



Canberra
Symphony
Orchestra

2024 Annual Report





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Cover image: An Australian Series
concert in the remarkable atrium of the
Australian National Museum

Images by Martin Ollman unless indicated
Design by GRI.D, Canberra

Chair's report



The Canberra Symphony Orchestra continues to be a national leader in promoting contemporary Australian music, community engagement and creative innovation.

The 2024 season included sold-out performances, exciting new partnerships and record-breaking community events that reinforced the orchestra's deep local connections.

The season's theme, Earth and Sky, highlighted humanity's enduring connection with nature and the cosmos, resonating strongly with audiences. More than 10,000 people attended CSO performances throughout the year, affirming the orchestra's importance to Canberra's cultural life.

Key successes included sold-out Beethoven 9 concerts marking this work's 200th anniversary, generously supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Australia. This program was especially memorable, reflecting the orchestra's ability to unite the community through music during difficult times for many.

Our Symphony in the Park concert with the Hoodoo Gurus attracted record attendance and this collaboration with an iconic Australian rock band further underscored the CSO's versatility and broad appeal.

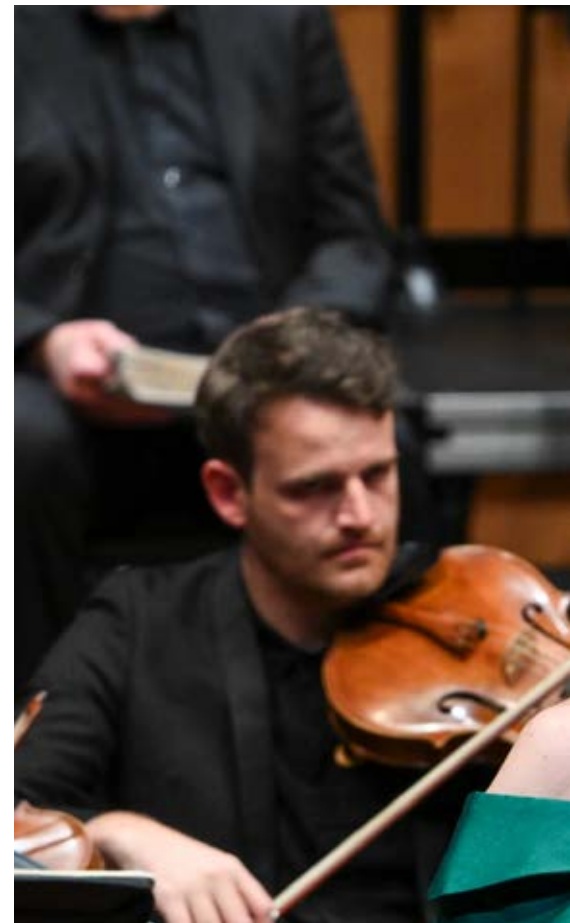
The CSO's flagship Llewellyn Series remained popular, notably Edge of the World, featuring internationally acclaimed guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan performing Nigel Westlake's *Toward Takayna* alongside music by Sibelius and Vaughan Williams.

Similarly, our two Australian Series concerts, First Light and Heart-Space, showcased premieres by Australian composers Natalie Williams, Peggy Polias and Michael Bakrnčev, confirming the orchestra's continuing leadership in the presentation of contemporary Australian music and reinforcing our commitment to nurturing local voices.

Other successful events included Beethoven's Septet (Chamber Classics series) and popular concerts such as Music by the River, an ABBA tribute, as well as four CSO Down South chamber music performances at Tuggeranong Arts Centre. These events demonstrated the orchestra's dedication to providing diverse and accessible musical experiences for the wider Canberra community.

Despite many outstanding performances, financial sustainability was a major concern in 2024. Reduced ticket sales due to broader cost-of-living pressures and long-term inequities in government funding posed significant risks to the CSO's core programming and community initiatives.

In April, CEO Rachel Thomas and I met with Australian Finance Minister Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher to articulate these challenges. Senator Gallagher's advocacy under the Albanese Government's National Cultural Policy secured essential funding of \$4.1 million over four years from 2025, with ongoing support of \$1.29 million per year, indexed. This critical funding boost will allow the CSO to work on stabilising its financial position and rebuilding depleted reserves, while carefully planning future programming.



The CSO's strategic pillars – creativity, community and collaboration – continued to guide activities throughout 2024. The expansion of the Kingsland Pathways Program through the introduction of Kingsland Brass complemented existing youth initiatives such as Kingsland Strings and the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra, providing additional opportunities for emerging Canberra musicians to develop their skills and gain professional experience.

Community engagement remained robust, notably through the CSO's Heartstrings program, which provided free concert tickets to 26 charities and more than 300 individuals facing financial and social barriers. Our partnership with community foundation Hands Across Canberra in administering this program ensures continued accessibility and community enrichment.

Accessibility was enhanced in 2024 through initiatives such as live captioning (supported by Better Hearing Australia Canberra) and Rediscovering Music, significantly improving concert experiences for individuals with hearing impairments and broader audiences, including non-native English speakers. The orchestra awarded five music scholarships to individuals with hearing loss, offering tailored tuition by CSO musicians to foster personal and creative growth.



Throughout 2024, the CSO reinforced its commitment to Australian artists and composers, ensuring their prominent representation across all series and events. This emphasis not only supports established artists but nurtures emerging talent, crucial for the sustainability of the arts sector and the cultural vibrancy of our region.

We also strengthened our collaborative relationships with cultural and community institutions across Canberra and the broader region, enhancing the visibility and accessibility of orchestral music, encouraging wider community engagement and fostering a greater appreciation of the arts.

The CSO continued to actively engage with educational institutions such as the Woden School for children with intellectual disabilities, and the Kingsford Smith School. Through tailored educational programs, workshops and mentorship opportunities, the orchestra has significantly enriched music education within the community, inspiring a new generation of musicians and music lovers.

This year, we farewelled long-standing patrons His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, whose generous support and hospitality at Government House significantly enriched the CSO and its audiences.

We warmly welcomed our new patrons, Their Excellencies the Hon. Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, and Mr Simeon Beckett SC, and I thank them for their support.

I commend Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis for her exceptional leadership and artistic vision, significantly enhancing our artistic programming and community engagement. Her frequent presence in Canberra throughout 2024 contributed greatly to audience connection and performance excellence.

The CSO's musicians, led with distinction by Concertmaster Kirsten Williams, exemplified dedication and artistic excellence throughout the year. Their commitment, despite many juggling other professional roles, is instrumental in creating the exceptional music that continues to inspire and uplift our audiences.

The CSO's structure as a part-time professional orchestra presents financial challenges that our capital city counterparts don't face with their full-time performers, but it also leads to a passion, commitment and energy rarely seen in other orchestras.

I extend my sincere gratitude to CEO Rachel Thomas and her hard-working administrative team, whose adaptability and determination ensured the continued stability of the orchestra despite significant operational challenges.

My thanks also go to my fellow CSO Board Directors for their support and strategic guidance. I acknowledge the contributions of outgoing director Christine White and warmly welcome new Board members Prof. Mathew Trinca AM and David Williams, whose expertise will greatly benefit the organisation.

We approach our 75th anniversary in 2025 with optimism, strengthened by a critical funding boost from the Commonwealth Government and enduring community support from loyal concertgoers, patrons, donors and supporters. Together we look forward to sustaining and enhancing the CSO's significant cultural contribution to Canberra for many years to come.

**Air Chief Marshal
Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd)**
Board Chair

CEO's report



2024 was a year of remarkable resilience, creativity and strategic growth for the CSO, with stronger partnerships across the arts, industry and government reinforcing our position as an essential cultural institution in Canberra.

These achievements were made despite the continuing impact of COVID-19 on arts organisations such as ours. In particular, many valued audience members have yet to return to performance venues, and we face the possibility that some may never return, especially older patrons. This presents a significant challenge at a time when many Australians are restricting their budgets due to increasing cost-of-living pressures.

