

Australian Festival of Chamber Music



AFCM 2026
Cairns-Gimuy
24 Jul - 1 Aug

2026
ARTIST LISTING

AFCM Artistic Director

Jack Liebeck, Violin

Jack Liebeck will present his fifth iteration of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music as Artistic Director in 2026, for the first time in Cairns-Gimuy, with this beautiful city ready to host a thrilling and insightful Festival program.

British/German violinist, director and festival director Jack Liebeck, possesses "flawless technical mastery" and a "beguiling silvery tone" (BBC Music Magazine). Jack has been named as the Royal Academy of Music's first Émile Sauret Professor of Violin. His playing embraces the worlds of chamber music through to concerto playing and has appeared with many of the world's leading conductors and orchestra as soloist. As an acclaimed recording artist he has recorded the complete works of Bruch for violin and orchestra, solo Ysaÿe Sonatas, Dvořák, Schoenberg, Brahms Concertos, amongst many others, as well as the movie soundtracks for Jane Eyre and Anna Karenina.



AFCM Pathways Program Emerging Composer

Sam Wu

Composer Sam Wu is praised for music that "abounds in delicate colours, wisps of sound and sylvan textures" (Gramophone). A recipient of major awards such as the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, Sam has held residencies at Zion National Park and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. His collaborations span five continents, including with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Cabrillo Festival, and conductors Osmo Vänskä, Marin Alsop, and Benjamin Northey. Originally from Melbourne, Sam holds degrees from Harvard, Juilliard and Rice, and is on faculty at Whitman College in the US.

AFCM Pathways Program Director

Lloyd van't Hoff, Clarinet

Lauded by Limelight Magazine for his "life-affirming music-making", Lloyd Van't Hoff is a leading Australian clarinetist, chamber musician, director and educator. Winner of the 2015 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year, he performs regularly as a concerto soloist and guest principal with major orchestras and appears as a chamber musician at festivals across Australia, Europe, Asia and North America. He is Head of Woodwind and Chamber Music at Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music, a founding member of Arcadia Winds, Artistic Director of Ensemble Lumen, and a Buffet Crampon, Gleichweit and Légère endorsed artist.



Presented by the AFCM Artistic Director's Circle

The Sitkovetsky Trio

The Sitkovetsky Trio is one of today's outstanding piano trios, acclaimed for its exceptional musicianship, intensity and ensemble unity. Formed nearly two decades ago, the trio appears regularly at major international venues including Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw, Lincoln Center and the Louvre. Its award-winning recordings on BIS Records, including a celebrated Beethoven cycle, have received widespread critical praise and major honours. Recent highlights include an artist residency at Beethovenfest Bonn and premieres of new works, reflecting the trio's strong commitment to contemporary music. Touring extensively worldwide, the Sitkovetsky Trio continues to set benchmarks in chamber music performance.

Pictured right - The Sitkovetsky Trio: Alexander Sitkovetsky, Isang Enders, & Wu Quian



AFCM Fellowship Ensemble

The Orpheus Wind Quintet



A dynamic Sydney-based wind quintet formed at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, this ensemble is quickly gaining recognition for its vibrant performances and musical precision.

The Orpheus Wind Quintet were 2025 AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass participants and have been selected as the 2026 AFCM Fellowship Ensemble, with mentorship including the LA Philharmonic Wind Quintet, Shefali Pryor and Andrew Barnes.

Jude Austen Kaupe - French Horn is a Brisbane-based horn player currently completing Honours at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, studying with Rachel Silver and Sam Jacobs. He began on trumpet before switching to horn at 14, drawn to its lyrical sound. Jude performs regularly with professional horn sections across Australia and has appeared with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Chamber Orchestra. His experience includes the Australian Youth Orchestra, Queensland Youth Symphony and Sydney Youth Orchestra, alongside freelance work with the Brisbane Pops Orchestra and The Metropolitan Orchestra.

