

# Encore



## Do Symphony Orchestras Have a Future?

This is the question Craig Whitehead explored at the second Patrons & Friends event in 2016 on Monday 9 May. As he said in his introduction, it is a question that motivates his role as Chief Executive – to ensure that the West Australian Symphony Orchestra does indeed play long into the future!

75 Patrons, Friends, WASO musicians and staff gathered at Perth Concert Hall to enjoy a performance by WASO's French horn section over a glass of wine, before Craig delivered a highly thought-provoking lecture on the challenges and opportunities arts organisations face in today's climate, from his experiences in his eight years at the helm of WASO.

Recent years have seen distinguished orchestras in Europe and America declare bankruptcy, undertake lockouts and strikes, slash programs and projects, and diminish conditions and job security for musicians. Closer to home, many Australian orchestras experience crippling deficits and tightening budgets year after year, reducing their ability to flourish and prompting industrial action.

Craig highlighted the two key reasons at the heart of this apparent crisis: first, the existing orchestral business model is failing as expenditure grows at a faster rate than revenue, and secondly orchestras' perceived lack of relevance to current culture.

So, briefly, how does WASO address these two fundamental issues? Craig highlighted our Orchestra's cross-cultural activities with China as a key avenue for growth in financial support, while WASO's management of Perth Concert Hall and ticketing is a unique opportunity for the organisation to change its business model and develop a more sustainable path forward.

Furthermore, the Orchestra constantly seeks to bring our music to the widest possible audience, in dynamic and creative ways that may not look quite like the traditional evening concert experience – while, of course, always offering inspiring, world-class artistry. A scan of the Orchestra's 2016 season schedule quickly shows the breadth and depth of where, how, and why we perform our music, and we are constantly exploring new possibilities to break down entry barriers that may preclude potential music-lovers from experiencing the thrill of a live orchestra.

As Craig concluded, the survival of the symphony orchestra depends not simply on clever management or engaging high-profile musicians. It will require many different 'sections' to 'play their part': orchestral organisations will innovate and strive for relevance; musicians will offer their artistry in new contexts, and engage with diverse audiences on and off the stage; governments, donors and corporate entities will understand the intrinsic value of an orchestra in a vibrant, sophisticated city; and orchestras must live up to this responsibility and earn this support every day.

So we thank you, our champions and supporters, for personally ensuring that WASO grows and flourishes. Your generosity keeps our music playing, for you and for the future.

*This was the inaugural Judy Sienkiewicz Lecture, and we look forward to gathering again to learn and be inspired, to honour the memory of a great lady who so loved the Orchestra that she left a bequest to ensure that it would, indeed, have a long and bright future.*

# Where in the world is Asher Fisch?

Principal Conductor Asher Fisch's concerts with WASO in March and April were, in a word, astounding – the epic Strauss *Zarathustra*; the sheer beauty of Bach's *St John Passion*; and a simply magical Mahler Symphony No.2, the *Resurrection*. WASO has received rapturous feedback from audience members who witnessed these concerts, not to mention 5-star reviews.

*"We were there and it was the most wonderful soul-moving concert we have ever attended. Asher brought everything out of everyone and moved us all to our very depths. We can't thank you all enough."*

*"Asher Fisch is a joy to watch conducting the Orchestra. He gives me the impression that he is enjoying performing and the particular work being presented as much as those in attendance. The applause from concertgoers I feel speaks volumes. Love my Orchestra!"*

*"We are lucky to have Asher Fisch involved with WASO – his rapport with the players is manifestly obvious and the quality of performance outstanding – always enjoyable to witness his concerts."*

You may wonder – where is Asher when he's not with WASO in Perth?

Here's just a snapshot of what Asher's 2016 season holds until we see him again...

- In May: Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra conducting Verdi's *Requiem*, and Minnesota Orchestra conducting Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* and opera selections by Wagner and Strauss
- In June: Teatro Regio di Torino conducting Bizet's *Carmen*
- In July: Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich conducting Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Turandot*, Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*
- All this as well as preparing for the Metropolitan Opera's season of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* opening in September.

