

WASO recognised at national performing arts awards



WASO Executive Manager, Community Engagement & Education, Cassandra Lake, with the Art Music Award for Excellence in Music Education. Photo: Georgia Moloney



WASO Executive Manager, Artistic Planning, Evan Kennea, with the Helpmann Award for Best Symphony Orchestra Concert. Photo: Getty Images

WASO is delighted to have been recognised on the national stage, at the Helpmann Awards and Art Music Awards, for excellence both on the Perth Concert Hall stage and in Western Australian classrooms. The 2018 concert production of *Tristan und Isolde* was awarded two Helpmann's: Best Symphony Orchestra Concert and Best Individual Classical Music Performance, awarded to WASO Principal Conductor & Artistic Adviser, Asher Fisch.

At the Art Music Awards, the 2018 premiere of *Implacable Gifts* (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra) won composer Carl Vine the Art Music Award for Orchestral Work of the Year. WASO also received the award for Excellence in Music Education for our free music education program, Crescendo in Kwinana.

To achieve this level of recognition is not an easy task and would simply not have been possible without the support of WASO's philanthropic community. The group of Patrons who generously donated to the WASO & Wagner campaign during 2017 and 2018, enabled the 2017 *Wagner & Beyond* concert series as well as the 2018 *Tristan und Isolde* concert performances, and allowed WASO to engage an outstanding cast to accompany the Orchestra, including critically acclaimed Heldentenor, Stuart Skelton for both projects.

The Carl Vine premiere of *Implacable Gifts* was also enabled through philanthropic support, generously commissioned as part of the WASO Songbook by Patron, Geoff Stearn. Finally, our Crescendo Giving Circle of Patrons which supports our El Sistema inspired music program, Crescendo, along with Crown Resorts Foundation, Packer Family Foundation, Feilman Foundation, Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the Bunning Family, as well as our corporate partner Tianqi Lithium Australia, allows WASO to continue to change lives through music. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to this special group of dedicated Patrons and supporters for their role in earning these prestigious award!

If you would like to know more about the Crescendo Giving Circle, supporting WASO's free music education program, or partnering with WASO to commission a new musical work, please contact Sarah Tompkin on 08 9326 0017 or tompkins@waso.com.au.



Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner

Meet the artist behind WASO's 2020 Season.



The announcement of WASO's program for the following year is always an exciting time and the recent launch of the 2020 WASO Season, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, was no different. What you may not have expected, however was the appearance of our 2020 Season Brochure, with its beautiful array of unique artworks created especially for WASO.

Inspired by Beethoven's revolutionary spirit, WASO engaged Chinese-Australian contemporary artist and WASO subscriber Yi Xiao Chen to create the visual expression of the 2020 Season. Working closely with WASO Graphic Designer Imogen Arnold, Chen carefully created individual portraits inspired by the spirit of each conductor, artist or soloist featured throughout the season, to produce the unique appearance of WASO in 2020.

We asked Yi Xiao to share her inspiration and thoughts behind the artwork and shed a little light on her wider practice.

How long have you been attending WASO and what is it about classical music that you love?

I have attended WASO concerts for a few years and became a WASO subscriber for the first time in 2018. I have always enjoyed classical music and grew up with Chopin and Beethoven frequently playing in the house.

What is your background as an artist and what projects are you currently undertaking?

My art education has been mostly informal, with the majority of the learning by visiting art galleries and museums around the world with my family as a teenager. Before I started my art practice in earnest, I studied medicine and graduated in 2014. I currently work part-time as a general practitioner. I started my art career by doing illustration work for clients, mostly magazine covers and event posters. In 2018 I spent some time in Paris working with the illustration agency Atelier22, and had my first solo exhibition there.

Currently, my art practice consists of contemporary painting, in particular portraiture, with the themes of cultural identity, family history and connection to the past.

How would you describe the link between music and visual art? And in particular, how is classical music represented in your works for WASO?

Art and music are linked by both being vehicles to express what cannot be put into words. With the series for WASO I tried to capture the spirit of the musicians and their connection to the music they are performing.

How did you make the works for WASO?

I sketched the musicians on paper with pencil, then finished the sketches on my tablet on Procreate and Adobe Draw.

Which WASO concert are you most looking forward to next year?

