



waso West Australian
Symphony Orchestra

Encore

December 2023

West Australian Symphony Orchestra respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of Country throughout Western Australia, and the Whadjuk Noongar people on whose lands we work and share music.

As the end of the year draws near, we are entering into the Noongar season, Birak, often referred to as the "Season of the Young". Birak signifies the onset of the hot and arid season, where sweltering days find respite in the cooling embrace of afternoon sea breezes from the southwest.



Thank you for being a part of our story



On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for generously supporting WASO throughout this year's Annual Giving campaign, our major fundraising drive for the year. Your generosity has set the stage for some remarkable achievements, extraordinary performances, and impactful moments.

Music is good for the soul, and has a universal power to lift our emotions and well-being, while connecting people across cultures and generations.

Your support has helped us to share thousands of unique experiences with the West Australian community: fostering artistic excellence; attracting renowned guest artists; sustaining vital programs like Crescendo; and bringing the joy of live music to schools, aged care homes, hospitals and halls across our state.

In short, your support has helped WASO to enrich lives through music.

Throughout the following pages of this edition of Encore, you'll read of the wonderful impact of your generosity; from our educational initiatives through to remarkable performances. With your support, our team (both on stage and off) is given the confidence to dream big and consistently strive for musical excellence. Please enjoy reading about the incredible outcomes you have helped to make possible.

Thank you and a very Happy Christmas to you.

Richard Goyder AO
WASO Chair



A milestone birthday for our Patron of Private Giving

In celebration of Janet Holmes à Court's 80th birthday, we are honoured to pay tribute to our Founding Chair and Patron of Private Giving. Janet's wise counsel, boundless energy and trademark candour have played a critical role in securing WASO as the premier performing arts company in our State, and through sharing these gifts with the broader arts sector, she continues to make a significant contribution to the cultural vibrancy of Western Australia. Janet is extremely passionate about the importance of the arts in Western Australia, and has always been WASO's biggest supporter. At a time of great transition for the organisation, Janet accepted the role of inaugural Chair of the Board, a position she held for 20 years. One of Janet's many shining achievements during this time was her ability to open the door to philanthropy, allowing the organisation to plan with integrity for the future. Her advocacy of philanthropic giving led to her becoming WASO's first Patron of Private Giving in 2022, a title she greatly deserves.

Janet continues to be a tireless advocate for the Orchestra in so many areas, she has generously donated her time on many occasions to meet at state and federal levels to push for a better funding model for WASO. We are truly indebted to Janet for her determined and unflagging pursuit of a permanent home for WASO and for her spearheading the push for the redevelopment of the Perth Concert Hall. Janet has represented the company with her undeniable presence in both the financial world as well as the arts world but more importantly with her real belief in a company that is dear to her heart. This belief, knowledge and insight has helped secure the future of WASO.



Asher & Janet in conversation at the WASO Annual Dinner, 2022.

The artistic journey that WASO has undertaken during Janet's long-standing association and stewardship has been on an undeniably upward trajectory. A journey that myself and all members of the Orchestra are deeply proud to be a part of.

Thank you, Janet, for your energy and belief in this Orchestra. For your continuing commitment to WASO and for being at the forefront of so many significant stages of the Orchestra's development. In return we perform with passion and commitment and hope to make you proud of this wonderful Orchestra.

On behalf of the musicians, Board Directors, Giving Circle members, and everybody at WASO, I would like to wish you a very Happy 80th Birthday, Janet, and thank you for your unwavering support of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Written by Allan Meyer, Principal Clarinet.



A lifetime of dedication celebrated



Raquel Bastos' surprise visit to a WASO rehearsal.

A July rehearsal became a stage for celebration when Raquel Bastos from the Australian and New Zealand Viola Society (ANZVS) paid a surprise visit to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to esteemed WASO Violist, Helen Tuckey. A much-loved member of the WASO family, Helen has played with the Orchestra for an impressive 40 years, so everyone was delighted to share the special moment with her.

As her colleagues cheered, Raquel recounted Helen's prolific journey with her beloved instrument. Beginning with the completion of her postgraduate studies in New York under the renowned Lillian Cooks, Helen's contributions to the world of the viola have been nothing short of extraordinary. Helen's journey with ANZVS began at its foundation in 1981, and she has remained a dedicated committee member ever since. Helen has expanded and shared her viola repertoire through chamber music, teaching, masterclasses, and more, and she continues to do so. Her commitment to promoting the viola globally is exemplified by her attendance at international congresses, advocating for new works and sharing her expertise.



Helen's lifetime of dedication, passion, and tireless work in the world of music and the viola are truly inspiring, and her receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from ANZVS fills us with immense pride.

Congratulations, Helen, on this well-deserved honour!



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

The future of music education

Rosalin Sadler & Gavin Bunning establish the Crescendo Scholarship

There are many seeds from which talent and passion may bloom. Often in the world of music, those seeds are early exposure and gentle nurture. This was certainly the case for Rosalin Sadler, whose musical journey began with childhood piano, cello, and singing lessons. Rosalin's mother was a highly sought-after pianist in Donnybrook, where their family was located. She recalls attending all of her mother's performances growing up, and how mesmerising the experience was. Guided by her mother's expertise in piano and her parents' shared passion for music, she cultivated a unique and deep connection with the world of music. Despite her mother being offered a scholarship to the Elder Conservatorium at the tender age of 16, the twists and turns of life took her in a different direction. Now, Rosalin is driven by a heartfelt desire to honour her mother's remarkable contributions to the world of music in Western Australia, and hopes that a new Crescendo scholarship will bring the same joy and opportunities that music has provided her.

