



canberra
symphony
orchestra



2025 Annual Report



The Canberra Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the Ngunnawal People, Traditional Custodians of the land on which our concerts take place. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



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COVER: Flautist Sally Walker (2025 Artist in Focus) performing Christopher Sainsbury's new *Concertino for Flute* in the Australian Series at the National Museum of Australia;

THIS PAGE: Sally Walker following the tenth anniversary performance of Elena Kats-Chernin's *Night and Now* in the Llewellyn Series.

Images: Martin Ollman

Chair's report



The Canberra Symphony Orchestra's 75th anniversary year was one of meaningful progress for the organisation. Strong audience engagement, expanding partnerships and significant Commonwealth support further enhanced the CSO's role as a cultural icon in Canberra and strengthened the foundation for the future of the orchestra.

A key development in 2025 was the commencement of Commonwealth Government funding, secured through the advocacy of Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher. This investment has provided an important platform for the CSO to stabilise its financial position, rebuild reserves and plan with greater confidence after many years of structural underfunding.

The mainstage Llewellyn Series, showcasing the orchestra in symphonic repertoire, drew strong audiences, while the Australian Series, presented in partnership with the National Museum of Australia, continued to highlight the CSO's leadership in contemporary Australian music. Chamber Classics, now in its fifth year, remained an important part of the orchestra's core programming, and I acknowledge the valued support of Arcare as a partner of this series.

2025 also saw strong results from the CSO's commercial strategy. A notable milestone was the pilot presentation of *Art of the Score: The Music of John Williams*, which sold out both performances, signalling future opportunities in this area. The year also included a significant commercial recording project with flautist Sally Walker, the CSO's 2025 Artist in Focus.

Complementing these activities, the orchestra continued to contribute to Canberra's identity as a creative capital through its role as a provider of professional musical services. Notable engagements included the Canberra Theatre Centre's 60th anniversary celebrations, featuring the Australian Ballet; the third year of Live at Lanyon; and the culmination of Flowers of Peace at the Australian National War Memorial.



This reach expanded further through a new regional touring partnership with TLE Electrical, supporting performances in Yass, Goulburn and Queanbeyan, representing an important step in extending the CSO's presence across the wider region and deepening its engagement beyond Canberra.

The organisation's strategic pillars of creativity, community, collaboration and sustainability continued to guide its work throughout the year. This was evident in the success of Future Pathways, which maintained strong demand and continued to create meaningful opportunities for emerging musicians. We also demonstrated our commitment to accessibility and broadened the community reach of our Diverse Abilities program, while a new partnership with the Ricky Stuart Foundation will help extend its reach to specialist schools and support musician training.



In this landmark year, we were honoured by the generous support of our Patron, Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, and Mr Simeon Beckett SC. Her Excellency's recognition event at Government House, acknowledging the long service of CSO musicians, was a fitting tribute to their enduring contribution. Their commitment and artistry remain the lifeblood of this orchestra.

One musician, educator and leader who exemplified commitment and artistry over the course of a long and illustrious career was cellist John Painter AM, and in September we mourned his death. He leaves a profound legacy in Canberra, where he was both Director of the School of Music for a decade and a member of the CSO Board.

I thank Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis for her artistic leadership, Chief Executive Officer Rachel Thomas and the administrative team for their dedication throughout the year. I acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of outgoing Concertmaster Kirsten Williams OAM, whose leadership on stage and commitment to young musicians have left a lasting mark on the orchestra. I also thank outgoing Chief Financial Officer Lou Malfone for his contribution to the organisation. Finally, I acknowledge the remarkable contribution of Lindy Reksten, our longest-serving orchestra member, who celebrated 42 years with the CSO in 2025.

My thanks extend to my fellow Board Directors for their commitment and counsel. We acknowledge the contributions of Annabelle Pegrum AM and Professor Mathew Trinca AM as they conclude their service, and warmly welcome Robyn Hendry to the Board.

As the CSO enters its 76th year, it does so with greater stability, a stronger strategic position and confidence in its role within Canberra and the wider region.

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

ABOVE: CSO musicians performing Wilga's Last Dance by Nardi Simpson in the Australian Series at the National Museum of Australia.

Images: Martin Ollman

CEO's report



In 2025, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra began to see the results of several years of planning, investment and organisational development. The commencement of new Commonwealth Government funding, secured through the advocacy of Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, provided an important platform for the CSO to stabilise its finances, rebuild reserves and plan with greater confidence. Within that context, the organisation recorded a profit in 2025 – its strongest financial result in recent history.

This progress was also reflected in a strengthening of audience demand. The CSO recorded seven sold-out performances in 2025, achieved record box office revenue, exceeded its subscription target, and gained more new subscribers than it lost. These outcomes reflect a stronger connection with audiences and growing confidence in the orchestra's role in the cultural life of the national capital.

The 75th anniversary season gave us much to celebrate. The contributions of flautist Sally Walker as 2025 Artist in Focus and Peggy Polias as Composer in Connection were reflected across the year's programming and added to the vibrancy and success of the season. The Llewellyn Series attracted strong audiences, particularly for *Mozart's Requiem* and *Cottis conducts The Planets*, while Chamber Classics continued to perform strongly in its fifth year, supported by new series partner Arcare. The Australian Series, presented in partnership with the National Museum of Australia, remained a vital part of the CSO's annual program.

Commercial activity launched in 2025 following several years of planning. A notable milestone was the presentation of *Art of the Score: The Music of John Williams*, which demonstrated strong audience demand for this kind of programming, which is important for both audience development and revenue diversification.

The year also included a significant commercial recording project with Sally Walker. This marks the orchestra's first commercial orchestral recording, and it's fitting that the CSO was the orchestra of choice for this important new album of Australian flute concertos recorded by an Australian artist.

The orchestra's musical services activity was its busiest to date and demonstrated the breadth of work the CSO now delivers beyond the subscription season. Across 19 performances, these activities reached approximately 14,355 people. This reflects the strong demand for orchestral music as well as the important role the CSO plays in Canberra's cultural life. Notable engagements included the Canberra Theatre Centre's 60th anniversary year, featuring *Mimi's Symphony* with Justine Clarke and the Australian Ballet's production of Johan Inger's *Carmen*; the third year of Live at Lanyon; the Second World War memorial concert *Greater Love*; and the continuation of CSO Down South in partnership with the Tuggeranong Arts Centre.

The CSO also expanded its reach across the wider region in 2025. Supported by a new three-year partnership with TLE Electrical, the regional touring program launched with a sold-out outdoor performance at Highclere Farm in Yass (our inaugural appearance at this venue) and extended to activity in Goulburn and Queanbeyan. This work reflects the CSO's commitment to serving Canberra and the broader region, and to bringing live orchestral music directly to communities beyond the capital.