We were delighted to extend our highly successful partnership with the National Museum of Australia for an additional two years. Together, we staged an exceptional event showcasing the museum's historic AE Smith collection, breathing new life into these treasured string instruments through the exceptional talents of our CSO musicians and attracting significant public and media attention.

We also announced a creative partnership with the Australian Ballet and Canberra Theatre Centre, which will see a special performance of Johan Inger's *Carmen* staged in 2025. This collaboration reflects our commitment to ambitious, multi-dimensional artistic projects.

A highlight of the year was our world-first collaboration with the Hoodoo Gurus, drawing a capacity crowd to Symphony in the Park over the Canberra Day long weekend. This event, presented by the ACT Government, demonstrated our ability to appeal to diverse audiences by reimagining iconic hits from one of Australia's most beloved bands in an engaging classical format. We look forward to seeing these unique compositions, arranged by the talented Australian composer Alex Turley, take on a life of their own.

Our advocacy efforts were on display during our participation at Parliament House in Symphony Services Australia's campaign to highlight the significant social and economic contributions of classical music. A memorable moment was Speaker of the House Milton Dick joining our musicians on viola, a beautiful illustration of music's unique power to unite diverse communities and stakeholders.

We also made significant strides in accessibility by introducing live captioning, generously supported by Better Hearing Australia Canberra. Starting with our Llewellyn Series program Cottis Conducts Mahler, this initiative enhanced the concert experience for those with hearing impairments and non-native English speakers alike, cementing our reputation as a leader among Australian orchestras in inclusive practice.

Our community programs expanded, with new initiatives such as the Goodwin Village Grace recital series. The inaugural program featuring the internationally acclaimed Grigoryan Brothers brought great joy to senior residents unable to easily travel to evening concerts. Our Kingsland Fellows continued to enrich the experience through subsequent concerts, showcasing the considerable talent within our youth initiatives.

Youth development has remained a key priority, particularly with the ongoing expansion of our groundbreaking Kingsland Pathways Program. Kingsland Brass now joins the successful Kingsland Strings, Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra, and Kingsland Fellowship programs. Application numbers have risen significantly, a testament to the quality of our training and mentorship, as well as

the success of our alumni. Three of our talented 2024 Fellows – Samuel Hutchinson (trumpet), Issie Brown (flute) and Dante Costa (flute) – have since successfully auditioned for the CSO, highlighting the tangible benefits and opportunities these programs provide.

Our Explore the Orchestra program for families also continues to thrive. July's Meet the Woodwinds event offered interactive, engaging experiences including instrument 'petting zoos' and vibrant performances designed specifically for young children. The inclusion of Auslan interpretation further increased the program's accessibility.

We proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of Painting with Parkinson's, an important program we actively support. This milestone was commemorated through a special art exhibition featuring participants' work displayed alongside our sold-out Beethoven 9 concerts. This partnership vividly illustrates the profound benefits creative collaboration can have on health and wellbeing.

Our Musical Services program also expanded, from a powerful tribute to Neil Diamond featuring singer Peter Byrne, to the popular Live at Lanyon series blending classical and contemporary pieces in the stunning setting of Canberra's historic Lanyon Homestead. None of these achievements would have been possible without the visionary leadership of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis, who curated a diverse and ambitious season under the theme Earth and Sky. This compelling program brought together classical masterpieces and contemporary compositions.



Highlights of our 2024 Llewellyn Series included Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Sibelius's Second Symphony, as well as Vaughan Williams' *Lark Ascending*, featuring our talented Concertmaster Kirsten Williams as soloist. Special events such as Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* further demonstrated our versatility and breadth, with Kirsten Williams providing expert direction in the Vivaldi.

Our Australian Series continued the CSO's deep commitment to contemporary Australian work, premiering music by Peggy Polias, Michael Bakrnčev and Natalie Williams. Peggy Polias has since been named CSO Composer in Connection for 2025. Collaborations with artists such as guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan and pianist Jayson Gilham also enriched the season.

I warmly congratulate Jessica Cottis on receiving the prestigious ACT Luminary Award at the 2024 APRA-AMCOS Art Music Awards. Her exceptional leadership and artistic vision are fundamental to our continued success, and it's wonderful to see her achievements recognised widely.

The CSO's successes also reflect the dedication and talent of our musicians, administrative team, and Board. My sincere gratitude goes to Concertmaster Kirsten Williams, our principals, and every CSO musician for their professionalism and passion. Special thanks to our Chair, Sir Angus Houston, and the CSO Board for their unwavering support and strategic guidance.

To my dedicated administrative team, thank you for your ongoing commitment and unwavering grace under pressure. My special thanks to outgoing publications editor Jacqui Douglas, who has contributed significantly to the CSO in various capacities, and a warm welcome to our new publications editor, Yvonne Frindle.

Our 75th anniversary in 2025 is an opportunity to celebrate our rich legacy and to carefully plan how we move forward.

We still have significant challenges to overcome. The Australian National University is navigating its own financial and structural pressures, which may affect our access to Llewellyn Hall, our primary performance venue. And despite the announcement of increased Federal Government funding for the CSO, we have

considerable ground to cover as we rebuild our foundations after decades of chronic structural underfunding.

As one of Australia's oldest continuously performing orchestras, we've successfully navigated challenges in the past, and we remain committed to delivering inspiring experiences and fostering a diverse, inclusive community through music.

The generous support of our donors, government and corporate partners, and of course our loyal audiences, is invaluable and deeply appreciated. We look forward to writing the next vibrant chapter in the CSO's proud history.

Rachel Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Image: Justin's Photo Works

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director's report



The Canberra Symphony Orchestra embarked on the 2024 season with the theme 'Earth and Sky', exploring our understanding of the natural world and the universe at large through a rich repertoire of music.

Mainstage concert activity was delayed until May as Llewellyn Hall, our primary venue, underwent extensive restoration; when we did return, the atmosphere was triumphant. The opening Llewellyn Series concert, *Edge of the World*, was an exemplar of our values as a national capital organisation and as musicians, with not one but three Australian soloists, music by a living Australian composer, and two remarkable works from the core repertoire, including Sibelius's 'blockbuster' Second Symphony.

There were more blockbusters to come. We performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in a concert marking – to the day – the 200th anniversary of that seminal work's premiere on 7 May 1824. Generously supported by the European Union Delegation to Australia, the two performances drew capacity audiences and their warm response was a reminder of music's power to connect and inspire. And while audiences may have turned out for Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', it was a special privilege to introduce them to a newly commissioned companion work by Australian Miriama Young. This new piece, *Daughters of Elysium*, expanded on Beethoven and Schiller's idea of the universal sister/brotherhood and celebrated, through allusions to J.S. Bach, music's unifying force.

This was followed in June by Handel's *Messiah*, with guest conductor Erin Helyard directing two special performances that literally brought the audience to its feet – and not just for the Hallelujah Chorus. Both Beethoven 9 and *Messiah* were special for another reason: they were showcases for the CSO Chorus, a tremendous ensemble

of 65 local singers whose longstanding relationship with the orchestra was formally recognised in 2024. (You can read more about the CSO Chorus on page 19.)

The remaining blockbuster was Mahler's Fourth Symphony – the highlight of our third Llewellyn Series concert, *Celestial Visions*. (This is the Mahler symphony featuring a luminous part for solo soprano, sung for us by Celeste Lazarenko.) Being Mahler, it called for our biggest orchestra of the season with 70 instrumentalists on stage. Jayson Gillham was the soloist in another audience favourite, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K. 467. And we continued to demonstrate our commitment to Australian music and female composers, opening the concert with Caerwen Martin's *Stars Come Out in a Midnight Sky*, a gentle work for strings that complemented the 'heaven is hung with violins' vision of the symphony.

