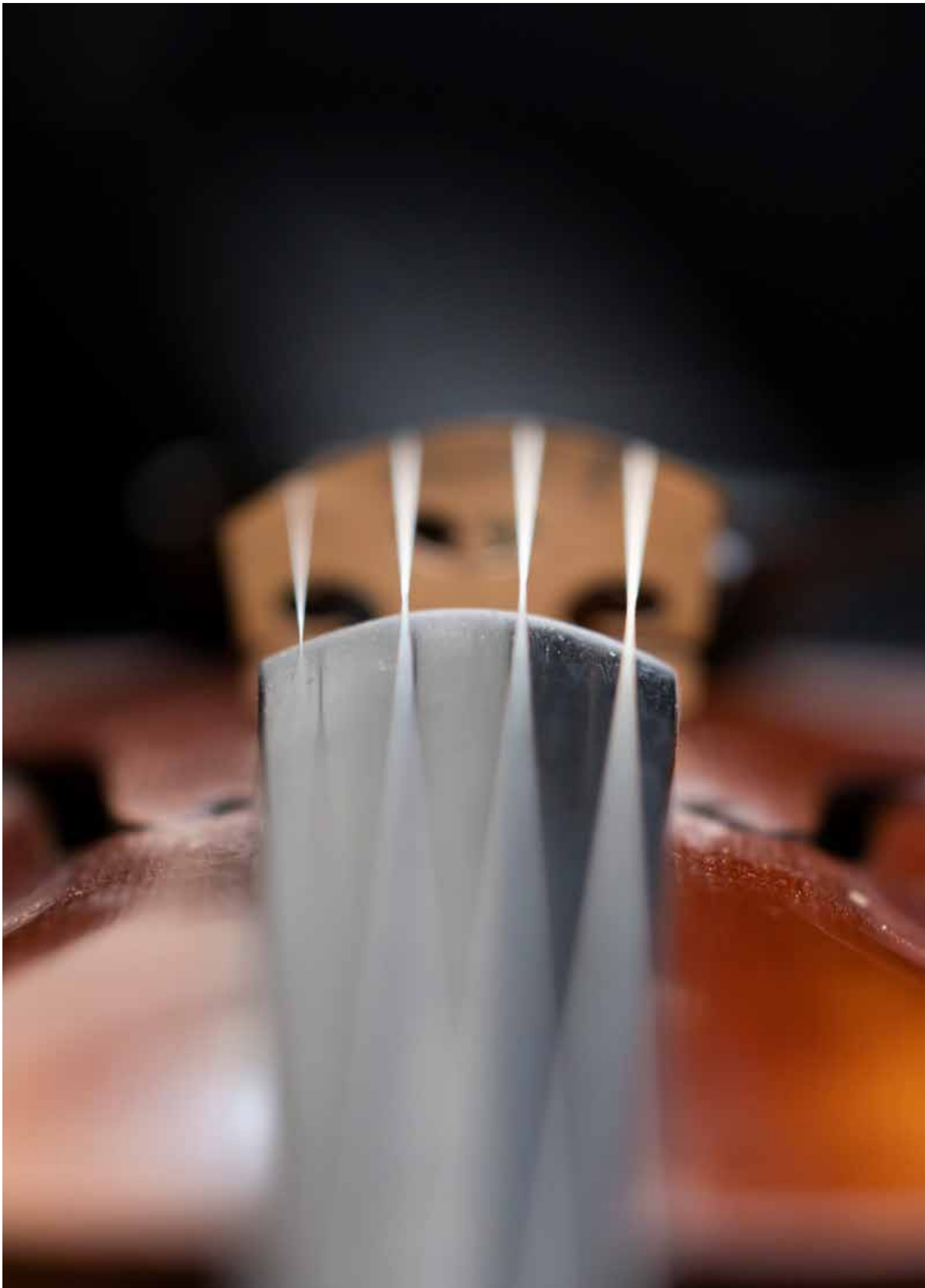




2021 Annual Report

Canberra
Symphony
Orchestra



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Chair's report



In 2021, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra embarked on an exciting new chapter, returning to the stage with fresh vitality under the leadership of Jessica Cottis, in her first season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.

Ms Cottis' visionary programming and enthusiastic commitment to growing the CSO community embodies the orchestra's strategic vision: to engage and enrich a broad audience through artistically vibrant musical experiences. Over a ten-week Canberra visit early in the year, Ms Cottis delighted audiences; engaged thoughtfully with partners and donors; and worked energetically alongside musicians and staff to instil the 2021 season with creative energy. This sense of momentum and forward motion was tangible even through the nine-week lockdown in the second part of the year, infusing the CSO's hyperlocal suite of 2021 digital programming.

Ms Cottis continues to develop the Llewellyn Series as the CSO's creative epicentre, incisively pairing canonic and contemporary works to explore universal themes. Highlights in 2021 included compelling performances of Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Richard Meale's *Viridian* and selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* – as well as a surprise performance of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony, an eleventh-hour programming change handled masterfully by the orchestra after an interstate lockdown resulted in the loss of a soloist.

The CSO's commitment to Australian music remains unwavering, from the Llewellyn Hall mainstage to our nationally unique Australian Series. It was a great honour to have our 2021 Australian Series curated by the distinguished Professor Deborah Cheetham AO, one

of Australia's foremost creative leaders. I thank Professor Cheetham for the valuable insights she has brought to the series and her important contribution to deepening its focus on First Nations voices in classical and art music.

