

Encore

THE NEWSLETTER FOR WASO PATRONS & FRIENDS

NOVEMBER 2016

WASO

West Australian
Symphony Orchestra
ASHER FISCH PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Photo: Graeme Norris

Behind the Scenes: WASO on Tour!

At the time of writing, the Orchestra had just landed safely back in Perth after a tremendously successful International Tour to the UAE and China! Take a look at what our musicians got up to on the road through this pictorial tour of photos they snapped along the way.

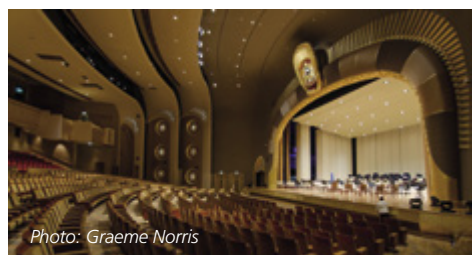


Photo: Graeme Norris

The Emirates Palace Auditorium in Abu Dhabi. The Orchestra's performance of an all-Wagner program with conductor Sir Richard Armstrong and tenor Simon O'Neill, opening the Abu Dhabi Classics 2016/17 Season, received a standing ovation!

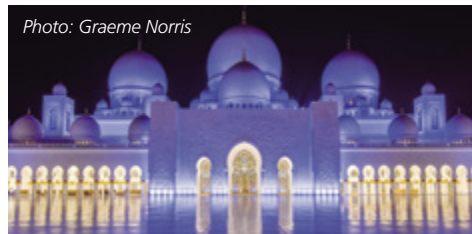


Photo: Graeme Norris

Many of our musicians visited the incredible Sheikh Zayed Mosque on their free day.



Photo: Graeme Norris

Concertmaster Laurence Jackson and Assistant Concertmaster Semra-Lee Smith at rehearsal in Abu Dhabi.

A touring party of 102 and 4 tonnes of equipment then flew from the UAE to China. First on the schedule, WASO's Education Chamber Orchestra performed 'Echo's Outback Adventure' for

students from Beijing's No.1 Experimental Primary School, and a WASO brass quintet conducted a masterclass for specialist brass students at No.8 Middle School. It was a truly inspiring day that many of the musicians involved described as one of the best things they had ever done with the Orchestra!



Photo: Fiona Taylor-Hokin

Presenter Lee Stanley and Echo the Gecko meet very excited students! Special thanks to WASO cellist Xiaole Wu for translating the show into Chinese for the audience!



Photo: Fiona Taylor-Hokin

Principal Trombone Joshua Davis, Tutti Double Bass Mark Tooby, Echo the Gecko and presenter Lee Stanley with the ECHO double bass commissioned by Patrons John Albright and Susan Lorimer.



Photo: Nik Babic

Gentlemen of the Orchestra backstage in Beijing.

Principal Conductor Asher Fisch and soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet joined the Orchestra in Beijing for a brilliant performance at the Beijing Music Festival – this was also live streamed on LeTV to 587,000 viewers, making it officially WASO's biggest audience ever!



Photo: Graeme Norris

Violinist Rebecca Glorie and Principal Bassoon Jane Kircher-Lindner with the Shanghai skyline.

The Orchestra flew on to Shanghai, where the final sold out performance of the tour received a rapturous response in the beautiful Shanghai Symphony Hall. Below, Principal Conductor Asher Fisch chats with Kylie Liang and Shaun Lee-Chen at the post-concert celebration.



Photo: Nik Babic

About the Tour, WASO's Chief Executive Craig Whitehead said, "This experience was utterly overwhelming for everyone involved. We have known our Orchestra is performing at an exceptional standard, but these performances propelled WASO to the world stage, where we received the most rapturous, unrelenting applause I've ever witnessed. It was the same in each city, and this confirms the outstanding calibre of our Orchestra. Our artistic excellence has cemented our relationships with these regions, and we have already received invitations to return to both Abu Dhabi and China."