We look forward to Asher returning to our shores in August for more wonderful music-making in Perth Concert Hall, and preparing the Orchestra for our tour to China!



Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts



## 7 – 14 October 2016 (8 days) Plus Autumn Highlights of China with Tour Leader Damien Beaumont

One of the highlights of the Chinese cultural calendar is the Beijing Music Festival, held annually in October. Under the baton of Principal Conductor Asher Fisch, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra has been invited to perform at the 2016 Festival with acclaimed pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

WASO supporters and music-lovers alike are invited to join the Orchestra on tour in China and enjoy a week of fine music by WASO and other great international orchestras, ensembles and soloists at the prestigious Beijing Music Festival. Before and after, you can extend your stay in China with a choice of optional tours.

- Enjoy a week in Beijing including return flights on Singapore Airlines
- Attend a WASO concert, plus three other Beijing Music Festival performances
- Discover the fascinating historical, political and cultural capital of China with a comprehensive sightseeing programme
- Optional pre-tour to Chengde and the Great Wall. Optional post-tour to the 'garden cities' of Hangzhou and Suzhou

Tour Leader Damien Beaumont joined the ABC in 1999 after completing music studies in Australia and England. He presents ABC Classic FM's show *Afternoons*. His popular programs have seen the release of three CDs, including Damien reading some of Percy Grainger's letters. Damien hosts many of the network's direct broadcasts from Sydney Opera House and other concert venues around Australia. He is in demand as a Master of Ceremonies, guest speaker and performing narrator, and has presented concerts and events on ABC TV.

**For more information and to book, call Renaissance Tours on 1300 727 095 or visit [renaissancetours.com.au](http://renaissancetours.com.au)**

# 2016 Patrons & Friends Events

Each year we enjoy creating a calendar of special events for WASO's community of Patrons & Friends.

SEPT



## China Tour Farewell Gala Dinner

**Thursday 29 September  
6.30pm for 7pm start**

Fraser's State Reception Centre  
Kings Park

You are invited to join WASO's Principal Conductor Asher Fisch, acclaimed virtuoso pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, members of the WASO Board and Orchestra for dinner at the beautiful Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park the week before the Orchestra departs to China for its first international tour in ten years.

Enjoy a delicious Chinese banquet with exceptional Margaret River wines and hear about the preparations for the Orchestra's performances at prestigious music festivals in China and what's in store for the musicians on the road.

Tickets are \$85 per person. This is an exclusive event for WASO Patrons and for those who have made a donation of \$500 or more to the Touring WASO Campaign.

Please advise of any dietary requirements and guest names when booking.

OCT



## 10K Musical Quiz Night

**Friday 28 October 7.30pm**  
Perth Concert Hall, Wardle Room

The much-anticipated 10K Musical Quiz Night is sure to be a highlight of the 2016 WASO calendar. Hosted by the infectiously enthusiastic team of beloved former WASO Principal Percussion Tim White and conductor, ABC presenter and all-round musical guru Prue Ashurst, this quiz night with a difference is aiming to raise \$10,000 for WASO.

It will include interactive musical questions, door prizes and a silent auction featuring beautiful jewellery from The Perth Mint plus WASO experiences that 'money can't buy'! Invite your friends and brush up on your music trivia for an entertaining evening with WASO musicians and staff.

Tickets are \$50 per head and include a provision of wine, non-alcoholic drinks and light food for each table. Tables seat a maximum of 10 quizzers, so either purchase your ticket as an individual for a lucky dip brains trust table, or get your own team together and make one booking through the WASO Box Office stating all team member names.

DEC



## Patrons & Friends Christmas Party

**Thursday 8 December 4.30pm**  
Perth Concert Hall

Join WASO Patrons & Friends, staff and musicians to celebrate another wonderful year of music-making at our 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.

Tickets are \$45 for Patrons & Friends (\$55 for guests).