For the final program in the Llewellyn Series, *Forest Lore*, guest conductor Benjamin Bayl returned to direct a program on a Classical scale but filled with powerful music. Again, in signature CSO style, the program married repertoire staples – music by Dvořák, Mozart and Haydn – with new music indelibly linked to our own time and place. For this program, we commissioned Canberra-based First Nations composer Christopher Sainsbury to write *Antique Flight Stilled Through Millennia*. This work, powerfully combining new sounds with ancient themes and a profound sense of cultural connectedness, reflected our continued commitment to Indigenous storytelling and Australian voices.



The Llewellyn Series presents the CSO at full strength in a traditional concert hall for thousands of concert-goers each year, placing in high relief our goal of providing vibrant and engaging experiences for Canberra audiences. But it's equally important that these experiences be engaging for the musicians of the orchestra and that our programming provides avenues for artistic growth. So it was especially gratifying when Graham McDonald (reviewing *Edge of the World* for *Canberra City News*) observed of the orchestra: 'Everyone seems to be having a good time, and this is reflected in the quality of their music making.'

Here at the CSO we also take delight, and pride, in the characteristics that make us distinctive and allow us, in the words of one *Limelight* journalist, to 'punch above our weight' in the company of our bigger Australian siblings, the six state symphony orchestras. I've already mentioned our unwavering commitment to Australian music and music by women, a commitment reflected across our full range of programming, from mainstage concerts to outreach events (see pages 10–11). Another point of distinction is a series dedicated exclusively to Australian music and presented in the inspiring environment of the National Museum of Australia, and the satisfying opportunities we provide for



our musicians to work together in small ensembles through the Chamber Classics series in historic Albert Hall.

Economic pressures in 2024 resulted in the Australian Series being streamlined to two concerts, but musically it was undiminished. Heart-Space in May introduced our audiences to compelling world premieres by Peggy Polias and Michael Bakrnčev, as well as music by Ella Macens and Yuwaalaraay, Gamilaraay, Yorta Yorta and Yuin composer James Henry. In September, First Light featured music by Yuwaalaraay woman Nardi Simpson, Bree van Reyk and Liza Lim, together with a new work, Light Visions, by Natalie Williams, each piece enriching the fabric of contemporary Australian music.

In addition to Messiah, our special events included Four Seasons – or rather ‘eight seasons’ – juxtaposing Vivaldi’s violin concertos with Astor Piazzolla’s vibrant response, *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, in a concert featuring our concertmaster Kirsten Williams.

The CSO also remains committed to community outreach and young artist development, and in 2024 our Kingsland Pathways youth program was significantly expanded. It was wonderful to join the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra and Kingsland Brass rehearsals and to attend the Kingsland Fellows masterclass in May.

The calibre of these young players is exceptional, and their talents were on full display at well-attended end-of-year concerts by all youth ensembles.

I’d especially like to thank Donna Parkes, Bjorn Pfeiffer and Greg Stenning, who mentor the youth brass ensemble, alongside Kirsten Williams, Lindy Reksten, Caroline Suthers and Lara Kurzawa, who share their expertise with our young string players. Their skill and generosity continue to shape our future musical leaders.

The CSO’s community outreach initiatives also flourished, demonstrating the powerful role music can play in wellbeing and inclusivity. Programs such as Rediscovering Music, led by CSO bassoonist and audiologist Kristen Sutcliffe and featuring performances by guitarist Steve Allen, Principal Clarinet Rachel Best-Allen, violinist Tim Wickham and cellist Sam Payne, provided invaluable support and enjoyment for audiences with hearing impairments. Events such as Music for Managing Tinnitus further demonstrated our commitment to inclusive experiences.

In collaboration with local partners, we also presented accessible, engaging events, including Symphony in the Park with the Hoodoo Gurus, which attracted record attendance. This fusion of rock and orchestral traditions demonstrated the CSO’s versatility and broad appeal.

And a collaboration with the Melbourne Recital Centre saw us join UK electronic music producer Clark, award-winning choreographer Melanie Lane, fashion designer Akira Isogawa and four dancers to present *MOUNTAIN*, an evocative new work blending live electronic and orchestral music with dance.

In closing, I extend heartfelt thanks to our exceptional musicians, brilliantly led by Kirsten Williams, whose passion and artistry consistently elevate every performance. My gratitude also to our guest conductors and soloists, whose contributions have significantly enriched our musical offerings. Thank you, too, to the CSO Board led by Sir Angus Houston, CEO Rachel Thomas and the diligent administrative team who keep this wonderful show on the road despite often challenging circumstances.

Above all, I thank our loyal audiences, whose enthusiasm and support are appreciated more than they could know. Their commitment allows us to pursue artistic excellence despite external pressures, and inspires us as we present ever more enriching musical experiences. As we approach the CSO’s landmark 75th anniversary in 2025, we can look forward together with great optimism and excitement.

Jessica Cottis

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Spotlight on CSO repertoire

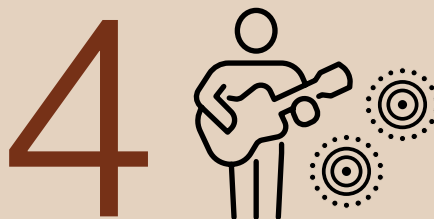
Most of these performances took place in our mainstage subscription concerts, but also extended to Kingsland Pathways programming and our Music Services activities, demonstrating commitments that are reflected throughout our activities.

WORLD PREMIERES



World premieres of
CSO commissions

MUSIC BY FIRST NATIONS COMPOSERS



Performances of 3 works by
First Nations composers

including the premiere of a
newly commissioned orchestral
work by Canberra-based composer
Christopher Sainsbury

MUSIC BY AUSTRALIANS



Performances of
17 Australian works

together with a full evening of songs by the
Hoodoo Gurus in new symphonic arrangements

MUSIC BY WOMEN



Performances of 14 works by
female composers

representing two centuries of music-making,
from Clara Schumann (1846) to a brand new
work by Peggy Polias

COMPOSER	WORK	WORLD PREMIERE OF A CSO COMMISSION	AUSTRALIAN COMPOSITION	FIRST NATIONS COMPOSER	FEMALE COMPOSER	DATE	TWO PERFORMANCES	CONCERT
Michael Bakrñčev	The Storm Glass	•	•			27 Oct		AS2 Heart-Space
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Romance, Op.23 for violin and piano				•	7 Mar		CSO Down South (Music Services)
Nadia Boulanger (1877–1979)	No.3 (Danse espagnole) from Three Pieces for cello and piano				•	29 Nov		Kingsland Fellows in Recital
Zachary Connor	Afterlife for cello and strings		•			20 Nov		Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert
Caleb Dickinson	Springtime Gardens	•				29 Nov		Kingsland Fellows in Recital
Percy Grainger	Irish tune from County Derry		•			11 Jun		Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert
Sally Greenaway	The Little Red Fox from The Strawberry Thief		•		•	14 Apr	•	Kingsland Fellows in Recital
James Henry	Heart Like Snow		•	•		27 Oct		AS2 Heart-Space
Hoodoo Gurus arr. Alex Turley	An evening of Hoodoo Gurus hits arranged for band and orchestra		•			10 Mar		Symphony in the Park (Music Services)
Elena Kats-Chernin	Calliope Dreaming		•		•	31 Jan		CSO Down South (Music Services)
Liza Lim	The Heart's Ear		•		•	16 May		AS1 First Light
Ella Macens	A Love Worth Fighting For		•		•	27 Oct		AS2 Heart-Space
Caerwen Martin	Stars Come Out in a Midnight Sky		•		•	18 Sep	•	LS3 Cottis Conducts Mahler
Nicole Murphy	Spinning Top		•		•	7 Dec		Government House Fundraiser
Peggy Pollas	Lacuna	•	•		•	27 Oct		AS2 Heart-Space
Bree van Reyk	Light for the First Time		•		•	16 May		AS1 First Light
Christopher Sainsbury	Antique Flight Stilled Through Millennia	•	•	•		13 Nov	•	LS4 Forest Lore
Clara Schumann (1819–1896)	Trio in G minor, Op.17				•	7 Dec		Government House Fundraiser
Nardi Simpson	Burruguu (Time of Creation)		•	•	•	16 May		AS1 First Light
Nigel Westlake	Toward Takayna – Concerto for 2 guitars		•			22 May	•	LS1 Edge of the World
Natalie Williams	Light Visions	•	•		•	16 May		AS1 First Light
Miriama Young	Daughters of Elysium	•	•		•	7 Aug	•	LS2 Beethoven 9
Total works		6	18	3	14			
Total performances		8	23	4	17			