A full list of our philanthropic partners who generously supported our 2016 Touring WASO Campaign is included with this issue.



Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner

Masterclass with Tenor Steve Davislim

There was not an orchestral instrument in sight on Tuesday 30 August at the second in WASO's series of International Artist Masterclasses in 2016. On this occasion UWA's Callaway Auditorium was filled with the power of the human voice as three gifted young singers performed for visiting Australian tenor Steve Davislim.

Steve, originally from Melbourne, has been based in Vienna for the past 16 years and was in Perth as a guest artist with WASO for the performance of Mozart's Requiem that week. A two-time winner of the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee award, Steve has a truly impressive resume of engagements with the most prestigious orchestras and opera companies worldwide, including The Met Opera, La Scala, the State Operas of Berlin and Vienna, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras. He has also performed at the BBC Proms, the Lincoln Centre, Salzburg and Lucerne Festivals, and has released a number of recordings.

The masterclass' audience enjoyed listening to Steve working with students Matthew Salter (tenor), Fleuranne Brockway (mezzo soprano) and Paull-Anthony Keightley (bass baritone), accompanied on piano by Chris Milbourne, Tommaso Pollio and Thomas Johnson.

Steve advised the students to immerse themselves in understanding the scene of the work they were performing, especially those works that are not in English, so they can express the emotions of the music fully and correctly – a real challenge and one that goes beyond simply learning the correct pronunciation of words! Much of the classical repertoire is written in German and Italian and Steve advised that when performing in these countries, audiences can be quite savage if the appropriate emotion is absent, or the emphasis in phrasing is not correct.

Steve also spoke to practicing hard to achieve genuine stage presentation and demonstrated some stagecraft 'tricks' performers use to bring the audience on the emotional journey with them. He advised the students to not be slaves to the metronome, but to be bold and expressive with tempo as needed to maximise dramatic effects.

The audience and students alike benefitted from Steve's explanation of his approach to musicianship. His manner was very supportive and encouraging of the students, and they were all very receptive to his suggestions.

WASO's International Artist Masterclasses are part of our Community Engagement



L- R: Fleuranne Brockway, Paull-Anthony Keightley, Steve Davislim, Matthew Salter

department's Young & Emerging Artists program, and are presented in partnership with the UWA School of Music, celebrating Western Australia's finest young musicians and providing them with valuable access to world-class artists.

The final masterclass of 2016 features cellist Alban Gerhardt and will be held on Thursday 17 November. Alban Gerhardt appears courtesy of Singapore Airlines.

Report by Patrons & Friends Committee Vice-President Barry Neubecker.

WASO on Tour: a Patron's Perspective

WASO Patron Janet Williams recounts her experiences of the Renaissance Tour to China and the Beijing Music Festival.

"The tour of fourteen people was led by Damien Beaumont of ABC Classic FM and I cannot speak highly enough of him. He was knowledgeable, informative, friendly, caring and nothing was too much trouble for him. We also had James Cao from Renaissance Tours as our guide for sightseeing.

We saw five performances in the seven days, all outstanding and in incredible venues. Of course, the highlight was the WASO concert at the Forbidden City Concert Hall for the Beijing Music Festival, which played to a full house and rapturous applause. We were all so proud of every member of our orchestra, Asher Fisch, and the soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Prior to the concert, our group was invited to a special reception where Janet Holmes à Court AC, WASO's Executive Manager Artistic Planning Evan Kennea and Australia's ambassador to China, Jan Adams, spoke.



Photo: Alan Lindsay

We also enjoyed two performances in the National Centre for the Performing Arts. This is known colloquially as "The Egg" and is an amazing, huge, egg-shaped structure set in an artificial lake. When entering the building you actually walk under the water! The last concert we saw on the tour was held in the Egg's concert hall and what a finale – a recital from violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter with the pianist Lambert Orkis. Truly superb music making with three encores – what a privilege to be there.