**Tickets for these events can be purchased by calling the WASO Box Office on 9326 0000, and all proceeds support the Friends of WASO Scholarship, providing professional development opportunities for WASO musicians.**

# Keeping WASO's Musicians in Tune

It is common knowledge that elite athletes are often plagued by injuries and require regular treatment to maintain their physical fitness. We are used to footballers missing games or even whole seasons, having been sidelined by broken bones, hamstring or ACL issues. In the arts world, we understand the career span of a brilliant dancer may be truncated by the sheer physical toll taken on their bones and musculature.

But have you ever considered how orchestral musicians are physiologically affected by their playing schedule? On any given rehearsal day, our WASO musicians put their bodies through high levels of stress, with hours of repetitive movement in positions less than ideal for muscles and joints, immersed in a sound world with prolonged exposure to high decibels. It is no wonder that at any given time, some of our musicians are 'off-stage' Orchestra members while they seek treatment for health issues.

Physiotherapist Dr. Bronwen Ackermann is Australia's leading specialist in the area of musicians' health and injury prevention, and quotes the alarming statistic that 70% of professional musicians will experience an injury at some point in their career.

It is with this in mind that WASO launched a comprehensive Health & Wellness Program in 2015, covering many aspects of orchestral workplace health and offering preventative solutions and rehabilitation support.

Hearing damage is an obvious occupational hazard for orchestras – audiologist Ian O'Brien found that classical musicians experience hearing loss, tinnitus and other audiological issues at four times the rate of the general population – and WASO proactively manages

these risks. All of our musicians undertake annual hearing tests, are fitted with specialist earplugs and acoustic screens, and noise levels at every rehearsal and performance are closely monitored against acceptable sound exposure standards.

WASO's partnership with our official physiotherapy provider Star Physio has been a most welcome addition for our musicians. Star Physio team members are on site at an orchestral rehearsal every week, ready to assist with arising issues and maximise our artists' potential. In addition, staff are given access to subsidised assessments and pilates classes for conditioning and injury prevention, annual ergonomic assessments and weekly ergonomic review of seating arrangements.

The Health & Wellness Program also covers a range of other services such as free flu vaccinations, an Employee Assistance Program for short-term counselling support and discounted access to yoga, massage, personal training and nutrition, as well as providing full support when injuries or illness do arise. The program was designed to encourage each musician to focus on their individual health, to contribute to the overall safety of the WASO workplace.

A symphony orchestra is a unique workplace, and the ability of a single musician to perform at their peak can profoundly affect other members and the success of the orchestra as a whole. WASO is committed to ensuring our Orchestra is a healthy one and that all of our musicians can enjoy long and thriving careers.



Photo credit: Emma Van Dordrecht



**Rod McGrath**, Principal Cello

"In 2008 I was diagnosed with adhesive capsulitis of the right shoulder – commonly known as frozen shoulder, and was in agonising pain and completely unable to use my right arm. After undergoing a non-invasive surgical procedure, I worked with my physiotherapist who devised a series of exercises to help me regain use of my arm, gradually increasing my playing time on the cello from two minutes, three times a day. A year later I experienced the same issue, in my left shoulder! I do the shoulder routines to this day, and am always absolutely diligent about my warm up routine."



**Frankie Lo Surdo**, Tutti Horn

"In 2014 I lost the ability to play my instrument completely due to an overuse injury of my facial muscles. I took time off from the Orchestra to rehabilitate and re-built my embouchure and playing technique from scratch, working with Dr Bronwen Ackermann and Queensland Symphony Orchestra Associate Principal Horn Peter Luff. This ended up taking six months, and returning to the Orchestra in time to perform the 4th horn solo in Beethoven's 9th Symphony was a real milestone and a confidence booster."

# 2016 Friends of WASO Scholarship Winner

In 2010, the Friends of WASO Scholarship was created to enable full time members of the Orchestra to take up opportunities for professional development, both in Australia and overseas. The funds can be used to assist with travel, tuition, attendance at conferences, masterclasses and other learning activities.