I'm looking forward to *Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto*, *Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace* and *Beethoven: The Piano Concertos*.

2019 Judy Sienkiewicz Lecture Report: Andrew Tait – the Life of a Luthier

Over 100 WASO Patrons and Friends gathered in the evening of Wednesday 26 June for the 2019 Judy Sienkiewicz Lecture, stepping into the world of a luthier (or string instrument maker and repairer), hearing from WASO's very own master of the profession, Andrew Tait. Andrew has been a valued member of the WASO Double Bass section for over 25 years and although he treats the Orchestra as his second home, he has another absorbing passion and incredibly refined skill-set in life – that of a professional luthier. It was a true treat to hear from one of WASO's very own musicians in what was a heartfelt and creative retrospective on life as a musician and maker.

After a lively and well-received introduction from WASO Patrons & Friends Committee President, Prue Ashurst, Andrew invited the audience to join him on a journey of his life divided between the double bass and the world of instrument making. An initial poem gave structure to the lecture, creating an absorbing and surprising story-like delivery, with slides providing the visual element to the evening. Andrew's lecture covered diverse elements of his life, from a country upbringing in regional New South Wales, to intricate details of making an instrument and European journeys of

discovery into baroque instruments and music, all of which illuminated part of Andrew's creative practice.

To conclude the lecture, Andrew was joined by Lucas O'Brien (WASO Tutti Violin) to perform *La Folia* by Corelli (Sonata No.12 Op. 5) on baroque instruments, providing an insight into Andrew's passion for baroque music. This performance was followed by Rod McGrath (WASO Principal Cello) and Kathryn Shinnick (WASO Tutti Violin), performing on instruments made by Andrew himself (only a small example of all the instruments made by Andrew and currently being played by WASO musicians). All four musicians gave stunning performances and all in attendance were pleased to discover that Andrew's instruments do indeed produce a beautiful sound!

The evening was concluded by Prue Ashurst awarding the evening's raffle prizes of a handmade blanket, handmade scarf (both expertly crafted by WASO volunteer, Wolfie Lehmkuhl) and a bottle of delicious Margaret River wine. Finally, the WASO Patrons & Friends Committee provided the perfect conclusion to the evening with an abundant and delicious spread accompanied by Margaret River wines.



The proceeds from this event, like all Patrons & Friends Events, support the Friends of WASO Scholarship, supporting WASO musicians enjoying professional development opportunities.

Welcome to our new WASO Patrons & Friends Committee member!

We welcome the newest Patrons & Friends Committee member, David Stevenson! David joined the committee at the 2019 General Meeting and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and passion for orchestral music. David is a WASO Patron and has been attending WASO concerts since 1991, so is a long-time fan of our Orchestra!

We asked David a few questions to get to know him a little better.



What is it about classical music that you love?

The thing I love most about classical music is that, no matter how often I listen to a performance of a work, I can experience the music in a totally different way, depending on what is happening in my life at the time.

What was your first experience of classical music?

1973. A performance of the *1812 Overture* at Victoria Barracks in Sydney complete with cannon!

What has been your favourite WASO concert?

The concert performance of *Tristan und Isolde*. What can I say, I am an opera tragic

(or anything where a composer has used the voice as an instrument)!

Why do you support WASO through a donation?

To support the Orchestra in its community work. Growing up in small country town I appreciate how isolated people can be from the wider cultural experience.

Which WASO concert are you most looking forward to this year? (At the time of writing)

An Evening with Gun-Brit Barkmin.

Coffee Catch-Up with Roland



On a beautiful Tuesday morning in July, Sarah Tompkin & Jacinta Sirr from the WASO Philanthropy team set out to meet Roland Hähnel, a new WASO Patron, at Odyssey in City Beach for coffee.

It was a lovely morning for all and Sarah and Jacinta really enjoyed hearing about Roland's love of music and his personal journey with WASO over the years.

If you also enjoy a chat and want to hear more about what is happening at WASO, please call Jacinta on 9326 0014 or email sirj@waso.com.au to arrange a catchup!

For the love of music and a dear friend – the Sheena Prince Memorial Fund for Crescendo

On Friday 9 August, a very special initiative was born at the place of WASO Patron, Megan Phillips. Megan, together with her husband James, recently created the Sheena Prince Memorial Fund both to support our Crescendo music education

program in Kwinana and to honour the memory of her much loved friend, Sheena Prince from Albany. Sheena sadly passed away last year and was a passionate music educator and advocate herself.