 Mainstage subscription concert
 Orchestral work

Finance report

For the year ending 31 December 2024, CSO recorded a loss of \$642,980. This outcome was driven primarily by lower than expected partnership, fundraising and investment income. In particular, the mainstage concert season was truncated (May to November) as a result of roof restoration works at Llewellyn Hall, which decreased income from ticket sales and increased marketing costs.

Despite this result, CSO remains in a sound financial position, with strong cash reserves of \$2,566,026 at year end – an increase from \$2,344,969 in the previous year. The Working Capital Ratio at 31 December 2024 was 2.09, and total reserves stood at \$2,148,570, equating to 80% of gross annual income (\$2,678,181). Measures have been undertaken to improve forecasting, and to ensure financial sustainability in future years.

Financial sustainability was a critical concern in 2024. The forecast loss, combined with longstanding inequities in government funding, posed major risks to core programming and community initiatives. In April, the Board Chair and CEO were able to articulate these concerns to the Federal Finance Minister, resulting in a much-needed \$4.1 million funding uplift over four years from 2025, with continuing support of \$1.29 million annually (indexed). This essential investment will enable the CSO to stabilise its financial position, rebuild reserves and plan with greater confidence.

We thank our dedicated subscribers, partners, and donors for their generous continued support.

FOUNDATION AND FELLOWSHIP FUNDS

As part of the overall reserves, the organisation maintains dedicated funds that support long-term strategic initiatives and sector development.

The **Foundation Fund** had a balance of \$1,655,653 at 31 December 2024. Established in 2009 to support identified projects undertaken by CSO, the Foundation Fund (formerly Legacy Fund) is funded by identified donations, bequests and other identified funds. This initiative has enabled supporters of the CSO to donate, knowing that the capital will be pooled and that the income earned will support emerging orchestral projects in the longer term. Income earned is reinvested to accelerate the growth of the Fund and the future income stream.

The **Kingsland Fellowship Fund** had a balance of \$447,395 at 31 December 2024. Established in 2012 through a one-time gift of \$150,000, this fund was created to provide professional development opportunities for early career musicians.

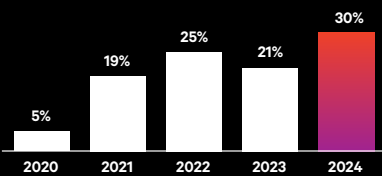
David Williams

Chair, Finance, Audit, Investments and Risk Committee

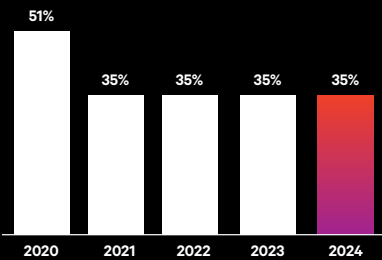




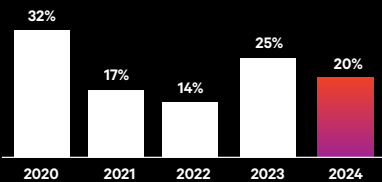
Concert income*



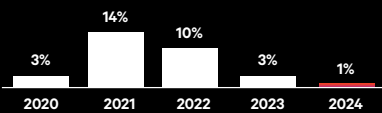
Grant income*



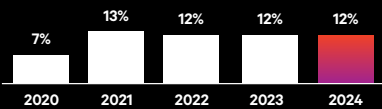
Philanthropy income*



Partnership income*



Musical services income*



* as percentage (%) of total income

**2024 season
Earth and Sky**



**MUSICAL SERVICE:
MUSIC BY THE RIVER**

3 February 2024
Queen Elizabeth II Park, Queanbeyan
*Presented by Icon Water in collaboration
with Queanbeyan-Palerang
Regional Council*

George Ellis conductor
BABBA
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
ABBA tribute concert

**CHAMBER CLASSICS:
BEETHOVEN SEPTET**

18 February 2024
Albert Hall, Yarralumla
CSO Chamber Ensemble
R STRAUSS arr. HASENÖHRL
Till Eulenspiegel einmal anders!
BEETHOVEN Septet in E flat major

**REDISCOVERING MUSIC:
MUSIC FOR MANAGING TINNITUS**

6 March 2024
Ainslie Football and Social Club
Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
Steve Allen guitar
Interactive session exploring the positive
effect of music on tinnitus in a supportive
community setting.

**MUSICAL SERVICE:
CSO DOWN SOUTH**

7 March 2024
Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Kirsten Williams *violin*
Edward Neeman *piano*
BEACH Romance
FRANCK Violin Sonata
SARASATE *Zigeunerweisen*

**MUSICAL SERVICE:
SYMPHONY IN THE PARK**

10 March 2024
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park
Presented by the ACT Government
Hoodoo Gurus
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
Orchestral renditions of Hoodoo Gurus
hits, arranged by Alex Turley, in celebration
of the band's 40th anniversary

KINGSLAND FELLOWS IN RECITAL

14 April 2024
The Aerie, Narrabundah
Kingsland Fellows
Music by Rachmaninoff, Haydn, Beethoven,
Charlier, Weber, Fürstenau, Loeillet, JS Bach,
Telemann and Sally Greenaway.

**KINGSLAND FELLOWS AT
SMITH'S ALTERNATIVE**

4 May 2024
Smith's Alternative, Civic
Kingsland Fellows
Music by John Williams, Ian Clarke, Haydn,
Britten, Arnold, Beethoven and Sally
Greenaway.

**REDISCOVERING MUSIC:
REDISCOVERING THE TUBA**

7 May 2024
Ainslie Football and Social Club
Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
Bjorn Pfeiffer *tuba*
Interactive concert focused on enjoying live
music with hearing loss, offering practical
strategies for listeners using hearing aids or
Cochlear Implants.

**MUSICAL SERVICE:
CSO DOWN SOUTH**

9 May 2024
Tuggeranong Arts Centre
CSO Chamber Ensemble
DVOŘÁK
Selections from Romantic Pieces
Songs My Mother Taught Me
Silent Woods for cello and piano
MENDELSSOHN Piano Trio No.1

**CHAMBER CLASSICS:
REVERIE**

12 May 2024
Albert Hall, Yarralumla
CSO Chamber Ensemble
GRIEG String Quartet No.1
HAYDN String Quartet, Op.50 No.5
(The Dream)

**AUSTRALIAN SERIES:
FIRST LIGHT**

16 May 2024
National Museum of Australia
Jessica Cottis *curator*
Amy Moore *soprano*
CSO Chamber Ensemble
NARDI SIMPSON
Burruguu (Time of Creation)
BREE VAN REYK *Light for the First Time*
NATALIE WILLIAMS *Light Visions**
LIZA LIM *The Heart's Ear*

**LLEWELLYN SERIES:
EDGE OF THE WORLD**

22, 23 May 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
Jessica Cottis conductor
Kirsten Williams *violin*
Slava and Leonard Grigoryan *guitars*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *The Lark Ascending*
NIGEL WESTLAKE *Toward Takayna*
SIBELIUS Symphony No.2

**KINGSLAND YOUTH
ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT**

11 June 2024
All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie
Canberra Symphony Youth
Chamber Orchestra
Kingsland Strings
Music by Vivaldi, Warlock, Handel, Grieg,
Piazzolla, Mouret, Mozart, Grainger
and Bizet

* World premiere of a CSO commission

CSO SPECIAL: MESSIAH

21, 22 June 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Brett Weymark *conductor*
Jacqueline Porter *soprano*
Hannah Fraser *mezzo-soprano*
Robert Macfarlane *tenor*
Christopher Hillier *baritone*
CSO Chorus
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

HANDEL *Messiah*

EXPLORE THE ORCHESTRA: MEET THE WOODWINDS

18 July 2024
Ainslie Arts Centre
CSO Wind Quintet
Funky Fairy *balloon artist*

Interactive concert for young children and families to explore music through play, song and dance.