Gahyun Lee - Oboe graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2024 with a Bachelor of Music (Performance) Honours degree on oboe, where she learnt with Shefali Pryor and Conall McClure. She has participated in Australian Youth Programs such as the National Music Camp in 2024 and 2025. She was a member of Sydney Youth Orchestras from 2019 until 2025 and was the Principal Oboe of their flagship orchestra in 2024 and 2025. Gahyun has received a scholarship to study a Master of Performance at the Royal College of Music.

Dylan Roberts - Bassoon is a bassoonist currently studying for a Master of Arts in Bassoon Performance at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW) with Professor Stepan Turnovsky. He completed his Bachelor of Music Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, studying with Andrew Barnes. Dylan has performed with the Australian Youth Orchestra, Sydney Youth Orchestra, and Ensemble Apex. His work is driven by a search for expressive depth and a distinctive personal sound.

Kara Thorpe - Flute completed a Bachelor of Flute Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium in 2025, studying with Emma Sholl. In 2023, she performed as soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra as winner of the TSO Rising Star competition and has performed a recital broadcast for 3MBS Melbourne. Kara was principal flute of the Sydney Youth Orchestra (2024-25), previously holding the same position in the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra and has participated in Australian Youth Orchestra programs and a LA Philharmonic Wind Quintet masterclass.

Justin Wang - Clarinet is an emerging Australian clarinettist building a multifaceted career as a soloist, orchestral musician and chamber player. He is a recent graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he studied with Frank Celata. Justin has appeared at international festivals including the Brevard Music Center in the USA and toured Korea and Japan as Principal Clarinettist with the Conservatorium's Wind Symphony. Justin performs widely with leading youth and contemporary ensembles. He has also participated in masterclasses with Michael Collins, Yehuda Gilad and Andreas Sundén.

Joshua Batty, Flute

Joshua Batty is an internationally acclaimed flautist known for his expressive artistry and commitment to expanding the flute's contemporary voice. A prolific commissioner of new works, he collaborates closely with leading composers and champions new repertoire. Joshua appears regularly as a soloist at leading venues and festivals including play direct with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, recital and chamber music for Musica Viva Australia, at the Ukarria Cultural Centre, Phoenix Central Park, and Tasmania and Australian Festivals of Chamber Music, amongst many others. His debut album Perfect Imperfections marks a significant milestone in a career spanning performance, education and community engagement.

Joshua is supported by Artist Angel Ruth Stratton



Lise Berthaud, Viola

Lise Berthaud is internationally acclaimed as one of today's leading violists, admired for her artistry and musical depth. She performs regularly at major venues including the Concertgebouw, Musikverein, Elbphilharmonie and Wigmore Hall, collaborating with many of the world's finest musicians and ensembles. As a soloist, she has appeared with all BBC orchestras and leading ensembles across Europe, Asia and the Americas, including a BBC Proms debut. A former BBC New Generation Artist, she has an acclaimed discography and a strong commitment to contemporary music.

Kees Boersma, Double Bass

Kees Boersma is a versatile musician whose career encompasses orchestral leadership, teaching, solo performance and chamber music. He is principal double bassist of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and lecturer at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Since joining the SSO, he has been active in premiering new works, including concertos by Colin Bright and Mary Finsterer, the latter receiving an APRA nomination. A regular festival artist, he is a founding member of the Australian World Orchestra and a guest principal internationally. His interests also include historically informed performance.



Emmanuel Cassimatis, Oboe

Emmanuel started the Oboe on his eighth birthday and has never looked back. He has served as Principal Oboist of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and is a Casual Oboist of the Tasmanian and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. An alumnus of ANAM and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and former Principal Oboist of the Australian Youth Orchestra, he has performed internationally in many of the world's most prestigious concert halls with some of the world's leading soloists and conductors. Among his wide repertoire, Emmanuel has particular expertise in the music of J.S. Bach, having publicly performed all but two of his approximately two hundred Cantatas.

