN 2023

Diana Forrester *External Relations Manager*

Sionna Maple *Digital Marketing Coordinator*

## VOLUNTEERS

Arnis Stonis, John & Anne Rundle

# The orchestra

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra is the professional orchestra of the nation's capital: a champion of Australian music and a creative hub for the region.

The CSO brings together dedicated musicians based in the Canberra region or with strong ties to the ACT to present vibrant concert experiences and deliver transformative community and training programs.

The following is an alphabetical list of CSO players for 2023.

+ = Concertmaster Emeritus

\* = Principal

∞ = Guest Principal

^ = Acting Principal

**CONCERTMASTER****Kirsten Williams\*****VIOLINS****Kirsten Williams\*****Doreen Cumming\****Sponsored by**Prof Brian Anderson AC & Dianne Anderson AM*

Germaine Ambray

Leanne Bear

Samantha Boston

Tahni Chan

Lauren Davis^

Dominique Gallery

Nicole Hammill

Natalia Harvey∞

Alison Heike∞

Jennifer Higgs

Michelle Higgs

Mia Hughes

Miranda Ilchef

Valerie Jackson

Hana King

John Ma

Doug Macnicol

Lucy Macourt

Phoebe Masel

Annastasia Milwain

Shirahni Mudaliar

Erin Patrick

Claire Philips

Helena Popovic

Madeleine Retter

Matthew Rigby

Emily Su

Brad Tham

Pip Thompson^

*Sponsored by**Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) & Lady Liz Houston*

Elinor Warwick

Tim Wickham^

Matthew Witney

**VIOLA****Tor Frømyhr\*\***

Lucy Carrigy-Ryan^

Elizabeth Chalker

Eunise Cheng

Anthony De Battista

Aidan Filshie∞

Nicole Forsyth∞

Stephen Freeman∞

Julia Horneman

Stephen King∞

John Ma^

Pippa Newman

Iska Sampson

Yona Su

Caroline Suthers

Neil Thompson∞

Alina Zamfir

**CELLO****Patrick Suthers\****Sponsored by**Paul Lindwall & Joanne Frederiksen*

James Beck

Rachel Johnston∞

Liam Meany

James Monro

Ruben Palma

Samuel Payne^

*Sponsored by**Harriet Elvin AM*

Lindy Reksten

Alex Voorhoeve

**DOUBLE BASS****Max McBride\***

Isabella Brown

*Sponsored by Janet Compton*

David Flynn

*Sponsored by Ingrid Mitchell*

Hayley Manning

*Sponsored by Anne Caine & Jim Lumbers*

Muhammed Mehmedbasic

Kyle Ramsay-Daniel^

Jack Schwenke

**FLUTE****Kiri Sollis\****Sponsored by**Mary Elspeth & Graham Humphries*

Samantha Hennessy^

Lisa McMahan

David Shaw

Rebecca Timoney

Lilly Yang

**OBOE****Megan Pamplng\****Sponsored by**Anonymous*

Carl Brumfield

Peter Duggan

Julie Igglesden

Caitlin McAnulty

Ennes Mehmedbasic^

**COR ANGLAIS**

Megan Pamplng

*Sponsored by**Anonymous*

Julie Igglesden

Caitin McAnulty

Carl Brumfield

**CLARINET****Alan Vivian\***

Samantha Kelson Gray

Matthew O'Keeffe^

Benn Sutcliffe

**BASSOON****Ben Hoadley\****Sponsored by**Anonymous*

Jordan London

Rebecca Rivera^

Kristen Sutcliffe^

*Sponsored by**Glen & Lucille Halloran***SAXOPHONE**

Michael Favreau

Benn Sutcliffe

**FRENCH HORN****Robert Johnson^***The Principal French**Horn chair is sponsored by Prof Brian Schmidt AC & Dr Jenny Gordon*

Carly Brown^

Victoria Chatterley^

Michael Jackson

Philip Wilson

**TRUMPET****Justin Lingard\****Sponsored by**Connor Dyson*

Josh Clark

Fletcher Cox∞

Timothy Frahn∞

Zach Raffan^

Greg Stenning

Julie Watson

**TROMBONE****Nigel Crocker\***

Michael Bailey^

**BASS TROMBONE****Brett Page\***

Paolo Franks

**TUBA****Bjorn Pfeiffer\***

Neale Connor∞

Nelson Woods∞

**TIMPANI****Timothy Brigden\***

Veronica Bailey^

Stephen Fitzgerald^

Louis Sharp^

**PERCUSSION****Veronica Bailey\***

John Dewhurst^

Stephen Fitzgerald^

Wyana O'Keeffe^

Louis Sharpe

Tim Watson

**HARP**

Rowan Phemister

Georgia Lowe∞

*The Harp chair is sponsored by Bruce Bacon AM & Vanessa Fanning***KEYBOARD**

Edward Neeman

Stephanie Neeman

Susanne Powell

*The Keyboard chair is sponsored by Anne Foote***HARPSICHORD**

Ariana Odermatt





Canberra  
Symphony  
Orchestra