

# Encore



West Australian  
Symphony Orchestra

THE NEWSLETTER FOR WASO PATRONS & FRIENDS

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Welcome Back to WASO



*WASO Concertmaster, Laurence Jackson, and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra performing for the 'Thank You Concert' on Friday 28 August 2020.*

In August, WASO triumphantly returned to Perth Concert Hall with a physically-distanced Thank You Concert exclusively for our Patrons, Friends, Bequestors and Volunteers in recognition of your significant support during our concert hiatus this year. We are so fortunate to have had you standing by us in this uncertain year and we hope you all had a wonderful evening. All proceeds from this event went towards the 2021 Friends of WASO Scholarship, and will support professional development opportunities for our WASO musicians.

Together, we continue our return with a remixed 2020 program featuring exceptional artists performing extraordinary music with the biggest band in town, WASO.

We're so proud to be West Australian and privileged to live in the most isolated city in the world. The remixed program celebrates our unique opportunity to safely sit side by side in theatres and concert halls to share extraordinary music with you.

We all need music and a shared live experience now, more than ever and we look forward to seeing you back at Perth Concert Hall again this October. Stay well and stay safe.

For more information on the 2020 Remixed concert program, visit [www.waso.com.au/concerts-tickets/whats-on/](http://www.waso.com.au/concerts-tickets/whats-on/) for details.



# Thank you from our CEO

Dear Patrons and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of Encore in my role as WASO's interim CEO. Richard Goyder invited me to step into the role after Mark Coughlan's departure, to assist with navigating WASO through the impacts of COVID-19 and to help our team perform at their best in what has been a very uncertain time.

I have been honoured to serve on the WASO Board for close to seven years and my professional career has featured broad managerial and executive experience, mainly in the resources sector. As a proud West Australian, WASO Patron and long-term supporter, I am passionate about the role our Orchestra plays in enriching Western Australia's community.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our activities, forcing the cancellation of months of mainstage performances and community activities. With the loss of box office income and our inability to perform live, you can understand how this might have been a time of great concern for our Orchestra.

But our community of supporters have been absolutely amazing in rallying around WASO and we are extremely grateful to you all for your financial, moral and emotional support. We've also welcomed new Patrons & Friends this year, who have joined our growing philanthropic family. And whilst it is not the same as live performances, our musicians have thoroughly enjoyed producing digital content for you to enjoy; particularly the seven week "Ensemble Edition" concerts.

In addition to your support, I would also like to acknowledge our corporate and government partners. We are exceptionally fortunate to have Wesfarmers as our Principal Partner and I'd like to thank them for proactively coming to our assistance at this difficult time. As the largest employer of performing artists in Western Australia, the Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme has also been a godsend.

It has been a busy time within WASO with our focus on safely returning to stage as soon as possible. We were delighted to recently launch our '2020 Remixed' season that will see us performing again, health restrictions permitting, in October. Planning for the 2021 season is well advanced and will be announced soon.

On behalf of all of WASO and the Board, thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you soon,

**Paul Shannon**  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
West Australian Symphony Orchestra



## Your Philanthropy Team



Your friendly WASO Philanthropy team are always happy to hear from you. Whether you have a question about your donation, the Orchestra or just want to chat, please feel free to get in touch.

**Philanthropy & Annual Giving Manager**  
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**Major Gifts & Bequests Manager**  
Emily Kennedy  
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**Philanthropy & Events Coordinator**  
Liam Smith  
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# WASO's Composition Project – composing a new program



2020 Composition Project Composers.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions imposed this year, WASO's award-winning Community Engagement and Education programs have adapted, finding new and innovative ways to engage and inspire our community in a time when we all need music most. One such program that adapted with great success is WASO's flagship Young and Emerging Artists Program - Composition Project. When faced with strict Government restrictions in April and with no end in sight, WASO's Education Manager, Becca Shakespeare, pivoted the delivery of the program so that WASO was still able to provide opportunities to young

and emerging composers in spite of the restrictions. Composition Project has traditionally seen four young composers write a work for a 15-piece chamber ensemble, delivered through a series of in-person performance workshops and mentoring sessions guided by WA composer, James Ledger. This year however WASO had to think a little bit differently. Composition Project 2020 gave composers the opportunity to write a short solo work for an individual WASO musician. They participated in digital workshops and, as restrictions allowed, switched to in-person workshops with WASO musicians and Artistic Director,

James Ledger. The project culminated in a final recording of the composers' work performed by their WASO Musician on stage at the Perth Concert Hall. The revised format of Composition Project allowed each young composer to build a strong creative collaboration and relationship with their WASO musician. This saw both composers and musicians each contribute creatively to the development of the solo works as part of this unique opportunity. Fortunately, with restrictions easing, the composers' works were able to be presented to a small audience at the Perth Concert Hall on Wednesday 15 July. Each of the seven young composers introduced their work with a short Q&A with James Ledger, before a WASO musician delivered the world premiere performance of each composition. It was indeed an inspiring and hopeful return to the Perth Concert Hall for WASO and an exciting innovation for the Composition Project.