FACING PAGE LEFT: In November cellist Lindy Rekston retired from the CSO after 42 extraordinary years

RIGHT: Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis takes a bow in the Llewellyn Series

Images: Martin Ollman



Community and accessibility programs continued to develop in important ways. Rediscovering Music expanded its footprint beyond Canberra in 2025, including presentations in Sydney and Goulburn. Meanwhile, the Diverse Abilities program delivered 14 performances, reaching approximately 569 participants – its broadest school engagement to date. To complement this, the CSO also began a new partnership with the Ricky Stuart Foundation to help broaden the program's reach to specialist schools. In 2025, this partnership also supported specialist autism training for CSO musicians, delivered by Autism Awareness Australia.

Future Pathways remained an organisational priority in 2025. The program included eight Kingsland Fellows events and recitals, together with two Youth Ensemble concerts, creating meaningful performance and development opportunities for emerging musicians. Demand across the program remained strong, reflected in high retention across our youth ensembles and four Kingsland Fellows passing their CSO auditions.

A significant focus in 2025 was the CSO's advocacy for the future of the Australian National University School of Music. Working alongside the Chair, Board and key stakeholders, the CSO gave its support to a constructive pathway for continued collaboration and the provision of

strong performance opportunities for young musicians in the national capital. This work established the foundation for a renewed collaborative relationship, an outcome that will see the CSO and the ANU School of Music work collaboratively from 2026.

The importance of synergy between training and performance institutions was brought into sharp relief in September as we mourned the death of cellist John Painter AM. John was both Director of the School of Music (1985–1995) and a member of the CSO Board, guiding our artistic programming and leadership for many years. And the numerous musicians he nurtured included CSO Concertmaster Kirsten Williams, establishing a legacy that lives on through our Kingsland Future Pathways Program.

The 75th anniversary year also offered an important opportunity to recognise the people whose work sustains this organisation. We were honoured by the continued support of our Patron, Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, and Mr Simeon Beckett sc, and were especially grateful that Her Excellency hosted a special recognition event at Government House acknowledging long service by CSO musicians. It was a fitting tribute to the musicians whose commitment, flexibility and professionalism are fundamental to

the orchestra's success. In particular, I acknowledge cellist Lindy Reksten, our longest-serving orchestra member, who retired from the stage after 42 extraordinary years. The CSO Board was proud to honour her service with Life Membership, and we are fortunate that she will continue to contribute to our Future Pathways programs.

I extend my warmest thanks to our philanthropic community, whose generosity continues to make so much of our work possible, and to our government, corporate and community partners for their continued support. I also thank Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Jessica Cottis for her leadership throughout this anniversary year, and the CSO's dedicated administrative team for their work behind every performance, program and partnership. In 2025 we strengthened that team with the appointments of Sybil Williams as Director of Marketing, Kurt Overzet as Marketing and Communications Manager, and Jack Bolton as Orchestral Operations Coordinator. I also acknowledge the contributions of outgoing Chief Financial Officer Lou Malfone and outgoing Concertmaster Kirsten Williams OAM, whose leadership and service have left a lasting mark on the organisation.

Rachel Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director's report



For our 75th year, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra presented *Stories*, a season of programming that explored the many ways through which music helps us make meaning: myth, memory, landscape, ritual and imagination. Sally Walker, as 2025 Artist in Focus, and Peggy Polias, as Composer in Connection, featured across the season's programming, appearing in all our mainstage series and beyond.

The Llewellyn Series began in March with Sally Walker's tenth anniversary performance of Elena Kats-Chernin's *Night and Now* flute concerto alongside Tchaikovsky's impassioned Sixth Symphony. This was followed in May with another mainstage highlight: Beethoven's Violin Concerto, performed by Anna da Silva Chen, who stepped in at short notice with grace and great musical insight, notably performing her own cadenzas. This concert also featured the premiere of *Storyteller* by Peggy Polias.

In the second half of the year we enjoyed a run of sold-out concerts, beginning in July with *Art of the Score: The Music of John Williams*, which brought the orchestra and the CSO Chorus together in the rich storytelling tradition of film music. The 2025 season was the busiest to date for the Chorus, as they made committed contributions to three mainstage programs under the leadership of Chorus Master Tobias Cole, and September saw them in the spotlight, when guest conductor Erin Helyard returned to conduct Mozart's Requiem, in a concert generously supported by the Delegation to Australia of the European Union. Just days before this concert, we learned of the death of cellist John Painter AM. His vision and generosity had a profound influence on musical life in Canberra, and all of us in the CSO valued his acute ear and impeccable musical judgement, as well as his warmth and humility. It was fitting that we could dedicate our performances of Mozart's Requiem – one of his favourite works – to his memory.



The final mainstage program saw the largest orchestra of the year perform Holst's blockbuster suite *The Planets*, bringing the season to a close with scale, colour and imagination.

The Australian Series – presented in partnership with the National Museum of Australia – continued to offer a forum for distinctive Australian musical voices. *Sleeping Stories*, inspired in part by the NMA's Pompeii exhibition, wove together ancient narratives and contemporary music. A commissioned work from Peggy Polias, *Cameo*, drew on the lost world of Pompeii, while the heart of the program was Christopher Sainsbury's *Concertino for Flute*, inspired by soloist Sally Walker's encounter with dolphins and shaped by Dharug language and story. It was a privilege not only to premiere this work – the first commissioned Australian First Nations flute concerto – but to record it in collaboration with Sally. Later in the year, we explored themes of atmosphere and memory in *Other Worlds*, for which we were delighted to commission a new work by acclaimed local composer Sally Whitwell and to welcome guest soprano Anna Fraser.



Chamber music programming in 2025 revealed another way in which musical stories unfold: at close range, with intimacy and wit. Among these, *Rhythm and Rites*, featuring CSO percussionists, was a standout, including the premiere of *Burns Brightly* by Peggy Polias. The Chamber Classics series as a whole remained an important part of the orchestra's artistic life, creating opportunities for audiences to experience CSO musicians up close and for the musicians themselves to perform in smaller, collaborative ensembles.

Our work with young musicians through Future Pathways remains one of the most important expressions of our commitment to artistic continuity and opportunity. The calibre of these players, their openness to challenge and their seriousness of purpose continue to impress me. It was especially heartening to see four Fellows join the CSO following annual auditions, and to see others go on to further study and professional opportunities. The orchestra's wider community work similarly remained an important part of our artistic life. Rediscovering Music, thoughtfully led by Kristen Sutcliffe, expanded beyond Canberra for the first time in 2025, while the Diverse Abilities program continued to bring meaningful

musical experiences to students with specialised needs. The regional touring program also took music into new settings and communities across Yass, Goulburn and Queanbeyan.