The 2021 season also encompassed a number of key audience development initiatives to reach new audiences and engage long-time supporters in new ways. These included the launch of *Chamber Classics* in Canberra's historic Albert Hall, showcasing CSO musicians and diversifying the orchestra's chamber programming; a sold-out film music special; and *rest* magazine, which brings together concert programs and thoughtful commentary on arts and culture.

The strength of the CSO's collaborative relationships continues to sustain its growth as a creative hub in the nation's capital. Chief among these is the orchestra's relationship with Government House; on behalf of the CSO, I thank Their Excellencies General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC, Governor-General of Australia, and Mrs Linda Hurley, for their patronage and the continuation of this longstanding association. While severe weather sadly scuttled the 2021 Summer Prom, Their Excellencies were guests of honour at the CSO 2021 Fundraising Gala and generously hosted a post-lockdown performance of Brahms' Clarinet Quintet to raise funds for the orchestra.



The CSO also continues to deepen its relationship with the Australian National University (ANU), signing a Memorandum of Agreement in 2021. I commend both organisations on this significant, shared commitment to generating pathways for emerging artists, amplifying diverse voices and ensuring the long-term vibrancy of our arts ecosystem. I particularly acknowledge Professor Brian Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor; Associate Professor Kim Cunio, Head of the ANU School of Music; and the CSO Board and management for their vision and efforts.



Other notable collaborations in 2021 included the National Opera production of *La Clemenza di Tito* and the premiere of *Vietnam Requiem*, a large-scale, commemorative work produced by The Flowers of Peace under the auspices of the Australian War Memorial, with support from Metal Manufacturers Ltd. The CSO played a significant role in the viability and artistic vibrancy of both endeavours, further establishing the orchestra as the leading provider of professional musical services for the region.

The collaborative spirit underpinning these successes is a defining characteristic of the CSO's organisational culture; I applaud the CSO Board, staff and musicians for their ongoing commitment to artistic excellence, inclusive audience development and authentic community engagement.

In particular, I commend our CEO, Rachel Thomas, whose forward-looking, strengths-based leadership continues to unite and inspire the CSO team. It's also a pleasure to see our Concertmaster, Kirsten Williams, established as a full-time staff member from 2022: an important milestone in the CSO's growth and development. Ms Williams will continue to lead the orchestra with artistic distinction, as well as new CSO enrichment and professional development programs for emerging artists.

I would also like to thank outgoing board members Melanie Kontze, Paul Lindwall and John Kalokerinos for their expertise and exceptional service over many years, and welcome new directors Amanda Story and Terry Weber, each of whom brings a wealth of insights and experience to the CSO.

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, the CSO took great strides forward in 2021. I look forward to many memorable musical experiences in the years ahead.

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

CEO report

In 2021, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra stepped into a new paradigm. We began to define and embrace our own ‘new normal’, not only in regard to the pandemic but also the orchestra’s future as a creative hub in the nation’s capital.

The CSO took to the stage with fresh enthusiasm, energised by the creative vision of our newly appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director, Jessica Cottis. Between February and August, we presented eight diverse programs, showcasing the skill of our musicians and the breadth and richness of our art form.

The first of these launched our new *Chamber Classics* series in the historic Albert Hall. Aptly titled *Forgotten Romance*, these sold-out Valentine’s Day concerts highlighted the demand for more professional chamber music in Canberra; the series has been expanded to four concerts for 2022. An increase in chamber programming has also been well-received by CSO musicians and will support orchestral development into the future.

Australian chamber music continues to feature prominently in CSO programming through the Australian Series, curated in 2021 by Professor Deborah Cheetham AO – one of Australia’s most eminent creative voices. It was an honour to host Professor Cheetham in Canberra for the first of these concerts, *Sharing the Sky*, which showcased her artistry as curator, composer and soprano. This concert was attended by acclaimed composer Moya Henderson AM, for the world premiere of her work *Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, a CSO commission.

Sharing the Sky also featured Jessica Cottis as conductor, the first of three CSO performances during her ten-week residency in Canberra. Ms Cottis also conducted the first two concerts in our flagship Llewellyn Series, *Seven Deadly Sins* and *Longing and Desire*. Both were well-attended and well-received by audiences and critics alike, illuminating Ms Cottis’ onstage dynamism and compelling artistic vision for the orchestra.

Offstage, Ms Cottis engaged CSO donors and supporters with a similar enthusiasm, giving a moving address at our 2021 Fundraising Gala and sharing insights in an armchair session titled *The Art of Programming*. Ms Cottis also worked closely with our administrative team to lay the groundwork for a suite of audience and orchestral development initiatives for the future.

The ACT’s nine-week lockdown was a significant setback, coming into effect just days after the sold-out *CSO at the Cinema* special. The administrative team used this period to consolidate learnings from earlier digital forays and devise a more distinctly Canberran offering, with input from the Artistic Advisory Panel (AAP). The 2021 Digital Series intentionally championed Canberra-based composers Sally Greenaway, Frank Millward and Dante Clavijo, and deepened the CSO’s collaborative relationships with Belconnen Arts Centre and the Australian National University’s (ANU) School of Music.

Pandemic-driven audience hesitancy and an accelerated decline in subscriptions have challenged each Australian orchestra to reflect on its creative identity and invest more vigorously in audience development. In 2021, the CSO launched *rest*, a quarterly print magazine to house both concert programs and thoughtful cultural commentary. Like our digital offerings, *rest* is distinctly Canberran, contextualising the orchestra’s programming and community engagement in the vibrancy of the broader ACT arts ecosystem. Initially launched as a subscriber offering, *rest* will be

complimentary to all concertgoers from 2022, with distribution expanding beyond the concert hall as an increasingly visible and vital channel for audience development and brand elevation.