During the days we visited many major sites, museums, temples and the Olympic Games site.

A particular highlight was the Silk Museum. The tour included optional extras such as a trip to Chengde and the Great Wall, and five days in Hangzhou and Suzhou. Hangzhou included a magnificent sound and light show held on the Western Lake, and the Russian State Ballet of Siberia performing Cinderella in the Grand Theatre, which was also excellent.

We all survived the sometimes treacherous crossroads of the busy roads in China and have returned safely home! It was an extremely comprehensive and at times tiring tour, but very worthwhile and memorable."

Patrons & Friends Events

DEC 2016



Patrons & Friends Christmas Party

Thursday 8 December, 4.30pm
Perth Concert Hall

We have enjoyed some wonderful events with our community of Patrons & Friends this year, and hope you can join WASO Patrons & Friends, staff and musicians to celebrate another wonderful year of music-making at the annual Christmas Party.

Get a sneak preview of the final WASO performance for 2016 as we watch an hour of rehearsal for the special tenth anniversary City of Perth Symphony in the City with guest conductor Guy Noble, before mingling with WASO musicians over a light dinner and drinks while the sun sets on the Perth Concert Hall riverside balcony (weather permitting).

Tickets are \$45 for Patrons & Friends (\$55 for guests). To book, please call the WASO Box Office on 9326 0000. All proceeds support the Friends of WASO Scholarship, providing professional development opportunities for WASO musicians.



City of Perth Symphony in the City 2016

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm
Langley Park

Our much-loved spectacular outdoor concert is taking place on Saturday 10 December in Langley Park. Bring your picnic blanket and friends to this free concert, and don't forget some gold coins for our wonderful volunteers who will be collecting donations in the crowd to support WASO's Community Engagement and Education Program.

2017

We have been busily organising our calendar of special events for 2017! Full details will be revealed in the new year, but here is a sneak preview of some of the planned events for Patrons & Friends – please save the dates!

As always, proceeds of these events support the Friends of WASO Scholarship, providing professional development opportunities for WASO musicians.

In addition, we are planning a number of lovely events by invitation for WASO Patrons and Bequestors.

We are also looking forward to our International Artist Masterclasses on 7 June, 23 August and 4 October 2017.



Celebrating Summer, Music and Art

Monday 27 February 2017, 5.30pm
Perth Concert Hall

Before the 2017 Orchestral Season commences, we look forward to gathering with our community of Patrons & Friends to enjoy a balmy summer evening celebrating music, art and wine at Perth Concert Hall.

Our first event of the year will feature a tour of the stunning artworks generously loaned from the Wesfarmers Art Collection displayed around the Hall; the opportunity to hear from Evan Gill, Sommelier with WASO's Margaret River wine partner Vasse Felix; and a performance featuring WASO musicians.

Tickets are \$45 for Patrons & Friends (\$55 for guests) and includes wine and light refreshments. Bookings are now open through the WASO Box Office on 9326 0000.



Paul Rissmann Lecture and Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Following the 2017 Patrons & Friends General Meeting, the second in WASO's Judy Sienkiewicz Lecture Series will be presented by international educationist, composer and presenter Paul Rissmann. Paul joins us for WASO's Education Week in 2017 to present a number of his acclaimed programs for children and young people and will speak for us on the life-changing power of music. Tickets will be \$20 for Patrons & Friends (\$25 for guests), and includes a glass of wine. Bookings will open in early 2017.



Meet the Percussion Section

Sunday 15 October 2017

On stage at Perth Concert Hall, meet the new members and instruments of the self-proclaimed 'noisy section' of the Orchestra!

Tickets will be \$45 for Patrons & Friends (\$55 for guests) and includes wine and light refreshments. Bookings will open in early 2017.

Patrons & Friends Christmas Party

Thursday 14 December 2017

Tickets will be \$45 for Patrons & Friends (\$55 for guests) and includes wine and light refreshments. Bookings will open in early 2017.

