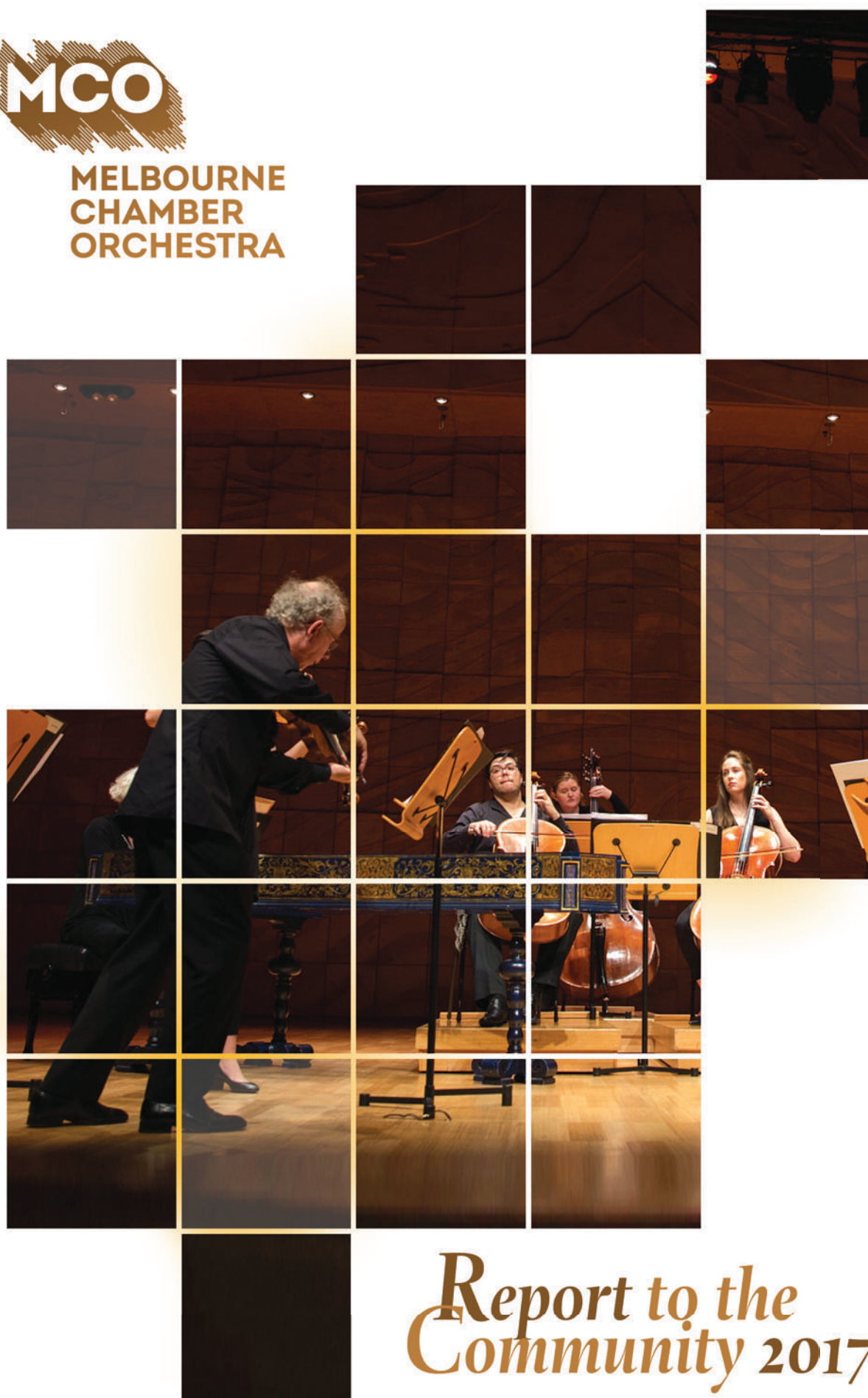




MELBOURNE
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA



*Report to the
Community 2017*

From the Executive Director

From orchestral performances spanning 900 years of music in Melbourne to an intimate chamber music performance in Mount Beauty, the orchestra's work in 2017 took on many guises. In every case, the orchestra seeks to serve the Victorian community through excellence, access and developing our very fine chamber music sector. I hope you get a flavour for the orchestra's diverse activities through this report.

In 2017 we presented our largest annual program yet, with 53 events. The orchestra reached over 10,000 attendees for the first time.

The year's program was punctuated with some bold directions for Victorian chamber music. Our festival, A Feast of Music, became a full weekend with five events over three days for the first time. We were overwhelmed by the positive response to the new format which broke all our previous attendance records. The new Salon Sessions, held in the intimate Salon at



Melbourne Recital Centre, provided a new kind of public soirée melding a food and wine experience with an exclusive chamber music performance.

Across the program, we worked with some of Australia's most distinguished chamber musicians including Li-Wei Qin, Rebecca Chan, Christopher Moore, Genevieve Lacey, Andrew Goodwin, Lucinda Collins, Shane Chen, Melba Quartet and Hamer Quartet.

Access to fine music across the state and opportunity for our chamber music sector remain our mission-level goals. In 2017 touring was again around half our work, with most projects available to communi-

ties outside central Melbourne. Our artistic expenditure continues to grow, and with it, the vibrancy of our chamber music ecosystem, which rivals any in the world.

For the first time in 2017, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra was supported in the Organisations Investment Program of Creative Victoria, providing a boost to our capacity to enhance the sector and bring joy to audiences.

Our largest source of non-performance revenue remains private philanthropy. Without the incredible generosity of our community of donors, the orchestra's work would simply not be possible. I am deeply grateful to all those who share our vision of a strong, world-class and uniquely Victorian orchestra bringing people together with the power of chamber music.