This operating environment has also sharpened the CSO’s focus on long-term sustainability. In 2021, the CSO launched a reimagined Kingsland Program, infusing the ethos of the former Kingsland Residency (2018–21) into a broader suite of opportunities for emerging artists. Led by Concertmaster Kirsten Williams, the Kingsland Program will offer performance enrichment and professional development to upwards of 30 young players each year, generating critical pathways for future CSO players in collaboration with the ANU School of Music. Significantly, Ms Williams’ position will be expanded into a full-time, hybrid role from 2022, encompassing her Concertmaster duties as well as orchestral development.

The CSO also ran auditions in 2021, with oversight from Ms Cottis and input from the AAP. I welcome new section leaders Kiri Sollis (Principal Flute), Ben Hoadley (Principal Bassoon) and Timothy Brigden (Principal Timpani), as well as our cohort of new Rank-and-File players.

Orchestral development is already enabling the CSO to expand the delivery of professional musical services across the region, supporting a range of art forms to flourish. In addition to annual events like the ACT Government’s *Symphony in the Park*, recent highlights include large-scale collaborations with National Opera and The Flowers of Peace. The CSO also reached hundreds of Canberrans in 2021 through public ensemble performances, in collaboration with Dionysus and the ACT Government, from the Haig Park Sunday markets to Christmas performances in the Canberra Centre.

While COVID restrictions present complex, ongoing programming challenges in the community space, our musicians continue to make meaningful contributions to health and wellbeing, particularly through the *Rediscovering Music* program for people living with hearing loss and the *Painting with Parkinson's* art therapy initiative.

As always, the CSO's impact is amplified by our dedicated community of supporters. I'd like to thank our Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC, Governor-General of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, and acknowledge the vital funding the CSO receives from the ACT and Australian governments, through artsACT and the Australia Council for the Arts.

I'd also like to thank our network of corporate partners, including those who joined us in 2021: Aspen Medical, whose expertise has been invaluable in guiding our safe return to the stage; Region Media, who have amplified our story to a wider audience; and Lark Hill Winery, who have enriched our events.

I'd also like to thank our generous donors and welcome Sally Walker, newly appointed Philanthropy Manager. A concert flautist and academic with hands-on experience in arts philanthropy, Ms Walker has already made meaningful connections across our generous private giving community.

Last, but far from least, I'd like to commend every CSO musician and staff member for their creativity, resilience and generosity of spirit throughout 2021. On a personal note, I'd like to thank Saskia van Graver, outgoing Executive Assistant, and Jenna Roberts, who stepped into the role partway through the year. Both Ms van Graver and Ms Roberts have provided valuable support to the office of the CEO and the wider administrative team.

It continues to be a great honour and a joy to lead the CSO as CEO. I believe the best is yet to come.

Rachel Thomas

Chief Executive Officer



Chief Conductor and Artistic Director's report

It was a special joy to lead the Canberra Symphony Orchestra in 2021 as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director and participate in the creative renewal and vibrancy of a city close to my heart. Our season was propelled by a sense of great momentum, driving bold performances and exciting new collaborations.

International travel was no small feat in 2021, so it was a privilege to be able to spend 10 weeks in Canberra with the CSO in the early months of the year. This intensive period provided many valuable opportunities to work closely with staff and musicians, bringing the 2021 season to life and shaping the strategic vision for the years ahead.

I also had the pleasure of engaging with many of the orchestra's long-time supporters, at concerts and the CSO Fundraising Gala as well as *The Art of Programming*, a more intimate armchair conversation with CSO Board Director Robyn Holmes, initiated at the request of a CSO donor. I'm thrilled with the success of our new *Chamber Classics* series, inaugurated in 2021 with our core subscriber audience in mind.

While in Canberra, I had the joy of conducting *Seven Deadly Sins*, the opening concert in the CSO's flagship Llewellyn Series. This was a triumphant return to the mainstage, featuring five guest artists – among them soprano Lorina Gore, our Artist in Focus – and dynamic works by Stravinsky, Weill and Australian composer Holly Harrison. While a snap lockdown meant we were unable to present Korngold's violin concerto with Courtenay Cleary, the orchestra gave a thrilling, edge-of-the-seat performance of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony in its place. This highlighted the skill and versatility of our musicians as well as the support of our audience, who warmly embraced the programming change and applauded the CSO's fearless musicality.

I also conducted *Longing and Desire*, the second instalment in the Llewellyn Series. This program featured deeply committed and compelling performances of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto with Andrea Lam, and selections from Prokofiev's masterpiece, *Romeo and Juliet*. Notably, this concert included a significant Australian work, Richard Meale's *Viridian*.

Indeed, Australian music continues to occupy a central place in our artistic vision: a total of 27 Australian works were programmed across the 2021 season, including seven world premieres and six CSO commissions. It was a great honour to welcome Professor Deborah Cheetham to curate the CSO's Australian Series in 2021, and to join her onstage in its opening concert, *Sharing the Sky*. A visionary First Nations artist and one of Australia's foremost creative voices, Professor Cheetham brought fresh insight to the series and new commissions for Moya Henderson AM, Ella Macens, Peggy Polias and Brenda Gifford.

Another Australian music highlight was the premiere of *CO₂ and the Ice Core* by Associate Professor Kim Cunio, Head of the ANU School of Music. An urgent musical exploration of climate change, this CSO commission featured in a special matinee performance directed by our distinguished Concertmaster, Kirsten Williams.

