



MELBOURNE  
CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA

Report  
to the  
Community  
2022

## **From the Executive Director**

It is my great pleasure to present Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's Report to the Community for the year 2022. Our theme for this year has been "transition" and I am pleased to say that we have navigated this period with great success.

We were thrilled to welcome a number of terrific guest directors, who brought their unique talents and perspectives to our performances. Their contributions were invaluable in helping us achieve our artistic goals and maintain our high standards.

After two years of disruptions, we returned fully to in-person performances, engaging live audiences and providing them with world-class music experiences. Our partnership with the Australian Digital Concert Hall continued, showcasing a wealth of chamber music and providing us with opportunities to reach audiences beyond Melbourne. Touring returned in force in 2022, with an epic three-week tour featuring Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, which was met with acclaim and enthusiastic audiences.

The announcement of the appointment of our new Artistic Director, Sophie Rowell, marked the beginning of a new era. Sophie brings a wealth of experience and vision to the role, and we look forward to working with her in the years ahead. We again express our gratitude to the former Artistic Director, William Hennessy AM, for his many years of service to MCO and to music.

Finally, we want to thank our donors and supporters for their continued generosity and support. Your contributions are critical to our success, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our organisation.

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

Richard Jackson  
Executive Director

## 2022 at a glance

	2022	2021	+/-
<b>Total number of attendees (all events)</b>	9,677	6,242	55.0%
<b>Mainstage (Melbourne Season) attendances</b>	4,317	2,525	71.0%
<b>Streamed attendances</b>	862	2,509	-65.6%
<b>Paid (Melbourne Season) attendances</b>	2,767	1,763	56.9%
<b>Income generated for artists</b>	417,094	341,484	22.1%
<b>Number of performers employed</b>	76	70	
<b>Number of performances &amp; events</b>	71	41	
<b>Number of different locations</b>	32	10	
<b>Number of touring performances</b>	38	6	
<b>Number of new works and arrangements</b>	9	3	



MCO Musicians rehearse for Classical Vienna with guest director Zoë Black and pianist Stefan Cassomenos.  
Image: Lucien Fischer

## Melbourne Orchestral Season

MCO's Melbourne season offered 11 performances across 6 orchestral projects. All had at least a Thursday and Sunday performance at Melbourne Recital Centre, with two concerts having a third performance at Alexander Theatre, Monash University. Three programs were also streamed online on Australian Digital Concert Hall.

The season began in March with two performances of *Classical Vienna* at Melbourne Recital Centre, featuring guest co-directors Zoe Black and Stefan Cassomenos. Stefan premiered his own MCO commissioned work, the *Three Minute Concerto*.

Zoe Black returned to guest direct *Mozart/Salieri*, while other guest directors included Sophie Rowell (*Bach's World* and *Mozart & The Violin*), Alexandra Osborne (*Rhapsodic Bohemians*), and Sulki Yu (*Vivaldi's Four Seasons*).

Leading and emerging artists collaborated with the orchestra as soloists, including: on violin, Jos Jonker, Jennen Ngaiu-Keng, and Karla Hanna; on piano, Hoang Pham; and on flute, Prue Davis.

MCO principals Natalia Harvey guest directed and appeared as a soloist in Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, while Emma Sullivan appeared as a soloist to premiere Louise Trewartha's MCO commissioned work, *Anderson's Kew*.

MCO also performed Caerwen Martin's *Stars come out in a midnight sky*, while *Daylesford Music* by Calvin Bowman had its long-awaited premiere. *Daylesford Music* was commissioned by MCO and donors from Daylesford at our 2019 festival, A Feast of Music. *Daylesford Music* was due to premiere in 2020 but was delayed by the pandemic. The concept was inspired by Nicholas Buc's *Yackandandah Music*, which was similarly commissioned by MCO and donors from Yackandandah, a town close to Beechworth, where MCO performs annually.

## The 2022 Melbourne Orchestral Season

March	Classical Vienna
April/May	Bach's World*^
June	Rhapsodic Bohemians^
July	Mozart/Salieri
August/September	Vivaldi's Four Seasons*^
November	Mozart & The Violin

\* additional performance at Alexander Theatre, Monash University

^ streamed via ADCH





Performing on stage at  
Melbourne Recital Centre

## **Chamber Season & Digital Season**

We extended our partnership with Australian Digital Concert Hall (ADCH) to present chamber performances at Athenaeum Studio 2. The 2022 chamber season was performed for a live studio audience and streamed on the ADCH platform. MCO is an ADCH ensemble-in-residence and supports the initiative in its growth toward the vision of a sustainable digital platform for musicians. In 2022, three orchestral season performances and all chamber season performances were digitally streamed live.

Guest artists that collaborated as part of MCO's quartets and quintets included: on violin, Alexandra Osborne, Kristian Winther, Elizabeth Sellars, and Tair Khisambeev; on piano, Stefan Cassomenos; on clarinet, Philip Arkinstall; and on flute, Laila Engle.

MCO Principal Double Bassist Emma Sullivan also guest curated a program.