Local collaborations also formed an important part of the year's musical activity, from *Symphony in the Park* with the Bamboos in the Enlighten Festival, presented by the ACT Government, and *Music by the River*, presented by Icon Water in collaboration with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, to the continuing success of *Live at Lanyon* with ACT Historic Places. The regional touring program likewise took music into new settings and communities across Yass, Goulburn and Queanbeyan. These activities reflect the many ways in which we continue to share music: on the concert platform, in the community, and across the wider region.

Reflecting on this anniversary year, I also want to acknowledge the musicians of the CSO. Their skill and dedication are the foundation of every program we present. And it was especially moving to see long service recognised at Government House in our 75th year – a fitting acknowledgement of the continuity and commitment that sustain an orchestra over time. I pay particular

tribute to cellist Lindy Reksten, our longest-serving orchestra member, who performed with the CSO for 42 years before retiring from the stage at the end of 2025.

Lindy has shaped the life of this orchestra in countless ways, both on stage and through her work with young musicians.

I also acknowledge Concertmaster Kirsten Williams OAM, who stepped down at the end of the year. Kirsten has been a deeply valued concertmaster, and the orchestra she helped shape will carry her influence for years to come.

My thanks, as always, to Rachel Thomas and the CSO team, and to the broader staff whose care and professionalism make every season possible. Above all, I thank our audiences, whose listening, presence and commitment mean more than they could know. Their support makes this work possible and continues to inspire us as we share ever more enriching musical experiences.

Jessica Cottis
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Images: Martin Ollman

Spotlight on CSO repertoire

WORLD PREMIERES

7

world premieres of
CSO commissions

Including three new works
by Composer in Connection
Peggy Polias

MUSIC BY AUSTRALIANS

35

performances
of **25 Australian
works**

Together with a full evening
of songs by the Bamboos in
symphonic arrangements

MUSIC BY FIRST NATIONS COMPOSERS

8

performances
of **6 works by
First Nations
composers**

Including the premieres of a newly
commissioned orchestral works by
Troy Russell and Canberra-based
composer Christopher Sainsbury

MUSIC BY WOMEN

24

performances
of **18 works by
11 female
composers**

Representing more than 130 years
of music-making, from Amy Beach
(1893) to a newly commissioned work
by Canberra composer Sally Whitwell

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

The accompanying table does not include the many Australian and First Nations works and works by women programmed in CSO Rediscovering Music or the musical service event Greater Love: WWII Memorial Concert. These concerts included music by Australians Peter Allen, William Barton, Lyle Chan, Richard Charlton, Elena Kats-Chernin, Phillip Houghton, Graeme Koehne, Cyrus Meurant and Andrew Schultz; and by Japanese composer Karen Tanaka.

Composer	Work	World premiere of a CSO commission	Australian composition	First nations composer	Female composer	Date	More than one performance	Concert
Corrinna Bonshek	Dreams of the Earth I		▪		▪	24 Sep	2	LS3 Mozart's Requiem
Andrew Batterham	Trumpet Concerto: 2. Ballad		▪			30 Mar	2	Kingsland Fellows Recitals
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Romance, Op.23 for violin and piano				▪	30 Mar	2	Kingsland Fellows Recitals
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Romance, Op.23 for violin and piano				▪	6 Apr		Goodwin Crace Recital
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Summer Dreams, Op.46 for piano duet				▪	8 Nov		Kingsland Fellows Recital
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Two pieces, Op.90				▪	10 Apr		Musical Service: TAC
Amy Beach (1867–1944)	Two pieces, Op.90				▪	13 Apr		CC2 Water & Spirit
Alice Chance	Iuvenia	▪	▪		▪	20 Mar		AS1 Sleeping Stories
Ross Edwards	Ulpirra for solo piccolo		▪			30 Mar		Kingsland Fellows in Recital
George Ellis	Mimi's Symphony		▪			30 May	6	Musical Service: CTC
Andrew Ford	Selections from Tales of the Supernatural		▪			13 Nov		AS2 Other Worlds
Brenda Gifford	Mungala (Clouds) for alto flute		▪	▪	▪	21 Nov		Kingsland Fellows Recital
Elena Kats-Chernin	Blue Silence for flute and harp		▪		▪	23 Nov		Goodwin Crace Recital
Elena Kats-Chernin	Chatterbox Rag		▪		▪	23 Nov		Goodwin Crace Recital
Elena Kats-Chernin	Night and Now – Flute Concerto		▪		▪	26 Mar	2	LS1 Night & Now
Elena Kats-Chernin	Eliza's Aria from Wild Swans (piano)		▪		▪	30 Mar		Kingsland Fellows Recital
Richard Meale	Mélisande for flute		▪			22 Jun		Goodwin Crace Recital
Peggy Polias	Storyteller	▪	▪		▪	14 May	2	LS2 Beethoven's Violin
Peggy Polias	Cameo	▪	▪		▪	20 Mar		AS1 Sleeping Stories
Peggy Polias	Burns Brightly	▪	▪		▪	14 Apr		CC3 Legends
Esther Rofe (1904–2000)	The Island for piano		▪		▪	6 Apr		Goodwin Crace Recital
Troy Russell	Stolen	▪	▪	▪		13 Nov		AS2 Other Worlds
Nick Russoniello	Dawn Searching for clarinet and piano		▪			22 Jun		Goodwin Crace Recital
Christopher Sainsbury	Concertino for flute	▪	▪	▪		20 Mar		AS1 Sleeping Stories
Christopher Sainsbury	Djagamara for flute and piano		▪	▪		30 Mar	2	Kingsland Fellows Recitals
Christopher Sainsbury	Djagamara for flute and harp		▪	▪		23 Nov		Goodwin Crace Recital
Jane Sheldon	Spectre: three attempts to summon her		▪		▪	20 Mar		AS1 Sleeping Stories
Nardi Simpson	Wilga's Last Dance		▪	▪	▪	20 Mar		AS1 Sleeping Stories
Sally Whitwell	(un)alive and local	▪	▪		▪	13 Nov		AS2 Other Worlds
Miriama Young (Aust/NZ)	Grey Ghost		▪		▪	13 Nov		AS2 Other Worlds
The Bamboos arr. Ross Irwin	An evening of Bamboos hits arranged for band and orchestra		▪			9 Mar		Musical Services: Symphony in the Park
		7	25	36	18	TOTAL WORKS		
		8	35	8	24	TOTAL PERFORMANCES		

- Orchestral work
- Mainstage subscription concert

Finance report

For the year ending 31 December 2025, the CSO recorded a surplus of \$295,166. This consisted of a surplus from our operations of \$130,071 plus an increase of \$165,095 in the value of our investment portfolio

2025 SURPLUS

The surplus from operations reflects a significant improvement on 2024 and marks a year of financial recovery and strengthened operating performance. Contributing factors included stronger ticket sales, the first full year of Commonwealth funding uplift in operations, renewed momentum in partnerships, the launch of commercial performances, and musical services activity performing above expectations. The result was also supported by improved forecasting and internal financial management processes introduced during the year.