2020 Composition Project composers with the WASO musicians they worked with for the project.

If you are interested in supporting WASO's Community Engagement programs like Composition Project, or would like to know more, please contact Emily Kennedy, Major Gifts & Bequests Manager on (08) 9326 0017 or [kennedye@waso.com.au](mailto:kennedye@waso.com.au).



# Thank you to all our supporters!

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\* Orchestral Chair Partnership





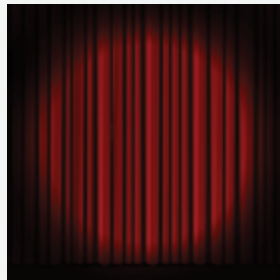
# 2020 WASO Patrons & Friends Events Calendar

WASO Philanthropy invites you to join us at a variety of opportunities every year to peek behind the curtains and become involved in our wonderful community of WASO Patrons & Friends.

Ticket sales for our Patrons & Friends events support the Friends of WASO Scholarship, which provides professional development opportunities for full-time WASO musicians. Please book through the WASO Box Office on 9326 0000.

Although it was unfortunately necessary to cancel several Philanthropy events this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope to host the below events if circumstances allow.

## OCTOBER



**2021 WASO Season Preview**  
**Tuesday 20 October | 6pm | Perth Concert Hall**  
*For all Patrons & Bequestors by invitation.*

Get the inside scoop on next year's WASO season at the exclusive Season Preview for WASO Patrons & Bequestors.

RSVP to the invite, to be sent September 2020.

## NOVEMBER



**PATRONS & FRIENDS FUNDRAISING EVENT**  
**Patrons & Friends End of Year Celebration**  
**Saturday 28 November | Post-concert (The Emperor) | Perth Concert Hall**  
*For all Patrons, Friends & Bequestors by invitation.*

After experiencing one final evening of Beethoven's genius for 2020, join WASO musicians, staff and fellow Patrons & Friends to mark the end of an unusual year of music.

This function is open to WASO Patrons, Friends & Bequestors only and includes a complimentary glass of wine. RSVP to the invite, to be sent late 2020.

*Please be aware you will need to purchase a concert ticket if you would also like to attend the concert on the day.*

# Crescendo's First Graduating Year!

As you know, 2020 marks an important milestone year for WASO's free music education program, Crescendo – every student at Medina Primary School and North Parmelia Primary School is now involved in the program for the first time and later this year, we will celebrate our first graduating class who will have had seven years of music education through the Crescendo Program.

Although 2020 has thrown the program some curve balls, with restrictions preventing in-person classes earlier in the year, the team have remained connected with students and delivering classes in new ways. When students were unable to attend Crescendo classes, our Community Engagement Team created resource packs for students to continue their music learning from home, including specific workbooks and pieces for violin. After this short break, Crescendo students were delighted to return to weekly in-person classes and violin lessons in June and continue to enthusiastically engage with the program. Our teachers were amazed that students were able to pick up right where they left off after the break.

Our Crescendo teaching team is focusing on building musical confidence in different ways for our graduating year, aiming for a comfortable transition to High School and the ability to continue their musical development into the future. To build this confidence, Year 6 students are participating in a series of graduating workshops. The first of these was held on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 July, with Jen Winley, one of WASO's 2020 Emerging Conductors delivering Conducting Workshops at North Parmelia and Medina Primary Schools. Our oldest Crescendo students learnt about the role of a conductor and, then had a go conducting their class. This was an invaluable opportunity for the students' musical development beyond the scope of the regular program and, as you can see in the below photo, they had an absolute ball!

At the conclusion of the year, each primary school will hold an end of year Concert and we very much look forward to congratulating and celebrating the Class of 2020!



WASO 2020 Emerging Conductor, Jen Winley, delivering a workshop with students from Medina Primary School.



# A Surprise Collection for WASO – Remembering Clive “Billy” Knight

In February, WASO received a call from Geraldton with a surprise - a large collection of musical instruments had been generously bequeathed to the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. A kind-hearted Geraldton local, Clive “Billy” Knight, had made the incredible decision to leave his extensive collection of more than 90 individual instruments and musical equipment to WASO in his Will.