Louise McKay - Back from Berlin!



Each year the Friends of WASO Scholarship is awarded to a member of the Orchestra, funded by WASO's philanthropic community through the proceeds of our Patrons & Friends events. The Scholarship is a unique opportunity for our musicians and is deeply appreciated by them!

70 Patrons and Friends gathered at Aquinas College on Sunday 23 October as this year's Friends of WASO Scholarship winner, Associate Principal Cello Louise McKay, spoke with Patrons & Friends Committee President Robyn Glindemann about her career, her experiences overseas, the recent WASO tour and her interests outside of music. It was a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon, getting to know one of our WASO musicians better and enjoying the beautiful sounds of the cello as Louise performed works by Mendelssohn, Haydn and Chopin with accompanist Adam Pinto.

WASO thanks our education partners Aquinas College for their wonderful hospitality for this event.



Asher Fisch Artist of the Year Nomination

Our Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser, Asher Fisch, has been honoured with a nomination for Limelight Magazine's 2016 Artist of the Year. This award will be decided by a public vote as well as a panel of critics and will be announced in January 2017. We are delighted that his wonderful work with WASO is being recognised - congratulations Asher!

Dear Patrons and Friends,

As you know, I have recently been on a trip to Germany to spend a week studying with the amazing cellist David Geringas. I am so incredibly grateful for your support and the scholarship which enabled me to make such a trip - thank you!

My cello and I arrived in Berlin early on the Monday morning, and headed straight from the airport to Blackmore's Musikzimmer, where I spent most of my time that week with 12 other students and Professor Geringas. During the week I worked with Geringas on the first 2 movements of Elgar's Cello Concerto, applying a microscope to the score and the technical application of how to bring that score to life on a cello. It was mesmerising to hear him demonstrate various phrases. I also had the chance to work with him on the Chopin Cello Sonata, which I didn't realise is actually one of his very favourite pieces to perform - he knows it VERY well!

Throughout the week, I listened intently to the other participants perform a huge variety of repertoire, and Geringas' take on those pieces and performances. The other students were all extremely fine players, including some real virtuosos. Hearing them play was fabulous, but Geringas showed time and time again why he is considered such a "master"!

At the end of the week, 5 of us were selected to perform in the final concert. I was honoured to be asked to close the concert with the 2 movements of the Elgar that I had played on the first day. Following my performance, Geringas offered some lovely words, and fondly recalled having performed as a soloist with WASO in 2002.

The following week I made contact with the cello professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Giovanni Gnocchi, and was delighted to have the opportunity to watch his cello class perform for him, and listen to the way he teaches.

The whole trip was a thoroughly inspiring experience. I came away from each day's lessons feeling excited about practicing for another few hours, and generally optimistic about implementing the many music-related ideas that were bubbling around in my head.

Thank you so much for supporting me in this adventure, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn so much, but also to represent WASO in this way overseas.

Warmest regards,

Louise McKay

Louise McKay's chair of Associate Principal Cello is partnered by Penrhos College.

In Memory of Merle Bardwell



WASO remembers Merle Isobel Bardwell, a long-standing and generous friend to the Orchestra and a much-loved member of our philanthropic community. Merle sadly passed away in October at the age of 91 after a life lived with bravery, dignity and humour.

We are very grateful to Merle for her support as a volunteer, Patron and subscriber over twenty five years. Her decision to leave a bequest will ensure that her love of the Orchestra will live on as her legacy.

Pictured left is Merle at our '20 Year+' Subscribers Celebration in 2011.

The Endowment Fund For the Orchestra – Helping the Music Play On

In November 2010, WASO launched the Endowment Fund for the Orchestra with a leadership gift of \$100,000 from late WASO Patron Tom Arkley and his wife, current WASO Patron Jean Arkley. Tom and Jean had expressed that WASO had been a major part of their lives and that they wanted to do something to “make a difference”, so it was decided that a foundation gift for an endowment fund for the orchestra would be the best way to achieve this, with all future major gifts and bequests being directed to the fund.