The CSO remains in a sound financial position, with cash holdings of \$213,546 and \$2,269,062 in JBWere investment at 31 December 2025, net assets of \$1,545,465, and an improved current ratio of 2.42 up from 1.85 in 2024. The return to surplus provides a stronger foundation from which the organisation can continue rebuilding reserves following operating losses in 2022, 2023 and 2024. While this result is encouraging, the CSO remains focused on long-term sustainability and rebuilding reserves over time.

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

FOUNDATION AND FELLOWSHIP FUNDS

The organisation also maintains dedicated funds within its reserves to support long-term strategic initiatives and sector development.

The Foundation Fund (formerly Legacy Fund) had a balance of \$1,787,271 at 31 December 2025. Established in 2009 to support identified projects undertaken by the CSO, the Foundation Fund is funded by identified donations and bequests. This structure allows supporters to contribute knowing that the capital base will be maintained and that income generated will support emerging orchestral projects into the future.

The Kingsland Fellowship Fund had a balance of \$480,846 at 31 December 2025. Established in 2012 through a one-time gift of \$150,000, this fund was created to provide professional development opportunities for early career musicians.

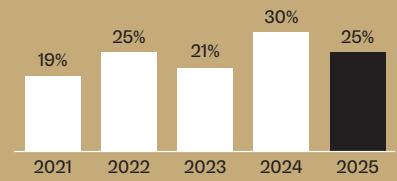
David Williams

Chair, Finance, Audit, Investments and Risk Committee

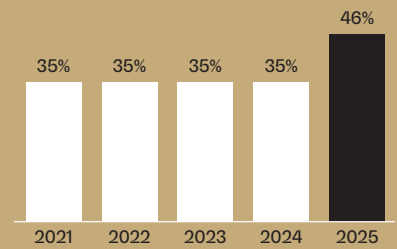




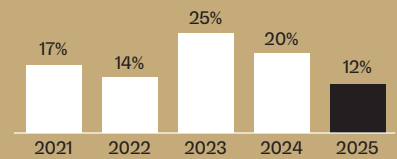
Concert Income*



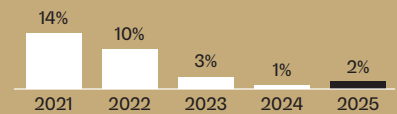
Grant Income*



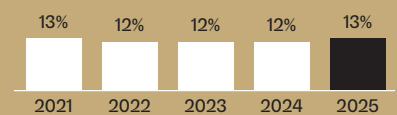
Philanthropy Income*



Partnership Income*



Musical Services Income*



* as percentage (%) of total income

LEFT: Anna Da Silva Chen played Beethoven's Violin Concerto in the Lewellyn Series in May

Image: Martin Ollman

2025 season: Stories

Musical Service: Music by the River

1 February 2025

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

George Ellis *conductor*
Kirrah Amosa *vocals*
MiG Ayesa *vocals*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Let's Go Disco
Symphonic arrangements of disco's
greatest hits

Chamber Classics: Folk Melodies

16 February 2025

Albert Hall, Yarralumla

Kirsten Williams *violin*
Patrick Suthers *cello*
Edward Neeman *piano*

HAYDN Piano Trio in G major, Hob.XV:25
DVOŘÁK Dumky for piano trio, B.166

Musical Service: Symphony in the Park

9 March 2025

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park
Presented by the ACT Government

Jessica Gethin *conductor*
The Bamboos
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Orchestral renditions of songs by the
Bamboos, arranged by Ross Irwin

Rediscovering Music: Rediscovering the Wind Quintet

18 March 2025

Ainslie Football and Social Club

Kiri Sollis *flute*
Megan Pampling *oboe*
Rachel Best-Allen *clarinet*
Kristin Sutcliffe *bassoon and facilitator*
Carly Brown *horn*

Interactive concert focused on enjoying
live music with hearing loss, offering
practical strategies for listeners using
hearing aids or Cochlear implants.

Music by Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Arnold,
Arlen, Holst and Garland

Australian Series: Sleeping Stories

20 March 2025

National Museum of Australia

Jessica Cottis *curator*
Sally Walker *flute* (Artist in Focus)
CSO Chamber Ensemble

ALICE CHANCE *Iuvenia**
JANE SHELDON
Spectre: three attempts to summon her
PEGGY POLIAS (Composer in Connection)
*Cameo**

NARDI SIMPSON *Wilga's Last Dance*
CHRISTOPHER SAINSBURY
Concertino for flute*

Llewellyn Series: Night and Now

26, 27 March 2025

Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Jessica Cottis *conductor*
Sally Walker *flute* (Artist in Focus)
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

IVES *The Unanswered Question*
ELENA KATS-CHERNIN
Night and Now – Flute Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No.6, Pathétique

Kingsland Fellows in Recital

30 March 2025

The Aerie Clubhouse, Narrabundah

2025 Kingsland Fellows
with
Kirsten Williams *violin*
Jojo Yuen *piano*
Marie Searles *piano*

Music by Beach, Elena Kats-Chernin,
Szymanowski, Andrew Batterham,
Christopher Sainsbury, Ross Edwards,
Koussevitzky and Brahms

Kingsland Fellows @ Smith's Alternative

5 April 2025

Smith's Alternative, Civic

2025 Kingsland Fellows

Music by Beach, Elena Kats-Chernin,
Christopher Sainsbury, Szymanowski,
Charlier and Koussevitzky

Four Seasons of Chamber Music: Autumn

6 April 2025

Goodwin Village Crace

Kirsten Williams *violin*
Edward Neeman *piano*

BEACH Romance
ROFE *The Island*
KREISLER *Liebeslied*
FRANCK Violin Sonata

Musical Service: CSO Down South

10 April 2025

Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Presented by Tuggeranong Arts Centre

