



MELBOURNE  
CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA



# **Melbourne Chamber Orchestra 2016 Report to the Community**

# 2016 at a glance

	2015	2016	
Total number of attendees (all events)	8,438	9,499	↑12.6%
Mainstage (Melbourne) attendances	5,708	5,770	
Paid (Melbourne) attendances	4,340	4,943	↑13.9%
Number of performers employed	57	74	
Number of performances & events	32	50	
Number of different venues	19	36	
Number of touring performances	18	31	
Number of free performances	1	0	
Number of new works and arrangements presented	7	12	



# Introduction

In our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra has served Victorians with a rich program of orchestral and chamber music, and developed the careers of dozens of Victorian chamber musicians.

The artistic program included performances by eminent soloists including David Griffiths, Rebecca Chan, Sara Macliver, David Fung and Grace Clifford. Performing music from the Renaissance to today, the season included several new works and arrangements, on top of the Victorian premieres of works including items from the Uhrovská collection and Calvin Bowman's *Die Linien des Lebens*.

Serving communities around Victoria remains central to our model and ethos. Our touring program took orchestral and chamber music to every corner of Victoria, with 25 performances across the year. The *Mozart's Piano* program was one of our most ambitious touring projects, with ten regional dates from Mildura to Bairnsdale, with internationally-acclaimed pianist David Fung.

Community engagements included masterclasses in regional Victoria and a pilot of pre-concert talks outside Melbourne.

In 2016, the work of the orchestra has been supported widely by the community, without an operational subsidy from government. Hundreds of donors and several important trusts and foundations have provided the funding required to support and grow our work. I am grateful to all our supporters large and small for their vision in continuing to support the orchestra.

Financially, the orchestra made a modest surplus on 2016 activities, with very firm management of costs. Highlights included a 19.8% increase in performance-related revenues.

Next year marks an expansion of our Melbourne season to 13 concerts, the fruition of our work in Daylesford with a full weekend chamber music festival, the launch of our intimate Sessions performances in the Salon at the Recital Centre, major education projects in three regional centres, and much more. I look forward to sharing these developments with the community as we bring them to life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Jackson  
Executive Director

# Melbourne Season Concerts

This year Melbourne Chamber Orchestra offered a 6-concert season at Melbourne Recital Centre and a 5-concert season at Deakin Edge, Federation Square.

Attendances at our Melbourne season continue to grow, with a 13% increase. More than 500 Victorians subscribe to our Melbourne season. The performance by Australian Octet, *Schubert Quintet*, doubled our previous single ticket revenue for a chamber music recital at Melbourne Recital Centre.



*Soprano Sara Macliver rehearses on stage at Melbourne Recital Centre with members of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.*

# Regional Touring

Around half the orchestra's performances were not in central Melbourne. We are active in most corners of the state, and are the only professional orchestra serving several of the communities we are engaged with. We are grateful for the support of our presenters, our local champions and our committee in Daylesford for their support in bringing our music to destinations beyond Melbourne. In 2016, MCO performed in six regional centres for the first time: Ararat, Mount Beauty, Warrnambool, Heathcote, Elmore and Pyramid Hill.

The touring projects were:

- The Gypsy Palace
- Bach Spirit & Spectacle
- The Daylesford Sessions: Stefan Cassomenos & Michael Dahlenburg
- A Feast of Music (Daylesford Chamber Music Festival)
- Mozart's Piano
- Schubert Quintet
- Clarinet Heaven
- Wine Food Music Narkoojee

Notable projects were A Feast of Music, a weekend event with three performances including a musical dinner; and Wine Food Music Narkoojee, an intimate concert and lunch at our wine sponsor's winery in Glengarry.

Destinations included Ararat, Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Daylesford, Elmore, Geelong, Glengarry, Heathcote, Horsham, Mildura, Moonee Ponds, Mornington, Mount Beauty, Portland, Pyramid Hill, Saint Kilda, Sale, Shepparton, Traralgon, Warragul, Warrnambool and Yackandandah.



*Performing with pianist David Fung to a packed Yackandandah Public Hall.*

# What the audience said...

“Fantastic! Something myself and family would not get to see otherwise. Inspiring!”

*Ararat*

“I enjoyed my first experience with MCO a lot and will definitely come again! The music was absolutely beautiful.”

