

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

Report to the Community 2019



From the Executive Director

Taking culture has never been easier: it is effortlessly streamed into our homes, onto our phones, from the four corners of our planet. It can be flown in at a moment's notice, as our world becomes ever more connected.

On the other hand, there is more to the task of *making culture*. What can we do that presents a sensibility of music-making that is uniquely Victorian? How do we reflect the highways and byways of an extraordinary musical heritage, in a shining new light? How can we create new music for today, and share that excitement with audiences in Melbourne and on tour?

Our 2019 season set out to answer these questions, allowing Melbourne's own Joe Chindamo to rub shoulders with rare Baroque concerti; imagining new arrangements of music from Dvorak and Beethoven; naming Haydn's un-named symphonies; and making Mozart right at home in Yackandandah.

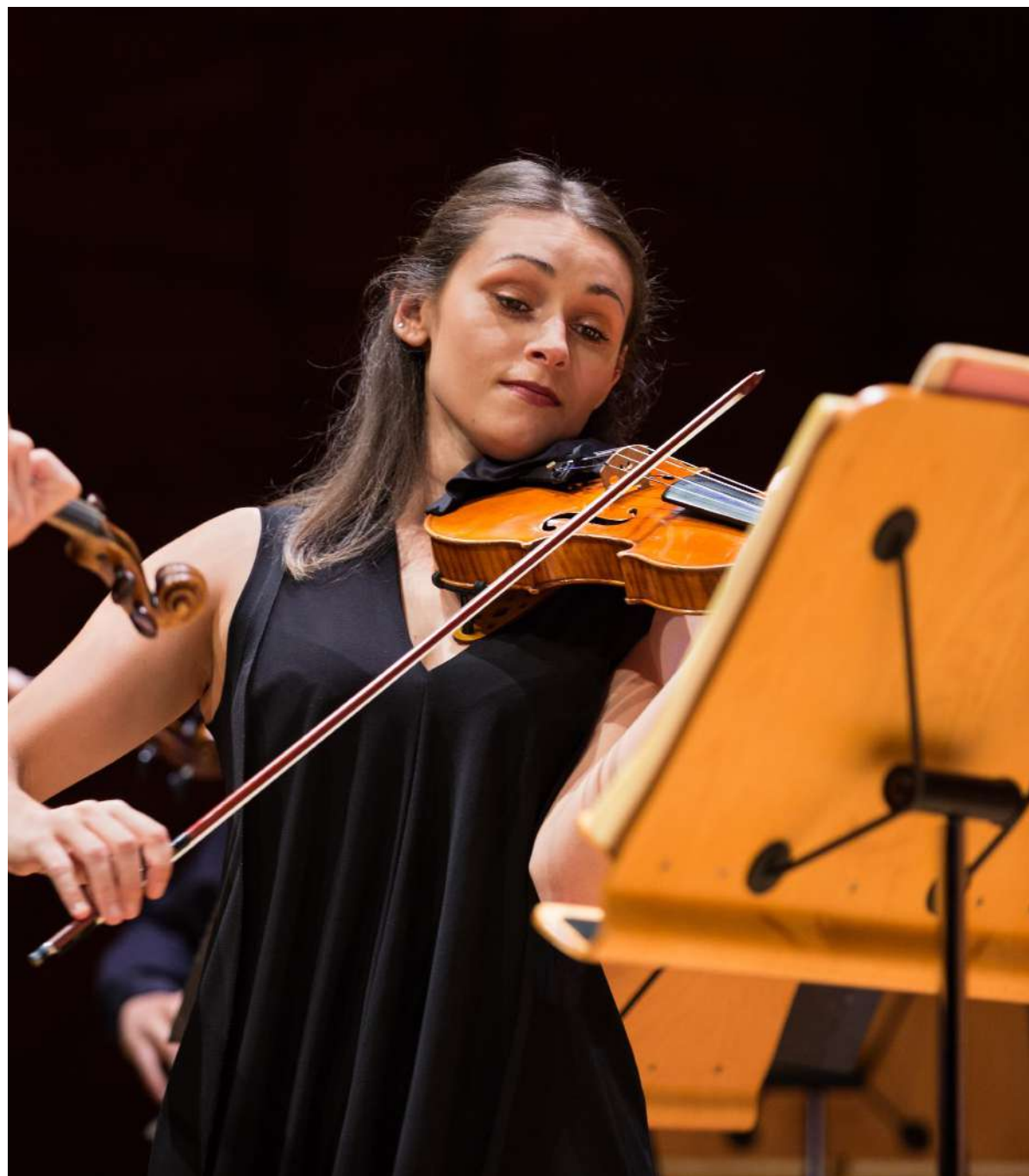
It seems we have something to add to the cultural conversation! I invite you to explore our work through this report.