As recounted by his older brother, Ray, Billy led a life full of music. After emigrating from England as a child, Billy grew up in Melbourne and was involved with music and bands from a young age. His first love was the drums but according to Ray, he could ‘knock out a tune’ on any number of instruments. Billy performed with bands across the country on drums, as well as sharing his musical talent with others, lecturing on percussion at Queensland Conservatorium. Billy moved to Geraldton later in life and brought with him his love of music.

After receiving the astounding notification of the bequest earlier this year, two members of our Orchestral Management team, Tom Rogerson and Alistair Cox made the trip up to Geraldton to carefully pack and transport the instruments back to Perth. With the COVID-19 situation rapidly escalating at the time, Government restrictions on the movement between regions almost meant the trip had to be postponed for an unknown period of time. Tom and Alistair persevered however and completed the round trip on the final day before regional restrictions were implemented. WASO has now catalogued the collection which includes a diverse

array of musical instruments, ranging from a vibraphone to pan pipes to several types of saxophones! Some of these instruments will be put to good use, such as the extensive percussion collection, while others will be passed on to organisations who will benefit from them and carry on Billy’s legacy. By leaving a gift in his Will, Billy made an incredible contribution to an organisation that upholds the artform he loved and ensured that his legacy lives on. WASO is incredibly grateful and humbled by his generosity and will honour his gift through continuing to share inspiring music from his instruments in years to come.



Part of Billy Knight's incredible bequest to WASO.

Billy’s collection of instruments is a very unique bequest, but the majority of people who have left a bequest in their Will choose to leave a percentage of their Estate. For WASO, these special gifts are invested and preserved in the Endowment Fund for the Orchestra and the income earned plays an integral role in supporting WASO’s activities for many years into the future.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about leaving a bequest to WASO, please contact Emily Kennedy, Major Gifts & Bequests Manager on (08) 9326 0017 or [kennedye@waso.com.au](mailto:kennedye@waso.com.au). Your enquiries are in no way binding and will be treated in strict confidence.

## Let us know!

If you have left a bequest to WASO to your Will, please let us know! We would love to thank and recognise you appropriately by welcoming you to WASO’s Symphony Circle. This year we are delighted to have several new members of the Symphony Circle and would like to extend a very warm welcome!

WASO Symphony Circle members are invited to special events bringing them closer to their Orchestra and are kept informed about WASO’s developments via regular communication. They are also, unless anonymity is requested, acknowledged in our Masters and Classics concert series programs and on WASO’s website.



# The WASO Archive Project

During the shutdown of orchestral activities, a group of intrepid volunteers from the WASO Players’ Association decided it was time to begin preserving the rich 92-year history of the orchestra, and so the WASO Archive Project was born. Rachael Kirk, WASO Viola and WASO Archive Project member, shares her experience below.



The WASO Archive team.

“The first job was to locate and sort through archival material held at various locations around Perth including a significant number of boxes stored at the Grace storage facility in Forrestfield where the orchestra stores much of its equipment and instruments. The initial sorting took much longer than anticipated because we were constantly sidetracked by interesting finds and memories. We’re now busy scanning and cataloguing the collection of photos,

slides, negatives and other memorabilia such as historic concert tickets and programs. We also have audio and video material that we’ll be converting to a digital platform to create a performance and film component to the archive. We’d also love to collect some oral history, so we plan to interview current and former musicians and staff of WASO, as well as some of our audience members.

Once all this has been completed we hope to have a comprehensive digital archive that will be used to create a WASO Heritage website and will contribute to other special projects such as the WASO Centenary celebrations in 2028.

We’d love to hear from you if you have anything interesting to contribute to the WASO Archive Project. It may be a memory about your first WASO



Signed program from Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. concert, a diary entry or letter describing a concert experience, an anecdote about a particular concert, an interesting photo, or perhaps a concert program we’re missing from our collection.

If you have anything you think we may be able to use or if you have any questions, we can be contacted by email on [wasoarchive@waso.com.au](mailto:wasoarchive@waso.com.au). We look forward to hearing from you.”



WASO performing at Capitol Theatre in 1958.

# Welcome to the new members of the WASO Family

Congratulations to Nik Babic (Viola), Frankie (Horn) & Megan (Executive Assistant) Lo Surdo and Graeme Norris (Violin) on the recent arrivals of their little ones, Mia, Luca and Alexander! We look forward to playing our part in their doubtlessly music-filled lives.