The creative vitality in these programs reached out further into a suite of new collaborative endeavours beyond our core concert season. These included a critically acclaimed production of *La Clemenza di Tito* with the newly formed National Opera, and the premiere of *Vietnam Requiem* with The Flowers of Peace, a large-scale commemorative work. These projects were also important audience development forums for the CSO and generated new performance opportunities for our musicians.

The pandemic continues to highlight the critical role the arts play in meaningful community engagement. The CSO continued to support health and wellbeing in 2021, with solo and ensemble performances in health and aged care settings as well as for the Canberra chapter of *Painting with Parkinson's*, a longstanding art therapy collaboration. A community highlight was the co-production of *Visualising Harmony* with Belco Arts, supported by the Australian Government's Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund and CSO Community Partner ActewAGL. Facilitated by world class violinist and community engagement expert Belinda 'Bindi' McFarlane, this program saw five CSO musicians collaborate with local artists of diverse abilities to co-create and present a concert of original music, responding to evocative visual artworks.



Given this momentum, it was difficult to see the orchestra undergo another extended lockdown and spate of cancellations, particularly on the heels of a sold-out film music special in August. However, the CSO refocused and invested in hyperlocal digital offerings and connecting musicians and audiences through *rest*, the print magazine.

Consolidating developments from 2020, the CSO 2021 Digital Series showcased musicians from the orchestra and embraced unconventional mediums and performance spaces. The series included a visually stunning performance of Shostakovich dances in the CSO office, against a glorious sunset over the Brindabellas, as well as the premiere of Sally Greenaway's *The Sky is Also Yours* for four double basses, overlooking Canberra's Lake Ginninderra.

The Digital Series also included an innovative development of the 'virtual orchestra' concept, which saw CSO musicians individually record musical cells composed by Frank Millward and Dante Clavijo, later woven by the composers into a new work. Titled *Navigating Phase*, this experimental piece was paired with water-focused visuals filmed locally by Martin Ollman and edited by Matthew Barnes.

In a world still grappling with the devastating impact of the pandemic, music continues to be a balm for our ears and minds. I commend the CSO for its energy and tenacity and thank its Board, staff, players and audiences for embracing my artistic vision. I look on the years ahead with great excitement and anticipation.

Jessica Cottis

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Finance report

The continued support from CSO donors, and the ACT and Australian governments, has for another year limited the fiscal impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The financial surplus achieved for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2021 was \$80,621 (LY2020 surplus \$192,885).

Made possible by the continuation of grant funding and private giving, the 2021 net profit has supported artistic and orchestral development initiatives for the long-term vibrancy of the CSO.

Cash Flow Perceptive: Strong

Cash holdings at 31 December 2021: \$3,559,289 (LY2020 \$3,320,849)

CONTINUED IMPACT OF COVID-19

Like other arts organisations across Australia and around the world, the CSO continues to experience the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial operations for the year ended 31 December 2021 were significantly impacted by concert cancellations between August and November, due to the nine-week ACT lockdown. As in 2020, the negative impact was limited by many generous donations of ticket refunds, as well as the ACT Government's Business Support Grant.

LEGACY AND RESERVES

The Legacy Fund established in 2009 to support identified projects undertaken by the CSO and funded by identified donations, bequests and other identified funds had a balance at the end of 2021 of \$1,561,524.

This fund has enabled supporters of the CSO to donate knowing that the capital will be preserved, and that the income earned would support emerging orchestral projects in the longer term. Income earned is reinvested to accelerate the growth of the Legacy Fund and the future income stream.

The Kingsland Fellowship fund, established in 2012 from a one-off donation of \$150,000, aims to provide professional development opportunities for early career musicians. The balance at the end of 2021 was \$436,871.

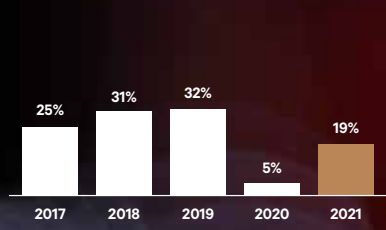
INCOME TREND — CORE INCOME

CSO 2021 self-generated income improved substantially compared to the 2020 financial year. The CSO continues to rely on philanthropy and grant funding to deliver its mission.

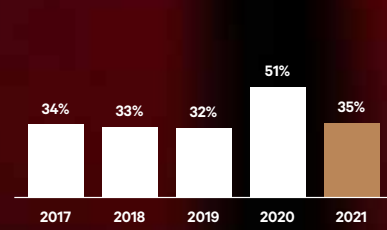
Lou Malfone
Chief Financial Officer



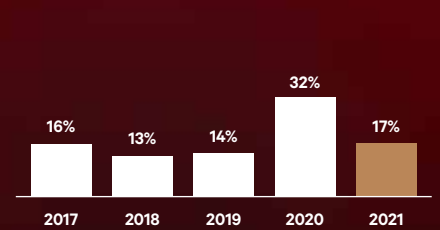
Concert income*



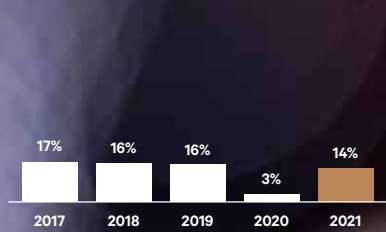
Grant income*



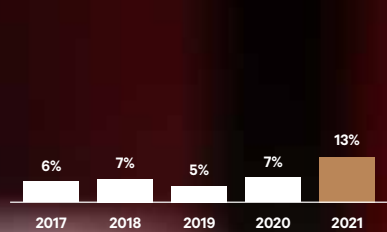
Philanthropy income*



Partnership income*



Musical Services income*



* as percentage (%) of total income

2021 concert season

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

A black and white photograph of a modern building, identified as the School of Music. The building features a prominent cylindrical section and a large overhanging upper level. The words "SCHOOL OF MUSIC" are mounted on the wall in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The sky is overcast, and the overall mood is architectural and institutional.