Funds for the Scholarship are generated through Patrons & Friends events held throughout the year. In supporting these scholarships, the importance of providing development opportunities for individuals within the Orchestra has been highlighted. Regardless of their experience or career stage, all musicians can benefit from opportunities for development, such as the experience of learning from great master performers.

In previous years, winners of the Scholarship have included Associate Principal Trombone Liam O'Malley, Associate Principal Horn Sharn McIver, Associate Principal Flute Mary-Anne

Blades and Tutti Horn Francesco Lo Surdo. Patrons & Friends enjoy learning from scholarship recipients about their experiences on their return.

WASO management and the WASO Patrons & Friends Committee are delighted to announce that this year's recipient of the Friends of WASO Scholarship is Associate Principal Cello Louise McKay.

Louise requested funds to support her participation in a one-week intensive masterclass to study with Professor Gerinagas in Berlin. Louise was accepted as a performer/participant and has recently returned from an exciting week in Berlin, having undertaken this masterclass.

Congratulations to Louise on being awarded the Scholarship! We look forward to learning about her experience.



## How Would You Like To See 'Your' Instrument On Stage?



Patron Dr. Andrew Marsden and Principal Tuba Cameron Brook, with the tuba Andrew purchased for WASO in 2014

The Orchestra is planning to purchase a cello and a German style C tuba in 2016 and we invite you to support this initiative.

Alongside the recent purchase of a beautiful double bass for our award-winning Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO)'s 21st birthday by Susan Lorimer and John Albright, we are also looking for a new cello. EChO performs concerts in metropolitan schools and regional areas in Western Australia, and we think a cello will be just the perfect birthday present!

The C tuba, a kind of 'big brother' to the F tuba, is needed for much of this year's repertoire and beyond. The instrument is being made by Rudolf Meinl in Bavaria, an artisan firm marrying the best of traditional handcraft techniques with computer test equipment to refine and develop their instruments.

Patrons purchasing or contributing to help cover the costs of one of these instruments for the Orchestra will be offered the opportunity to 'meet' the instrument and its players. Just imagine seeing 'your' very own instrument on stage at Perth Concert Hall or travelling around Western Australia!

If you are interested in one of these opportunities, please call Planned Giving Manager, Sarah Tompkin, on 9326 0017 or email her on [tompkins@waso.com.au](mailto:tompkins@waso.com.au).



# June is WASO Community Support Month

Our annual WASO Community Support Month is back! Throughout June we will celebrate and showcase our deep connection and commitment to the community of Western Australia.

It is also the month in which we invite you to join us on the journey by making a donation. As Patrons and Friends we deeply value your support, and in June we ask you to become ambassadors for WASO, inviting other music-loving friends to become part of this incredible community that believe in our commitment to creating exceptional and accessible musical opportunities for children, young and emerging artists and communities across WA.

WASO's award-winning Education and Community Engagement programs are extensive and far-reaching and include:

- **Hospital Orchestra Project (HOP)** WASO musicians visit patients and families at Princess Margaret Hospital
- **Harmony Music** WASO musicians perform for students with disabilities in the comfort of their school environment
- **Crescendo** Free music education empowering primary school students in Kwinana

- **Composition Project** Emerging composers are mentored to develop their skills
- **WASO on the Road** Small ensembles visit regional WA
- **International Artist Masterclass Program** Young musicians learn from some of our most brilliant guest artists
- **Musical Moves** Bus sponsorship for students accessing live performing arts experiences
- **Onslow Kids Music Education (OK ME!) Program** Free music education program for Kindergarten – Year 7 students using percussion

These are just a sample of our community programs that operate year-round, alongside our mainstage concerts and special events, and almost all are free for participants.