On making this leadership gift, Tom and Jean expressed the hope that others would follow their lead: *“We have got the most wonderful symphony orchestra and we want it to grow and for people to come and share the sheer calming joy of music”*. The concept behind the Endowment Fund is to build stability for the Orchestra long-term and use the interest earned to support WASO’s activities and programs into the future: underwriting the development of young artists, providing funds for regional touring, commissioning of new musical works and our growing Community Engagement & Education activities.

WASO is a registered charity

WASO is a registered charitable organisation reaching over 200,000 Western Australians annually. Ticket sales only cover around 25% of our annual budget and we increasingly rely on the support of our philanthropic community. Leaving a bequest to the Orchestra means that Patrons can support WASO by distributing their assets, regardless of age or current financial situation. WASO’s mission is *to touch souls and enrich lives through music* and our bequest program is not designed for the rich but rather for the enriched.

Since the establishment of the Endowment Fund in 2010, WASO Philanthropy has grown substantially and one person who made a significant contribution over many years was the late Judy Sienkiewicz, a passionate advocate for the Orchestra and the ‘face’ of our bequest program. Judy left a gift in her Will to ensure the music plays on by passing the baton to the next generation. In her words, *“For me, it’s wonderful that Perth, so isolated from other cities, should have at its cultural core an orchestra of WASO’s quality. I feel indebted to the musicians who, with their artistry and dedication, have given me so much joy. By making a bequest, I hope to pass on to the future a contribution towards the continued development and strength of the orchestra so it can continue to inspire others in the way that it has inspired me.”*

Judy sadly passed away in July last year and WASO staff and musicians wanted to honour her legacy. As a result, this year we held the inaugural Judy Sienkiewicz lecture, at which CEO Craig Whitehead spoke about the future of symphony orchestras to an intrigued group of Patrons and Friends. The Orchestra will also dedicate its performance of Bruckner’s Symphony No.9 to her memory when it is performed in late November – a piece which Judy adored and had been quietly campaigning for the Orchestra to play!

WASO’s Symphony Circle - Enriched by the Joy of Music

We now have several major gifts in the Endowment Fund and around 60 confirmed bequestors, a much-loved group we refer to as WASO’s Symphony Circle. Our Bequest Program will become an increasingly important income stream for the Orchestra - no wonder many fundraisers refer to it as the ‘holy grail of fundraising’!

One of the new members joining the Symphony Circle this year has been our lovely Patron Gwennyth Greenwood, who says on her decision to leave a gift in her Will: *“Looking back over the years I think of the amazing experiences and joy the WASO concerts have given and still do give me. I think of all those great artists who have performed with the orchestra, the wonderful conductors who have nurtured it and I marvel at its dynamic and brilliant musicians. My bequest is a small way of thanking WASO and helping it to continue to bring joy to all concert goers in the future.”*



Principal Flute Andrew Nicholson with Jean and the late Tom Arkley



Former Principal Percussion Tim White with the late Judy Sienkiewicz

Have you also left a bequest to WASO in your Will? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Being part of WASO’s Symphony Circle gives you access to exclusive events bringing you closer to the Orchestra, and will ensure your forward-thinking support is acknowledged on WASO’s website and in printed concert programs, unless anonymity is your preference. Alerting us to a bequest you have made will allow us to plan for the future, thank you appropriately and welcome you to the Symphony Circle.

Bequests to WASO

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about leaving a bequest to WASO or would like to alert us to a pre-existing bequest, please contact Planned Giving Manager, Sarah Tompkins on (08) 9326 0017 or tompkins@waso.com.au.

Your enquiry is in no way binding and will be treated in the strictest confidence. Your gift will be to all Western Australians.