Stefan Dohr, French Horn

Stefan Dohr is celebrated for a horn sound of extraordinary power and refinement, praised for its thundering resonance and delicate, distant lyricism. A leading soloist, chamber musician and principal horn of the Berliner Philharmoniker since 1993, he is a central figure in the international horn world. His repertoire spans Classical and Romantic masterworks and contemporary music, including world premieres by Toshio Hosokawa and Hans Abrahamsen. Born in Münster, he studied in Essen and Cologne, has held principal positions across Europe and teaches internationally.

Stefan is supported by Artist Angel Meta Goodman





Stefanie Farrands, *Viola*

Stefanie Farrands is principal violist of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and an internationally active soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader. Formerly Principal Violist of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, she has performed with leading ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Camerata Salzburg, and as guest principal across Europe and Australia. Stefanie has appeared as soloist with major Australian orchestras and is a committed advocate for new music, commissioning and premiering numerous works for viola. A founding member of the award-winning Hamer Quartet, she records regularly and has taught and given masterclasses both in Australia and abroad.

Stefanie is supported by Artist Angels John and Diana Smythe



Dimity Hall, *Violin*

As a member of both the Goldner String Quartet and the Australia Ensemble at UNSW, Dimity has performed, toured and recorded extensively. She has appeared as soloist with the Sydney Symphony and the ACO among others and as guest Concertmaster with numerous Australian orchestras. Her recording of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* is released on ABC Classics. Dimity plays a Nicolo Gagliano violin.



Emmalena Huning, *Violin*

Emmalena Huning is a Perth-born violinist currently studying at the Curtis Institute of Music as the Yvonne Druian Fellow, under Benjamin Beilman and Erin Keefe. Praised for her distinct voice and emotional delivery, she previously studied at the Royal Academy of Music with György Pauk and Jack Liebeck. Emmalena has received prizes at major national and international competitions and was the youngest semi-finalist at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. An accomplished orchestral leader, she has served as concertmaster with leading youth and professional orchestras in Australia, the UK and the United States.



Ben Jacks, *French Horn*

Ben Jacks is one of Australia's most distinguished horn players, internationally recognised for his artistry and technical excellence. He served as Principal Horn of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for 25 seasons and has performed with leading orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic and Australian World Orchestra, working with many of the world's foremost conductors. A celebrated soloist and chamber musician, he has appeared in major concert halls and festivals worldwide. Ben is Head of Horn Studies at the Australian National Academy of Music and teaches at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, alongside an active international career.



Christian Pierre La Marca, *Cello*

Hailed by Gramophone as "a master of his instrument", and declared by Le Monde as belonging to "the French cello elite", Christian-Pierre La Marca has rapidly garnered a firm international presence, appearing at major global concert venues including the Philharmonie de Paris, Southbank Centre in London, Musikverein Vienna, Marinsky Theatre in St Petersburg and 92nd Street Y in New York. The cellist's innovative discography reflects a curiosity across musical genres, whilst retaining a passion for the great masterworks of classical repertoire. Such recordings have received unanimous critical acclaim, including Gramophone's "Best Concept Album" for Cello 360 in 2021.

Piers Lane AO, *Piano*

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane AO was Artistic Director of the AFCM for eleven years from 2007. He is currently AD of the Sydney International Piano Competition. He is equally renowned for his solo career in over forty countries, a concerto repertoire of over a hundred works and a discography of seventy CDs as he is for his longterm musical partnerships with violinist Tasmin Little, the Goldner String Quartet, Dame Patricia Routledge and many others.



Simon Martyn-Ellis, *Gallichon & Theorbo*

Simon Martyn-Ellis is a lutenist and guitarist whose work is rooted in continuo and collaborative performance. After seventeen years based in Germany and the United States, he returned to Australia in 2019 and is now active with leading early music and orchestral ensembles including Pinchgut Opera, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Van Diemen's Band. A founding member of Notturno and Duo Corbetta, his interests span opera, song, baroque and romantic guitar repertoire. Simon is driven by a love of collaboration and the rich expressive possibilities of plucked strings from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Simon plays a gallichon courtesy of Pinchgut Opera.