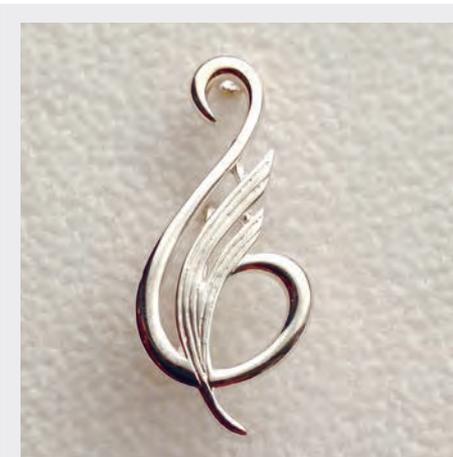
You can help ensure we continue to provide as many people as possible with access to live classical music by completing and returning the donation form on page 11, or by passing it on to a friend.

Those who give \$500 or more in a year (including regular monthly donations of \$42 or more) are recognised as Patrons and enjoy opportunities to experience the Orchestra from different perspectives – not just from the auditorium – through invitations to exclusive Patron-only events, getting to know our musicians and receiving regular updates. All our Patrons & Friends receive *Encore*.

To learn more, please contact Jane Clare on 9326 0014 or [janec@waso.com.au](mailto:janec@waso.com.au) or go to [waso.com.au](http://waso.com.au). Or you can look out for us during June at Perth Concert Hall at one of the WASO Community Support Month desks!

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

Harmony Music is supported by Mitsubishi Corporation.



## Pins for WASO Patrons

We are very lucky to have had these lovely pins designed and crafted specially for WASO Patrons by The Perth Mint. We have been presenting these pins to our Patrons as a small token of our thanks for a number of years. Many of our Patrons wear their pin to WASO concerts and other events, and some have even modified their pin to include a diamond, or to hang on a necklace. It is a great conversation starter and helps spread the word about supporting your Orchestra.

If you are a Patron but have not received your pin and would like one, please let Jane know so we can arrange to get one to you. You can contact Jane on 9326 0014 or [janec@waso.com.au](mailto:janec@waso.com.au)



WASO Philanthropy Partner

# EDUCATION WEEK 2016

WASO's inaugural Education Week in 2015 reached more than 5,000 participants and audience members and this year, from 20 – 26 June, we hope to reach even more! As part of WASO Community Support Month, this week highlights the breadth of our work in the field of Education and Community Engagement by shining a spotlight on programs for pre-school to adults, through age-specific workshops and performances for all ages.

This year, we will introduce two new interactive programs: **Jump, Jam, Jiggle**, inspired by musical themes from Holst's *The Planets* for students from Pre-Primary to Year 2 with facilitator Kate Page, and later in the week, students in Years 6 – 9 have a unique opportunity to join visual artist and designer Max Hurley to explore how set design and costuming create characters and bring music to life in **Sets, Dress, Rock and Roll**.

Young & Emerging Artist programs will be celebrated with the **Composition Project Final Showing** led by Artistic Director James Ledger, and Peter Moore will once again conduct the **Rusty Orchestra**, where we will see more than 90 amateur and WASO musicians side-by-side on stage at Perth

Concert Hall. Both of these performance programs are free for audiences to attend.

Our Primary School Education Concert is a modern take on all time classic **Peter and the Wolf**, performed by WASO in full-orchestra mode with Canada's Platypus Theatre. This show will be repeated on Sunday for families.

And for something extra special this year, we celebrate 21 years of **Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO)** concerts with a very special Birthday Party at the Wardle Room on Saturday morning, 25 June. Ex-WASO musicians will join us to say hip, hip hooray with a new show, and lots of fun.

We are enormously proud to offer as many activities as we do, and to have the opportunity to reach thousands of children and families throughout the year. We thank everyone who supports our Education and Community Engagement programs as audience members or supporters – we couldn't do it without your help. It certainly wouldn't be so much fun!

For more details about Education Week 2016 please visit [waso.com.au/education](http://waso.com.au/education).



## Enriching the Future



We all hope to leave a lasting legacy. One important way of doing this is through a legal Will that shows your care for your loved ones and others who have played an important role in your life. A legal Will can also provide peace of mind, knowing that your special wishes will be honoured. Many people find it comforting to know their affairs are in order.