MUSIC BY THE RIVER

27 February 2021, 7pm
Queen Elizabeth II Park, Queanbeyan

Kirsten Williams *Director*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

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

SYMPHONY IN THE PARK

7 March 2021, 7.30pm
Stage88, Commonwealth Park, Acton

George Ellis *Conductor*
BABBA *Guest act*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Presented in conjunction with the ACT Government as part of Enlighten Festival

CHAMBER CLASSICS: FORGOTTEN ROMANCE

14 February 2021, 2pm / 4.30pm
Albert Hall, Yarralumla

CSO Chamber Players
Clara Schumann Romance No. 1, op. 22 for Violin and Piano
Franz Schubert Piano Quintet in A major, D. 667 'Trout quintet'

COURTENAY CLEARY IN RECITAL

28 March 2021, 2pm
Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes

Courtenay Cleary *Violin*
Alex Raineri *Piano*
Francis Poulenc Sonata for Violin and Piano, FP. 119
Béla Bartók Violin Sonata No. 2, Sz. 76
Arthur Benjamin Sonatina for Violin and Piano

Presented by The Aerie at Narrabundah, by Lendlease Retirement Living

LLEWELLYN SERIES: SEVEN DEADLY SINS

31 March / 1 April 2021, 7.30pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Jessica Cottis *Conductor*
Lorina Gore *Soprano*
Dan Russell, Charles Bogle, Andrew Goodwin, Adrian Tamburini *Vocal quartet*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Igor Stravinsky *Circus Polka*
Jean Sibelius* Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major, op. 82
Holly Harrison *Fizzin' Fury*
Kurt Weill *The Seven Deadly Sins*

AUSTRALIAN SERIES: SHARING THE SKY

8 April 2021, 6.30pm
National Museum of Australia, Parkes

Jessica Cottis *Conductor*
Deborah Cheetham *Curator, Soprano*
CSO Chamber Players

Brenda Gifford *Miriwa (Sky)*
Peggy Polias *The Moon*
Matthew Hindson *Rush*
Deborah Cheetham *Song for Dulka Warnjiid*
Moya Henderson *Ruth Bader Ginsburg (world premiere, new CSO commission)*

LLEWELLYN SERIES: LONGING AND DESIRE

12 / 13 May 2021, 7.30pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Jessica Cottis *Conductor*
Andrea Lam *Piano*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
Richard Meale *Viridian*
Sergei Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, op. 18
Prokofiev Selections from *Romeo and Juliet* – Ballet, op. 64

*The Sibelius symphony was programmed in place of Korngold's Violin Concerto due to a snap COVID lockdown preventing the guest violinist (Courtenay Cleary) from performing.

VISUALISING HARMONY

21 May 2021, 7pm
Belconnen Arts Centre

Facilitated by Belinda 'Bindi' McFarlane (London Symphony Orchestra), CSO musicians and five artists with diverse abilities co-created and performed original music inspired by visual art and Richard Meale's *Viridian*.

Co-produced by the CSO and Belco Arts with support from the ACT Government, the Australian Government's RISE Fund and ActewAGL.

LORINA GORE IN RECITAL

6 June 2021, 2pm
Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes

Lorina Gore *Soprano*
Alan Hicks *Piano*

Francis Poulenc *Les chemins de l'amour*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Abendempfindung, K. 523

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 'Deh vieni non tardar' from *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Franz Schubert *Gretchen am Spinnrade*
Franz Schubert *Der Erlkönig*

Franz Lehár 'Meine Lippen sie Küssen so heiss' from *Giuditta*

Liza Lehmann *There are fairies at the bottom of our garden*

Amy Woodforde-Finden *Kashmiri Song*
Stephen Foster (arr. Warren Michael Swenson) *Why, no one to love?*

Charles Gounoud *Prelude* (piano only)

Francis Poulenc *Toccata* (piano only)

Charles Gounoud 'Hereux petit berger' from *Mireille*

Charles Gounoud 'Ah! je ris de me voir si belle' from *Faust*

Presented by The Aerie at Narrabundah, by Lendlease Retirement Living

CLASSIC AFTERNOON: THE ELEMENTS

19 June 2021, 2pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Kirsten Williams *Director*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Grace Williams *Sea Sketches*
Ralph Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*

Kim Cunio *CO₂ and the Ice Core* (world premiere, new CSO commission)

Joseph Haydn *Symphony No. 59 in A major 'Fire'*

Presented by *Canberra Weekly*

CSO AT THE CINEMA

7 August 2021, 7.30pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Jessica Gethin *Conductor*
Kirsten Williams *Violin*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

John Williams *Suite from Star Wars*
Dmitri Shostakovich 'Romance' from *The Gadfly*

Leah Curtis *Suite from To Rest in Peace*
Ennio Morricone 'Gabriel's Oboe' from *The Mission*