Kiri Sollis *flute*
Samuel Payne *cello*
Edward Neeman *piano*

DEBUSSY Syrinx
BEACH Two pieces, Op.90
WEBER Trio in G minor, Op.63

Chamber Classics: Water and Spirit

13 April 2025

Albert Hall, Yarralumla
Supported by Arcare

Kiri Sollis *flute*
Samuel Payne *cello*
Edward Neeman *piano*

DEBUSSY Syrinx
BEACH Two pieces, Op.90
WEBER Trio in G minor, Op.63
HUMMEL Adagio, Variations and Rondo
on 'Schöne Minka', Op.78

Rediscovering Music: Rediscovering the Flute

6 May 2025

Ainslie Football and Social Club

Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
Sally Walker *flute*

Music by Hotteterre, Telemann, Mozart,
JS Bach, Cyrus Meurant, Lyle Chan,
Pēteris Vasks and Elena Kats-Chernin

Llewellyn Series: Beethoven's Violin

14, 15 May 2025

Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Carlo Antonioli *conductor*
Anna da Silva Chen *violin*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

PEGGY POLIAS (Composer in Connection)
*Storyteller**
RAVEL Ma Mère l'Oye: Suite
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

**Musical Service:
Mimi's Symphony**

30–31 May 2025 (6 performances)
The Playhouse, CTC
Presented by Canberra Theatre Centre

George Ellis *conductor*
Justine Clarke *presenter*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

ELLIS & CLARKE *Mimi's Symphony* –
An orchestral story for children

Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert

15 June 2025
Red Shed, Black Mountain Peninsula

Kingsland Strings
Kingsland Brass
Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber
Orchestra (CSYCO)

Music by Gabrieli, Mozart, Dvořák,
Handel, Glazunov, Mussorgsky, Ewald,
Pachelbel and Bizet

**Musical Service:
Johan Inger's Carmen
(The Australian Ballet)**

20–25 June 2025 (6 performances)
The Playhouse, CTC
*Presented by Canberra Theatre Centre
and The Australian Ballet*

Jessica Gethin *conductor*
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

SHCHEDRIN after BIZET *Carmen Suite*
with additional music by Bizet (orchestrated
by Álvaro Domínguez) and Marc Álvarez

**Four Seasons of Chamber Music:
Winter**

22 June 2025
Goodwin Village Crace

2025 Kingsland Fellows
Marie Searles *piano*

Music by Haydn, JS Bach, Neruda,
Meale, Bottesini, Fasch, Nick Russoniello
and Giampieri

**Kingsland Fellows and Alumni:
Dreaming of Spring**

15 July 2025
Wesley Music Centre

2025 Kingsland Fellows
Issie Brown *flute* (2024)
Dante Costa *flute* (2024)
Samuel Hutchinson *trumpet* (2024)
Mia Hughes *violin* (2023)
Enola Jefferis *cello* (2023, 2024)
Jojo Yuen *piano* (2024)

Music by Ravel, Haydn, Saint-Saëns,
Lavignac, Villa-Lobos

**Explore the Orchestra:
Meet the Strings**

18 July 2025 (2 performances)
Ainslie Arts Centre

Kristen Sutcliffe *presenter*
CSO String Quartet

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

**CSO Special: Art of the Score:
The Music of John Williams**

24, 25 July 2025
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Jessica Gethin *conductor and host*
Dan Golding *host*

Andrew Pogson *host*
Kirsten Williams *violin*
CSO Chorus

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

JOHN WILLIAMS Music from
*Superman, Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark,
Star Wars, Home Alone, Jurassic Park,
Schindler's List, Saving Private Ryan, Harry
Potter, E.T.* and the 2002 Winter Olympics

**Musical Service:
Greater Love: WWII Memorial Concert**

15 August 2025
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
*Presented by the Australian War
Memorial and Flowers of Peace*

Christopher Latham *conductor*
John Bell *narrator*

Rachel Mink *soprano*
Andrew Goodwin *tenor*
Dong Ma *erhu*

William Barton *didgeridoo*
Alice Giles *harp*
Simon Tedeschi *piano*

Edward Neeman *piano*
Brisbane Chamber Choir
Flowers of Peach Chorus
Luminescence Children's Choir
Australian Defence Force musicians
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Music by Elena Kats-Chernin,
Graeme Koehne, William Barton,
Karen Tanaka and Andrew Schultz,
with arrangements of music by JS Bach,
Dvořák, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev

**Rediscovering Music:
Rediscovering the Guitar**

19 August 2025
Ainslie Football and Social Club

Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
Steve Allen *guitar*
Riley Lee *shakuhachi*

Music by Steve Allen, José Luis Merlin,
Houghton, Richard Charlton, Villa-Lobos
and Karl Jenkins

**Chamber Classics:
Legends**

31 August 2025
Albert Hall, Yarralumla
Supported by Arcare

Kirsten Williams *violin*
Edward Neeman *piano*

WIENIAWSKI *Légende*, Op.17
DEBUSSY *La Cathédrale engloutie*
RACHMANINOFF
Two Études-Tableaux from Op.39:
No.2 (Sea and Seagulls)
No.6 (Red Riding Hood and the Wolf)
FRANCK Violin Sonata

**Musical Service:
CSO Down South**

4 September 2025
Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Presented by Tuggeranong Arts Centre

Kirsten Williams *violin*
Edward Neeman *piano*

ELGAR *Chanson de matin*
ELGAR *Chanson de nuit*
DEBUSSY *La Cathédrale engloutie*
RACHMANINOFF
Two Études-Tableaux from Op.39:
No.2 (Sea and Seagulls)
No.6 (Red Riding Hood and the Wolf)
FRANCK Violin Sonata

**Llewellyn Series:
Mozart's Requiem**

24, 25 September 2025
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music
*Presented by the European Union:
Delegation to Australia*

Erin Helyard *conductor*
Sara Macliver *soprano*
Ashlyn Tymms *mezzo-soprano*
Louis Hurley *tenor*
Christopher Richardson *bass-baritone*
CSO Chorus
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

MOZART Divertimento in D major, K.136
CORRINA BONSHK
Dreams of the Earth I for string orchestra
MOZART Requiem in D minor, K.626

**Four Seasons of
Chamber Music: Spring**

28 September 2025
Goodwin Village Crace

Sara Macliver *soprano*
Erin Helyard *piano*

Songs and solo piano music by
Mozart, Debussy and Gershwin

* World premiere of a CSO commission

**Musical Service:
Live at Lanyon**

18 October 2025
Lanyon Homestead
Presented by the ACT Government

Kirrah Amosa *vocalist*
CSO Chamber Ensemble

Popular songs with
BORODIN
Nocturne from String Quartet No.2
MOZART
1st movement from Divertimento, K.138