Increasingly, people embrace the opportunity to bequeath to a cause dear to them and we would welcome your consideration towards including a bequest to WASO in your Will. Bequests are an important source of financial income to the Orchestra in ensuring we remain at the heart of culture and the arts in Western Australia. Gifts in Wills are outstanding gestures that offer the joy of music to future generations of

Western Australians and preserve the beauty of classical music for your children and your children's children. A gift in your Will has the power to make that difference.

WASO's mission is *to touch souls and enrich lives through music*. If WASO has enriched your life in the past, we invite you to help provide for its future and become part of the extended WASO family by joining our Symphony Circle. The legacy you leave will last forever.

If you would like a confidential conversation about leaving a bequest to WASO or would like to arrange a home visit, please contact Planned Giving Manager, Sarah Tompkins, on 9326 0017 or [tompkins@waso.com.au](mailto:tompkins@waso.com.au).

# An Afternoon with Asher and Laurence



A sunny Sunday afternoon in March saw the Perth Concert Hall Terrace Level filled with WASO Patrons, Friends, and Orchestra members for the first Patrons & Friends event in 2016. We were all there to meet WASO's Principal Conductor & Artistic Adviser Asher Fisch and newly-appointed Concertmaster Laurence Jackson, who recently commenced with WASO after his previous position as Concertmaster of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Guests were welcomed by Alecia Benzie, WASO's Executive Manager of Philanthropy, and Patrons & Friends Committee President, Robyn Glindemann, who expressed her delight in welcoming both Asher and Laurence and outlined the 2016 calendar of events for Patrons & Friends.

Interviewed by Evan Kennea, WASO's Executive Manager of Artistic Planning, Asher and Laurence discussed their roles and the important relationship between concertmaster

and conductor. The concertmaster role provides a vital link to all other section leaders to communicate the conductor's wishes, and Asher commented that it is not unusual at the beginning of a piece for the orchestra members to firstly watch the conductor and then glance to the concertmaster to note the position of his bowing hand as a guide to how the opening note is to be played. Laurence noted it is important for him to meet with a conductor as early as possible to gain an understanding of how pieces are to be approached. The mutual respect between Asher and Laurence was clear to see in their rapport on stage.

Having now settled into Perth with his wife Sarah Firnberg, who is also a violinist and a keen chamber musician, Laurence expressed how pleased he was to be so warmly welcomed by the Orchestra. He enjoys the versatility of WASO, mentioning the performance with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra as a

challenging but brilliant experience, and he was also looking forward to his turn as soloist in April, performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto – these concerts have subsequently been performed to great acclaim!

After taking questions from the audience, the formal part of the afternoon concluded with a sublime performance of *Méditation* from Massenet's opera *Thaïs* by Laurence accompanied by Asher on piano. These two leaders of the Orchestra were extremely generous to give their time to this event and then to stay on to chat with guests over a glass of wine and cheese. Thanks to WASO's Patrons & Friends Committee who volunteered their time to help create a lovely afternoon that provided further insight into the workings of our great Orchestra.

Report by Patrons & Friends Committee Vice President Barry Neubecker

Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts

## Connect with WASO online!

There have never been more ways to experience WASO, wherever you are across our vast state, country or globe. We love to connect with our community of supporters online.

**facebook**

Join 11,300 others and 'like' us on Facebook to keep in touch with your Orchestra. Go to [facebook.com/WestAustralianSymphonyOrchestra](https://www.facebook.com/WestAustralianSymphonyOrchestra)

**twitter**

Are you one of our 3,000 followers on Twitter? Follow us at [twitter.com/\\_waso\\_](https://twitter.com/_waso_) for all the latest WASO news.

**You Tube**

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and watch exclusive interviews, performances and bonus clips! Head to [youtube.com/WestAustSymOrchestra](https://www.youtube.com/WestAustSymOrchestra).