Gavin Bunning credits his love of music to his primary school years, where he had an inspiring teacher who nurtured and supported his musical talents. This experience left an indelible mark on him and instilled a deep appreciation for the value of music education. Gavin's family has previously played a significant role in developing and providing mentoring initiatives designed to support primary school children in low socio-economic areas. It's no coincidence that Gavin holds a special place in his heart for the Crescendo program, as these past initiatives also took place at North Parmelia and Medina primary schools.

The two WASO Giving Circle members have found common ground with their dedication to the Crescendo program; WASO's play-based learning program for young children. Now, that shared passion has culminated in the establishment of the Crescendo Scholarship, which is set to make a significant impact by providing talented students with the opportunity to nurture their musical talents and pursue their dreams.

Scheduled to commence in 2024, the scholarship is designed to build upon the successful Crescendo program. One student with exceptional musical talent from each of the primary schools, Medina Primary School and North Parmelia Primary School, will be given the opportunity to continue their music education into secondary school.

When considering the scholarship, Rosalin and Gavin had a long-term vision in mind. For that reason, it is designed to be awarded to a deserving student on a yearly basis, in perpetuity.

The Crescendo Scholarship will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the lives of the chosen recipients.

Both Rosalin and Gavin's generosity and commitment to nurturing young talents are a testament to the transformative power of music and the enduring legacy of those who support it.



Students in the Crescendo choir rehearsing.

Heart-warming notes

Crescendo students share holiday cheer with WASO musicians

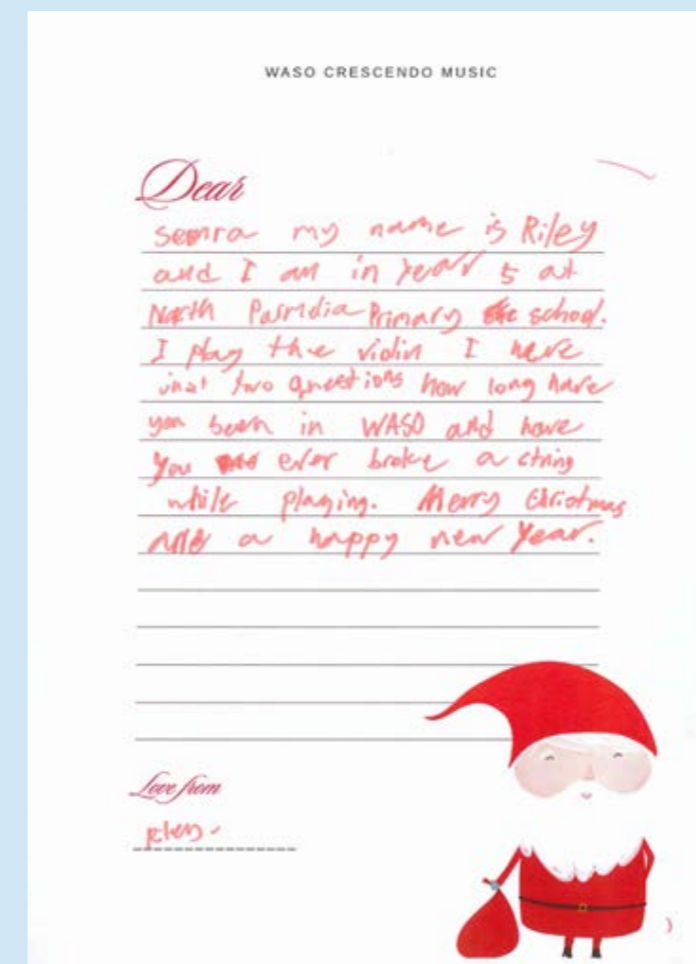
Supporters of Crescendo have played a pivotal role in empowering young talents to connect with our Orchestra in meaningful ways. As we approach the holiday season, we are delighted to share an exchange that embodies the essence of the Crescendo program.

Crescendo students had the opportunity to write letters to the musicians, in which they ask burning questions and extended their warm holiday wishes. Semra Lee, our Assistant Concertmaster, received one such letter.

She responded to the aspiring musician, and we have featured her note below.

This heart-warming connection exemplifies the magic that happens when the community comes together to support music education and nurture the next generation of artists.

Thank you for making moments like these possible through your generous contributions to Crescendo.



Student letter to Semra.

Dear Semra my name is Riley and I am in year 5 at North Parmelia Primary School.

I play the violin I have just two questions how long have you been in WASO and have you ever broke a string while playing. Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Dear Riley,

Thank you for your letter! I hope you enjoyed your school holidays.



So, to answer your questions, this year marks 20 years that I have been in WASO as a permanent musician! And yes, I have broken a string during a performance. It was an E string and I didn't have a spare so 2 very kind (and prepared!) friends passed me their spare E strings. The first one was the wrong kind but luckily the second one worked. I managed to change the string, continue to turn pages for the concertmaster, retune my E string and join in again in the last movement of the symphony. It was very stressful!

Good luck with your violin studies this year! I hope you continue to enjoy your lessons.

All the best,
Semra

Assistant Concertmaster, Semra Lee's reply.

Semra Lee is supported by MACA, through the Duet program.

We gratefully acknowledge the philanthropic donors, corporate community, and Trusts and Foundations who generously support Crescendo, with special thanks to Lead Partner The Balnaves Foundation.