**Regional Touring:
Music in the Meadows**

25 October 2025
Highclere Farm
*In collaboration with Highclere Farm
and Yass Valley Council*

Kirrah Amosa *vocalist*
CSO Chamber Ensemble
Kingsland Youth Ensembles

Popular songs with
BORODIN
Nocturne from String Quartet No.2
MOZART
1st movement from Divertimento, K.138
and chamber music for string orchestra
and brass ensemble

**Chamber Classics:
Rhythm and Rites**

26 October 2025
Albert Hall, Yarralumla
Supported by Arcare

CSO Percussion Quartet

HANDEL *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*
DEBUSSY *Prélude* and *Clair de Lune*
GLASS *Madeira River*

POLIAS (Composer in Connection)
*Burns Brightly**
PIAZZOLLA *Tango No.1* from *Tango Suite*
WESTLAKE *Omphalo Centric Lecture*

**Rediscovering Music:
Rediscovering the Trumpet**

28 October 2025
Ainslie Football and Social Club

Kristen Sutcliffe *facilitator*
Julie Watson *trumpet*
Sam Hutchinson *trumpet*

Music by Clarke, Reich, Haydn, Arban,
Bizet, James M Stephenson, Corrette,
Porter, John Williams and Peter Allen

**Llewellyn Series:
Cottis conducts The Planets**

5, 6 November 2025
Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music

Jessica Cottis *conductor*
Women of the CSO Chorus
Canberra Symphony Orchestra

MURASHKIN *LOGOS*
JOSEPH STRAUSS *Music of the Spheres*
HOLST *The Planets*

**Kingsland Fellows and Alumni:
Back in Time**

8 November 2025
Smith's Alternative, Civic

Matilda Roszkowski *piano*
Vivienna Tran *piano*
Jojo Yuen *piano*

Solo, duet and piano 6 hands works by
Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn, Beach,
Poulenc, Ravel, Bortkiewicz and Fauré

**Australian Series:
Other Worlds**

13 November 2025
National Museum of Australia
Presented by Canberra Weekly

Anna Fraser *soprano*
Kirsten Williams *violin*
Bianca Porcheddu *violin*
Lucy Carrigan-Ryan *viola*
Samuel Payne *cello*
Edward Neeman *piano*

TROY RUSSELL *Stolen**
MIRIAMA YOUNG *Grey Ghost*
ANDREW FORD Selections from
Tales of the Supernatural
SALLY WHITWELL (*un*)*alive and local**

**Rediscovering Music:
Sydney Sessions**

14 November 2025
Next Sense Institute, Macquarie Park NSW

Kristen Sutcliffe *bassoon and facilitator*
Donna Parkes *trombone*

Two interactive presentations exploring
the role of technology and language
in enhancing musical experiences for
people with hearing loss

Music by Haydn, Telemann, John
Williams, Holst and Traditional Irish
(Session 1), and Telemann, Walker and
Beethoven (Session 2)

Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert

19 November 2025
Fairfax Theatre, National Gallery of
Australia

Kingsland Strings
Kingsland Brass
Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber
Orchestra (CSYCO)

Music by Howarth, Clarke, Mouret,
Respighi, Vivaldi, JS Bach, Lauridsen,
John Williams and Bizet

**Musical Service:
CSO Down South**

20 November 2025
Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Presented by Tuggeranong Arts Centre

Sally Walker *flute* (Artist in Focus)
Rowan Phemister *harp*

Music by Bizet, CPE Bach, Mozart,
Hovhaness, Elena Kats-Chernin,
Christopher Sainsbury and Fauré

Kingsland Fellows End of Year Recital

21 November 2025
Ainslie Arts Centre

2025 Kingsland Fellows
with
Sally Walker *flute*
Kimberley Steele *piano*

Music by Dvořák, Mozart, Brenda
Gifford, Saint-Saëns, Hummel and Fauré

**Four Seasons of Chamber Music:
Summer**

22 November 2025
Goodwin Village Crace

Sally Walker *flute* (Artist in Focus)
Rowan Phemister *harp*
2025 Kingsland Fellows

Music by Bizet, CPE Bach, Mozart,
Hovhaness, Elena Kats-Chernin,
Christopher Sainsbury and Fauré

2025 activity

CSO Concerts	Performances	Tickets Sold (2025)	Tickets Sold (2024)
Australian Series 1: Sleeping Stories	1	170	104
Australian Series 2: Other Worlds	1	189	108
Chamber Classics 1: Folk Melodies	1	308	331
Chamber Classics 2: Water & Spirit	1	273	288
Chamber Classics 3: Legends	1	335	285
Chamber Classics 4: Rhythm & Rites	1	293	104
Llewellyn Series 1: Night & Now	2	1750	1,507
Llewellyn Series 2: Beethoven's Violin	2	1521	2,133
Llewellyn Series 3: Mozart's Requiem	2	2354	1,397
Llewellyn Series 4: Cottis conducts The Planets	2	2445	1,126
CSO Special – AotS: The Music of John Williams	2	2329	n/a
Kingsland Pathways Program	Performances	Attendance (approx.)	
Kingsland Youth Ensembles in Concert	2	142	
Kingsland Fellows recitals and events <i>including concert in Goodwin Crace Recital series</i>	8	483	
* = Kingsland Fellows participation in other events			
Musical Services	Performances	Attendance (approx.)	
CSO Down South (Tuggeranong Arts Centre)	3	142	
Music by the River (Icon Water; Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council)	1	2400	
Symphony in the Park (ACT Government)	1	3573	
Mimi's Symphony (Canberra Theatre Centre)	6	1964	
Carmen (The Australian Ballet; Canberra Theatre Centre)	6	4907	
Greater Love (Australian War Memorial; The Flowers of Peace)	1	458	
Live at Lanyon (ACT Government; ACT Historical Places)	1	911	
Regional Touring (supported by TLE Electrical)	Performances	Attendance (approx.)	
Diverse Abilities (Tirriwirri School, Queanbeyan)	2	30	
Music in the Meadows (Highclere Farm)*	1	500	
Rediscovering Music (Goulburn)	1	15	
CSO Community Engagement	Performances	Attendance (approx.)	
Aged care (Access Lifecare and Goodwin performances)	13	374	
Music for Seniors (Goodwin Crace recital series) <i>including Kingsland Fellows (Recital 2)</i>	4	330	
Family-friendly performances (Multicultural Festival for Kids; Explore the Orchestra; Bluey Show at Canberra Theatre Centre)	11	1950	
Diverse Abilities School program (incl. Woden School)	14	569	
Education outreach: general (Kingsford Smith School; Llewellyn Series student pre-concert talk; UA3 Lecture)	16	1201	
Rediscovering Music (Canberra)	4	383	
Rediscovering Music (Sydney)	2	114	
Tingey Painting with Parkinson's	20	240	

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

The CSO 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. The following musicians performed with the CSO in 2025.

