

OMEGA ENSEMBLE

A man with a short beard and hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a black turtleneck, is shown from the chest up. He is smiling and looking down and to the right. The background is a warm, solid orange color.

2024 NATIONAL
CONCERT SEASON

EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED CELEBRATE THE EXTRAORDINARY

EVERY NOTE IS A STORY
WAITING TO BE TOLD;

A DARING EXPLORATION OF
UNCHARTED TERRITORY;

A CHANCE TO PAVE NEW PATHS,
CAPTURE A MOMENT,
AND SHAPE THE FUTURE.

WELCOME TO OUR 2024
NATIONAL CONCERT SEASON.



OMEGA ENSEMBLE

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a black lace long-sleeved top and dark pants, is playing a violin. She is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. The background is a solid, warm reddish-orange color. The word 'ÉCHAPPSODIE' is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

ÉCHAPPSODIE

Claude Debussy
Première Rhapsodie

Gabriel Fauré
Piano Quintet No. 1

Alice Chance
Échappsodie World Premiere

Alice Chance's *Échappsodie* in a new arrangement by the composer commissioned by Omega Ensemble and supported by Peter Howard and Modest Expectations Foundation.

Escape the everyday

— One of the leading exponents of French musical Impressionism, Claude Debussy's music represents an extraordinary palette of colour, beauty and innovation. Commissioned by the Paris Conservatoire, *Première Rhapsodie* was originally written as a 'solo de concours' (competition solo) to test the virtuosic abilities of students, but it has since graduated to a work of significance performed by leading clarinetists.

— Laden with blissful melodies, rich textures and an expansive musical language, Gabriel Fauré's *Piano Quintet No. 1* is an expressive work that represents a critical change in French music. Exhibiting a near orchestral sound, the *Quintet* is noted for unleashing the full emotional range from each player through three stormy and cathartic movements.

— A rising star in both her native Australia and current home in Paris, Alice Chance's *Échappsodie* (a play on words using the French 'échapper' meaning 'to escape') takes fragments of Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie* and reconstructs them into a captivating exploration of virtuosity, beauty and colour.

MELBOURNE

Tue 13 Feb 2024 — 7 PM
Elizabeth Murdoch Hall
Melbourne Recital Centre

SYDNEY

Sat 17 Feb 2024 — 2 PM
Sat 17 Feb 2024 — 7 PM
The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3

Max Richter
The Four Seasons Recomposed
Véronique Serret, solo violin

Jessie Montgomery
New Commission World Premiere

Elena Kats-Chernin
Clarinet Concerto, 'Ornamental
Air' World Premiere
David Rowden, solo clarinet

Jessie Montgomery commissioned by
Omega Ensemble, Chicago Symphony
Orchestra, Tanglewood Music Festival and
Aspen Music Festival. Generously supported
by the Michel-Simpson Foundation and
Norman Gillespie.

Elena Kats-Chernin commissioned by Omega
Ensemble and Penrith Performing and Visual
Arts. Generously supported by Tom and Dalia
Stanley, Geoff Stearn and the Newcastle
Commissioning Circle.

The past reconsidered and present reconfigured

— A post-modern masterwork and one of the highest-selling classical music recordings of all time, acclaimed UK/German composer and innovator Max Richter expertly retouches and re-imagines Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, resulting in a transformative experience that sounds entirely new and yet satisfyingly full of familiar delights.

— An important voice for her generation, American composer Jessie Montgomery interweaves classical traditions with vernacular music, improvisation and social consciousness. Her works have been described as 'turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life' (The Washington Post). In her first commission by an Australian ensemble, this world premiere is a partnership with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival and Tanglewood Music Festival.

— One of Australia's most celebrated and significant composers, Elena Kats-Chernin's *Ornamental Air* is a tour-de-force packed with virtuosic arpeggios and explosions of colour wrapped in the composer's exuberant musical style. Originally composed for international clarinetist Michael Collins, this updated setting has been reworked by the composer into a powerful new chamber version.

