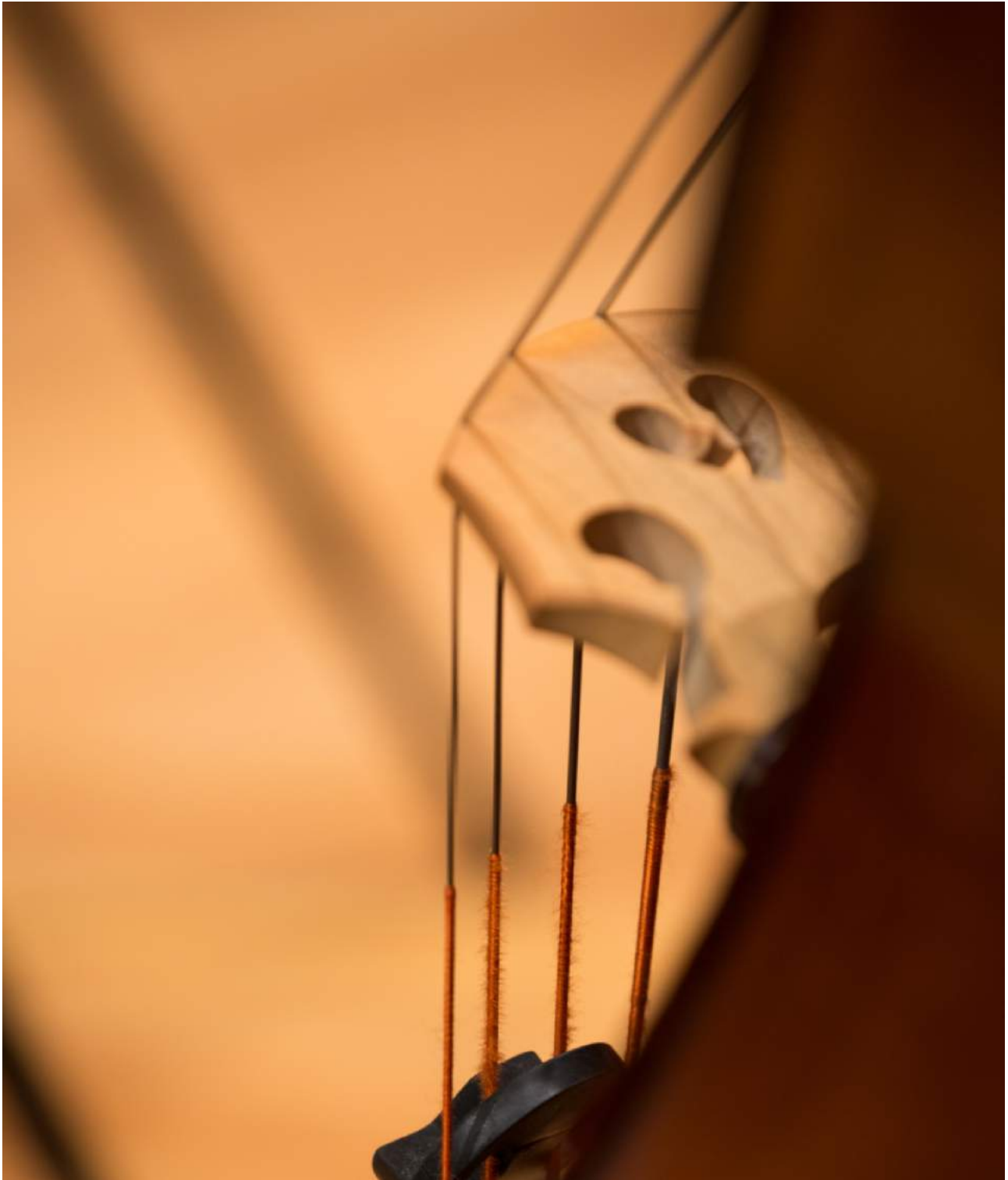


**Melbourne Chamber Orchestra
Report to the Community 2018**



[v02 July 2019]



From the Executive Director

The joy of chamber music is at the small scale. Some of the most profound encounters with our music happen with a small room of people, where the sense of one-on-one communication with the artists, and the visceral physicality of producing the music, can be experienced at close proximity.

As a *chamber* orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra places itself at the heart of small-scale fine music making in Victoria, with the orchestra as one expression of chamber music among many. In 2018, the orchestra presented music by as few as 2 performers and as many as 32. But in each case, the “spirit of the small room” continues to guide our artistic endeavours.