Backstage symphony - a prelude to a concert

While talented musicians shape intricate harmonies, invisible to an audience are the invaluable people who support the performance in a multitude of ways. Prior to the conductor taking the stage, behind the scenes, an extensive orchestration of events has taken place. Join us as we explore the preparations undertaken by our Production Team as they set the stage for a symphonic performance.



WASO's Music Librarians have ensured the scores are marked up and ready for the day.



Musicians start to arrive and warm up for rehearsal. Some musicians request personal acoustic screens or slight tweaks to the stage layout.

Rehearsal finishes and it's time for the Production Team and crew to grab an early dinner before the evening performance.



The Orchestra starts entering the stage with their instruments to warm up.



Once done, the Production Team head home to rest in anticipation of tomorrow's performance.

Following a detailed plan from the Production Manager, the musician's chairs and stands are arranged to fit comfortably on the stage.



The auditorium doors are opened, and the audience start taking their seats.



During interval the Production Team work on the second stage change of the night. The crew also start to pack away anything that is no longer required.



The concert finishes and the crew leap into action with the pack down.



Sound engineers from ABC Classic arrive to set up for the recording and work with the Production Team to ensure the recording runs smoothly.

Rehearsal begins and the Production Team oversee the rehearsal and deals with any stage issues that may arise.

Tasks during rehearsal include adjusting the conductor's podium position and lifting the lid on the solo piano.



Time to get into concert mode! The smart suits and jackets go on, and there's a final walk around the stage making sure everything is in order.

The concert starts and the Stage Manager cues the lights and pre-concert announcement. The Production Team standby for a quick stage change between the first and second piece.

The second half of the concert begins and the team get ready for post-show. The Production Team debrief with Orchestral Management to see what changes are needed for tomorrow's performance.

- WASO's hard working Orchestral Management and Production Team**
Keith McGowan Executive Manager, Orchestral Management
Tom Rogerson Production Manager
Hannah Verkerk Orchestra Manager
Steph Thackray Stage Manager and Production Coordinator
Gillian Maddern Orchestra Coordinator
Linda Papa Music Librarian
Wee Ming Khoo Music Library Assistant

Backstage quiz – Are you a backstage aficionado, or are these terms just stage whispers to you? Test your knowledge of behind-the-scenes jargon by naming the following.

1. The process of adding/removing the staging and technical requirements of the performance to/from the space 1. _____
2. A sturdy framework for stage equipment 2. _____
3. Attachment points for hanging equipment to the truss 3. _____
4. Acoustic panels that are hung from ceilings to absorb sounds and reduce reverberation 4. _____
5. Elevated platforms that are used so audience members can see the performers 5. _____
6. Material used to cover the side of the risers 6. _____
7. Doors are open and audience members are entering the venue 7. _____

ANSWERS: 1. Bump In/Out, 2. Truss structure, 3. Rig point, 4. Baffles, 5. Risers, 6. Risers, 7. Live house.

The gift of a lifetime

Creating a lasting legacy of exceptional music

Since 1928, WASO has been enriching the lives of West Australians through music. In 2022 alone, 158,290 people attended live performances, 5,757 people participated in outer metropolitan and regional community programs, and 3,249 primary school students received free WASO in Schools concerts. The music we share uplifts, inspires, thrills and challenges.

The profound and transformative influence of WASO on our broader community is a testament to the invaluable support provided through legacy gifts. These generous contributions are offered by dedicated supporters who have shown remarkable vision by safeguarding our future through their heartfelt bequests. Each of these gifts will provide for the Orchestra in perpetuity, guaranteeing a harmonious and musical legacy for generations to come.

Legacy gifts are invested in the WASO Endowment Fund, with the vision to create enduring financial capacity for WASO to achieve our vision and purpose. The Endowment, with your support, offers the Orchestra a strong foundation from which to grow and thrive.

A planned gift for WASO could be one of the most heartfelt and impactful decisions you make in your lifetime. Leaving a gift in your will is a personal decision that can be made for many different reasons, and there are many ways to do so, depending on your personal circumstances and wishes.

Every gift, of every size, becomes an important part of the WASO story, enabling the music – and your connection to it – to continue. We also accept gifts ‘in memory’, such as gifts in lieu of funeral flowers. These can be a great comfort for family members, especially if your loved one had happy memories of the Orchestra and its music.



Robyn Van Beek.

Last year, George Van Beek, a cherished member of our Symphony Circle, made a remarkable choice to pay tribute to his late wife, Robyn, who was a member of the Horn section between 1973 – 1981.

In lieu of flowers, George requested that family members and loved ones contribute to WASO.

“Unlike flowers, which offer only a brief moment of beauty, supporting the Orchestra helps to ensure an enduring legacy of the orchestral beauty that held a special place in Robyn’s heart.”

As a Symphony Circle member, I am passionate about ensuring the beauty of the Orchestra so that future generations can enjoy the haven that Robyn and myself experienced with WASO.”

Everyone who promises a legacy gift becomes a treasured member of our Symphony Circle, a community bonded by generosity and a love for music. Throughout the year, our Symphony Circle family is invited to special events designed to foster a close bond with our musicians. We cherish our Symphony Circle members and the commitment they have made to WASO. By writing the Orchestra into their life story, they have entwined us in their legacy. Through each note, their story continues.

WASO is incredibly honoured to be part of the legacy of our Symphony Circle members.

