



MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 14 March, 2016

Sydney Opera House presents

AUSTRALIA PIANO QUARTET SHOWCASES CHAMBER MUSIC MASTERPIECES AND WORLD PREMIERES

Rebecca Chan (violin), Daniel de Borah (piano), Thomas Rann (cello), James Wannan (viola)

– Respected quartet showcases emerging artists in program of musical connections –

Cutting-edge Australian chamber music will be paired with classical master works when the **Australia Piano Quartet**, one of the country's most dynamic ensembles, plays in the intimate setting of the **Sydney Opera House's Utzon Room**, from June to November 2016.

The four concerts – on 12 June, 16 July, 22 October and 26 November – are designed to provoke new understandings of the masterpieces and their connections with contemporary works as part of a vital and evolving art form.

APQ cellist Thomas Rann says, *“Every program will be put together like a fine meal, where you sample different, refined elements that surprise and delight you because you haven't previously considered them together – such as Schubert's The Trout with the premiere of Paul Dean's Generations. It's about very fresh, and particularly Australian, combinations that open up this beautiful art form in a new way, with exciting premieres of new works and guest artists adding to the experience of the classics.”*

For the first recital on June 12, APQ Emerging Artist violinist Anna Da Silva Chen will join the ensemble's performance of the joyful Schumann Piano Quintet in E flat major Op. 44, in a program that also features Lachlan Skipworth's spare, textural and uniquely Australian composition, piano quartet. The 19-year-old Da Silva Chen has performed as a soloist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House and the Australian Chamber Orchestra at City Recital Hall and in 2014 was a Grand Finalist at the ABC Young Performers Awards.

Guest artists in the concert series also include breath-taking tenor Andrew Goodwin and APQ Emerging Artist Muhamed Mehmedbasic. Members of the award-winning quartet will introduce each work, elucidating its significance and relationship to the other works in the program.

Sydney Opera House Director of Performing Arts, Tim Calnin, says, *“As the sun sets over the Sydney Harbour, audiences will experience musical combinations tailor-made to create a chamber music recital like no other, from The Trout to a piece only possible through 21st century technology. The exciting young artists involved in each program promise an even more memorable concert.”*

Ensemble in Residence at the University of Technology Sydney, the Australia Piano Quartet has recently presented at Melbourne Recital Centre, Queensland Music Festival, performed live on BBC Radio 3, the Helpmann Awards, made their debut at the Barbican Centre, London and has commissioned more than 20 new works. This year they will again be presented by the Melbourne Recital Centre and will return to Europe performing at the Wigmore Hall, London.

See the APQ playing [here](#).

Images are available for download [here](#).

SEASON DETAILS

WHAT: Australia Piano Quartet (APQ)

WHERE: Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

WHEN: 3pm on 12 June, 16 July, 22 October and 26 November 2016

TICKETS: \$60 / Multipacks from \$45

www.sydneyoperahouse.com / 02 9250 7777

PROGRAM DETAILS



Sunday June 12 – Liebestod

Mahler: Piano Quartet in A minor
Lachlan Skipworth: Piano Quartet [2016 commission]
Wagner: *Tristan und Isolde: Prelude & Liebestod*
Schumann: Piano Quintet in E flat major Op. 44

Guest: Anna Da Silva Chen, violin Emerging Artist 2016

Saturday July 16 – Senses & Sensibilities

Mozart: Piano Quartet G minor K478
Rebecca Chan / Jordan Nguyen: *Whispering Pectoriloquy* [2016 premiere collaboration]
Richard Strauss: Piano Quartet in C minor Op.13

Guests: Jordan Nguyen, Jessica Irwin

Saturday October 22 – The Trout

Strauss: *Morgen* (arr. 2016 Bernard Rofe for piano quartet and voice)
Dean: *Generations* [2016 commission]
Schubert: Selected Lieder
Schubert: Piano Quintet in A Major The Trout D667

Guests: Andrew Goodwin, tenor; Muhamed Mehmedbasic, double bass Emerging Artist 2016

Saturday November 26 – Shell Chambers

Mozart: Piano Quartet in E flat Major K493
Gyger: *Shell Chambers II* [2016 commission]
Fauré: Piano Quartet in C minor Op.15

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