Megan has made a commitment to raise \$1,500 annually as a contribution to the Crescendo Giving Circle and has decided to do so through holding a series of events at her home, the first one being an amazing Moroccan Luncheon cooked by no less than Megan herself!

With 24 friends and family in attendance, Megan not only cooked up a truly delicious three-course feast, but she also had a door prize on offer (WASO tickets, of course!), a gourmet hamper raffle and several other items for sale to contribute to overall proceeds. After all costs were accounted for, the result was an amazing \$800.00 already on the way to the designated bank account!

The next events to follow will be a Sri Lankan Feast on 14 September (\$50 p.p.) and a Christmas Market on 30 November (gold coin donation entry). Megan would like to encourage everyone interested to get in touch with the WASO Philanthropy Team on 08 9326 0017 or philanthropy@waso.com.au if you would like to attend any of these events.

We are amazed and humbled by Megan's efforts - a truly inspirational initiative that aims to support what one believes in... and to have lots of fun while you're at it!

Congratulations on a great first event and a big bravo to Megan and James!

Sneaky surprise serenade for Peter Stokes



Late last month, Sarah Tompkin from the Philanthropy Team and three of our musicians, Akiko Miyazawa, Andrew Tait and Ben Caddy, were on a secret mission in the home suburb of much loved WASO Patron, Peter Stokes. Sarah and our trio of musicians surprised Peter and his wife Jean at their property in Bedford on the day of Peter's 90th birthday. Peter was overwhelmed with joy about this unexpected private house concert and wrote days later that he 'still had not recovered from the very great surprise!'. It remains undecided who had more fun on the day - Peter, Sarah as the secret organiser or the musicians who got to revel in Peter's wonderful response - but what is clear is that it was our absolute pleasure honouring Peter in this way, as he is indeed a central part of the large WASO Family. Happy Birthday Peter!

Can you help us replace our chairs?



We are seeking donations of \$800 each to help us replace our old and worn orchestral chairs. These chairs have been in ceaseless use not only at Perth Concert Hall, but at numerous performance venues across the state for education performances and regional tours, and they are now falling apart due to age. We are looking to purchase 100 new, state-of-the-art orchestral chairs to be permanently stationed at Perth Concert Hall.

Our musicians have trialled nine different chairs in total and their model of choice from the Kolberg Instrument Factory in Stuttgart, Germany (pictured right in the image) has convinced them through a whole range of features that help prevent leg fatigue and circulatory problems, which are common issues for musicians.

We are seeking donations of \$800 per chair, with the option of contributing towards multiple chairs. The best thing about it? You can have your name on it!

Patrons donating towards a chair will have a plaque acknowledging their donation attached to their chair. Imagine sitting at the Concert Hall and seeing our musicians perform on 'your' chair!

If this idea sits well with you, please get in touch with Sarah Tompkin on 08 9326 0017 or email tompkins@waso.com.au. All donations to this campaign are tax-deductible.

We are already half way to our goal of purchasing 100 chairs! Thank you to those who have donated already.

Welcomes & farewells



Welcome Daniel Schmitt
Principal Viola

WASO is delighted to welcome Daniel Schmitt to Perth, all the way from Munich, Germany, to undertake the role of WASO Principal Viola. Daniel recently passed his trial with WASO and will be relocating to Perth over the summer break. Schmitt studied with renowned viola teacher Bruno Giuranna when completing a Master of Arts at the University of the Arts Berlin and has since worked with multiple Orchestras throughout Europe, including as Principal Viola with the Royal Flemish Philharmonic under Music Director, Philipp Herreweghe. Before joining WASO, Schmitt was a member of Bayerische Staatsoper Orchestra Munich under Music Directors Kent Nagano and Kirill Petrenko. Whilst on tour in Japan with the Orchestra in 2017 he happened to play Mozart's *Zauberflöte* under the baton of Asher Fisch!