SYDNEY

Fri 12 Apr 2024 — 7 PM
City Recital Hall

NEWCASTLE

Thu 18 Apr 2024 — 7 PM
Newcastle City Hall

MELBOURNE

Mon 15 Apr 2024 — 7 PM
Elizabeth Murdoch Hall,
Melbourne Recital Centre

PENRITH

Sat 20 Apr 2024 — 7:30 PM
The Joan Sutherland
Performing Arts Centre

A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket and a dark shirt, is shown in profile, playing a violin. His eyes are closed, and he has a focused expression. The background is a solid, warm orange color. The violin is a rich reddish-brown color. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of his face and the texture of the violin.

RE:CLASSICAL







ALCHYMIA

Samuel Adams
New Commission World Premiere

Thomas Adès
Alchymia Australian Premiere

Missy Mazzoli
Dark with Excessive Bright

Christopher Cerrone
Nervous Systems
New arrangement

Samuel Adams commissioned
by Omega Ensemble.

Christopher Cerrone's *Nervous Systems* is presented in a new arrangement by the composer commissioned by Omega Ensemble.

Paradise lost and found

— A new generation in an American musical dynasty, Samuel Adams' music has been described as 'mesmerising' (The New York Times) exploring the space between directness and implication, silence and resonance, and emotional aftermath. In a world premiere commissioned by Omega Ensemble, Adams delivers a striking work of light, shade and ever increasing intensity.

— Hailed as 'one of the composer's finest recent achievements' (The Guardian), Thomas Adès' captivating new clarinet quintet *Alchymia* is constructed of careful and delicate lines emerging like tendrils that grow towards the sun and down into darkness. This Australian debut marks an important addition from one of the world's indisputable leading contemporary voices.

— Titled after a phrase from Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Missy Mazzoli's *Dark with Excessive Bright* is a surreal and evocative work. Loosely based in Baroque idioms, the music slips between techniques from across centuries, twisting a repeated musical statement from delicate simplicity to pandemonium beyond recognition.

— Originally commissioned and premiered by Omega Ensemble in 2022, Grammy Award-nominated composer Christopher Cerrone reconstructs *Nervous Systems* in an expanded new arrangement that takes the work to new heights of arresting textures and gripping tension.

SYDNEY

Sat 27 July 2024 — 2 PM

Sat 27 July 2024 — 7 PM

The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3

Olli Mustonen
Nonet II

Harry Sdraulig
New Commission World Premiere

Frédéric Chopin
Piano Concerto No. 1
arranged for piano and string Nonet
Vatche Jambazian, solo piano

Harry Sdraulig is commissioned by
Omega Ensemble with the generous
support of the Darin Cooper
Foundation.

Virtuosity to the power of ten

— A regular on Australian stages as a concert pianist but equally acclaimed as a leading compositional voice, Finnish composer Olli Mustonen's music is greatly influenced from his own performance practice, including early studies on the harpsichord. His *Nonet II* takes up ideas from the 17th and 18th centuries, with gorgeous, warmly expressive melodies and delicate interplay, eventually building to a riveting rhythmic finale.

— A new Australian voice with significant recent accomplishments to his name, Harry Sdraulig's music is at turns serious, playful, contemplative and exuberant. In his first commission for Omega Ensemble, Sdraulig delivers a driving tour-de-force, characterised by passionate lyricism and harmonic richness.

— Classical music's greatest showman, Frédéric Chopin was also a notorious introvert, preferring the dark and smoky salons of Paris to grand concert halls, and often arranging his own concertos to perform in these intimate settings. In this tradition, Chopin's first piano concerto is reshaped for just ten musicians, unlocking new raw and emotive power from one of the most expressively beautiful works.

MELBOURNE

Tue 1 Oct 2024 — 7 PM
Elizabeth Murdoch Hall,
Melbourne Recital Centre

SYDNEY

Thu 3 Oct 2024 — 7 PM
City Recital Hall

A man with short, styled brown hair is shown from the chest up, playing a violin. He is wearing a dark, possibly black or dark blue, suit jacket. His eyes are closed, and he has a focused expression. The violin is a reddish-brown color with gold hardware. The background is a solid, warm orange color. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of his face and the instrument.

CONCERTANTE





A close-up portrait of a bald man with a warm, reddish-brown background. He is wearing a dark suit jacket and a dark tie, and is smiling broadly while playing a golden saxophone. The lighting is soft and focused on his face and hands.