For a confidential conversation or to receive the new Planned Giving brochure, please contact the Philanthropy team on (08) 9326 0014 or philanthropy@waso.com.au.

Patrons on the Podium: Julian & David

The world of classical music often weaves a tapestry of melodies and emotions that captivate the hearts of those who dare to listen. For Julian and David, their journey into the world of classical music began with a profound appreciation of the artform, and their love of WASO has only grown stronger with time.



David and Julian at Perth Concert Hall.

Julian’s early exposure to classical music can be attributed to his parents, who nurtured his love for the genre. His father’s affinity for Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, and Beethoven made an enduring impression on him. As a child and a young adult, he embarked on numerous adventures to attend various concerts, forming an unbreakable bond with the Perth Concert Hall, with which he delightfully shares a birth year. David, on the other hand, discovered his passion for classical music through his involvement in Opera Under the Stars in Broome during its foundation years. When Julian and David met in the mid-90s, they introduced each other to their musical worlds, forging a connection that would shape their shared future.

Through the years, WASO has become an integral part of their lives. Their journey with the orchestra has been marked by profound experiences that have left lasting impressions. Julian stated that during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resilience of WASO shone through.

Julian’s journey with music began during his primary school years, where Tchaikovsky’s enchanting *Peter and The Wolf* introduced him to the world of orchestral instruments. Fast forward to the present, Julian, now a primary school teacher of 14 years, continues to weave the magic of music into his classroom. From the timeless compositions of Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven to catchy tunes from the 60s and 70s, he creates a rich musical environment for his students. Music, as he firmly believes, is more than just a subject; it’s an essential component in fostering positive behaviour, establishing routines, and igniting inspiration in the classroom.

While their musical preferences span various genres, they hold a special place in their hearts for the more robust and stirring pieces. Beethoven, in particular, reigns supreme in their household, with *Waldstein* and *Appassionata* as clear standouts.

Julian and David’s journey with classical music and WASO is a testament to the enduring power of music to unite souls and enrich lives. As long-time patrons of WASO and Symphony Circle members, Julian and David stand as beacons of inspiration for all who share their passion for classical music and wish to see the success of the Orchestra continue for generations.

“We had booked to see the Beethoven Piano Concertos, but the tightening grip of the pandemic prevented the international musicians WASO had initially booked and needed for the concert. However, the Emperor Concerto continued using solely local talent. For David and I, this demonstrated not only the resilience of the Orchestra, but that in our own backyard we have world class talent. That is something that gives us pride in our support of WASO.”



The Emperor concert in 2020.

Spotlight on Riley Skevington, Associate Concertmaster



Riley at the *Symphonic Titans* concert.

If ever you've tried to coax a melody from a violin, you likely know that it's an undertaking that is far more challenging than it may appear. The strings demand precise finger placements, while the act of bowing is an art form in itself. It is here, within the duet of wood and strings, Associate Concertmaster Riley Skevington has found his calling.

Riley's journey into the world of music began at four years old when he first picked up a violin. He pursued his studies at the University of Western Australia, the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), and even ventured to the musical mecca of Berlin as part of the Karajan Academy. Now, he's back where it all began, sharing his musical talents with the West Australian community.

Riley attributes a significant part of his success to the guidance of Dr. Robin Wilson. The mentorship and support provided by Dr. Wilson during Riley's time at ANAM, played an instrumental role in Riley's meteoric rise to becoming WASO's Associate Concertmaster at the remarkable age of just 26! But his musical talents extend far beyond the confines of the violin. As a dedicated multi-instrumentalist, he has not only mastered the piano but has also ventured into the captivating realm of jazz trumpet.

Throughout his time with WASO, Riley has frequently graced the spotlight, with his most recent notable performance

as Concertmaster in Bruckner's grand Fourth Symphony. Conducted by Asher Fisch, the rendition captured a lively exuberance, earning Riley well-deserved acclaim for his exceptional talent in the role.

When asked about his most memorable performance with WASO, Riley's focus is directed towards the horizon of future possibilities. He eagerly embraces the forthcoming challenges that arise from moving away from the familiar confines of Perth Concert Hall. To him, these challenges represent opportunities for artistic innovation and expression.

"For me, the hallmark of a truly remarkable moment isn't about revisiting the past; it's about taking an unfamiliar musical piece and turning it into an unforgettable experience for the audience."

For Riley, the profound connection forged with the audience through his music is an experience of utmost significance. He aims not only to share beautiful melodies but also to evoke deep emotions, tell captivating stories, and create lasting memories through his music. We eagerly anticipate watching Riley undoubtedly ascend to new heights in his career with WASO, and we're delighted to have him as a cherished member of the WASO family.

A monumental milestone

WASO to debut Mahler 8

At the heart of WASO's much-anticipated 2024 season lies a historical moment in West Australian music history. We are thrilled to be performing, for the first time in this state, Gustav Mahler's monumental Eighth Symphony. Principal Conductor Asher Fisch will bring the 'Symphony of a Thousand' to life on the Perth Concert Hall stage.