Welcome John Keene
Associate Principal Double Bass

WASO is also very pleased to welcome new Associate Principal Double Bass, John Keene, to the Orchestra. John completed his training at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Principal Double Bass of Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Alex Henery and whilst there was the youngest player ever to be awarded the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship in both 2015 and 2016. John also became an Emerging Artist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in 2016, touring regionally with the ACO Collective as Principal Double Bass. In 2018 John played with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as Associate Principal Double Bass, before playing on contract as Tutti Double Bass with Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Everyone at WASO wishes John a warm welcome to Perth!



Farewell to Sarah Bowman
Principal Harp

At the end of July, it was with sadness that WASO farewelled Principal Harp, Sarah Bowman, after more than two decades of service to the Orchestra. Sarah has had a long and varied career, having performed all over the world including at Carnegie Hall and with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre, Reykjavik Orchestra, Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, Brooklyn and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestras amongst others. Sarah is looking forward to supporting her colleagues and enjoying WASO concerts from the audience. WASO wishes to thank Sarah for her incredible contribution to the Orchestra over so many years and wishes her all the very best in her future endeavours.

WASO announces 2020 Assistant Conductor



WASO is delighted to announce the appointment of Thaddeus Huang as the 2020 WASO Assistant Conductor. Thaddeus will work alongside Principal Conductor & Artistic Adviser, Asher Fisch for the duration of the 2020 Season.

Thaddeus began his musical career as a pianist and composer and only made a foray into conducting after being thrown onto the podium to conduct his own work at the last minute. Since then, Thaddeus has placed his feet firmly in the conducting world. In 2018 he was assistant to Nicholas Carter in the State Opera of South Australia's premiere of Brett Dean's

Hamlet and assisted Mark Wigglesworth at the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Currently he serves as Music Director of the Frankston Symphony Orchestra and Australian New Goldberg Orchestra, touring regularly at the Shanghai Symphony's vibrant *Music in the Summer Air Festival* and the Beijing and Jiangsu National Grand Theatres.

Thaddeus was thrilled to accept the offer and is looking forward to working alongside Asher Fisch and WASO in 2020. *"It's a huge honour, and I couldn't have asked for a better place to begin this next step in my career than with the beautiful musicians of WASO. I'm absolutely thrilled for the opportunity to work with Asher and can't wait to join the rich music culture of Perth (and see our country's best beaches for the first time!)"*

This incredible opportunity has been made possible through the generous support of the Simon Lee Foundation, which aspires to build an alumni body of young artists that connect, create and support each other. WASO would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Simon Lee Foundation for their ongoing support.

WASO's recent releases!



Wagner: Tristan und Isolde

Following WASO's success at the 2019 Helpmann Awards, it was perfect timing for the release of the official live recording of the Orchestra's 2018 concert performance of *Tristan und Isolde*. The complete performance has been captured and features one of the finest casts ever assembled in Australia, including the acclaimed Heldentenor Stuart Skelton and the wonderful Gun-Brit Barkmin. The deluxe 3-CD release set of *Wagner: Tristan und Isolde* including the full libretto can be purchased through ABC Classics or at the Perth Concert Hall box office.



Eskimo Joe Live at the Perth Concert Hall

WASO's sold out 2018 concert performances with highly acclaimed West Australian band, Eskimo Joe, has now been released as an album. The album, *Live at the Perth Concert Hall*, features the recording of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Eskimo Joe, conducted by Iain Grandage in Perth's premier music venue. It has been released on CD and digital services and is available to order online from store.warnermusic.com.au/products/.

Workplace Giving

Help share exhilarating music.

If you are looking for a simple, easy and tax-deductible way to support the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, workplace giving might just be for you!

You have the option to make regular or one-off donations from your pre-tax salary. You will receive immediate tax benefits for your gifts while supporting the inspiring work we do for communities across Western Australia.

By giving regular donations, you help WASO build sustainable, long-term access to quality live music for communities across Western Australia. In addition, your employer may choose to match your donation dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of your support.

HOW TO DONATE?

If your company or organisation already has a workplace giving program in place and you wish to support WASO, contact your human resources department to ask them about joining the program.

If your employer does not have a workplace giving program in place, now is your time to shine! Contact your community affairs, corporate social responsibility or human resources department to suggest a workplace giving program be established and for WASO to be nominated as a charity partner.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information on how to include WASO in your workplace giving program, please contact Jacinta Sirr, WASO Philanthropy & Annual Giving Manager by emailing sirrj@waso.com.au or calling 08 9326 0014.