Thank you to our Annual Giving Community

Our Annual Giving Patrons support our WASO musicians and commitment to inspirational performances and we are incredibly grateful to the growing community who support us each year with their gift. This year close to \$600,000 will be raised through annual giving and your support makes a real difference to what you see on stage and what we can achieve in the community. We thank you for your ongoing and generous support.

This year WASO musicians will have performed in 16 Masters concerts, 16 Classics concerts, 8 Morning Symphony concerts, 3 Baroque concerts, 4 Family concerts, 2 movie concerts, 4 Pops concerts, sell out performances in Bunbury and Mandurah, a jam-packed Education Week, Cushion Concerts for children, weekly visits to Kwinana for our Crescendo Program plus many more community events in schools and at Princess Margaret Hospital, as well as supporting our ballet and opera companies in the pit. And don't forget this year's International Tour to Abu Dhabi and China!

Our City of Perth Symphony In the City outdoor concert is always a much anticipated celebration that marks the end of a very busy year (and that in itself is a massive free event for 20,000 people). Throughout the year supporting the musicians are our extraordinary and hardworking artistic, orchestral, community engagement and marketing teams that help pull it all together.



Photo: Nik Babic

Principal Conductor Asher Fisch rehearses with the WASO Chorus – two integral parts of the WASO family that would not be possible without Annual Giving support.

If you have made your annual donation, thank you for help making all this happen and please share your story with a fellow music-lover! We simply could not do it without you.

Renew your Gift or Join us Today

If you would like to become a Patron, please complete and return the donation form at the back of *Encore*, or contact Jane Clare on 9326 0014 or janec@waso.com.au. Alternatively, you can donate via EFT (details on the donation form on page 7) or it is quick and easy to log in and make a donation online at waso.com.au. You can also make a donation at the Box Office or with your ticket purchases. All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

Regular Giving

You can now give regular donations to WASO and support your Orchestra on an ongoing basis. Regular donations are simple and easy to set up, and every donation helps, no matter how big or small. A monthly donation of \$42 means that you would be acknowledged as a Patron. Your chosen amount is automatically debited from your credit card and you can choose to give every month, 3 months, 6 months or annually. Your regular donation is secure and can be changed, paused or cancelled at any time.



WASO Philanthropy Partner

Calling All Commissioners!

In 2013 our Making Music Together campaign enabled the commission of an exciting new work by acclaimed composer Mark-Anthony Turnage for Swedish trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger, a great experience for everyone involved. Three years on, we now have an exciting new project and we are inviting you to join us on the journey!

WASO will be commissioning a new Oboe Concerto by Judith Weir, current Master of the Queen's Music. This will be a co-commission between the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Britten Sinfonia and WASO. After its world premiere in Adelaide in 2018, this new work is scheduled to be premiered with WASO later in 2018 or 2019, WASO's 90th anniversary year. The Principal Oboe of each Orchestra will perform the Concerto.



WASO Song Book Patrons with Mark-Anthony Turnage and Håkan Hardenberger

WASO continuously aims to perform new works for our audiences, to provide opportunities to nurture musical careers and to create new music that may become the classics of tomorrow. The WASO Song Book gives you a unique opportunity to become part of the Orchestra's history.

The total cost of this co-commission is approximately \$46,000 and WASO is making a contribution of \$9,500. We are inviting you to become a WASO Song Book Patron by supporting this initiative with a contribution of

\$500 or above. Like with our previous commissions, we look forward to introducing Patrons to the composer, inviting them to rehearsals and celebrate the commission together. We have raised \$4,250 already, so have only \$5,250 to go!

To make a contribution to the Judith Weir Commission please contact Sarah Tompkin on 9326 0017 or tompkins@waso.com.au, or fill in the donation form at the end of this newsletter.

I wish to support my Orchestra



West Australian
Symphony Orchestra
ASHER FISCH PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Please confirm your contact details

Mr Mrs Ms Other (please specify)

First Name Surname

Address

Suburb State Postcode

Phone (day) Phone (night) Mobile

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My Gift to WASO

I wish to make a donation of \$

- For Annual Giving
- For the specific purpose of

Annual Giving Campaign

Our Annual Giving Program supports WASO's commitment to inspirational performances.