We are on Instagram! Follow us at [http://instagram.com/\\_waso\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/_waso_/) to get an exclusive look at what goes on behind the scenes.

# Events for Patrons & Friends in March & April



Patrons & Friends join Laurence for a drink at 'An Afternoon with Asher and Laurence'.



Patron Pamela Platt and WASO's Planned Giving Manager Sarah Tompkin.



Patrons & Friends enjoy the first event of the year.



Acting Associate Concertmaster Graeme Norris performs at '10 & 1': a special event at The Perth Mint in April, celebrating Patrons who have donated to our Annual Giving fund for 10 years, and those who gave for the first time in 2015.



WASO Patrons join in a choral warm-up at a special 'On Stage with the WASO Chorus' event in March.



Patrons Peter and Jean Stokes and Ken Evans.

# Touring WASO Campaign

From WASO on the Road, touring small ensembles to regional centres, to the full Orchestra taking to the stage at the Beijing Music Festival, our touring activities give diverse groups of people access to exceptional live classical music experiences. Our partnerships, be they local, regional or international, are always about touching souls and enriching lives through music.

Touring has significant and wonderful benefits, but it is also an expensive undertaking. We are seeking \$200,000 from our philanthropic community to help cover the costs of our touring activities in 2016 and are delighted to announce that we are already over a quarter of the way towards reaching our goal!

**We invite you to join us on our touring journey. No matter the size, every gift makes a difference and helps your**

**Orchestra deliver the finest classical music programs to thousands of people.**

## How will your donation be used?

The average cost of a WASO on the Road tour is approximately \$60,000 and our tour to China will cost nearly \$1 million.

These totals comprise a variety of costs. For example, accommodation for seven WASO musicians and staff members for six nights of a regional tour costs around \$6,720, and venue hire can be as much as \$3,750. Return airfares within WA for seven musicians, plus a seat for the cello, cost around \$4,800, and when we arrive we need a satellite phone – \$400 to hire at least.

Flying the entire Orchestra to China (and back) costs \$158,220 including visas and

transaction fees, and the accommodation costs for the duration of the tour are around the same amount again. The total production costs alone weigh in at \$254,000.

## Join us on our touring journey!

To make a donation to our Touring WASO campaign or to learn more please contact Jane Clare on 9326 0014 or [janec@waso.com.au](mailto:janec@waso.com.au). You also can donate via EFT (BSB 306 057, acc 0466609, WASO Pty Ltd, putting your name and 'touring donation' in the transaction description), online at [waso.com.au](http://waso.com.au) (selecting Touring WASO from the dropdown menu) or at the Box Office.

You can either direct your donation to a particular tour, or make a general touring contribution. All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

## WASO in Regional WA

Through our Community Engagement department, WASO is dedicated to travelling to regional and remote locations. We were proud to receive the Western Australian State Award for Excellence in a Regional Area for our WASO on the Road (WOTR) touring program at the 2015 National Art Music Awards.

This year WASO musicians have visited Leinster and Kalgoorlie in May, and are hoping subject to funding, to visit Geraldton and Kalbarri in September to perform at community festivals as well as schools.

On each of these week-long WOTR tours, our ensembles will give over ten free performances for schools and communities and take audience members on a musical journey exploring the instruments of the orchestra.

We are dedicated to and passionate about inspiring communities across the state to enjoy music in their lives. Regional touring provides those who may never have had it before, the opportunity to access live classical music.



WASO on the Road in Roebourne

## WASO in China

For the first time in ten years, WASO will be touring to China in October, at the invitation of the prestigious Beijing Music Festival and under the baton of our Principal Conductor Asher Fisch.

Touring internationally is an important means to strengthen WASO's artistic vision and expand our international artistic networks. It builds cultural relationships and opens future opportunities to reconnect with artists on our own home stage, Perth Concert Hall.