*2020 marks 34 years with WASO for Viola player, Helen Tuckey. We spoke to Helen about how she went from piano to viola and orchestra life.*



1976 - Helen in Year 12 as part of Melbourne Youth Orchestra.

Helen describes herself as a late starter to her orchestral instrument having chosen it in her early teens as she liked to do radical and different things, “We had a first-year high school project on an instrument of the orchestra. Most students chose the flute, the trumpet, the drums. My equally radical best friend and I picked instruments no one else did - she chose the tubular bells, I chose the viola.”

At the time, Helen was having piano lessons from a teacher who also taught violin, viola, cello and double bass. This teacher suggested a string instrument might be a good choice in addition to piano, “With a late start, viola was a better option as I would have more chance to play in an orchestra later on.”

Helen's optimism with her playing was somewhat dampened by a visiting relative who greeted her with a tut tut upon hearing her play, "The raw sounds coming from my new \$20 viola (a nice shiny orange one, included bow, case lined with bright green felt and box of resin) were not appreciated, she later invited me to listen to a recording of Jacqueline du Pre playing the Elgar Cello concerto to show me how music was meant to sound. No ego-stroking from my family!"

For Helen, music and reading were great escapes to a wider world beyond the Aussie suburbs, “ABC FM was yet to happen but we always had classical music on the radio, with lots of local live broadcasts too. I was encouraged to read freely and anything, and did. My early teen bedhead bookcase had *Little Women*, *Australian Frogs*, *Lives of the great composers*, plus comic books and *Agatha Christie*.”

"The 1970s were an exciting time for the arts in Australia, and to be a feminist teenager. After first year high school, many of my friends left for private schools or scholarships to far-off elite schools, something I hadn't applied for." When the choice came up at school between needlework and typing, Helen chose typing and consequently found herself in a new cohort of girls, focussed on leaving school and joining the workforce as soon as possible, "If you were a girl the big goals were becoming a typist, and even a secretary and receptionist if you were super bright (marrying as soon as possible of course). If you didn't pass typing and flunked school, a dreaded fate was the noisy assembly line at the Holeproof Factory making and packing singlets, socks and jocks for long hours."

After a while in the typing class Helen had an invitation from a friend to go along to hang out with a new group of “cool kids”, “It was put to me that I would be taken for a ride on a motorcycle and even get to wear a leather jacket. I mentioned this to my Mum, and without batting an eyelid, she said, ‘That’s so interesting, but guess what, we’re heading in to check out a new suburban youth orchestra that’s meeting this evening” - an equally terrifying but even more intriguing possibility, irresistible, and the start of my orchestral life.”

# Support WASO with your next Entertainment Book

With Western Australia returning to public gatherings, now is the perfect opportunity to support WASO through the purchase of an Entertainment book!

Entertainment Memberships can start anytime and are packed with thousands of substantial savings on dining, travel and fun family activities. The digital membership is easy to download to start using instantly. New offers are added weekly and membership is valid for 12 months from purchase.

WASO concerts are included in the Entertainment book with one complimentary standard admission when another standard admission of equal or greater value is purchased! Valid for Masters and Classics concerts at Perth Concert Hall.

To support WASO while accessing great discounts around Western Australia, visit [waso.com.au/support-us/ways-to-give/entertainment-book/](http://waso.com.au/support-us/ways-to-give/entertainment-book/).



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

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Please send this form to WASO Philanthropy, PO Box 3041, East Perth, WA, 6892. For more information, contact Jacinta Sirr-Williams on 9326 0014 or [sirrj@waso.com.au](mailto:sirrj@waso.com.au). WASO respects your privacy. You can view our privacy policy at [waso.com.au](http://waso.com.au). All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible. ABN 26 081 230 284.

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# WASO Patrons & Friends Social Page

WASO was delighted to welcome our Patrons and Friends back to the Perth Concert Hall with exclusive Thank You Concerts held Friday 28 & Saturday 29 August, in recognition of the significant support given during our 2020 shutdown period.

We are excited to share a selection of photographs from the Friday concert below.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our 2020 Remixed concerts this year, as well as next year and beyond!



*Graeme Norris & Geraldine Dempster.*



*Ken Evans & Glenda Campbell-Evans.*



*Susan Stimson, Joan Jackson, Robyn White & Loren White.*



*Jennie Kennedy, Georgina Pearce & Susy Bogle.*



*Michael & Lesley Page.*



*Jason & Su-Lyn Chong.*



*Rosie Hyner, Rob Hyner, Mary Oates & Richard Oates.*