

# NOTATIONS

Autumn 2017



Canberra Symphony  
Orchestra

## In this edition

Australian Series, Companion Pieces  
Symphony in the Park  
Rediscovering Music 2017  
Symphony by the River, Queanbeyan  
Meet the Conductor, Jessica Cottis  
Shell Prom Picnic Concert

## A trailblazing moment in the history of Australian music.



IMAGE: TOMMY BALOGH *Beacon*  
2015 photo-luminescent media on plexiglass,  
125 x 245cm (detail).  
Photo by Sarah Walker

## Coming up ActewAGL Llewellyn Series, Piano

Wednesday 29 March  
Thursday 30 March  
Llewellyn Hall, ANU, 7.30pm  
Pre-concert talk 6.45pm

**Conductor** Jessica Cottis  
**Piano** Daniel de Borah

**RAUTAVAARA** Cantus Arcticus  
(Concerto for Birds and Orchestra)

**SHOSTAKOVICH** Piano Concerto No.1  
in C minor

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No.6  
in F major (Pastoral)

## Australian Series, Companion Pieces

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra's Australian Series at the National Portrait Gallery is a trailblazing moment in the history of Australian music. To say that it is a bold step to create an ongoing series wholly made up of Australian composition is not an understatement.

The Australian Series has been conceived, and will be compered by eminent Australian composer and Deputy Head of School at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Dr Matthew Hindson AM.

Hindson will curate three concerts of bold, original, emotional and sometimes thought provoking music during the Australian Series; each of which will be paired with a special exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (NPG).

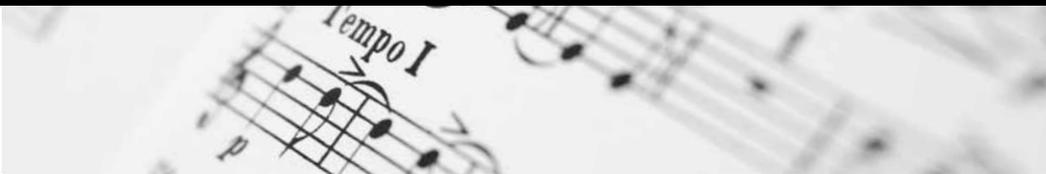
The first concert, Companion Pieces, is on Thursday 2 March, and will be performed by quintet Arcadia Winds- one of the rising stars in the Australian music scene. Following the one hour concert, the audience is invited to merge the aural experience of the Australian Series with the visual, in a private after-hours viewing of the hugely successful NPG exhibition The Popular Pet Show.

**Thursday 2 March, 6.30pm**

**Tickets to the Australian Series are \$45 each, and include both the concert and entry to the exhibition.**

**Tickets available at [cso.org.au](http://cso.org.au), or at the door on the night, from 5.30pm**

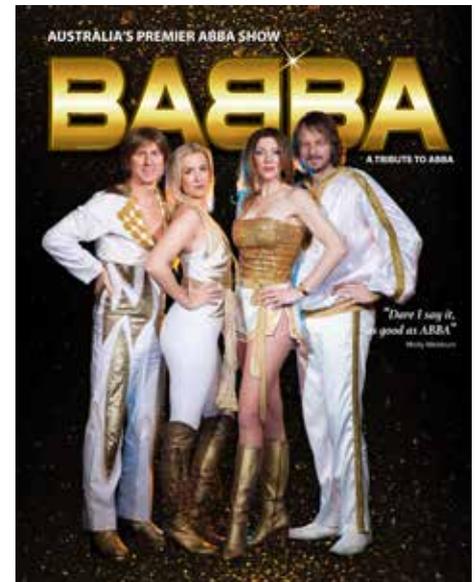
**Pre-concert drinks and light refreshments available from 5.30pm**



## Symphony in the Park celebrates Canberra's birthday and ABBA!

It's been 40 years since ABBA's earth shattering Australian tour. Relive the electrifying experience as Symphony in the Park presents ABBA Live! Featuring Australia's #1 ABBA tribute band BABBA.

This is a real highlight of the Canberra Day celebrations, and is an event for the whole family. Conductor George Ellis and the stars of BABBA have created an orchestral extravaganza filled with your favourite ABBA hits. You'll know the words; you'll know the moves; you may even have an ABBA-style outfit that you can't wear out in public most days – and you're invited to bust them all out for what will definitely be a brilliant night out for Symphony in the Park.