The 2016 China Tour is part of our ongoing relationship with the China Philharmonic

Orchestra and a wider cross-cultural musical exchange. You may have already seen members of the China Philharmonic Orchestra play on stage at Perth Concert Hall and we were lucky enough to have had some WASO musicians spend time in Beijing, performing alongside and mentoring their musicians.

We are delighted that while we are in China, we will also present two Education programs. Our fifteen-piece Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO) and a brass ensemble will present age-specific performances at a school in Beijing.



Principal Flute Andrew Nicholson and Principal Horn David Evans perform with the China Philharmonic Orchestra



# Masterclass with Violinist Ning Feng



Ning Feng demonstrates for Andrew Ngooli.

Many readers will remember violinist Ning Feng, who opened WASO's 2016 concert season so spectacularly with Paganini's Violin Concerto No.1 in D – a display of soloistic fireworks of which reviewer Neville Cohn wrote in *The West Australian*, "whether hurling glistening shafts of golden tone into the auditorium or caressing the ear with the sonic equivalent of thistledown, Ning Feng demonstrated the form that places him well to the forefront of violin virtuosi."

During his time in Perth in early March, he also made time to conduct a masterclass for three young violinists at the Callaway Auditorium in UWA's School of Music, in front of a packed audience of family, friends, WASO musicians, Patrons, Board and staff.

The sense of humour and playfulness Ning Feng displayed on stage performing with WASO were also evident in the way he discussed the music of the selected works with the student performers, using imagery to capture imaginations and heighten creative expression. Memorably, he compared a violinist to a colour printer – just as a printer uses only four inks to create every imaginable colour, so can a violinist use their hands, bow and instrument and vibrato to create their own colours within the sheet music.

WAAPA student Matthew Daly opened the evening with the *Finale* from Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, accompanied by Hannah Th'ng. Ning Feng offered posture and stance suggestions and emphasised the importance of eye contact and communication between soloist and pianist, just as it is essential when violinists perform with an orchestra.

Matthew was followed by Emmalena Huning from St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, who, accompanied by Adrian Boase, played excerpts from the same Paganini Violin Concerto that Feng would perform with WASO the next day! He suggested visualising characters to fit the various moods and sections of the work, and encouraged Emmalena to find her own colour and expression within the technically challenging work as well as listening to recordings of other musicians.

Finally, UWA student Andrew Ngooli presented another fiendishly difficult Paganini work, the Caprice No.19 – described by Ning Feng as a 'yum cha' piece: light and small but full of flavour! Andrew was encouraged to imagine a ping-pong ball when playing a particular phrase that required the bow to lightly bounce off the strings, and the difference in sound this image created was immediately evident.

WASO's Masterclasses are a great reminder of the tremendously talented young musicians we have in Western Australia and provide wonderful insight into the inner workings of a musician's mind for WASO's Patrons community. We look forward to the remaining Masterclasses in 2016 with tenor Steve Davislim on 30 August, and cellist Alban Gerhardt on 17 November.

Report by Patrons & Friends Committee Vice President Barry Neubecker

*We thought Ning Feng's approach to a masterclass was wonderful and we appreciated it very much, and his performance with WASO was truly amazing. Emmalena was given such valuable advice in the masterclass and was so fortunate to receive his advice on music in general as well as on Paganini's Concerto No. 1, his performing piece. We are so grateful for Emmalena to be given this opportunity to learn from yet another great master, after only a short time since Pinchas Zuckerman's masterclass last August. Not everyone gets to be rewarded in this way, so she's been extremely lucky.*

Yoko Huning, Parent (Emmalena Huning, participant 2016)

## Can't attend a concert? Donate your ticket!

Demand for great seats at WASO performances is high. If you can no longer attend a concert, why not consider donating your ticket for resale? We will send you a tax deductible receipt and you will create an opportunity for another music lover to experience the performance.

To donate your ticket, please contact the WASO Box Office on 9326 0000. Tickets must be received by the WASO Box Office at least two business days prior to the performance. Please post your tickets to WASO, PO Box 3041, East Perth, 6892.

Transaction fees are not eligible for inclusion in the donation.