Nigel Westlake *Suite from Paper Planes*
John Williams *Suite from Harry Potter*

John Williams *Suite from Schindler's List*
Bernard Herrmann *Suite from Psycho*
George Gershwin *Suite from An American in Paris*

CSO 2021 DIGITAL SERIES: LESS IS MORE

Curated playlist with listening notes, released 18 November 2021

Madeleine Retter *Curator*

CSO 2021 DIGITAL SERIES: FROM THEN TO NOW

Curated playlist with listening notes, released 18 November 2021

Liam Meany *Curator*

CSO SPRING FUNDRAISER

20 November 2021, 3pm
Government House, Yarralumla

CSO Chamber Ensemble

Ross Edwards *A Little Waltz for Kirsten* (CSO 2020 commission)

Johan Halvorsen *Passacaglia for Violin and Viola* (based on *Passacaille No. 6* from *Suite in G minor, HWV 432* by George Frideric Handel)

Johannes Brahms *Clarinet Quintet in B minor, op. 115*

CSO 2021 DIGITAL SERIES: SHOSTAKOVICH

Digital performance, released 3 December 2021

Recorded in the CSO offices, 1 Farrell Place, Canberra

CSO Chamber Ensemble

Dmitri Shostakovich (arr. Levon Atovmyan) 'Waltz' and 'Polka' from *Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano*

CSO 2021 DIGITAL SERIES: GREENAWAY

Digital performance, released 20 December 2021

Recorded at Belconnen Arts Centre

CSO Chamber Ensemble

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

CSO 2021 DIGITAL SERIES: CLAVIJO & MILLWARD

Digital performance, released 22 December 2021

Recorded in the CSO offices, 1 Farrell Place, Canberra

CSO Chamber Ensemble

Martin Ollman *Visuals*

Dante Clavijo & Frank Millward

Navigating Phase

(world premiere, new CSO commission)

The CSO 2021 Digital Series was produced by Matt Barnes and Harry Chalker

Cancelled concerts

With the exception of the Summer Prom, the following concerts were cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19 public health safety measures (including lockdowns and travel restrictions). The Summer Prom was cancelled due to persistent, inclement weather and associated risks.

CHAMBER CLASSICS: OLD FRIENDS

4 July 2021, 2pm
Albert Hall, Yarralumla

CSO Chamber Players

Antonín Dvořák Waltz No. 1 in A major, op. 54

Johannes Brahms Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, op. 115

AUSTRALIAN SERIES: WITHIN AND WITHOUT

22 July 2021, 6.30pm
National Museum of Australia, Parkes

Deborah Cheetham Curator

Lorina Gore Soprano

CSO Chamber Players

Moya Henderson *Kudikynah Cave*

Peggy Polias *Lacuna*
(world premiere, new CSO commission)

Ella Macens *Crescent Moon*
(world premiere, new CSO commission)

Paul Dean *Amid a crowd of stars*

LLEWELLYN SERIES: CELESTIAL VISIONS

15 / 16 September 2021, 7.30pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Jessica Cottis Conductor

Jayson Gillham Piano

Lorina Gore Soprano

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Benjamin de Murashkin LOGOS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 'Elvira Madigan'

Gustav Mahler Symphony No. 4 in G major

JAYSON GILLHAM IN RECITAL

19 September 2021, 2pm
Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes

Jayson Gillham Piano

Nikolai Medtner 8 Stimmungsbilder, op. 1:

1. Prologue: *Andante cantabile*, 'The Angel'

Alexander Scriabin Piano Sonata No. 4 in

F-sharp major, op. 30

Nigel Westlake Piano Sonata No. 2

Frédéric Chopin Seven etudes from op. 25:
No. 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12

CHAMBER CLASSICS: REIMAGINED WINDS

17 October 2021, 2pm
Albert Hall, Yarralumla

CSO Chamber Players

Arrangements for wind quintet

Gioachino Rossini Overture from *The Barber of Seville*

Percy Grainger *Molly on the Shore*

Joseph Haydn Divertimento No. 1

Paul Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Dmitri Shostakovich Waltz No. 2

Dmitri Shostakovich *Tahiti Trot*

LLEWELLYN SERIES: TRANSFORMATIONS

3 / 4 November 2021, 7.30pm
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Acton

Simon Hewett Conductor

Sally Walker Flute

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Maurice Ravel *Mother Goose Suite*

Elena Kats-Chernin *Night and Now*

Igor Stravinsky *Firebird* (1945 version)

SALLY WALKER IN RECITAL

7 November 2021, 2pm
Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes

Sally Walker Flute

CSO Chamber Players

Johann Joachim Quantz Quartet in

E minor QV4:0, No. 2

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Quartet in G,
K. 285

Luigi Boccherini Quintet in E, op. 17, no. 6,
G. 424

Elena Kats-Chernin *Moondust*

Franz Danzi Quintet in B minor, op. 50, no. 2

AUSTRALIAN SERIES: RECLAIMING THE NIGHT

18 November 2021, 6.30pm
National Museum of Australia, Parkes

Deborah Cheetham Curator

PLEXUS

Leanne Bear *Nôtre Gothique*

Brenda Gifford *Dharawa Miriwa (night sky)*
(world premiere, PLEXUS commission)

Deborah Cheetham *INSIEME – YAPENEYEPUK – TOGETHER*

Sally Greenaway *Quietude*

Nat Bartsch *Into the Light*

CSO SUMMER PROM

4 December 2021, 6.30pm
Lawns of Government House, Yarralumla

Graham Abbott Conductor

Rachael Thoms Vocalist

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

2021 activity

CSO ATTENDANCE

The CSO returned to the stage with fresh vigour in 2021, attracting approximately 6,710 patrons across 11 concerts between February and August. While the remainder of the 2021 season was sadly cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdowns (and persistent, inclement weather in the case of the Summer Prom), the CSO reached a digital audience of close to 1,000 through unique, hyperlocal digital offerings.