**Sunday 12 March**  
**Stage 88, Commonwealth Park**  
**Concert starts at 7.30pm, but you will almost certainly want to get there earlier to get a good spot.**

## From the CEO, Sarah Kimball

Congratulations to Wyana (CSO's Principal Percussion) and Matt O'Keeffe on the arrival of their daughter, Hannah, who is also the newly arrived little sister to Adelaide. Seeing Wyana expertly playing percussion right throughout her pregnancy (including muting the bass drum with her very full belly at the Canberra Weekly Matinee Magic) will be a joy to recall for a long time yet.



## Rediscovering Music

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to be facilitating and presenting Rediscovering Music again in 2017. These interactive experiences are so important for people in our community with hearing loss. Audiologist and CSO bassoon player Kristen Sutcliffe has designed interesting and engaging programs for the year—again!

Rediscovering Music resumes with *Celebrating Sound, a Journey through the Ears*—Tuesday 7 March 2pm at the Grant Cameron Community Centre on Mulley St, Holder; and 5.30pm at the Hellenic Club, Woden. These workshops will feature Steve Allen on guitar, and guest speaker Rod Taylor.

### Some fantastic news!

Canberra Symphony Orchestra is providing two scholarships through Rediscovering Music. This is a chance for a 'hands on' experience to enhance the journey in enjoying music again. It is a chance to discover what they can and cannot be heard and deciphered, and most of all a chance to have some fun!

The recipients of the scholarships will have a full semester of weekly half hour lessons with CSO oboe player Megan Pampling, who is very experienced with teaching adults and is ready for the challenge. This scholarship will be open to adults with hearing loss, with preference given to those who have had some participation in the Rediscovering Music Program. It is expanding the program by adding a new facet to it.



## The CSO visits the neighbours: Queanbeyan's Symphony by the River

Come be a part of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra's first major performance in Queanbeyan, with *Symphony by the River*.

In 1717, King George I decided to hold a concert on the River Thames, and he asked his resident composer Handel to compose something for the occasion. Handel was greatly inspired by the idea of a concert on the river, and went on to create one of his most famous suites, 'Water Pieces.' The King loved 'Water Pieces' so much that he made the musicians play it twice more, which pushed the concert in to the wee hours of the morning! Now, precisely three hundred years later, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra plays Handel's masterpiece on the Queanbeyan River for 'Symphony on the River.' This special concert features music inspired by water from Mozart, Strauss and of course Handel.

This free open air concert uses Queanbeyan's beautiful river as its inspiration.

You are invited to bring your own picnic (alcohol is permitted), or you can experience local gourmet street food—beer and wine tasting also available.

**Saturday 4 March**  
**Queen Elizabeth II Park Amphitheatre**  
**7pm, park open at 5pm**

## Meet the conductor: Jessica Cottis

Jessica Cottis joins the Canberra Symphony Orchestra from the first of the flagship ActewAGL Llewellyn Series Concerts on 29 & 30 March.

Hailed in the UK music press as "one to watch", Jessica Cottis possesses intellectual rigour, innate musicality and an easy authority; she is a charismatic figure on the podium who brings dynamism, intensity and clarity of vision to all her performances.

Born in Australia and a dual British-Australian citizen, Jessica Cottis was awarded a first class honours degree in organ, piano and musicology from the Australian National University and continued her studies as an organist with Marie-Claire Alain in Paris, winning awards from the Royal Philharmonic Society and Royal College of Organists. A wrist injury subsequently halted her playing career and after reading Law, she began conducting studies in 2006, studying with Colin Metters and Sir Colin Davis on the postgraduate conducting course at the Royal Academy of Music. Cottis was awarded the Academy's top conducting prizes upon graduation in July 2009, the same month she was appointed to her positions at the BBC SSO and RCS, and also Manson Fellow in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

Frequently in demand as guest conductor, highlights of recent seasons include performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Concert Orchestra,

l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, Bit20 Ensemble Bergen, the Queensland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and recording with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. This season, she will make a welcome return visit to many of the above orchestras and makes her Royal Albert Hall debut for the 2016 BBC Proms.

In 2015 she was appointed Associate Member of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), an honorary award for former students who have made a significant contribution to the music profession.

Jessica Cottis makes her home in Glasgow and London.