Composed early last century, Mahler's Eighth Symphony is his most ambitious work: a triumphant celebration of life and the creative spirit, a cosmic journey that transcends the boundaries of traditional symphonic music. It demands an immense orchestra, a colossal chorus, and multiple vocal soloists to fully bring its profound beauty to life. Emil Gutmann, the impresario who had persuaded Mahler to conduct the premiere of the symphony at a festival in Munich in 1910, gave the work its nickname of the 'Symphony of a Thousand'. Mahler was not happy with this tag, but it was apt: the premiere required 858 singers and 171 instrumentalists, including 84 strings, 6 harps, 22 woodwinds, and 17 brass players¹. Although our 2024 performance won't quite match the scale of the premiere, you can expect over 300 performers at our concert as our

Orchestra is joined by the WASO Chorus, UWA Symphonic Chorus, numerous vocal soloists – as well as musicians from the Australian National Academy of Music. The fusion of monumental scale and intricate artistry truly makes this a once-in-a-generation concert experience.

We are so excited to perform this symphony, giving audiences the privilege to experience the resplendent power and emotional depth of this grand work. As we embark on this extraordinary musical odyssey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated Giving Circle Members who make such artistic ventures possible. Your unwavering commitment enables us to bring monumental works like Mahler's Eighth Symphony to life.

"The eighth is something in comparison with which all the rest of my works are no more than introductions. I have never written anything like it...It was like a lightning vision. I saw the whole piece immediately before my eyes and only needed to write it down, as though it were being dictated to me." Gustav Mahler²



¹ www.laphil.com/musicdb/pieces/4792/symphony-no-8

² www.mahlerfoundation.org/mahler/listening-guide/listening-guide-symphony-no-8-intro/

WASO on the road: Kalgoorlie and Karratha

Bringing the joy of music to regional communities

Community tours to Kalgoorlie

One of WASO's String Quartets hit the road in September, delivering the joy of music to Dampier, Karratha and Kalgoorlie. I joined talented musicians Rebecca Glorie, Andrea Mendham, Rachael Kirk, and Shigeru Komatsu, as the quartet set out to perform for schools and communities.

Day One was an incredible start. The community at Dampier experienced the delight of a young family concert followed by an evening community performance. From Mozart's enchanting *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* to the lively Trepak from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, the quartet played familiar melodies that enchanted all ages in attendance. Children couldn't resist dancing to the music, and adults rose to the challenge of the Quartet's *Cheerful Cha Cha* with enthusiasm. Both concerts concluded with an interactive session, where WASO's musicians and staff helped attendees try their hand at the violin and viola.

Day Two saw the quartet visiting two schools, Karratha Primary and St Luke's College. The young students sang with gusto to the tune of *Let it Go* from *Frozen*, while the senior students were captivated by the sophisticated sounds of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and Elena Kats-Chernin's *Slicked Back Tango*. Witnessing students' reactions as they held a string instrument and produced their first notes was a truly heart-warming experience. Before retiring for the day, the quartet visited Ngajarli on the Burrup Peninsula, where

they explored ancient Aboriginal rock art and watched a breathtaking sunset over the water. Day Three involved travelling from Karratha to Kalgoorlie, with the added surprise of a mini-concert for passengers waiting at Perth Airport!

On Day Four, the quartet continued their musical journey, visiting O'Connor Primary School and Eastern Goldfields Community College for performances and interactive sessions. The iconic *Star Wars* theme resonated with students at both schools, and Leroy Anderson's *Plink Plunk Plunk* had young students in giggles with novelty toys added for sound effects.

Before heading back to Perth on Day Five, the quartet visited Amana Living's Edward Collick Home and had the honour of playing for the Eastern Goldfields Community Centre. The residents at Amana Living were transported down memory lane as they listened to beloved classical, jazz, opera, and ballet melodies. To top it off, a nursing staff member even joined in with some spirited Irish dancing to the tune of *Drowsy Maggie!*

The 2023 WASO on the Road tour certainly made its mark, reaching over 800 students and more than 210 community members. The quartet and I would like to send a big thank you to the Dampier, Karratha, and Kalgoorlie communities for their warm welcome and generous hospitality!

By Christina Claire, Schools and Education Manager.



Naomi (centre) at the Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha.

Hip hop artist Drapht joins WASO in Karratha

I was thrilled to join the WASO and Drapht tour to Karratha as a marketing representative, following the success of the concert's world premiere at the Perth Concert Hall in 2022. In my role as Campaign Specialist in collaboration with the venue, I was responsible for putting the show on sale, coordinating ticket inventory and promoting the event far and wide in the Pilbara.

It was smooth sailing from the moment the main touring party met at the airport for a comfortable morning flight on Friday 1 September. Upon landing in Karratha and a quick check-in at our accommodation, we were whisked away by coach to the Red Earth Arts Precinct, where the Orchestra and Drapht's band, led by conductor Jen Winley rehearsed ahead of that evening's first performance.

After a quick bite to eat, we returned to the venue, where attendees soon started flooding through the front doors, beelining to the beautiful rooftop space: the perfect pre-show setting for a balmy night in Karratha. Once the show started, it didn't take long for the audience to match Drapht's on-stage energy, singing and dancing along to every song. The atmosphere was incredible, I was blown away by the response of the Karratha audience!

When a crowd of children soon formed at the front of the stage, Drapht began jokingly referring to himself as a member

of The Wiggles due to the excitement of the young fans. Drapht soon invited a young boy to the stage, discovering it was his ninth birthday, to perform alongside him. Conductor Jen Winley also welcomed him onto the podium, passing on a baton to conduct the Orchestra.

I had a lovely time the following day exploring the town and having a delicious breakfast with my colleagues. I was also fortunate to spend some time with my sister who lives in Karratha and my beautiful four-month old nephew who attended his very first concert on the Friday night, wearing headphones almost as big as him!