In 2021, CSO orchestral performances were well-attended and well-received, garnering positive reviews and drawing approximately 5,830 patrons across six concerts. Highlights included three concerts conducted by Jessica Cottis, newly appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Director; and a sold-out film music special, *CSO at the Cinema*, conducted by Jessica Gethin and featuring CSO Concertmaster Kirsten Williams. Ms Williams also directed the annual Canberra Weekly *Classic Afternoon*, which included the world premiere of *CO₂ and the Ice Core*, a new CSO commission by Associate Professor Kim Cunio.

The CSO also presented a diverse suite of chamber concerts across three iconic Canberra venues: the Australian Series in its new home at the National Museum of Australia; two recitals in Gandel Hall at the National Gallery of Australia; and the new *Chamber Classics* series in Albert Hall. CSO chamber programs were attended by approximately 880 patrons across five concerts. Highlights included sold-out inaugural performances for *Chamber Classics*, and the world premiere of Moya Henderson's *Ruth Bader Ginsburg* in the Australian Series, curated by Deborah Cheetham AO.

When the ACT entered its second lockdown, the CSO focused its resources on a smaller number of distinctly Canberran digital offerings, reaching an online audience of close to 1,000. These included two new commissions for Canberra-based composers: Sally Greenaway's *The Sky is Also Yours* for double bass quartet, filmed at Belconnen Arts Centre, and *Navigating Phase*, an innovative take on the 'virtual orchestra' concept, composed by Frank Millward and Dante Clavijo.

The CSO took every opportunity to deliver meaningful community engagement throughout 2021, reaching approximately 520 people in the context of dynamic public health safety measures. Highlights included resuming *Rediscovering Music* for people living with hearing loss and performances for the *Painting with Parkinson's* art therapy initiative, as well as *Visualising Harmony*, a co-production with Belco Arts, facilitated by Bindi McFarlane, which saw CSO musicians co-create and perform original music with local artists of diverse ability.

CSO musical services for *Music by the River*, presented by Icon Water with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, and *Symphony in the Park*, part of the ACT Government's Enlighten Festival, reached audiences of approximately 2,000 and 2,500, respectively (both audiences were capped for COVID safety).

The CSO also distributed approximately 291 concert tickets to charities and community organisations through its HeartStrings ticketing fund, in partnership with Hands Across Canberra.

The CSO supported two music prizes:

- Canberra Grammar School: Outstanding Services to Music
- Radford College: Outstanding Performer of the Year

CSO CONCERTS	NO. PERFORMANCES	NO. TICKETS SOLD (2021)	NO. TICKETS SOLD (2020)
Llewellyn Series 1	2	1501	N/A
Llewellyn Series 2	2	2058	N/A
Llewellyn Series 3 *	-	N/A	N/A
Llewellyn Series 4 *	-	N/A	N/A
CSO Gala	1	1330	N/A
Classic Afternoon	1	941	N/A
Summer Prom **	-	N/A	N/A
Recital Series 1	1	140	154
Recital Series 2	1	143	105
Recital Series 3 *	-	N/A	N/A
Recital Series 4 *	-	N/A	N/A
Australian Series 1	1	232	185
Australian Series 2 *	-	N/A	N/A
Australian Series 3 *	-	N/A	N/A
Chamber Classics 1	2	365	N/A
Chamber Classics 2 *	-	N/A	N/A
Chamber Classics 3 *	-	N/A	N/A
CSO Spring Fundraiser	1	60	55

MUSICAL SERVICES	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)
Music by the River	1	2000 [#]
Symphony in the Park	1	2500 [#]

CSO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)
Painting with Parkinson's	6	82
Aged care and hospital performances	2	84
Rediscovering Music	2	95
Education outreach – special schools	4	89 students; 32 adults
Visualising Harmony	1	141

DIGITAL CONTENT	NO. RELEASES	NO. OF VIEWS
CSO 2021 Digital Series: Chamber performances	2	699 ⁺
CSO 2021 Digital Series: Virtual Orchestra	1	208 ⁺
CSO Playlists	2	N/A

























* Cancelled due to COVID-19

** Cancelled due to persistent inclement weather

Audience capped due to COVID restrictions

+ YouTube only, as at 6 April 2022

Corporate partners

<p>GOVERNMENT PARTNERS</p> <p>Supported by</p>   <p>The CSO is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body</p>	<p>GOLD PARTNERS</p>    <p>The Aerie at Narrabundah  lendlease</p>		
<p>HONORARY SOLICITORS</p> <p>MinterEllison</p>	 		
<p>COMMUNITY PARTNERS</p>    			
<p>CULTURAL PARTNERS</p>  <p>MOLONGLO</p>	<p>MARKETING PARTNER</p> 	<p>PRINT PARTNER</p> 	
<p>PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER</p> <p>Martin Ollman Photography</p>	<p>EVENT PARTNERS</p>   		
<p>VENUE PARTNER</p> 	<p>SPECIAL SUPPORTERS</p> <p>RICHARD ROLFE</p>  		
<p>PROJECT PARTNER</p> 	 		

WE THANK OUR GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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 & 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 (Ret'd)

The Tall Foundation

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

Meeting dates:

8 February 2021
22 March 2021
24 May 2021
19 July 2021
13 September 2021
15 November 2021
13 December 2021

2021 CSO Board attendance

Director name	Meetings held during tenure	Meetings attended during tenure
Sir Angus Houston	7	7
Ms Melanie Kontze	3	1
Ms Chris Faulks	7	6
Mr Robert Clark	7	7
Ms Lucille Halloran	7	7
Mr Paul Lindwall	5	5
Mr John Kalokerinos	3	1
Ms Robyn Holmes	7	6
Ms Annabelle Pegrum	7	6
Ms Christine White (Worth)	7	5
Ms Amanda Story	4	4
Mr Terry Weber	4	4



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

Joined the Board in November 2012 Member, Audit and Risk Committee

Sir Angus Houston 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.