LLEWELLYN SERIES: BEETHOVEN 9

7, 8 August 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

*Presented by European Union,
Delegation to Australia*

Jessica Cottis *conductor*
Emma Pearson *soprano*
Ashlyn Tymms *mezzo-soprano*
James Eggleston *tenor*
Adrian Tamburini *bass-baritone*
CSO Chorus
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

MIRIAMA YOUNG *Daughters of Elysium**
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.9 (Choral)

MUSICAL SERVICE: HOT AUGUST NIGHT

10 August 2024
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden

Peter Byrne *vocalist*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Symphonic tribute to Neil Diamond's albums *Hot August Night*, *The Jazz Singer* and *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*

MUSICAL SERVICE: ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC EVENT

15 August 2024
Parliament House
Presented by Symphony Services Australia

CSO Chamber Ensemble

String quartet performances at various locations throughout Parliament House, including the Speaker's Office

MUSICAL SERVICE: MOUNTAIN

24 August 2024
Melbourne Recital Centre
Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

Tyrel Dulvarie, Sara Black, Yolanda Lowatta,
Max Burgess and Melanie Lane *performers*

Chris Clark *electronic music producer*
CSO Chamber Ensemble

CLARK *Mountain*

Visceral dance work by choreographer Melanie Lane, blending live electronic and orchestral music with movement to explore the tension between ascent and collapse in mythic, manmade landscapes

REDISCOVERING MUSIC: REDISCOVERING PERCUSSION

27 August 2024
Ainslie Football and Social Club

John Dewhurst *vibraphone and facilitator*
Craig Greening *voice and audio-visual*
Samuel Payne *cello*

Interactive concert exploring the vibraphone, cello and the role of technology and language in enhancing musical experiences for people with hearing loss

CHAMBER CLASSICS: MAGIC & MIRACLES

1 September 2024
Albert Hall, Yarralumla

CSO Chamber Ensemble

Arrangements for brass quintet:
MOZART *The Magic Flute*: Overture
KOETSIER Brass Quintet, Op.65
R ALEOTTI Two Motets:
Ascendens Christus and *Miserere Mei*
ARNOLD Brass Quintet No.1, Op.73
COHEN *Hallelujah*

MUSICAL SERVICE: CSO DOWN SOUTH: BRILLIANT BRASS

5 September 2024
Tuggeranong Arts Centre

CSO Brass Quintet

MOZART *The Magic Flute*: Overture
ARNOLD Brass Quintet No.1, Op.73
KOETSIER Brass Quintet, Op.65
JS BACH Fugue in G minor
COHEN *Hallelujah*

LLEWELLYN SERIES: CELESTIAL VISIONS (COTTIS CONDUCTS MAHLER)

18, 19 September 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
*Presented by Canberra Daily,
Canberra Weekly*

Jessica Cottis *conductor*
Jayson Gillham *piano*
Celeste Lazarenko *soprano*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

MARTIN *Stars Come Out in a Midnight Sky*
MOZART Piano Concerto No.21, K.467
MAHLER Symphony No. 4

MUSICAL SERVICE: RESONANCES

9 October 2024
National Museum of Australia

CSO Chamber Ensemble

National Museum
Martha Sear *senior curator*
Jennifer Brian *conservator*

Performance using string instruments from the AE Smith collection

* World premiere of a CSO commission

CSO SPECIAL: FOUR SEASONS

18, 19 October 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
Kirsten Williams *violin-director*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*
PIAZZOLLA arr. DESYATNIKOV
The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

MUSICAL SERVICE: LIVE AT LANYON

26 October 2024
Lanyon Homestead
Presented by the ACT Government
CSO Chamber Ensemble
Program of classical favourites,
contemporary hits and jazz

CHAMBER CLASSICS: AFFINITIES

27 October 2024
Albert Hall, Yarralumla
CSO Chamber Ensemble
DVOŘÁK
Selections from Romantic Pieces, Op.75
Silent Woods for cello and piano
SUK Elegy, Op.23
DVOŘÁK *Songs My Mother Taught Me*
MENDELSSOHN Piano Trio No.1

AUSTRALIAN SERIES: HEART-SPACE

27 October 2024
National Museum of Australia
Jessica Cottis, *curator*
CSO Chamber Ensemble
Craig Greening *electronics*
ELLA MACENS *A Love Worth Fighting For*
JAMES HENRY *Heart Like Snow*
PEGGY POLIAS *Lacuna**
MICHAEL BAKRŇČEV
*The Storm Glass** (commission supported
by Kimberley Burnett)

MUSICAL SERVICE: CSO DOWN SOUTH

31 October 2024
Tuggeranong Arts Centre
CSO Chamber Ensemble
KATS-CHERNIN *Calliope Dreaming*
DVOŘÁK *Songs my Mother Told Me*
MENDELSSOHN Piano Trio No.1

LLEWELLYN SERIES: FOREST LORE

13, 14 November 2024
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
Presented by Region, Riotact
Benjamin Bayl *conductor*
Andrew Bain *horn*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
DVOŘÁK Serenade for strings, Op.22
MOZART Horn Concerto No.2, K.417
CHRISTOPHER SAINSBURY
*Antique Flight Stilled Through Millennia**
HAYDN Symphony No.31 (Horn Signal)

KINGSLAND YOUTH ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

20 November 2024
National Gallery of Australia
Canberra Symphony Youth
Chamber Orchestra
Kingsland Strings
Kingsland Brass
Music by Corelli, Vaughan Williams,
Piazzolla, Villa-Lobos, Susato and
Zachary Connor

KINGSLAND FELLOWS IN RECITAL

29 November 2024
Ainslie Arts Centre
Kingsland Fellows
Music by Reinecke, Ian Clarke, Böhme,
Ginastera, Ewazen, Köhler, Schubert,
Wang Jianzhong, Taktakishvili, Lovelock,
Nadia Boulanger, Karl & Franz Doppler and
Caleb Dickinson*

CSO SPECIAL: AN AFTERNOON AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

7 December 2024
Government House, Yarralumla
*Hosted by Their Excellencies the
Hon. Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General
of Australia and Patron of the CSO, and
Mr Simeon Beckett SC*
CSO Chamber Ensemble
MOZART arr. KLENGEL
Adagio in E major, K.261
NICOLE MURPHY *Spinning Top*
TCHAIKOVSKY
Mélodie from *Souvenir d'un lieu cher*
CLARA SCHUMANN Trio in G minor, Op.17

REDISCOVERING MUSIC: REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS STRINGS

3 December 2024
Ainslie Football and Social Club
Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
CSO String Players
Interactive concert designed to bring
joy to listeners with hearing loss through
shared music-making and practical
listening strategies

KIDS CHRISTMAS MUSIC ADVENTURE

3 December 2024
Ainslie Arts Centre
CSO String Quartet
Festive, sensory-friendly concert for
International Day of People with Disability,
welcoming children with hearing loss and
their families