The orchestra commissioned and premiered two new chamber works: a clarinet quintet, *Principia Clarinettica*, by Joe Chindamo and a piano quartet by Linda Kouvaras.

## **The 2022 Melbourne Chamber Season**

March	Quartet Heritage
May	Clarinet Quintets
August	Kerry & Mozart Quintets
September	Dvorak Piano Quartet
October	Flute, Viola & Bass
December	Beethoven's Last Quartet



Kristian Winther, Ioana Tache, Katie Yap, James Morley & Philip Arkinstall perform the premiere of Joe Chindamo's *Principia Clarinettica*, as part of MCO's chamber music season on Australian Digital Concert Hall. Image: Australian Digital Concert Hall





MCO Musicians (from left) Anna Pokorny, Merewyn Bramble, Emily Beauchamp & Natalia Harvey after a performance of Beethoven's Last Quartet in Bruthen, East Gippsland.



## Touring

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra was able to continue its strong commitment to regional audiences. In 2022, the orchestra toured 9 programs, including one regional-only program, *Tchaikovsky in Florence*.

The Orchestra's touring work also included the return of the five-event weekend festival in Daylesford, education performances, and public programs.

MCO's touring was funded by Touring Victoria.

### 2022 Touring Destinations

Bairnsdale	Geelong	Mount Eliza	Stawell
Bendigo	Heathcote	Narre Warren	Swifts Creek
Bruthen	Lakes Entrance	Ouyen	Warracknabeal
Casterton	Mallacoota	Pakenham	Werribee
Daylesford	Merimbula	Red Cliffs	Yackandandah
Elmore	Moonee Ponds	Portland	
Falls Creek	Mount Beauty	Sale	



MCO Musicians prepare to perform the *Four Seasons* in Bairnsdale with guest director Sulki Yu.



## Education

### *Encounter the Orchestra!*

Primary school students in Grades 3 to 6 in outer Melbourne and regional areas were provided 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.

In 2022, there were four sessions across Narre Warren (327 students) and Portland (228). The program was associated with MCO's *Vivaldi's Four Seasons* tour.

This program is funded through the Victorian Department of Education's Strategic Partnership Program.



*Encounter the Orchestra!* onstage at Bunjil Place with presenter Ingrid Martin.

### *Masterclasses*

Chamber touring provides the opportunity for musicians to coach a small group of school-aged instrumental students in regional and remote communities that would otherwise not have such diverse musical development opportunities. This year, guest artist Elizabeth Sellars led a masterclass in **Mildura**, while MCO principal Natalia Harvey led a masterclass in Bendigo.

## Public Programs

Another way MCO engages with our audiences while touring is through pre-concert talks for orchestral programs and small-group community workshops for chamber programs.

In 2022, pre-concert talks were held for Vivaldi's Four Seasons at Moonee Ponds and Werribee. MCO continued its community workshop in Mallacoota, with MCO musicians performing work by local composers alongside local musicians. The Mallacoota workshop was possible through the significant contribution of local musician Padma Newsome.

## A Feast of Music

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's festival in Daylesford, A Feast of Music, brings five chamber music events into Victoria's leading regional tourism destination. The three-day festival included a musical dinner at the Lake House, an orchestral concert – and three chamber music concerts.

Guest musicians in 2022 included Ensemble Liaison and Stefan Cassomenos.

Supporters of the 2022 Festival included Australian Government (through the RISE Fund), Creative Victoria, Biggin Scott Daylesford, eCasa, Kawai, Lake House, and Red Hare Estate Vineyard.



*A Feast of Music in Daylesford Town Hall.*



## Thank you

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra thanks its 2022 partners and supporters. It is only through the support of many contributors that Melbourne is home to its own acclaimed professional small orchestra.

### PRINCIPAL PARTNER



**Australian Government**  
**RISE Fund**

### MAJOR PARTNERS

**Arnold Bloch Leibler**  
Lawyers and Advisers  
LEGAL PARTNER



PEGGY & LESLIE  
CRANBOURNE  
FOUNDATION

**CREATIVE VICTORIA**  
TOURING PARTNER

  
**MEDOWNICK**  
LASER EYE CLINIC



THE  
ROBERT  
SALZER  
FOUNDATION



SERP HILLS  
FOUNDATION

**SOFITEL**  
HOTELS & RESORTS  
FIVE-STAR HOTEL PARTNER

**TSENG PROUSE  
FOUNDATION**

**JULIAN ZAHARA  
MEMORIAL FUND**

### OFFICIAL PARTNERS

  
AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL  
CONCERT HALL  
STREAMING PARTNER

**FEATHERS**  
WOMENSWEAR PARTNER

PROUD SPONSOR  
**KAWAI**  
PIANO PARTNER – A Feast  
of Music & Gala Dinner

GIPPLAND VICTORIA  
  
**NARKOOJEE**  
WINE PARTNER



Melbourne Chamber Orchestra  
ABN 48 270 234 406  
Suite 31 Fawcner Towers, 431 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic 3004  
(03) 9119 1599 | [mco.org.au](http://mco.org.au) | [info@mco.org.au](mailto:info@mco.org.au)