FORCE FATALE

Nigel Westlake
Piano Trio

Johannes Brahms
Clarinet Quintet

Joe Chindamo
New Commission World Premiere

Joe Chindamo is commissioned
by Omega Ensemble

A fateful finale

— With a career spanning over four decades and celebrated equally for his music for film and the concert hall, Nigel Westlake is one of Australia's most remarkable musical voices. From the haunting last chord of the first movement to the violent rhythmic finale, Westlake's singular *Piano Trio* is revered as one of the composer's most stunning and captivating chamber works.

— Arguably Johannes Brahms' most profound work, the *Clarinet Quintet* is an energized and rhapsodic masterpiece, with wild and forceful gestures, flickering textures, dark hues and sublime melodies. Written as part of the composer's surprising re-emergence from retirement, the *Quintet* is an impassioned musical epilogue that has dominated classical music stages for generations.

— A musical polyglot in the tradition of Leonard Bernstein and André Previn, Joe Chindamo's music cannot be easily characterised. Hailed as one of Australia's leading jazz pianists, Chindamo's music transcends any singular genre, with a daring, unapologetic and formidable style. In an explosive season finale, Chindamo delivers a feat of daring virtuosity, pushing the performers to their limits.

SYDNEY

Sat 30 Nov 2024 — 2 PM
Sat 30 Nov 2024 — 7 PM
The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3

MELBOURNE

Mon 2 Dec 2024 — 7 PM
Elizabeth Murdoch Hall,
Melbourne Recital Centre



PRESENTED BY QUEENSLAND
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

QSO Studio Series

A long-awaited Brisbane debut presented by Queensland Symphony Orchestra as part of their exciting 2024 Concert Season.

Holly Harrison
Daredevil

Dmitri Shostakovich
Piano Quintet

Elena Kats-Chernin
Ornamental Air New Arrangement

BRISBANE

Fri 24 May 2024 — 7:30 PM
QSO Studio, South Bank

Holly Harrison commissioned by Omega Ensemble in 2023 with the generous support of the Darin Cooper Foundation.

COLAB: COMPOSER
ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

New Now 2024

Exciting new directions and bold musical risk-taking, the annual New Now showcase celebrates the next generation of Australian compositional talent, featuring four world premiere works developed through the intensive CoLAB: Composer Accelerator Program.

Composers will be announced in early 2024.
Tickets for New Now on sale mid-2024.

SYDNEY

Thu 7 Nov 2024 — 1 pm *
Thu 7 Nov 2024 — 7 pm
Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

* Schools performance. Details to be released mid-2024

LIVING MUSIC PROJECT

The Living Music Project is our long-standing commitment to championing contemporary musical voices, creating boundary-pushing performance and discovering exciting new perspectives for classical music.

2024 Commissions



SAMUEL ADAMS

United States



JESSIE MONTGOMERY

United States



ELENA KATS-CHERNIN

Australia



JOE CHINDAMO

Australia



HARRY SDRALIG

Australia



ALICE CHANCE

Australia / France

JOIN OUR COMMISSIONING CIRCLE

The Living Music Commissioning Circle is our close-knit community of music-lovers who together support current and future commissioning projects, ensuring we continue to collaborate with the world's leading composers and present world-first musical experiences on Australian stages.