2024 activity

CSO CONCERTS	NO. PERFORMANCES	NO. TICKETS SOLD (2024)	NO. TICKETS SOLD (2023)
Australian Series 1: Heart–Space	1	104	317
Australian Series 2: First Light	1	108	146
Chamber Classics 1: Beethoven Septet	1	331	319
Chamber Classics 2: Reverie	1	288	310
Chamber Classics 3: Magic & Miracles	1	285	313
Chamber Classics 4: Affinities	1	104	348
Llewellyn Series 1: Edge of the World	2	1,507	1,561
Llewellyn Series 2: Beethoven 9	2	2,133	1,639
Llewellyn Series 3: Cottis Conducts Mahler	2	1,397	1,370
Llewellyn Series 4: Forest Lore	2	1,126	1,774
CSO Special – Messiah	2	988	971
CSO Special – Four Seasons	2	1,463	n/a
An Afternoon at Government House	1	89	210
Parliament House	1	transient audience	transient audience

KINGSLAND PATHWAYS PROGRAM	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)
Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert	2	123
Kingsland Fellows Recitals	2	211

MUSICAL SERVICES	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)
CSO Down South (chamber music series)	4	202
Music by the River (BABBA)	1	4,000
Symphony in the Park (Hoodoo Gurus)	1	15,000
Hot August Night	1	700
Mountain	1	885
Resonances (NMA AE Smith collection)	1	320
Live at Lanyon	1	1,154
NMA Pompeii Exhibit	2	450

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	NO. OF PERFORMANCES	ATTENDANCE (APPROX.)
Aged care	13	410
Music for Seniors (Goodwin Crace Recital Series)	4	357
Family-friendly performances	6	200
Diverse Abilities School program	19	878
Education outreach: general	8	544
Children with hearing impairment	1	59
Program for People with Disability	1	30
Rediscovering Music	4	259
Tingey Painting with Parkinsons	16	253

CSO Chorus

The CSO Chorus brings vocal artistry to the stage whenever the Canberra Symphony Orchestra programs choral-symphonic repertoire. The Chorus is an auditioned choir with 65 active members, led by award-winning singer and conductor Tobias Cole since 2022.

The Chorus brings together experienced choristers and talented singers from the Canberra Community. Under Cole’s leadership their expertise and professionalism is matched with the inspiring and rewarding experience of communal music-making.

Highlights of recent seasons have included Bach’s St John Passion, and in 2024 the Chorus joined the CSO for acclaimed performances of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony and Handel’s *Messiah*.

In 2024, the Chorus was formally recognised as an ensemble member of the CSO organisation with an integral role to play in the orchestra’s programming.



CHOIR MEMBERSHIP IN 2024	SOPRANO	ALTOS	TENOR	BASSES
Tobias Cole Chorus Master	Shirley Aitchison	Annabelle Burian	Percy Bell	Ron Bennett
Dan Walker Assistant Chorus Master	Amelia Bell	Kate Bulenda	Tomás Dietz	Phil Coote
Marie Searles Rehearsal Pianist	Jennifer Bennett	Sophie Chalk	John Dobson	Rowan Grigg
	Issie Brown	Kelly Corner	Paul Eldon	Liam Higgins
	Seema Chaman	Barbara Courtney	James Gibson	Sam Hutchinson
	Jessie Cole	Christine Gascoyne	Meshach Jeremiah	Tim Kelly
	Adrienne Cullity	Helen Gustafsson	Michael Kirk	Jonathan Lee
	Keren Dalzell	Astrid Lane	Brandon Le Gallez	Lachlan Mackenzie
	Katie Deakin-Sharpe	Sylvan Lawrenz	Jason Li	Martin Magill
	Rachel Eddowes	Liz McKenzie	Jackson Low	Neb Miletic
	Meredith Graham	Isabelle Mellor	Ranga Parimala	Alistair Murphy
	Emma Griffiths	Felicity Moran	Toby Silcock	Lachlan Rankin
	Amira Hibberd	Thayer Parker	Dan Walker	Alexander Rouss
	Amy Jelacic	Robyn Ross		Joshua Verspaandonk
	Elsbeth Lee	Sarah Sutcliffe		Jim Woolnough
	Hannah Nolte-Crimp	Sally Wodzinski		
	Evangeline Osborne	Enrica Wong		
	Ceridwen Young	Mary Wood		
		Mary Woodhouse		

Corporate partners

We thank our government, corporate and community partners

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



HONORARY SOLICITORS



CULTURAL PARTNER



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



PRINT PARTNER



PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER



SPECIAL SUPPORTERS



VENUE PARTNER



Donors

While the Canberra Symphony Orchestra receives some grant funding from government, we rely on philanthropic support to bring our artistic vision to life. We thank our generous family of donors for their dedication and support.

The CSO gratefully acknowledges the significant contributions of:

Better Hearing Australia, Canberra

The late Dr Pamela Rothwell

The late Sir Richard & the late Lady Kingsland and family

Ross Kingsland AM & Sue Kingsland

The late Betty Beaver AM

Anthony Hedley AM

The Kenyon Foundation

Prof. Brian Anderson AC & Dianne Anderson AM

The Allen Family Foundation

The late Lou Westende OAM & Mandy Westende

The Mundango Charitable Trust Joan Boston

Marjorie Lindenmayer *In Memoriam*

June Gordon

Sue Daw OAM

RA David Campbell AM (Retd)

The Tall Foundation

Anne Foote

CF Leung (& RH Dean) Memorial Trust

David & Noela McDonald

The Douglas Family

Iris Aldridge

Geoffrey White OAM & Sally White OAM

Virginia Berger

Raydon & Alison Gates

Allan Hall AM & Barbara Hall OAM

Mike & Stephanie Hutchinson

Muriel Wilkinson

Jim & Heather Leedman

Anonymous (2)

All gifts of \$100 or more are acknowledged in CSO mainstage program books.



CSO Board and governance report

The CSO is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The business of the CSO is managed by a Board of Directors.

Led by Sir Angus Houston AK AFC, the collective expertise and experience of the CSO Board spans government consulting, accounting, productivity and financial management, business, law, architecture and the arts. Many Directors also serve on other boards; all have a passionate commitment to the CSO, and insights into the local, regional and national strategic context in which the orchestra operates.

The CSO has a robust Governance Charter and regularly reviews Board and operational performance and progress against a Strategic Framework and Model; CSO risks, mitigation and management; and business continuity, including Board succession planning, operational resources, musician wellbeing, and performance readiness and quality.

In 2024, 50% of Directors identified as male and 50% as female. One Director has identified as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD).

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A Board Conflict of Interest Policy is in place. Declarations are made annually and declared in Board meetings where relevant or new conflicts arise. The Conflict of Interest register is maintained by the Company Secretary.

CSO CONSTITUTION

No changes were made to the Constitution in 2024.

CSO BOARD ATTENDANCE (2024)

Director	Meetings held during tenure	Meetings attended during tenure
Sir Angus Houston	9	8
Ms Chris Faulks	9	9
Ms Robyn Holmes	9	8
Mr Paul Lindwall	9	5
Ms Annabelle Pegrum	9	6
Ms Amanda Story	9	7
Mr Mathew Trinca	9	9
Mr Terry Weber	9	8
Ms Christine White	9	6
Mr David Williams	5	5

Ms Jenna Roberts (Company Secretary) attended all nine meetings held in 2024

Meeting Dates

4 March 2024

22 April 2024
(Extraordinary Meeting)

20 May 2024
(incl. Annual General Meeting)

19 June 2024
(Extraordinary Meeting)

15 July 2024

20 September 2024
(incl. Board Strategic Day)

18 November 2024

27 November 2024
(Business Plan Workshop)

16 December 2024
(Extraordinary Meeting)



**Air Chief Marshal
Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) FAIC**
Chair

Joined the Board in November 2012

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Retd) was awarded the Knight of the Order of Australia in January 2015 for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to Australia, through distinguished service in the Australian Defence Force, continued commitment to serve the nation in leadership roles, particularly the national responses to the MH370 and MH17 disasters, and in a variety of roles in the community.