Richard Jackson
Executive Director, MCO



2019 at a glance

	2018	2019	+/-
Total number of attendees (all events)	11,619	12,139	4.5%
Mainstage (Melbourne Season) attendances	6,692	6321	-5.5%
Paid (Melbourne Season) attendances	5,866	5,537	-5.6%
Income generated for artists	\$377,367	\$440,250	16.7%
Number of performers employed	71	75	
Number of performances & events	57	60	
Number of different locations	34	23	
Number of touring performances	31	33	
Number of new works and arrangements presented	10	3	



Melbourne Season Concerts

The Melbourne season offered 13 performances, with 6 orchestral projects and one Australian Octet recital. The Orchestra made the difficult decision to move some Thursday evening performances from Federation Square after the brochure was printed, to guarantee performances would not be interrupted by external noise. As a result, the Thursday performances were spread across Melbourne Recital Centre, Hawthorn Arts Centre and Iwaki Auditorium. Attendances at HAC and Iwaki were similar to what we would have expected at Federation Square.

Leading artists including Andrew Haveron, David Fung, Diana Doherty, Alexandre Oguey, Prudence Davis, Alice Giles and Stefan Cassomenos collaborated with the orchestra as soloists. 2019 saw the beginning of a partnership with choir Polyphonic Voices, under the directorship of Michael Fulcher, for MCO's first performances with choir.

Commissions and premieres included *Yackandandah Music* by Nicholas Buc (supported by the Robert Salzer Foundation) and the Victorian premiere of composer Joe Chindamo's *Sanctuary* for oboe, cor anglais and string orchestra.



The 2019 Melbourne Season:

February/March	Jovian Worlds
March	Shostakovich, Raff & Brahms <i>(Australian Octet)</i>
May	Bach Concertos
June	Baroque Oboe
July/August	Schubert Mass
September	Flute & Harp
November	Mozart the King

Salon Sessions

Aiming to create “unforgettable close encounters with chamber music” the Salon Sessions were an innovative concept pairing fine wine and canapés with a performance of chamber music masterworks. The Salon Sessions were presented in the Primrose Potter Salon at Melbourne Recital Centre. In 2019, the two performances utilised the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Quartet (with guest Matthew Laing) to perform string quartets by Haydn & Smetana, and string quintets by Mozart & Brahms.



Touring

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra continues its strong commitment to regional audiences. In 2019, the orchestra toured all season programs apart from *Jovian Worlds* as well as both Salon Sessions programs. The Orchestra's touring work also includes its five-event weekend festival in Daylesford; education performances and pre-concert talks.

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

Touring destinations included:

Albury	Narre Warren
Bendigo	Nunawading
Casterton	Portland
Daylesford	Sale
Geelong	Shepparton
Glengarry	St Albans
Milawa	Traralgon
Mildura	Warragul
Moonee Ponds	Yackandandah
Mount Beauty	



Education

For the second year, MCO's Encounter the Orchestra events provided primary students (Grades 3–6) in regional areas with a live encounter with Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. The structured, narrated events included performances, interaction, explanations, demonstrations and an opportunity for students to sing accompanied by the orchestra.

We served over 1000 students for the first time, in performances in Portland, Yackandandah and Traralgon.

Our Encounter the Orchestra initiative was supported by the Strategic Partnerships Program of the Department of Education and the Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation.

The orchestra also presented a group class in Mornington with William Hennessy.



A Feast of Music

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's annual chamber music festival, A Feast of Music, brings five chamber music events into Victoria's leading regional tourism destination, including an orchestral concert at the Daylesford Town Hall and a chamber music dinner at Lake House.

Guest musicians in 2019 included Elizabeth Layton, Prudence Davis, Alice Giles AM, and Lucinda Collins.

Supporters of the 2019 Festival included Creative Victoria, Biggin & Scott Daylesford, eCasa, Passing Clouds, Kawai and Lake House.



Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2019 partners and supporters. It is only through the support of many contributors that Melbourne is home to its own acclaimed professional small orchestra.

MELBOURNE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ABN 48 270 234 406
SUITE 31 FAWKNER TOWERS
431 ST KILDA ROAD
MELBOURNE 3004
03 9820 0679
INFO@MCO.ORG.AU

Our Supporters

MAJOR PUBLIC PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS



MAJOR TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



LEGAL PARTNER



STRATEGY PARTNER



WOMENSWEAR PARTNER



MENSWEAR PARTNER



WINE PARTNER



FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER



AUDIT PARTNER



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PARTNER