The orchestra reached over 11,600 attendees this year, a new record. Along the way we served over 600 primary schoolers eager to learn musical basics, continued our intimate chamber music festival in Daylesford, and performed orchestral masterpieces at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Our philosophy of musical closeness is inseparable from our closeness with the community. The challenge of presenting our work becomes greater each year, and it is only with the steadfast and loyal backing of the community that we are able to continue our work. I thank all of our generous philanthropic partners for their vision of Melbourne as a city that is able to create its own chamber orchestra culture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Jackson'.

Richard Jackson
Executive Director



2018 at a glance

	2017	2018	
Total number of attendees (all events)	10,554	11,619	↑10.1%
Mainstage (Melbourne Season) attendances	6,298	6,692	↑6.2%
Paid (Melbourne Season) attendances	5,303	5,866	↑10.6%
Number of performers employed	84	71	
Number of performances & events	53	57	
Number of different venues	32	34	
Number of touring performances	26	31	
Number of free performances	5	4	
Number of new works and arrangements presented	14	10	



Melbourne Season Concerts

The Melbourne season offered 13 performances, with 6 orchestral concerts and a large-format chamber music recital at the Melbourne Recital Centre, and the orchestral concerts repeated at the Deakin Edge, Federation Square. The orchestra engaged leading Australian and international artists including Greta Bradman, Konstantin Shamray, Anna Goldsworthy, Markiyano Melnychenko, Sophie Rowell and Richard Mills AM, Aidan Filshie, Madeleine Jevons, Michael Dahlenburg and Natalia Harvey.

The 2018 Melbourne season

March	Romance
April	Schubert Octet
May	French Arias
June	Mozart & The Classical Age
August	Vivaldi's Violins
September	España!
November	Bach Suites

Salon Sessions

Aiming to create “unforgettable close encounters with chamber music” the Salon Sessions are an innovative concept pairing fine wine and canapés with a performance of a chamber music masterwork. The Salon Sessions are presented in the Primrose Potter Salon at Melbourne Recital Centre. A highlight of the Salon Sessions for 2018 was internationally-acclaimed cellist Li-Wei Qin performing the Archduke Trio with Artistic Director William Hennessy and leading pianist Benjamin Martin.



Touring

The orchestra continues to be one of Australia's most active fine music touring organisations, providing the only professional orchestral performances in many of our destinations.

Five of the seven Melbourne Season performances were toured, allowing audiences outside Melbourne to access the orchestra's work. In all cases, we use the same orchestral artists and soloists as the Melbourne performances. For 2018, we offered a tailored string orchestra performance with guitarist Christoph Denoth that was more suited to regional touring.

The orchestra's touring work is funded by Touring Victoria and assisted by Regional Arts Victoria.

2018 Touring Destinations

Bairnsdale	Moorabbin
Bendigo	Mornington
Boort	Mount Beauty
Casterton	Narre Warren
Daylesford	Nunawading
Elmore	Portland
Frankston	Sale
Geelong	Traralgon
Glengarry	Warragul
Heathcote	Yackandandah



Soprano Greta Bradman performs with MCO in Warragul

A Feast of Music

A Feast of Music is Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's Festival in Daylesford. The 2018 festival offered five events including a musical dinner at the Lake House. The 2018 festival included acclaimed guests including cellist Li-Wei Qin and guitarist Christoph Denoth.

The program garnered around 700 attendances, with the Chamber Music Dining at Lake House sold out well in advance.

Supporters of the 2018 Festival included Creative Victoria, Biggin & Scott Daylesford, eCasa, Passing Clouds, Kawai and Lake House.



Cellist Li-Wei Qin and pianist Benjamin Martin at A Feast of Music in Daylesford

Education

In 2018 the orchestra launched its new Education initiative, Encounter The Orchestra (ETO). 630 children were served by the ETO performances across four performances in Narre Warren (Bunjil Place) and Portland (Arts Centre).

ETO events provide primary students (Grades 3–6) in regional areas with a live encounter with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. The structured, narrated events include performances, interaction, explanations, demonstrations and an opportunity for students to sing accompanied by the orchestra.

The purpose of the program is to provide a strong stimulus for students' achievement in their music study. Through the exciting cultural opportunity of interacting with a live orchestra, students will have the opportunity to appreciate music and create it, and form more complex ideas about music across cultures, places and times. These objectives form a strong nexus with strands in the Victorian curriculum.

Devised in conjunction with leading music educator Nicholas Bochner, the 45-minute narrated performances are designed with detailed resources for teachers to orient students to the experience, and create strong curriculum-based outcomes. The multimedia resources will be designed to enable delivery by non-specialist teachers. The performances and materials are devised to meet curriculum objectives for students in upper primary years.

The performances were supported by the Department of Education and were presented as community engagement alongside our regional season supported by Touring Victoria.



Nicholas Bochner and MCO in an Encounter The Orchestra event at Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2018 partners and supporters. It is only through the support of many contributors that Melbourne is home to its own acclaimed professional small orchestra.

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