- Principal Conductor's Circle** \$20,000+
- Impresario Patron** \$10,000 – \$19,999
- Maestro Patron** \$5,000 – \$9,999
- Virtuoso Patron** \$2,500 – \$4,999
- Principal Patron** \$1,000 – \$2,499
- Tutti Patron** \$500 – \$999
- Friend** \$40 – \$499

Payment method

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CVV Code (3 digit number on reverse of Visa/Mastercard or 4 digit number on front of AMEX card)

Cardholder's Name Exp Date / Signature

- Cheque / Money Order** (please make payable to West Australian Symphony Orchestra)
- I have made a donation by Electronic Funds Transfer** (BSB: 306 057 ACCT: 0166609)

If making a funds transfer, please put your surname and DONATION in the description line, return this completed form or email philanthropy@waso.com.au advising a donation has been made, and to which campaign.

- I have donated online via waso.com.au**
- Please contact me regarding payment options including Regular Giving**

Please note that credit card transactions will appear as Perth Concert Hall on your statements.

Thank you for your support of WASO

- I prefer my donation to be acknowledged as: name(s)
- I prefer my donation to remain anonymous.

- Please send me information on making a bequest to WASO in my Will. *Your enquiry will be treated in confidence.*
- I have already made a bequest to WASO.

Please send this form to WASO Philanthropy, PO Box 3041, East Perth, WA, 6892. For more information, contact Sarah Tompkin on 9326 0017 or tompkins@waso.com.au. WASO respects your privacy. You can view our privacy policy at waso.com.au.

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible. ABN 26 081 230 284.

OFFICE USE ONLY DATE RECEIVED: DATE POSTED:

Farewell Gala Dinner at Fraser's



Principal Conductor Asher Fisch with Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Board Director Mark Coughlan

On the eve of the Orchestra's first international tour in ten years, over 200 guests from WASO's community of supporters – Patrons, corporate partners and government representatives – as well as musicians, Board members and staff, gathered at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park to celebrate the impending tour to China and the United Arab Emirates.

Following drinks and canapés as the sun set over the magnificent outlook from Kings Park, WASO Chair Janet Holmes à Court AC gave a warm welcome to all and thanked those who contributed specifically to the tour. In between courses of the Chinese banquet dinner, WASO Board member Mark Coughlan interviewed WASO's Chief Executive Craig Whitehead, Executive Manager of Orchestral Management Keith McGowan and Executive Manager of Artistic Planning Evan Kennea, giving the guests insight into the origins of the tour, and how it had been planned and accomplished.

Premier of Western Australia, The Hon Colin Barnett MLA, also addressed the guests to announce the State Government's funding support for the tour, and warmly wished the Orchestra well.

To finish the evening, WASO's Principal Conductor Asher Fisch and WASO's guest artist, the French virtuoso pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, described to the guests the joy of an orchestra being on tour together. Jean-Yves, who WASO has enjoyed a long association with, spoke glowingly of the Orchestra's artistic growth, before the whole room toasted to the great success of the Orchestra's tour.

Thank you to all those who joined us on our international journey and supported the Touring WASO Campaign.

Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts. Photos on this page: Nik Babic



Chairman Janet Holmes à Court AC with The Hon Colin Barnett MLA and Patron Peter Stokes



Patrons Ken Evans & Glenda Campbell-Evans with Executive Manager, Artistic Planning Evan Kennea



Chief Executive Craig Whitehead with Patrons Jean Arkley and Trish Williams



Patrons Emi & Warren Jones and Ruth Thorn



Patron Val Neubecker with Concertmaster Laurence Jackson and P & F Committee Member Chris Rtshladze



Patron Peter Ingram with Executive Manager, Philanthropy Alecia Benzie