In 2018 we have a magnificent statewide program of music, and a new educational program for school students in the works. I look forward to sharing our progress with you.



Richard Jackson
Executive Director



2017

at a glance



2016



2017



| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|---------|
| Total number of attendees (all events) | 9,499 | 10,554 | ↑ 11.1% |
| Mainstage (Melbourne) attendances | 5,770 | 6,298 | ↑ 9.1% |
| Paid (Melbourne) attendances | 4,943 | 5,303 | ↑ 6.8% |
| Number of performers employed | 74 | 84 | |
| Number of performances & events | 50 | 53 | |
| Number of different venues | 36 | 32 | |
| Number of touring performances | 31 | 26 | |
| Number of free events | 3 | 5 | |
| Number of new works and arrangements presented | 12 | 14 | |



Melbourne Season Concerts

In 2017 the orchestra has expanded its Melbourne season from 6 to 7 projects (from 11 to 13 concerts). In the Melbourne season, there are now six orchestral performances and a performance by Australian Octet each year. The orchestra continues to grow in its support; attendances at our first concert for the year, *Rococo Cello*, broke previous revenue records for the orchestra for a season project.

The 2017 Melbourne Season

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| March | <i>Rococo Cello</i> |
| April/May | <i>Beyond Baroque</i> |
| June | <i>Songs of the Night</i> |
| July | <i>Concert Grand</i> |
| September | <i>Towards Eternity</i> |
| October | <i>Mendelssohn's Octet</i> |
| November | <i>Letters from Tchaikovsky</i> |



Salon Sessions

The Melba Quartet perform at a 2017 Salon Session.



In 2017 we introduced the Salon Sessions, using the Salon at Melbourne Recital Centre for performances for the first time.

With the atmosphere of a private concert, guests enjoyed a seminal work of chamber music accompanied by a pre-concert talk, canapés, premium wines and a chance to meet the artists.

The Salon Sessions will continue in 2018 as an "ultimate experience" of our desire to give audiences a thrillingly intimate encounter with great music.

The Salon Sessions were supported by Narkoojee Wines.

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. We continue to offer the same artists, soloists and programs on tour as we do in Melbourne.

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

Touring



The orchestra performs its Letters from Tchaikovsky program in Yackandandah.


2017 Touring Destinations:

Albury
Bairnsdale
Ballarat
Daylesford
Geelong
Glengarry
Hamilton
Mornington
Mount Beauty
Northcote

Nunawading
Pakenham
Port Fairy
Portland
Sale
Swan Hill
Traralgon
Warragul
Yackandandah



A Feast of Music



A Feast of Music is Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's Festival in Daylesford. In 2017, we expanded the Festival to include five events over three days. The dining event moved to the famed Lake House.

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

Audiences enjoyed performances by Machlak Chen duo, Hamer Quartet, Genevieve Lacey and Louisa Breen, alongside the orchestra and its musicians.

Supporters of the 2017 Festival included Creative Victoria, Biggin & Scott Daylesford, eCasa, Passing Clouds, Kawai, Hepburn Shire Council and Lake House.



Top: Hamer Quartet perform at Lake House.

Bottom: Recorder virtuoso Genevieve Lacey with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra in Daylesford Town Hall.

The orchestra presented three workshops for young string students in Warragul, Mornington and Geelong. These workshops are tailored to the needs of local students and include opportunities for students to interact with our musicians, improve their ensemble playing and present a performance.

Education



In Geelong, the orchestra worked with Bay City Strings to provide a day of activities with their three student orchestras, serving over 70 students.

The orchestra also presented a masterclass for violin students with leading violinist Elinor Lea in Daylesford.

The Education work was supported by private donors; Geelong Chamber Music Society; Peninsula Music Society; St Pauls Anglican Grammar School; West Gippsland Arts Centre; The Linnell Hughes Trust and the Rural Enhancement Endowment (managed by Perpetual); and Hepburn Shire Council.

Top: Education program in Warragul.

Bottom: William Hennessy works with students in Geelong.

Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2017 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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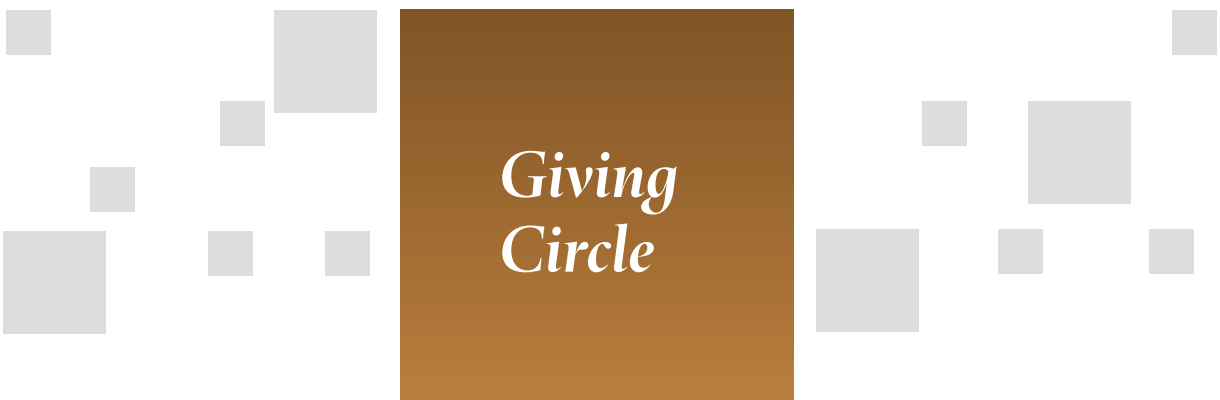
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