CONCERTMASTER

Kirsten Williams

VIOLINS

Kirsten Williams

Leanne Bear
Samantha Boston
Michelle Brazier
Anika Chan*
Daniel Chan
Jack Chenoweth
Peter Clark*
Lucy Clarke-Randazzo*
Lauren Davis
Mariana Green*
Jennifer Higgs
Michelle Higgs
Mia Hughes°
Rebecca Irwin*
Valerie Jackson
Shirin Lim*
John Ma
Sponsored by Anonymous

Doug Macnicol
Lucy Macourt
Annastasia Milwain
Shirahni Mudaliar
Adele Ohki*
Erin Patrick
Claire Phillips
Helena Popovic
Bianca Porcheddu†
Thayer Preece*
Madeleine Retter
Ben Spiers*
Emily Su*

Brad Tham†

Sponsored by Prof. Brian Anderson AC & Dianne Anderson AM

Pip Thompson†

Sponsored by Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) & Lady Liz Houston

Elinor Warwick
Tim Wickham
Matthew Witney

VIOLAS

Tor Frømyhr

Concertmaster Emeritus

Lucy Carrigy-Ryan†

Elizabeth Chalker
Anthony de Battista
Nicole Forsyth
Julia Horneman
Sandra Ionescu*
Stephen King*

John Ma

Sponsored by Anonymous

Freyja Meany
Alex Monro°
Pippa Newman
George Pourpouras
Iska Sampson
Caroline Suthers
Neil Thompson*
Marianne Yeomans*
Alina Zamfir

CELLOS

Patrick Suthers

Melissa Barnard*

James Beck*
Zachary Connor°
Julia Janiszewski
Rachel Johnston
Liam Meany
James Monro
Samuel Payne†
Sponsored by Harriet Elvin AM
Lindy Reksten
Sponsored by Lisa Wilmot in loving memory of Richard Wilmot
Alex Voorhoeve

DOUBLE BASSES

Max McBride

Isabella Brown
David Flynn
Sponsored by Ingrid Mitchell
Hayley Manning
Muhamed Mehmedbasic
Emma Meixner°
Kyle Ramsay-Daniel†

FLUTES

Kiri Sollis

Sponsored by Elspeth & Graham Humphries

Issie Brown°
Adrienne Hanslow*
Samantha Hennessy
Lisa McMahon
Rebecca Timoney

OBOES

Megan Pampling

Sponsored by Anonymous

Carl Brumfield
Julie Igglesden
Caitlin McAnulty
Aaron Reichelt†

CLARINETS

Alan Vivian

Rachel Best-Allen†

Samantha Kelson Gray
Matthew O'Keeffe†

BASSOONS

Ben Hoadley

Sponsored by Anonymous

Jordan London

Rebecca Rivera†

Kristen Sutcliffe†

Nick Zengoski†

FRENCH HORNS

Robert Johnson

Carly Brown
Victoria Chatterley†
Michael Dixon*
Natalia Edwards*
Rob Gladstone*
Adrian Hallam
Dahle Innes
Philip Wilson

TRUMPETS

Justin Lingard

Sponsored by Connor Dyson

Nicholas Bauer*
Josh Clark
Elsa Guile°
Sam Hutchinson°
Zach Raffan
Greg Stenning
Julie Watson

TROMBONES

Nigel Crocker

Michael Bailey†

Brett Page

Bass Trombone

Christopher Retter

Benjamin Marks*

Ronald Prussing*

Arthur Johnson*

Bass Trombone

TUBA

Bjorn Pfeiffer

TIMPANI

Timothy Brigden

Veronica Bailey†

Guy du Blêt*

PERCUSSION

Veronica Bailey

Sponsored by Janet Compton

Joel Bass*

Timothy Brigden†

John Dewhurst

Stephen Fitzgerald*

Gary France*

Jack Holmes

Wyana O'Keeffe†

Louis Sharpe

James Snedden

HARP

Rowan Phemister

Sponsored by Vanessa

Fanning & Bruce Bacon

Georgia Lowe*

KEYBOARDS

Edward Neeman

Susanne Powell

Marie Searles

Peter Young

The Keyboard chair is sponsored by Anne Foote

SAXOPHONES

Michael Favreau*

Tom Fell*

Stephen Young*

BAND (LANYON)

Damien Slingsby* *Keyboard*

Nicholas McBride* *Drums*

Christopher Pound* *Bass*

Bold = Principal

† = Acting Principal

* = Guest musician

° = current or former Kingsland Pathways participant

Chair sponsorships current as of 2025

CSO Chorus



Image: Martin Ollman

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.

In 2025, the Chorus joined the CSO for acclaimed performances of Mozart's Requiem with conductor Erin Helyard, as well as *The Planets* by Holst and *Art of the Score: The Music of John Williams*.

Tobias Cole Chorus Master

Veronica Thwaites-Brown Assisting Chorus Master

Maria Searles Rehearsal Pianist

Edward Neeman Assisting Rehearsal Pianist

Kimberley Steele Assisting Rehearsal Pianist

CHORUS MEMBERSHIP IN 2025

SOPRANOS

Shirley Aitchison
Jennifer Bennett
Issie Brown
Jessie Cole
Adrienne Cullity
Keren Dalzell
Katie Deakin-Sharpe
Rachael Eddowes
Olive Goode
Meredith Graham
Emma Griffiths
Amira Hibberd
Kiara Jana
Amy Jelacic
Stephanie McAlister
Evangeline Osborne
Alice Rea
Amber Shuhyta
Lilli Stevens
Isabelle Watts
Ceridwen Young

Savina Radosavljevic
Robyn Ross
Sarah Sutcliffe
Sally Wodzinski
Enrica Wong
Mary Wood
Mary Woodhouse

TENORS

Percy Bell
Qiaoda (Garrett) Chen
Ben Craig
Adrian Cullity
Paul Eldon
James Gibson
Meshach Jeremiah
Michael Kirk
Jason Li
Lawrence Mays
Ranga Parimala
Toby Silcock
Henry South
Patrick Baker

ALTOS

Kate Bulenda
Annabelle Burian
Annette Carter
Sophie Chalk
Kelly Corner
Barbara Courtney
Christine Gascoyne
Helen Gustafsson
Tracey Jordan
Liz McKenzie
Felicity Moran
Thayer Preece

BASSES

Ron Bennett
Leon Bilton
Martin Bonsey
Liam Brewin Higgins
Phil Coote
Rowan Grigg
Lachlan Mackenzie
Neb Miletic
Alistair Murphy
Ken Ryan
Jim Woolnough

Kingsland Fellowship

The CSO Kingsland Fellowship offers professional training and experience for tertiary and postgraduate musicians, creating pathways to orchestral careers and other performance and arts industry opportunities.