Sir Angus retired from the military in 2011 after 41 years of service. He was Chief of the Australian Defence Force (2005–2011) and Chief of the Australian Air Force (2001–2005).

In addition to his role as Chair of the CSO, Sir Angus is Chancellor for the University of the Sunshine Coast, and Chair of the UNSW Canberra Advisory Council and the Supashock Advanced Suspension Advisory Committee. He is a Board Member of the Lowy Institute for International Policy and the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, a visiting fellow of the Australian National University National Security College, and a Senior Counselor for the Cohen Group (an international business advisory group). He is also an ambassador/patron of a number of charitable, community and mental health organisations.

Sir Angus has been awarded four honorary doctorates – from the University of South Australia, Australian National University, UNSW and Griffith University.



Chris Faulks GAICD Deputy Chair

Joined the Board in May 2016

Member: Finance, Audit, Investments & Risk (FAIR) Committee; Nominations & Human Resources Committee

Chris Faulks has extensive experience in corporate governance, public policy, business administration and government relations and currently sits on a number of boards across the government, business and not-for-profit sectors.

In addition to the CSO, she is an independent director on the boards of Service One Mutual and Bendigo Community Bank Canberra, and the ACT and Southern NSW Rugby Union. She recently completed terms as the Deputy Chancellor of the University of Canberra (UC) and on the boards of the National Capital Authority and the City Renewal Authority.

She was the CEO of Canberra Business Council from 2007 to 2014, and transitional CEO of the merged Canberra Business Chamber (2014–2015). She also spent 13 years working as a senior adviser to a number of Federal Government Ministers and as Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate.

Chris Faulks holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduate diplomas in Education and Business Administration. In 2015, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Canberra for services to business and education. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Robyn Holmes FAHA

Joined the Board in February 2019

Chair: Artistic Advisory Committee

Robyn Holmes retired in 2018 from the National Library of Australia, where she was Senior Curator, Australian Collections, and formerly Curator of Music. She played a leading role in developing national research infrastructure to support access to Australian music, including the online service Music Australia (now incorporated into Trove).

As a musicologist, she has held academic positions at the University of Adelaide (1975–1989) and the Australian National University (1990–2000), where she headed the music studies, graduate and research programs. As a performing musician, she was musical director of several major choirs, including the Canberra Choral Society for almost a decade, and has commissioned several new works from Australian composers.

In 2010, she was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, recognising the role she has played in taking scholarship from the confines of the musicological academy into the public arena. She has also been honoured for her excellence in and service to Australian music by the Australasian Sound Recordings Association (2016) and the Musicological Society of Australia (2017), and in 2018 received the Distinguished Services to Australian Music Award (Art Music Awards hosted by APRA–AMCOS and the Australian Music Centre).

Robyn Holmes continues to advise and assist many national music organisations and artists, is Visiting Fellow at ANU and a member of the ANU Music External Liaison Committee, and brings her broad experience in the arts to the CSO Board.



Paul Lindwall

Served on the Board 2016–2021; rejoined September 2023

Member: Nominations & Human Resources Committee

Paul Lindwall served as a full-time commissioner with the Productivity Commission for two five-year terms and chaired the Commission's Audit and Risk Committee. He has retired from full-time work and engages actively with the volunteer sector including at the Museum of Australian Democracy and with Opera Australia.

He has served as a senior official with the Australian Treasury and the Department of Finance, as well as the Productivity Commission, focusing on macro-economic policy, financial markets, industry policy, national security and social policy. He also worked as a senior economic adviser to Treasurer Peter Costello.

He has represented Australia at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and as a diplomatic representative to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. He later worked as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary-General and the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD.

Paul Lindwall holds degrees in economics from the Australian National University as well as a diploma in Ancient History, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He also holds a Private Pilot Licence.



Annabelle Pegrum AM LRFAIA GAICD

Joined the Board in May 2018

Chair: Nominations & Human Resources Committee; Chair: Venue Committee

Annabelle Pegrum is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, an Adjunct Professor in architecture at the University of Canberra, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a director of Pegrum and Associates and the Alastair Swayn Foundation, and Chair of the Swayn Gallery of Australian Design. She is a sessional senior member of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

She was Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, a Professorial Fellow of the University of Canberra, a member of the University Council, and a Commissioner with the NSW Independent Planning Commission. She has also held executive positions with the ACT Government including as Chief Executive of Business, Arts, Sport and Tourism.

She was a President of the ACT Chapter of the Institute of Architects, is a recipient of a President's Award and was a member of the Institute's Venice Architecture Biennale Committee. She has been adviser to many design competitions, a member of design juries, and a member of the National Capital and the Western Australian State design review panels.

Annabelle Pegrum is the recipient of Telstra ACT Business Womens awards and the 2001 Centenary Medal, and in 2007 was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia for service to the planning, promotion, enhancement and development of Australia's National Capital, and to architecture, particularly as a mentor to women in the profession.



Amanda Story

Joined the Board in July 2021

Member: Finance, Audit, Investments & Risk (FAIR) Committee

Amanda Story is a Partner of Clayton Utz and is one of the firm's Client Relationship Partners for the Australian Government after previously leading another top-tier law firm's Government practice nationally.

She has extensive experience across the government sector assisting clients to achieve their goals and to meet the challenges facing them. During her career, she has worked on some of the Australian Government's most significant projects, including procurements, outsourcings, corporatisations and governance reviews. She is passionate about supporting government to achieve its objectives.

Her expertise is in strategic procurement, particularly for information communications and technology projects, outsourcing and governance. Her clients engage her for her depth of experience in advising government, hands-on management of matters and solutions-driven approach. She is recognised in various legal directories including in the areas of corporate governance, and government and information technology. She has been independently recognised by Chambers and Partners and Best Lawyers including as a Lawyer of the Year 2022 and 2024 in the Information Technology category, and Lawyer of the Year 2023 in the Governance category.

Amanda Story is an active supporter of Clayton Utz's inclusion and diversity agendas and supports the progression of women in the legal profession.



Mathew Trinca Talalin AM FAHA

Joined the Board in January 2024

Professor Mathew Trinca Talalin AM FAHA is Professor of Museum Practice at the Australian National University and was formerly Director of the National Museum of Australia (2014–2024). He is also Chair of Blue Shield Australia (dedicated to heritage preservation), a Commissioner for Culture and Olympic Heritage advising the International Olympic Committee, and serves on several arts and culture boards in Australia and Singapore.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (History) degree awarded by the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in History, from the University of Western Australia. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and in 2020 was made a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the museums and galleries sector.

Between 2016 and 2021, Prof. Trinca was the co-chair of the Australia Singapore Arts Group, established by the governments of both countries under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2015. Between 2019 and 2023 he was the Chair of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Australia and a member of ICOM's Ethics Standing Committee.



Terry Weber FCA

Joined the Board in July 2021

Terry Weber is a Senior Partner in PwC, specialising in the Government Sector. He is also Global Defence Leader for PwC.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia having received a Meritorious Service Award for services to the profession, government and the community.

Terry is currently the Chair of the National Capital Authority, a board member of the Canberra Raiders and serves on the Campus Planning Committee for the Australian National University. He also serves on a number of charities in Canberra.

Image (Terry Weber): National Capital Authority



Christine White CA GAICD

**Joined the Board in 2018
Resigned 31 December 2024**

Chair: Finance, Audit, Investments & Risk (FAIR) Committee

Christine White is an experienced business management executive with an industry background including education, government, mining, tourism, medical and not-for-profit. She is a Chartered Accountant whose early career began with KPMG in Business Advisory Services, and her expertise covers financial, risk, governance and resource management. She is a graduate of the Institute of Company Directors.