Find out more at omegaensemble.com.au/living-music-project

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SECURE YOUR PREFERRED
SEATING FOR EVERY
PERFORMANCE

Save on tickets

SAVE 20% ON TICKETS
WHEN BOOKING TWO OR
MORE PERFORMANCES

Don't miss a note

EXPERIENCE THE 2024
SEASON IN FULL, FROM
CLASSICS TO WORLD FIRSTS



2024 Season

CITY	VENUE / BOOKING DETAILS	PERFORMANCE	
Sydney	City Recital Hall 2 Angel Pl, Sydney NSW 2000 02 8256 2222 (Mon-Fri, 12:30pm-5pm) boxoffice@cityrecitalhall.com	RE:CLASSICAL CONCERTANTE	
	ACO Pier 2/3 13 Hickson Rd, Dawes Point NSW 2000 1800 444 444 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) boxoffice@aco.com.au	ÉCHAPPSODIE ALCHYMIA	
		FORCE FATALE	
	Sydney Opera House Bennelong Point, Sydney NSW 2000 02 9250 7777 (Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm) boxoffice@sydneyoperahouse.com	COLAB: NEW NOW 2024 Tickets on sale mid-2024	
Penrith	The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre 597 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750 02 4723 7600 (Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm) boxoffice@penrith.city	RE:CLASSICAL	
Newcastle	Newcastle City Hall (bookings via Civic Theatre) 290 King St, Newcastle NSW 2300 02 4929 1977 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) civicticketoffice@ncc.nsw.gov.au	RE:CLASSICAL	
Melbourne	Melbourne Recital Centre Cnr Southbank Blvd and Sturt St, Southbank VIC 3006 03 9699 3333 (Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm) boxoffice@melbournerecital.com.au.	ÉCHAPPSODIE RE:CLASSICAL CONCERTANTE	
		FORCE FATALE	
	Brisbane	QSO Studio Cnr Grey St and Russell St, South Bank QLD 4101 07 3833 5044 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) info@qso.com.au	QSO STUDIO SERIES

Venues and Performances

DATE & TIME	SINGLE TICKETS	MULTI-TICKETS (SAVE 20%)
Fri 12 Apr 2024, 7:00 PM	A-Reserve Adult: \$89 / Con: \$79 / U30s \$39	A-Reserve Adult: \$71 / Con: \$63 / U30s \$31
Thu 3 Oct 2024, 7:00 PM	B-Reserve Adult: \$69 / Con: \$59 / U30s \$39	B-Reserve Adult: \$55 / Con: \$47 / U30s \$31
Sat 17 Feb 2024, 2:00 PM	C-Reserve Adult: \$49 / Con: \$39 / U30s \$39	C-Reserve Adult: \$31 / Con: \$31 / U30s \$31
Sat 17 Feb 2024, 7:00 PM	Adult: \$89 Concession: \$79 Under 30: \$39	Adult: \$71 Concession: \$63 Under 30: \$31
Sat 27 July 2024, 2:00 PM		
Sat 27 July 2024, 7:00 PM		
Sat 30 Nov 2024, 2:00 PM		
Sat 30 Nov 2024, 7:00 PM		
Thu 7 Nov 2024, 1:00 PM*	Adult: \$39	This performance is not available as part of a subscription
Thu 7 Nov 2024, 7:00 PM	Concession: \$29	
* Schools performance	Under 30: \$29	
Sat 20 Apr 2024, 7:30 PM	Adult: \$45 Concession: \$40 Under 35: \$30 Penrith Con Student: \$26	Multi-tickets can be purchased as part of The Joan 2024 season packages.
Thu 18 Apr 2024, 7:00 PM	Adult: \$69 Concession: \$59 Under 30: \$39	
Tue 13 Feb 2024, 7:00 PM	A-Reserve Adult: \$79 / Con: \$69 / U30s \$39	A-Reserve Adult: \$63 / Con: \$55 / U30s \$31
Mon 15 Apr 2024, 7:00 PM	B-Reserve Adult: \$59 / Con: \$49 / U30s \$39	B-Reserve Adult: \$47 / Con: \$39 / U30s \$31
Tue 1 Oct 2024, 7:00 PM	C-Reserve Adult: \$39 / Con: \$39 / U30s \$39	C-Reserve Adult: \$31 / Con: \$31 / U30s \$31
Mon 2 Dec 2024, 7:00 PM		
Fri 24 May 2024, 7:30 PM	Adult: \$79 Concession: \$71 Student / Child: \$35	Multi-tickets can be purchased as part of QSO 2024 subscription packages.

Tickets and Booking

HOW TO BOOK

Book online at omegaensemble.com.au

To book by phone, please call the relevant venue box office directly with the information provided on page 22.

MULTI-TICKET PACKAGES

Tickets for two or more performances within the 2024 Season can be purchased as part of a Multi-Ticket Pack including 20% off single ticket pricing.

Please note, multi-ticket packs can only include performances within the same city. For Sydney subscriptions, please book online at omegaensemble.com.au/2024

CONCESSIONS, UNDER 30S AND STUDENTS

When booking or collecting Concession, Student or Under 30s tickets, you may be required to provide proof of eligibility, such as a government issued senior or pensioner card, drivers license, proof of age or student ID.