Saturday night proved another successful performance to an almost sold-out audience, filled with more dancing and another standing ovation.

I'm delighted to have joined some of WASO's regional tours over the past few years, it's always a rewarding experience. Looking after the marketing campaign for the Karratha tour this year and witnessing the whole organisation band together to give regional communities a chance to see their State Orchestra is an experience like no other.

By Naomi Alban, Marketing Campaign Specialist.



Christina (far left) with touring party.

Perth Concert Hall Redevelopment

A true home for WASO

Three years ago, at the height of COVID-19, The Hon David Templeman Minister for Culture and the Arts announced a commitment of \$30 million for the redevelopment of Perth Concert Hall (PCH). Following this exciting news, a project team was established by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to lead the redevelopment to revitalise the venue and provide a permanent home for WASO.

It takes a village

Over the last couple of years, we have worked closely with the project team and with project architects, WITH Architecture Studio and OMA, on a shared vision for the future of Perth Concert Hall.

As the vision for the redevelopment was beginning to take shape, a unique collaboration with the City of Perth and Australian Government enabled additional investments of \$4 million and \$12 million respectively as part of the Perth City Deal. And just as the design process for the \$42 million project approached its final stages, an additional funding boost was committed by the State to allow for the aspiration of the project to be fully realised. The total investment of \$150 million, including \$134 million from the WA Government, recognises the important role the Perth Concert Hall plays in the West Australian Community.

While lots of work has taken place in the last three years, this project has been almost two decades in the making as WASO has searched for a permanent home. When the ABC Perth Studios on Adelaide Terrace were closed in 2005 the orchestra was left without offices and rehearsal facilities and insufficient room available at the Perth Concert Hall for our

whole team. WASO is the only State Orchestra in Australia that is split across locations, and without dedicated spaces for instrument storage, or for WASO musicians to practice. We are relieved and thankful that this will change in the coming years owing to the leadership of the WA Government, with special mention of Minister Templeman and Director General (DLGSC) Lanie Chopping.

Our exciting new home

The Perth Concert Hall redevelopment project is set to deliver a renewed experience for patrons and artists alike. The commitment to preserving the heritage and world renowned acoustics is demonstrated by the decision to engage two specialist acoustician consultants including the venues original design acousticians, and the architects have taken great care to ensure the necessary structural maintenance of the award-winning building upholds the venue's historical integrity.

Improved audience experience is at the forefront of the design, with a remodelling of the auditorium entry, lifts, stairs, main bar, foyer spaces and box office. And we're sure you'll also be delighted that the designs feature an increase in the number of female toilets.

Every music lover will be able to enjoy the Perth Concert Hall comfortably as extensive accessibility improvements are planned, particularly for people living with disabilities. The northern and southern forecourts will be transformed to enable outdoor events and festivals, and an expanded foyer on the river side will offer greater space and enhanced food and beverage outlets with even better views of the majestic Swan River.



Artist's impression

New 'flip-up' seating will be installed in the stalls area of the auditorium, providing improved comfort and seat accessibility, while new rehearsal spaces and backstage facilities will elevate the experience for our talented musicians.

Additional spaces for small events, school visits, and training will expand the hall's utility, making it a dynamic hub for the engagement of our broader community to ensure Perth Concert Hall remains a much-loved cultural asset.

Finding a temporary home

In late 2024, the Perth Concert Hall is scheduled to temporarily close for the redevelopment to commence. The redevelopment is complex and will likely take two years, so during this time we will need to find a new location for many rehearsals and performances.

If there was another venue in Perth as good as the Perth Concert Hall we would already be using it, so finding a suitable temporary home for our operations is a complex project in itself. Over 100 Government and privately-owned venues have been evaluated, and a range of operating models and concert experiences considered. To help us assess our options a series of evaluation criteria has been developed by our team, with an initial focus on stage size, accessibility, availability, auditorium size, seating, facilities, climate control, parking, comfort and acoustics. We are assessing familiar venues such as Winthrop Hall, the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Heath Ledger Theatre (State Theatre) and Crown and evaluating a range of studios, halls and community centres across the metropolitan area.

The intricacies of this process underscore our commitment to deliver the best possible musical and concert experiences during our time away from the Perth Concert Hall. We continue to work on this but it will take some time to arrive at the optimal solution that we will employ during redevelopment.