She recently undertook a new role in Queensland as a Wealth Strategist, which prompted her resignation from the Board and the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee.

Immediately prior to this, she was Director of Business Services for Marist College Canberra, a large independent school. In addition to the business operations of the school, she managed significant capital works programs, general facilities and a related registered charity, which she was responsible for establishing.

Until her relocation to Queensland, Christine White was an Executive Committee, Finance Sub-Committee and Board member of the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT.



David Williams

Joined the Board in July 2024

Chair: Finance, Audit, Investments & Risk (FAIR) Committee

Following ten years in a Canberra-based Chartered Accounting firm, David Williams spent some 20 years as a senior executive, holding positions of CFO, COO, CEO and Company Secretary, most recently in the Planning Institute of Australia (a large professional association) and prior to that the same roles in Greening Australia (a large not-for-profit environmental organisation). His strong emphasis on staff and board culture underpinned significant success in both CEO roles. Developing and communicating clear long-term strategies and implementing these with a highly agile and innovative team delivered impact and growth.

For 20 years, he has worked with, for and on Boards and has a deep understanding and appreciation of the Board's role, particularly in relation to culture, strategy, risk and opportunity. He is a highly regarded governance practitioner, combining his executive board work with Non-Executive Director roles. He has been a director in a not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation and a community-based sporting body. In addition to the CSO, David Williams is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Australian Maths Trust Board and financial advisor to the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Board.

CSO administration

ARTISTIC

Jessica Cottis *Chief Conductor
and Artistic Director*

Kirsten Williams *Concertmaster*

ADMINISTRATION

Rachel Thomas *Chief Executive Officer*

Jenna Roberts *Executive Assistant
& Company Secretary*

Andy Baird *Director, Artistic Planning
& Development*

Janice Alalay *Executive Assistant
(until March 2024); Artistic and Orchestral
Support Coordinator (from April 2024)*

Donna Parkes *Artistic Operations Manager*

Chris Dixon *Orchestral Operations
Coordinator (until March 2024); Orchestral
Operations Manager (from March 2024)*

Lindy Reksten *Orchestral
Development Liaison*

Sally Walker *Donor Liaison*

Jacqui Douglas *Publications Editor
(until September 2024)*

Yvonne Frindle *Publications Editor
(from 12 November 2024)*

Elsa Huber *Marketing and Communications
Coordinator (until 30 January 2024)*

Brandon Le Gallez *Sales and Marketing
Manager (25 March – 2 August 2024)*

Diana Hansen *Events and Partnerships*

David Flynn *Ticketing and Administration*

Lou Malfone *Chief Financial Officer*

Angela Lount *Partnerships Liaison,
Fundraising Manager, Finance Assistant*

NEW STAFF IN 2024

Brandon Le Gallez
Yvonne Frindle

FAREWELLS IN 2024

Jacqui Douglas
Elsa Huber
Brandon Le Gallez

VOLUNTEERS

Arnis Stonis, John & Anne Rundle,
Jenny Robinson

The orchestra

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra is the professional orchestra of the nation's capital: a champion of Australian music and a creative hub for the region.

The CSO brings together dedicated musicians based in the Canberra region or with strong ties to the ACT to present vibrant concert experiences and deliver transformative community and training programs. Following is an alphabetical list of CSO players for 2024.

CONCERTMASTER

Kirsten Williams
Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba* (Four Seasons)

VIOLINS

Kirsten Williams
Doreen Cumming
Sponsored by
Prof Brian Anderson AC
& Dianne Anderson AM

Leanne Bear
Adrian Biemi
Sam Boston
Michelle Brazier
Jack Chenoweth
Josephine Chung
Lauren Davis
Nicole Hammill
Natalia Harvey
Alison Heike†
Jennifer Higgs
Michelle Higgs
Mia Hughes
Valerie Jackson
Rebecca Lovett-Kotze
Lucy Macourt
Phoebe Masel*
Annastasia Milwain
Shirahni Mudaliar
Erin Patrick
Claire Philips
Helena Popovic
Bianca Porcheddu
Thayer Preece
Lynette Rayner*
Brad Tham
Pip Thompson*
Sponsored by
Air Chief Marshal
Sir Angus Houston
AK AFC (Retd) &
Lady Liz Houston
Tim Wickham
Matt Witney

VIOLAS

Tor Frømyhr
Concertmaster Emeritus

Merewyn Bramble
Lucy Carrigy-Ryan*
Elizabeth Chalker
Julia Clancy
Anthony De Battista*
Nicole Forsyth†
Linda Garrett
Beth Hemming
Julia Horneman
Stephen King†
Matt Laing
John Ma
Pippa Newman
Tahlia Petrosian
Ariel Postmus
Iska Sampson
Caroline Suthers*
Alina Zamfir

CELLOS

Patrick Suthers*
Sponsored by
Paul Lindwall &
Joanne Frederiksen
James Beck
Zachary Connor
Julia Janiszewski
Rachel Johnston
Gemma Kneale
Liam Meany
James Monro
Jack Overall
Samuel Payne*
Sponsored by
Harriet Elvin AM
Lindy Reksten
Sponsored by
Lisa Wilmot in
loving memory of
Richard Wilmot
Paul Stender
Alex Voorhoeve

DOUBLE BASSES

Max McBride
David Flynn*
Sponsored by
Ingrid Mitchell
Muhammed Mehmedbasic
Hayley Manning
Emma Meixner
Robert Nicholls
Kyle Ramsay Daniel*
Jack Schwenke

FLUTES

Kiri Sollis*
Sponsored by Elspeth &
Graham Humphries
Samantha Hennessy*
Lisa McMahon
Rebecca Timoney

OBOES

Megan Pamplng
Sponsored by
Anonymous
Carl Brumfield
Julie Igglesden
Caitlin McAnulty*
Ennes Mehmedbasic*

CLARINET

Alan Vivian
Rachel Best Allen
Samantha Kelson Gray
Matthew O'Keeffe*

BASSOON

Ben Hoadley
Sponsored by
Anonymous
Jordan London
Rebecca Rivera*
Kristen Sutcliffe*
Sponsored by Glen &
Lucille Halloran

SAXOPHONES

Benn Sutcliffe
Justin Buckingham
Scott Collinson
Michael Favreau
Shane Landry

FRENCH HORNS

Robert Johnson
The Principal French
Horn chair is sponsored
by Prof Brian Schmidt AC
& Dr Jenny Gordon

Carly Brown
Victoria Chatterley
Dianna Gaetjens
Adrian Hallam
Michael Jackson
Philip Wilson

TRUMPETS

Justin Lingard
Sponsored by
Connor Dyson
Josh Clark
Zach Raffan*
Greg Stenning
Julie Watson

TROMBONES

Nigel Crocker*
Michael Bailey*
Henry Schroder

BASS TROMBONE

Brett Page
Christopher Retter

TUBA

Bjorn Pfeiffer

TIMPANI

Timothy Brigden

PERCUSSION

Veronica Bailey
John Dewhurst
Wyana O'Keeffe
Louis Sharpe

HARP

Rowan Phemister
Sponsored by
Bruce Bacon &
Vanessa Fanning

KEYBOARDS

Caleb Campbell (piano)
Leigh Harrold (piano)
Edward Neeman (piano)
Ariana Odermatt
(harpsichord)
Susanne Powell (piano)
Peter Young (organ)
The Keyboard chair is
sponsored by Anne Foote

GIUITAR

David Flynn

ELECTRONICS

Craig Greening

Bold = Principal
*** = Guest Principal**
† = Acting Principal

Chair sponsorships
current as of 2024



Canberra
Symphony
Orchestra