2025 KINGSLAND FELLOWS

Emily Thornton flute

Ollie Wong clarinet

Elsa Guile trumpet

Chloe Law cello (from July)

Emma Meixner double bass (to June)

Matilda Roszkowski piano



Images: Arianne Schlumpp

2025 Corporate partners

We thank our government, corporate and community partners

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



HONORARY SOLICITORS

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CULTURAL PARTNERS



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Donors

**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
Rear Admiral David Campbell AM (Retd)
The Tall Foundation
Anne Foote
CF Leung (& RH Dean) Memorial Trust
David & Noela McDonald
The Douglas Family
The late Iris Aldridge
Geoffrey White OAM & Sally White OAM
Virginia Berger
Raydon & Alison Gates
Allan Hall AM & Barbara Hall OAM
Mike & Stephanie Hutchinson
Muriel Wilkinson
Heather Leedman and the late Jim Leedman
Anonymous (2)

Image: Martin Ollman

CSO Board & 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 2025, 50% of Directors identified as male and 50% as female, two Directors identified as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and one Director identified as living with a disability.

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 2025.

CSO BOARD ATTENDANCE (2025)

Director	Meetings held during tenure	Meetings attended during tenure
Sir Angus Houston	14	12
Ms Chris Faulks	14	11
Ms Robyn Holmes	14	14
Mr Paul Lindwall	14	8
Ms Annabelle Pegrum	1	1
Ms Amanda Story	14	11
Prof. Mathew Trinca	14	7*
Mr Terry Weber	14	9
Mr David Williams	5	5
Ms Robyn Hendry	11	9
Company Secretary		
Ms Jenna Roberts	4	2
Ms Lorraine Johnson**	10	8

* Did not attend 5 extraordinary Board meetings due to potential conflict of interest

** Ms Lorraine Johnson was Acting Company Secretary from 10 February to 10 August 2025



Board meeting dates

10 February 2025

31 March 2025

11 April 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

19 May 2025
(incl. Annual General Meeting)

11 July 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

22 July 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

28 July 2025

4 August 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

21 August 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

8 September 2025

22 September 2025
(Extraordinary Meeting)

17 November 2025

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) FAICD

Chair

Joined 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 AM GAICD

Deputy Chair

Joined 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. She recently completed terms as the Deputy Chancellor of the University of Canberra (UC) and on the boards of the ACT and Southern NSW Rugby Union (Brumbies), National Capital Authority and the ACT 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. In 2025 she was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to education, to business and to the community. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Robyn Hendry

Joined May 2025

Chair: Nominations & Human Resources Committee

Robyn Hendry is an experienced chair, non-executive director and former CEO with more than 25 years of leadership across the arts, business, tourism, sport and community sectors. In addition to the CSO, she currently serves on the boards of Tennis Australia and the Canberra Southern Cross Club, and contributes to the cultural development of the National Arboretum Canberra.

She has also held senior governance roles with the Cultural Facilities Corporation and the Capital Arts Patrons Organisation, helping shape Canberra's cultural and civic landscape. Alongside her arts engagement, she has led organisations in Australia and internationally, bringing strong strategic, commercial and stakeholder leadership to complex organisations and community initiatives.

Robyn Hendry holds a Bachelor of Management degree and a Graduate Certificate in Strategic Healthcare Leadership, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Robyn Holmes FAHA

Joined 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 May 2018
Resigned 28 February 2025

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 July 2021

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

Amanda Story is a Partner of Clayton Utz and Co-Head of Public Sector. 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 (Band 2) and Best Lawyers, including as a Lawyer of the Year (2022, 2024 and 2025) in the Information Technology category, and Lawyer of the Year (2023, 2026) 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 January 2024
Resigned 18 December 2025

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 the Cultural Facilities Corporation of the ACT, 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 July 2021

Terry Weber retired as a Senior Partner at PwC, where he specialised in the Government Sector. He was 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 Weber 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 credit: National Capital Authority



David Williams

Joined 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 the Alastair Swayn Foundation Trustee Board.

CSO administration

ARTISTIC

Jessica Cottis *Chief Conductor & Artistic Director*

Kirsten Williams *Concertmaster (until 22 December 2025)*

ADMINISTRATION

Rachel Thomas *Chief Executive Officer*

Jenna Roberts *Executive Assistant and Company Secretary (Parental leave 10 February – 10 August 2025)*

Lorraine Johnson *Business Management (6 January to 28 October 2025); Acting Company Secretary and Special Projects (10 February – 10 August 2025);*

Andy Baird *Director, Artistic Planning & Development*

Janice Alalay *Artistic & Orchestral Support Coordinator*

Sally Walker *Donor Liaison*

Donna Parkes *Artistic Operations Manager (to 4 March 2025); Community & Education Manager (from 5 March 2025)*

Angela Lount *Partnerships Liaison, Fundraising Manager, Finance Assistant (until 1 September 2025); Community & Education Coordinator (from 2 September 2025)*

Lindy Reksten *Orchestral Development Liaison*

Chris Dixon *Orchestral Operations Manager*

Jack Bolton *Orchestral Operations Coordinator (from 20 January 2025)*

Sybil Williams *Director of Marketing (from 1 March 2025)*

Kurt Overzet *Marketing & Communications Manager (from 3 March 2025)*

Yvonne Frindle *Publications Editor*

David Flynn *Ticketing and Administration*

Diana Hansen *Events and Partnerships*

Lou Malfone *Chief Financial Officer (until 11 July 2025)*

NEW STAFF IN 2025

Jack Bolton

Kurt Overzet

Sybil Williams

Lorraine Johnson *(Parental leave cover)*

FAREWELLS IN 2025

Lou Malfone

Kirsten Williams

VOLUNTEERS

Su Bastian

Jenny Robinson

John & Anne Rundle

Arnis Stonis



canberra
symphony
orchestra

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Canberra Symphony Orchestra Ltd
ACN 626 031 043
Level Five, 1 Farrell Place
GPO Box 1919
Canberra ACT 2601

(02) 6247 9191

cso.org.au

*The CSO in concert with Kirrah Amosa
and MIG Ayesa for Music by the River*



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