Simon is supported by Artist Angel Belinda Kendall-White

Charlotte Miles, *Cello*

Melbourne-born cellist Charlotte Miles is the first Australian student at Germany's prestigious Kronberg Academy, where she studies with Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt and was awarded the 2025 Altkönigstift Prize. Praised for her musical intelligence, assured technique and honeyed tone, she is a prize-winner at more than 100 competitions, including the 2024 ARD Competition. Charlotte has performed with major orchestras, toured internationally and appeared at leading festivals including the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Oxford May and Cello Biennale Amsterdam. She has appeared as a guest with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian String Quartet, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic, and is a 2025 laureate of the Gautier Capuçon Foundation. AFCM welcomes her back after her extraordinary contribution at the 2025 Festival.



Irina Morozova, *Viola*

Irina has had a long and distinguished career primarily as a chamber musician and also as principal viola in various major Australian orchestras. She was a foundation member of both the Australia Ensemble at UNSW and Goldner String Quartet with whom she performed in over 30 countries around the world and recorded extensively. Irina stepped down from full time performances in 2025 when the Goldners disbanded and still plays on a very fine AE Smith viola made for her teacher and Musica Viva's founder, Richard Goldner.

Jackie Newcomb, *Bassoon*

Originally from Sydney, Jackie Newcomb is Principal Contrabassoonist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 2009. Jackie has performed with most of Australia's major symphony orchestras, including the Sydney, Queensland, Melbourne, and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. As part of her busy schedule, Jackie performs regularly with Australia's leading ensembles on modern and historical bassoons, including ARCO, Adelaide Baroque and Pinchgut Opera. A founding member of Unholy Rackett, Jackie enjoys performing an eclectic range of music. In 2019, Jackie graduated with a PhD from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, researching historically informed performance practice for the Renaissance bassoon..



Dene Olding AM, Violin

Dene Olding is recognised as one of Australia's most outstanding violinists. He was first violinist for the Goldner String Quartet and the Australia Ensemble @UNSW until 2025 and is Concertmaster Emeritus of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Dene currently serves on the Board of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and is President of the Great Barrier Reef Orchestra based in Townsville. He is also Chair of the Australian Music Foundation as well as a member of various Advisory Councils and from 2026 will teach two talented students at the Sydney Conservatorium High School. In addition, he has many solo and recording credits to his name with major conductors and orchestras including many world premieres. He trained at the Juilliard School in New York and lives in Sydney with his wife Irina Morozova and son Nikolai.



Karin Schaupp, Guitar

Karin Schaupp is one of Australia's most distinguished guitarists, internationally acclaimed as a recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician. Renowned for her expressive artistry and commanding stage presence, she has inspired leading composers to write works especially for her. Highlights include performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, appearances at the Commonwealth Games and World Expo Japan, and international festival tours. Her ARIA Award-winning recordings for Warner Music and ABC Classics include landmark Australian guitar concertos. A recipient of the Freedman Fellowship and an Australia Council Music Fellowship, Karin is Head of Classical Guitar at the Queensland Conservatorium.

Bethany Simons, Narrator

Bethany Simons is an award-winning writer, performer and director currently based in Sydney. Her multi-nominated stage shows, *The Weather and Your Health* and *Reception: The Musical*, toured extensively across Australia and were both selected for the VCE Drama Curriculum in Victoria. Bethany collaborates with leading arts, education and social impact companies on performance and story-based works that span stage, screen, radio and print. A regular teaching artist with Milk Crate Theatre, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), she holds a first-class Honours degree in the BA Acting for Screen and Stage from Charles Sturt University.



Julian Smiles, Cello

Julian's diverse career combining solo, chamber music and orchestral performance reaches national and international audiences. He was cellist of the Goldner String Quartet for its 30 year history, is in his 36th season with the Australia Ensemble UNSW, and has appeared as soloist with numerous Australian orchestras and ensembles. In demand as a teacher and chamber music mentor, Julian holds the position of Senior Lecturer in Cello and Discipline Lead for Strings at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Julian plays a Lorenzo Ventapane cello from 1827.