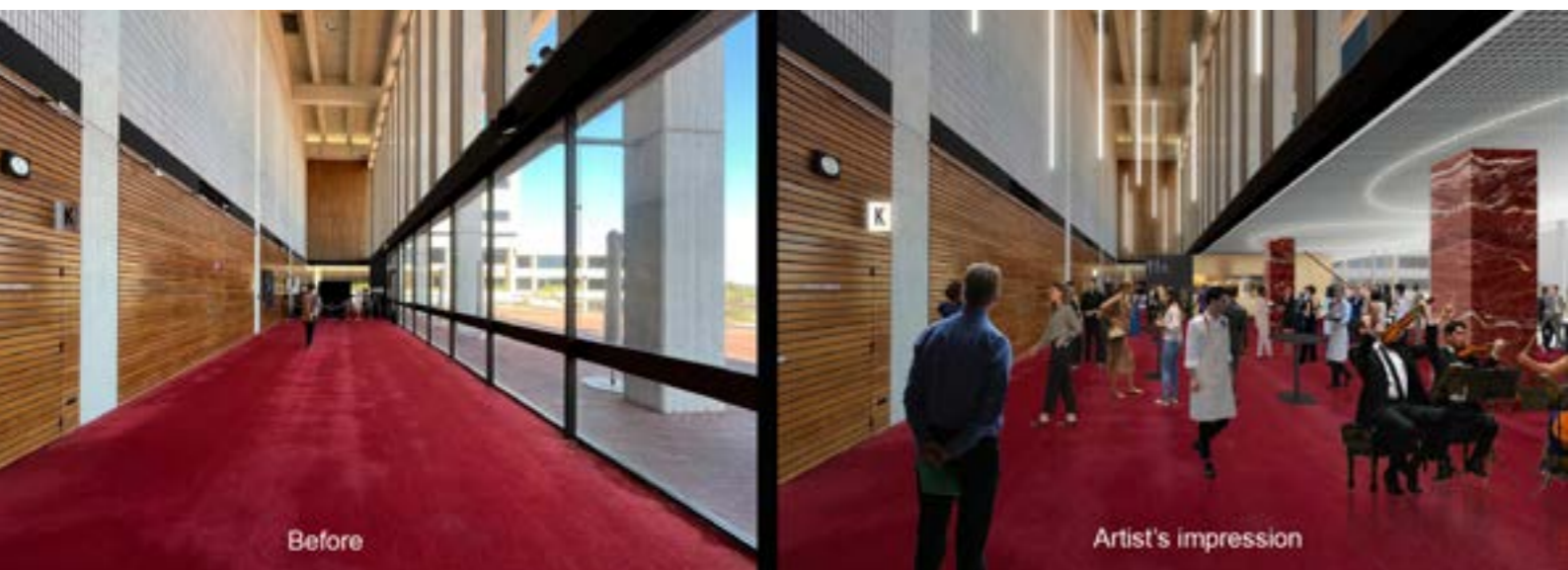
Looking forward

Over the last couple of years many of you have contributed valuable feedback that has helped to shape the priorities and scope of the redevelopment project. Through the completion of online surveys, to emails sent via box office and conversations with our Development team, your insights have played an important role in shaping our focus on what is important for you. This information has been passed to Government and considered in establishing the future design.

As Government advance the redevelopment towards construction we look forward to providing further updates on the redevelopment and our plans for 2025.

While we won't reveal our 2025 concert season until August 2024, rest assured that WASO is absolutely committed to bringing you an extraordinary lineup of music and musicians throughout the year, every single year.

These are exciting times and we look forward to sharing the journey to WASO's new home with you.



Before

Artist's impression

Maestros of music



Test your knowledge with our classical composer quiz!

In this special edition of Encore, we're bringing a musical challenge to our readers that promises to test your knowledge of classical music and its composers. This quiz was crafted in collaboration with one of our cherished members, Roger Jennings. A dedicated Giving Circle and Symphony Circle member, Roger is a true treasure within the WASO family, and his passion for classical music is boundless. When he's not attending WASO concerts, you can find him at the helm of the Kalamunda Community Radio station, where he serves as chairman and presents a segment on 20th century classical music. Without further ado, join us on this delightful journey through the world of classical music and test your knowledge!

1. Draw a line to match the famous composer with their day job!

Maurice Ravel ●	Insurance salesman ●
Alexander Borodin ●	Removalist & taxi driver ●
Charles Ives ●	Research chemist ●
Iannis Xenakis ●	Ambulance driver in World War 1 ●
Philip Glass ●	Freedom fighter & architect ●

2. Which Austrian 12-tone composer was shot in 1945 by a US Army cook in Berlin for being outside even though the curfew hadn't started?

3. Which composer won Oscars for the film scores for *Anthony Adverse* in 1936 and for *Robin Hood* in 1938? Why wasn't he allowed to collect the first one?

4. Which well-known composer was born in 1865, lived until the age of 92, but wrote virtually no works in the last 30 years of his life?



A) Claude Debussy



B) Richard Strauss



C) Gustav Mahler



D) Jean Sibelius

5. Who commissioned piano works from, amongst others, Benjamin Britten, Paul Hindemith, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Sergei Prokofiev, Maurice Ravel, and Richard Strauss? What is the unusual common trait that all of the works share?

6. Which king was Elgar commissioned to write a coronation ode for?

- A) King George III B) King George V C) King Edward VII D) King William IV

7. Which well-known librettist died of a heart attack saving a young woman from drowning in his lake in North-West London?

8. Which Austrian composer is often referred to as the "Waltz King" and has composed numerous famous waltzes?



A) Franz Schubert



B) Anton Bruckner



C) Joseph Haydn



D) Johann Strauss II

9. The recording studios in Abbey Road were made famous by The Beatles in the 1960's, but which famous classical work was first recorded there in 1931 just after the studio was opened?

10. Which famous quartet was written in a German prisoner of war camp in 1941? What instruments make up the quartet?

ANSWERS: 1. Insurance Salesman – Charles Ives, Removalist & taxi driver – Alexander Borodin, Ambulance driver – Maurice Ravel, Freedom fighter and architect – Iannis Xenakis. 2. Anton Webern. 3. Eric Wolfgang Korngold wasn't allowed to collect his first Oscar as up until 1937, the head of the music department received the award rather than the composer. 4. D. 5. Paul Wittgenstein commissioned works from each of these men, specifying they all were to be written for left hand only. 6. C. 7. W. S. Gilbert in 1911 at his home Grim's Dyke, now a hotel. 8. D. 9. Seventeen-year-old Yehudi Menuhin made the first recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto. 10. Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time for clarinet, violin, cello & piano.