RECEIVING TICKETS

You will receive an order confirmation following your single or multi-ticket purchase. To avoid ticket scalping many venues now delay sending tickets until closer to the individual performance date. Please ensure you use correct booking details to avoid misplaced tickets. If you are unsure, please contact the box office directly.

TICKETING POLICY

As a member of Live Performance Australia (LPA) we abide by the LPA Ticketing Code of Practice. Where tickets are sold through a venue box office or authorised ticketing agent, purchases are also subject to the terms and conditions of sale of the venue or ticketing agent (available on their website). Please visit our website to read the full ticketing policy.

TICKET EXCHANGES

If you are no longer able to attend a 2024 performance, you may transfer your tickets to another performance within the 2024 Season at no charge. Please note, ticket transfers may be limited to performances within the same venue and subject to ticket availability.

COMPANION CARDS

A companion card enables extra seating at no additional cost for those assisting people with a disability to attend our performances. To book tickets with a companion card, please call the venue box office directly (see page 22).

DONATIONS

If you include a donation with your ticket purchase, you will receive a separate tax-deductible receipt. This additional receipt may take up to 7 working days to be received.

BOOKING AND CREDIT CARD FEES

Additional booking and credit card processing fees may apply when purchasing tickets. These fees may vary between venues.

Attending a Performance

ACCESSIBILITY AND VENUES

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to attend and enjoy our performances. We work closely with concert venues who share our commitment to access, inclusivity and continual improvement. However, some venues, in particular heritage buildings or non-traditional performance spaces, may have access limitations.

If you have additional access, seating or attendance needs, please contact the venue box office directly when booking your tickets or prior to attending a performance. Contact details for each venue are listed on page 22.

CAN I TAKE PHOTOS?

Yes! We encourage you to share your concert experience! However, to avoid distractions, the most appropriate time to take a photo is during applause. Video or audio recording of the performance is not permitted.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

A live performance is a special occasion, and some audience prefer to go a little glam when attending our events. However, formal attire is not expected, and most opt for smart casual. Overall, dress true to your personal style.

WHEN SHOULD I CLAP?

This is a common question when attending classical music performances. Many classical music works are made up of sections or 'movements'. These are listed in the concert program so you can follow along, and it is

custom to hold your applause until the final movement has finished. If you're unsure, simply wait until the Ensemble takes a bow.

ARRIVING LATE

Latecomers will be permitted in an appropriate gap in the performance. On late arrival, please see the front of house staff who will assist you.

RUNNING TIMES

The approximate duration of each performance is listed online and in pre-concert information. However, the final duration of a performance may vary from the information advertised at time of purchase, in particular when the performance includes new commissions.

TALKING AND DISTRACTIONS

The thrill of live performance is experiencing music up-close, in the moment and together with others. The intimate nature of chamber music also means any noise from the audience can often be heard by the performers. We encourage you to make the most of the live experience by leaving your phone in your pocket and switched off, and limit any talking to in between works.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our audience, performers and team is our first priority. All performances will be presented in accordance with the latest Government advice and policies which will be communicated to audience in pre-concert information.

Support

Our music simply would not exist without the shared vision of our supporters and partners who help us to deliver our exciting projects and important work, both on and off the stage.

We invite you to join this like-minded community of passionate music-lovers by making a tax-deductible donation. Your gift will help us continue to reach new audiences, invest in the next generation of local talent and create world-first musical experiences on Australian stages.

Visit omegaensemble.com.au/support



PRINCIPAL ENSEMBLE

David Rowden Clarinet	Neil Thompson Viola
Peter Clark Violin	Paul Stender Cello
Natalia Harvey Violin	Vatche Jambazian Piano

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*The Saturday
Paper*

PHOTO CREDITS

2024 Season photography by Saskia Wilson
Jordan Munns — Pg 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18 & 20
Keith Saunders — Pg 26

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Omega Ensemble acknowledges the traditional custodians of the many lands on which we work and perform, and honour their continued connection to Country, culture and storytelling.

CONTACT US

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Surry Hills NSW 2010

757 Elizabeth Street
Zetland NSW 2017

contact@omegaensemble.com.au
1300 670 050

For ticket bookings, please call the relevant box office listed on page 18.

@omegaensembleau

— Stay connected on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube

**Explore the full 2024 Season at
omegaensemble.com.au**