Robin Tritschler, Tenor

Irish tenor Robin Tritschler is a former BBC New Generation Artist and Royal Academy of Music graduate, widely praised for his radiantly lyrical voice. He appears regularly with leading orchestras and early music ensembles across Europe and beyond, performing repertoire from Purcell and Bach to Mozart, Mendelssohn and Britten. Recent and forthcoming engagements include performances with Le Concert Spirituel, the Wiener Symphoniker, Gulbenkian Orchestra and Ensemble Pygmalion, as well as recitals in major international venues. Equally admired as a concert and recital artist, Robin continues to attract critical acclaim for his musical intelligence and expressive clarity.



Australian Festival of Chamber Music

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

DAY ONE: FRIDAY, 24 JULY

AFCM 2025 Opening Night Concert - *Cairns Crescendo*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY TWO: SATURDAY, 25 JULY

AFCM Concert Conversations 1
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Industry Discussion
1:00 - 2:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Illuminates 1 - *The Sherlock Holmes of the Violin World - with Florian Leonhard*
3:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Ray Golding Sunset Series 1 - *Twilight's Embrace*
5:00 - 6:00pm, CPAC
AFCM Governor's Gala - *Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro*
7:30 - 9:30pm, CPAC

DAY THREE: SUNDAY 26 JULY

AFCM Special Event - *Sitkovetsky Trio Sunday Special Presented by the Artistic Director's Circle*
10:00 - 11:00am, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass 1
11:30am - 12:30pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Cathedral Concert - *All at Sixes and Sevens*
1:30- 3:30pm, St Monica's Cathedral
AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass 2
4:00 - 5:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Evening Concert 1 - *Horrible Histories - Composers Edition*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY FOUR: MONDAY 27 JULY

AFCM Concert Conversations 1
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass 3
1:00 - 2:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Illuminates 2 - *Einstein the Musician - with Professor Brian Foster*
3:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Ray Golding Sunset Series 2 - *Baroque Sunset*
5:00 - 6:00pm, CPAC
AFCM Evening Concert 2 - *Cairns' Colossal 150th*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY FIVE: TUESDAY 28 JULY

AFCM SPECIAL EVENTS
Harbour Harmonies - Spirit of Cairns Lunch Cruise & Concert
12:00 - 3:00pm
Starlight Serenade - Spirit of Cairns Dinner Cruise & Concert
6:00 - 9:00pm

DAY SIX: WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY

AFCM Concert Conversations 3
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass 4
1:00 - 2:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Illuminates 3 - *Marine Conservation - with Green Island Manager Bekki Hull*
3:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Ray Golding Sunset Series 3 - *A Tale of Two*
5:00 - 6:00pm, CPAC
AFCM Evening Concert 3 - *Wonderful World with Christian-Pierre La Marca and his all-star Orchestra*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY SEVEN: THURSDAY, 30 JULY

AFCM Concert Conversations 4
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Pathways Program International Masterclass 5
1:00 - 2:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Illuminates 4 - *The Beating Heart - with Prof Robin Choudhary*
3:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Ray Golding Sunset Series 4 - *Usonia Dreams*
5:00 - 6:00pm, CPAC
AFCM Evening Concert 4 - *Baroque Bliss - The Goldberg Variations*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY EIGHT - FRIDAY 31 JULY

AFCM Concert Conversations 5
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Gold Subscriber Q&A
1:00 - 2:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Pathways International Masterclasses Showcase
2:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Ray Golding Sunset Series 4 - *Epoch Echoes*
5:00 - 6:00pm, CPAC
AFCM Evening Concert 5 - *A Tropical Winter's Journey*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC

DAY NINE - SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

AFCM Concert Conversations 6
10:00am - 12:00pm, CPAC Studio
AFCM Families' Concert
1:30 - 2:30pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Illuminates 5 - *The HART Team on Healthy Ageing - with Dr Eddy Strivens, AN*
3:00 - 4:00pm, Bulmba-Ja
AFCM Closing Night Concert - *So Long, Farewell, For Now*
7:30 - 8:45pm, CPAC