Social Pages

We love hosting you!



Meet the Concertmasters.



Glenda Campbell-Evans, Ken Evans, Rosalin Sadler and Tony Rudd.



Riley Skevington (Associate Concertmaster) with Giving Circle members.



Aran, Fatos and Alkim Kursunlu.



Melanie Shannon, Trish Williams, and Sara Macliver (Board Director).



Laurence Jackson (Concertmaster), Barry Neubecker, Sarah Firnberg.

Duet Celebration



Delphine Moore, Annie Gregg and Nicholas Metcalfe (Cello).



Dale Kitney, Andrea Mendham (Violin) and Michael Kitney.



Nita Walshe, Jenna Smith (Acting Principal Trumpet) and Dale Higham.



Dale Higham, Liam O'Malley (Associate Principal Trombone) and Greg Higham.



David Evans (Principal Horn), Rod Marston, Eve McEwen (Associate Principal Horn), Margaret Marston, Julia Brooke (Horn) and Francesco Lo Surdo (Horn)



Rosalind Potts, Kylie Liang (Associate Principal 2nd Violin), Margo Darbyshire (Philanthropy Manager) and Rebecca Glorie (Violin).



Eleanor John, Allan Meyer (Principal Clarinet), and Finn Barrett.

Backstage beat - bringing you the news from behind the music

Congratulations

We warmly welcome the newest addition to the WASO family: Associate Principal Double Bass John Keene and his wife Brianna welcomed their beautiful baby girl Clara in March.

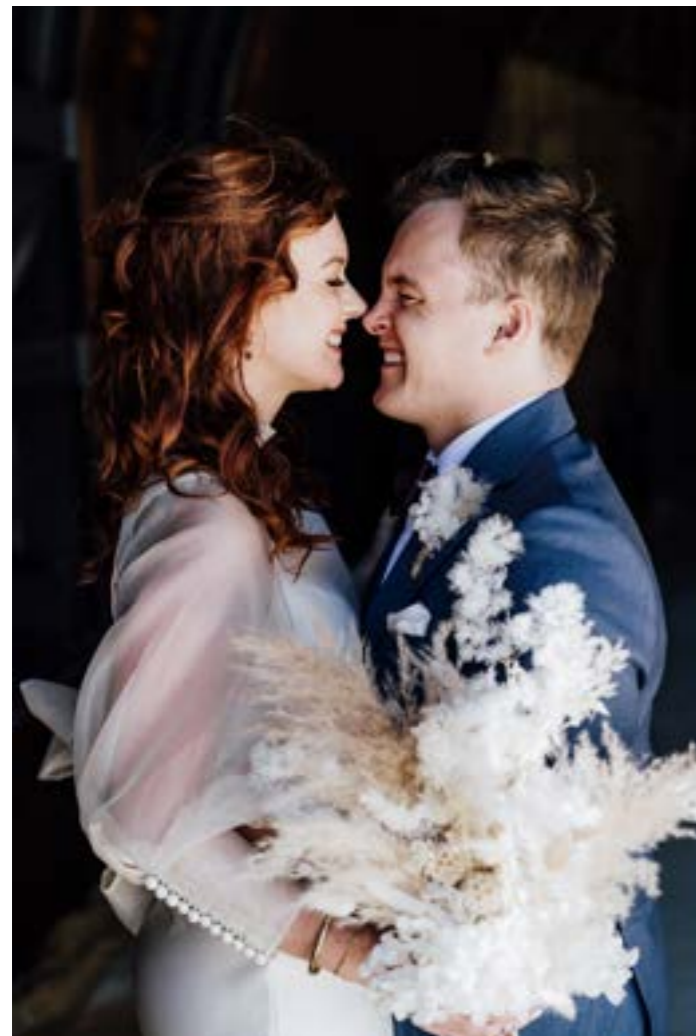
We are delighted to announce that it has been wedding season here at WASO!

Congratulations to Brian Maloney, Principal Percussion, and his partner Laura who were married earlier in the year. Laura's wedding dress was made by Adam Mikulicz, Associate Principal Bassoon.

Congratulations also to Christina Claire, Schools and Education Manager, who married her partner Shawn Diaz in May. Christina and Shawn spent their honeymoon travelling around Scotland.



Clara & John.



Laura & Brian.



Christina & Shawn.

Welcome

We also celebrate the appointment of Principal Cor Anglais Jonathan Ryan, Tutti Violins Emma Hunt and William Huxtable, Tutti Double Bass Robin Brawley (not pictured), and Associate Principal Horn Eve McEwen.



Emma Hunt (Violin), Andrea Mendham (Violin), Jonathan Ryan (Principal Cor Anglais), Samantha Wickramasinghe (Violin), William Huxtable (Violin) and Eve McEwen (Associate Principal Horn).



Jo-Anne Robinson (Chief Financial Officer).

We are delighted to introduce you to Jo-Anne Robinson, WASO's new CFO, who joined us in July.

Jo-Anne's warm nature has already made her an integral part of the WASO family. She has enjoyed the opportunity to attend WASO's recent family concerts with her daughters and connect with our Giving Circle members at events.

Vale

We were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of three beloved Giving Circle members, **Jean Perron**, **Penny Crittall**, and **Greg Pynt**.

Our hearts go out to the friends and families of these dedicated music enthusiasts.

Jean Perron.



Enriching lives through music

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