Melanie Kontze *Deputy Chair (outgoing)*

**Joined the Board in May 2011
Resigned from the Board in May 2021
Chair, Human Resources Committee
(outgoing)**

Melanie Kontze is an experienced executive in the corporate sector with a background in management consulting and leadership in digital transformation, information technology and government.

Following an extensive senior leadership career with international IT and management consulting firms, she is now CEO of a boutique consulting firm specialising in change acceleration and innovation. Her expertise is in aligning strategic goals with organisational capability and change programs. She works at the nexus of leadership, technology and implementation, translating strategy and policy into programs of work.

In addition to her leadership and consulting work, Melanie contributes to the arts and technology sectors with board memberships of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Alliance Française de Canberra and the Australian Information Industry Association (ACT Council). Her background brings corporate insight, business management and strategic thinking expertise to the CSO Board.



Chris Faulks GAICD *Deputy Chair*

**Joined the Board in May 2016
Member, Audit & Risk Committee
Member, 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.



Bob Clark *Company Secretary*

**Joined the Board in May 2008
Member, Human Resources Committee**

Bob Clark takes great pride in the community impact generated by the CSO, having witnessed first-hand the great joy artists bring to audiences of all ages.

As an experienced corporate and for-purpose leader, Bob has a uniquely broad background in pragmatic management within business establishment, governance and strategic direction from multinational through to small scale enterprises. He has successfully created, grown and yielded out his own companies within the sustainability, strategic advisory, executive search and corporate enabling spaces. Bob also has a strong record of evidence-based transformation and performance focused operations for community and corporate organisations.

An experienced Executive and Non-Executive Director across commercial, community and for-purpose organisations, Bob is a dedicated Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and mentors a highly diverse group of upcoming and established Australian Directors and board aspirants.



Christine White (Worth) CA GAICD

***Joined the Board in 2018
Chair, Audit & 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, 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 architects and planners.

Annabelle was Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority (1998–2008), a Professorial Fellow of the University of Canberra (2008–2012) and a Commissioner with the NSW Independent Planning Commission (2012–2018). She has also held several 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 and a member of numerous design juries. Annabelle is a member of the National Capital Design Review Panel and of the Western Australian State Design Review Panel.

Annabelle was the 1998 Telstra ACT Business Woman of the Year and is a recipient of the 2001 Centenary Medal. She was a member of University of Canberra Council (2017–2021), and is a director of the Alastair Swayn Foundation, the Swayn Gallery of Australian Design, and of investLogan.



Robyn Holmes FAHA

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

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 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
Member, Audit & 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.



John Kalokerinos

***Joined the Board in May 2013
Resigned from the Board in May 2021
Member, Audit & Risk Committee***

John Kalokerinos began his career as a lawyer at the international law firm MinterEllison. He has been a public servant since 2004 and a senior executive since 2011.

John is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and has extensive governance experience as a former member of the AICD's ACT Divisional Council and as a director or committee member of a range of public and private sector boards, including the Council of the University of Canberra, the ACT Place Names Committee, the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, the National Heart Foundation of Australia (ACT Division) and the Hellenic Club of Canberra. John is also a director of Hands Across Canberra Ltd.

Since 2015, John has been the President of the ACT Racing Appeals Tribunal, the appeals body for racing in the ACT.



Paul Lindwall

***Joined the Board in May 2016
Resigned from the Board in
October 2021
Member, Audit & Risk Committee***

Paul Lindwall is a full-time Commissioner of the Productivity Commission, reappointed for a second five-year term in 2019. Paul has been at the Productivity Commission since 2013, and chairs its 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 also later worked as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary-General and the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD.

Paul has 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 holds a Private Pilot Licence.



Amanda Story

Joined the Board in July 2021

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.

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 Mentorius 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 ANU.

He also serves on a number of charities in Canberra.

CSO administration

ARTISTIC

Jessica Cottis *Chief Conductor
and Artistic Director*

Kirsten Williams *Concertmaster*

ADMINISTRATION

Rachel Thomas *Chief Executive Officer*

Jenna Roberts *Executive Assistant*

Andy Baird *Artistic Planning*

Michelle Zarb *Orchestral Operations*

Lindy Reksten *Orchestral Development Liaison*

Diana Forrester *External Relations*

Sally Walker *Philanthropy*

Jacqui Douglas *Marketing and Communications*

Diana Hansen *Events and Partnerships*

David Flynn *Ticketing*

Lou Malfone *Chief Financial Officer*

Angela Lount *Finance and Administration*

VOLUNTEERS

Alison Gates, Isobel Griffin, Dianna Laska,
John & Anne Rundle, Arnis Stonis, Gail Tregear

FAREWELLS IN 2021

Saskia van Graver *Executive Assistant*







Canberra
Symphony
Orchestra