*Bendigo*

“High quality program & musicianship - great to get this in the country we don't have to trip to Melbourne to hear concert of this high standard”

*Daylesford*

“Outstanding performers with joyous approach. Wonderful to have such performance here in Horsham.”

*Horsham*

“Talented, spirited playing by all musicians, wonderful program.”

*Mildura*

“The music is inspiring and just took my breath away. So amazing and such talent.”

*Portland*

“I enjoyed the opportunity to attend a live performance with quality musicians and music in a regional centre. The personalities of the musician shine through the music making it a very enjoyable experience.”

*Sale*

“Intimacy. Diversity, pace, interaction within orchestra and with audience sense of passion and commitment. Charm and energy.”

*Shepparton*

“Brilliant execution. So privileged to have this quality performance in Traralgon. A really moving concert.”

*Traralgon*

“Intimate & engaging, great choice of music. Perfect choice for an introduction in classical music fans!”

*Warragul*

“The orchestra was superb. David Fung a master of piano. Choice of music, the venue and audience. A wonderful experience.”

*Yackandandah*

# Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2016 partners and supporters. It is only through the support of many contributors that Melbourne is home to its own acclaimed professional small orchestra.

## Major Partners



## Official Partners



## Public Partners



### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

- Drs Mark & Alla Medownick (lead donors)
- Alastair & Sue Campbell
- Peter & Leila Doyle
- Lyndsey Hawkins
- Richard Jackson
- Dr Peter Kingsbury
- Joan & George Lefroy
- Dr Elizabeth Lewis AM
- Fiona McGauchie & James Penlidis
- Romney & Susanne Smeeton
- Drs Gabriela & George Stephenson\*
- JoAnne Stephenson & Robin Larsen
- Drs Victor & Karen Wayne

### PLAYER CHAIR SUPPORTERS

The Arnold Foundation (Early Career Chairs)

Dr Marilyn Murnane AM & Mr Max Griffiths MBE (Early Career Chairs)

The Opus 50 Charitable Trust (Early Career Chairs)

Romney & Susanne Smeeton (Michael Dahlenburg & Merewyn Bramble)

### 25PLUS SOLOISTS CIRCLE

Dennis Goldner & Kate Murphy

Susan Oliver

**Concerto \$10,000—\$49,000**

Dr Marilyn Murnane AM & Mr Max Griffiths MBE  
MS Newman Family Foundation  
Romney & Susanne Smeeton  
Anonymous (1)

**Sostenuto \$5,000—\$9,999**

Dr Henry Butt  
Mr Don Fry AO & Mrs Susan Fry  
Dr Elizabeth Lewis AM  
Allan & Maria Myers  
The Opus 50 Charitable Trust  
Lady Potter AC  
JoAnne Stephenson & Robin Larsen  
Anonymous (2)

**Serenade \$2,500—\$4,999**

Dr Bill Abud  
Mr & Dr David & Kaye Birks  
Alistair & Sue Campbell  
Peter & Leila Doyle  
Bruce Esplin AM & Roz Esplin  
Lyndsey Hawkins  
Richard Jackson  
Dr Peter Kingsbury  
George & Joan Lefroy  
Peter Lovell  
Fiona McGauchie & James Penlidis  
Susan Oliver  
Prof David Penington AC & Dr Sonay Hussein  
Drs Gabriela & George Stephenson  
Drs Victor & Karen Wayne

**Intermezzo \$1,000—\$2,499**

The Besen Family Foundation  
Mark Chambers & Francis Ponce  
Peter & Jan Clark  
Geoffrey Clarke  
Dr Marie Dalziel  
Rosemary Gleeson  
Geoff & Mary Gloster  
Dennis Goldner & Kate Murphy  
Hans & Petra Henkell  
The Hon Rod & Mrs Danièle Kemp  
Mrs Jim Peart  
Joyce Richards  
Murray & Joy Stapleton  
The Hon Clive Tadgell AO & Mrs Christina Tadgell  
David & Elizabeth Thompson  
Juliet Tootell  
Dr Michael Troy  
Igor Zambelli  
Anonymous (1)

**Pro Arte Bequest Circle Members**

Ann Badger  
Gunta Eglite  
The late Rosemary Gleeson  
Drs Gabriela & George Stephenson



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