

Report to the Community 2021



Performing 'Dixit Dominus' with Polyphonic Voices at Melbourne Recital Centre, November 2021.

From the Executive Director

2021 was another challenging year for Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, with significant periods affected by lockdowns.

Despite the periods of enforced inactivity, MCO's pivots to smaller work and streamable work ensured that the organisation continued to deliver for the community and for artists.

In particular, our continued relationship with Melbourne Digital Concert Hall (now Australian Digital Concert Hall) allowed for work to be planned and delivered.

We also made a CD quality recording which will be released in 2022.

The orchestra did lose significant activity through the middle part of the year, including a number of orchestral tours.

Support from donations, grants, and the state of Victoria remained vital for the viability of these activities. We are deeply grateful for the support we received over this period to continue operations to the extent possible.

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

Richard Jackson
Executive Director

2021 at a glance

	2020	2021
Total number of attendees (all events)	1,161,757	6,242
Mainstage (Melbourne Season) attendances	1,244	2,525
Streamed attendances	2,998	2,509
Paid (Melbourne Season) attendances	1,790	1,763
Income generated for artists	201,115	341,484
Number of performers employed	45	70
Number of performances & events	36	41
Number of different locations	15	10
Number of touring performances	12	6
Number of new works and arrangements presented	0	4
Website user sessions	20,315	31,097
Social media followers	3,170	4,137



One of MCO's many chamber music performances on Melbourne Digital Concert Hall.

2021 in review

For 2021, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra devised a program designed to shield the orchestra from events related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were substantial impacts throughout the middle of the year, with only 3 out of 6 orchestral performances able to be realised. The orchestra's season on Melbourne Digital Concert Hall was better protected against lockdowns, with 9 out of 12 performances realised. The realisation of this very large and varied season of chamber music, despite the odds, was a particular highlight of the year.

Touring was severely curtailed, as most planned touring was associated with the cancelled orchestral concerts. Our Festival in Daylesford, A Feast of Music, was also cancelled at the last minute. We were able to offer touring performances in Mallacoota and Lakes Entrance at short notice.

The orchestra's work was supported by Creative Victoria, with assistance from the Organisations Investment Program, Strategic Investment Fund, and Touring Victoria.



Quartet performance in Mallacoota, July 2021.

Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2021 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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