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**"Conductor Jessica Cottis nailed the seediness and suavity of Weill's Seven Deadly Sins for Scottish Opera."**

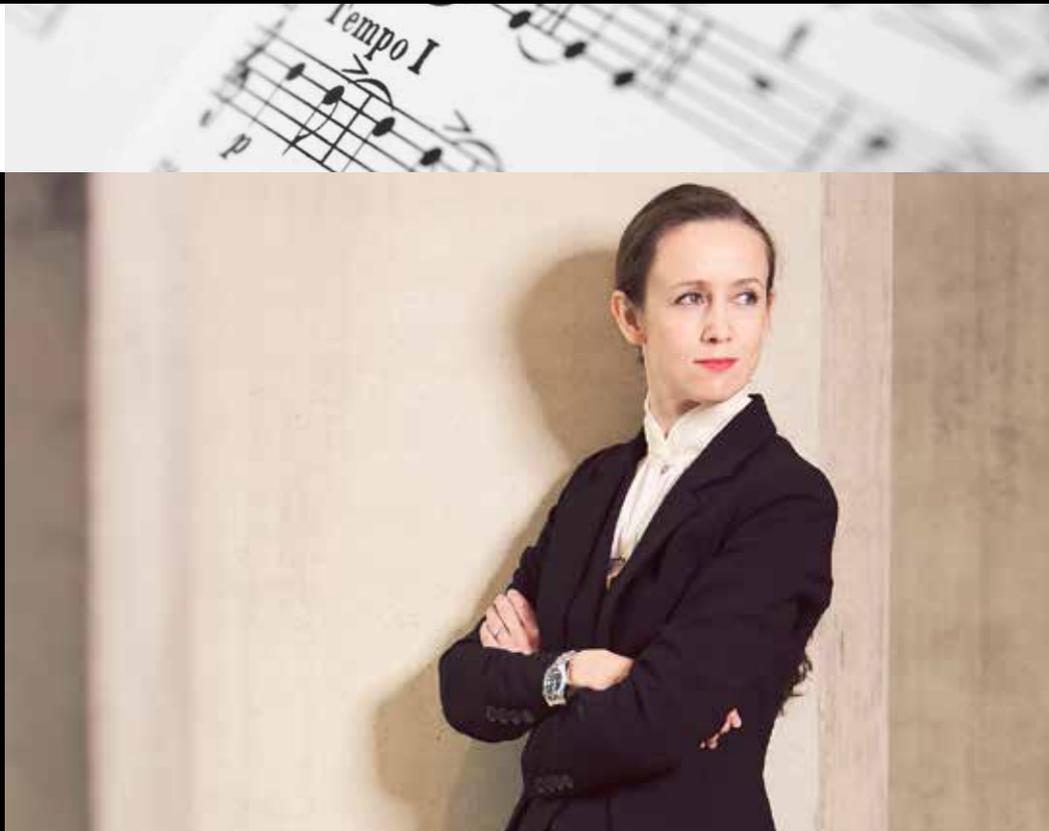
*Anna Picard THE INDEPENDENT, 18 Dec 2011*

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**"Most impressive was the finale where Cottis chose a speed that highlighted Mozart's breathtaking plenitude of invention with exhilarating delight. We will hear more of her welcome talent."**

*Peter McCallum SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 2 Sept 2013*

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**The great Partnerships that make the CSO Shell Prom Picnic Concert**

In 2017 the CSO is celebrating 37 years of a partnership with Shell Australia and their years of support that make the hugely popular Shell Prom Picnic possible. It is fair to say, that the partnership between Shell and the CSO is possible one of the longest, continually running arts business collaborations in the country.

“Shell Australia have been partnering with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra since 1980 making it one of the longest continuing arts and business partnerships in Australia. We are incredibly proud of our long term collaboration with the CSO and our support of the Shell Prom Picnic Concert at Government House which is such an amazing event for the Canberra region.”  
*Andrew Smith, Country Chair, Shell Australia*

## 35th Shell Prom Picnic Concert

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 35th Shell Prom Picnic Concert at Government House on Saturday 18 February.

Admittedly, the weather had everyone a bit nervous. The terrific rain and thunder right throughout the morning had both the musicians and Prom organisers on edge for most of the day. But, like a heavenly gift, the clouds disappeared just at the gates of Government House opened, making the evening of music from the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Guitar Trek absolutely stunning. The way the weather played out, everyone was a winner! The firefighters who were working to contain the devastating Carwoola bushfire got a much needed drenching for most of the day, and the CSO had clear skies at night.

For the first time in 2017, Icon Water also supported the Prom with the new Icon Water Kids Cool Zone—a designated fun area full to the brim of activity for kids of all ages. Icon has a strong commitment to the Canberra community and education and the are contained face painting, badge making, bubble machines and hands on activities such as .... Needless to say, it was a huge success and the CSO is thrilled to work with Icon in supporting the Prom.

Photos: Gavin Jackson