

WASO announces its 2019 Season Extraordinary Music. Exhilarating Performances.

In 2019 the West Australian Symphony Orchestra will offer a range of exhilarating, inspirational and extraordinary music experiences for all Western Australians to enjoy.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of Principal Conductor Asher Fisch's WASO debut in 1999. To celebrate, Asher will conduct the work with which he first introduced himself to Western Australian audiences - Verdi's transcendent and monumental Requiem. These special performances will feature the combined voices of the WASO Chorus, the St George's Cathedral Consort and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus and four world class soloists.

Two exceptional artists are highlighted in the season – WASO's first Artist in Association, the Australian soprano Siobhann Stagg, will appear as soloist in three concerts conducted by Asher Fisch, and Featured Artist Nikolaj Znaider will appear as both violin soloist and conductor in August.

The Season comprises a diverse range of sublime classical music across the Masters, MACA Limited Classics and Morning Symphony Series including Elgar's Symphony No.1, *The Nutcracker* (Suite from ballet) and Symphony No.5 by Tchaikovsky, Richard Strauss' *Don Juan*, Symphony No.3 *Eroica* and Symphony No.4 by Beethoven and Saint-Saens' Symphony No.3 "Organ Symphony".

Two World Premieres from home-grown composers Iain Grandage and James Ledger will also feature in the 2019 Program. Grandage's Cor anglais Concerto showcases the talents of WASO Principal Cor anglais, Leanne Glover, while celebrated Australian composer and violist, Brett Dean joins WASO to premiere Ledger's Viola Concerto. Both commissions have been made possible through the support of WASO's Philanthropic donors.

As always, WASO also ventures out of its home at the Perth Concert Hall during 2019. WASO's Festival of Chamber Music at Government House Ballroom is a weekend of superb music for chamber ensembles and chamber orchestra; two concerts featuring the WASO Chorus will be performed in St Mary's Cathedral; Riverside Theatre will be the venue for the fourth instalment in the Harry Potter in Concert Series, the spectacular Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert and Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back – In Concert.

WASO marks the commencement of its 91st year with the season-opening WASO's Favourites in February. Former WASO Assistant Conductor, Elena Schwarz, will lead the Orchestra through a selection of favourites including *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copeland and the immortal *Rhapsody in Blue* by Copeland's fellow Brooklyn-born composer, George Gershwin.

In mid-August, Danish-born violinist and conductor, Nikolaj Znaider, will play Elgar's *Violin Concerto* under the baton of Principal Conductor Asher Fisch. He will then return two weeks later switching roles to conduct a concert featuring Schumann's Piano Concerto with Asher Fisch as piano soloist!

Asher Fisch will also conduct our 2019 Gala Event - An Evening with Gun-Brit Barkmin. The concerts will showcase the acclaimed German soprano who in August 2018 made her Australian debut in WASO's *Tristan und Isolde*.

Building on the success of Wagner & Beyond in 2017, Asher Fisch presents two special Discovery Concerts in 2019. In these concerts, Asher both conducts and presents, taking the audience on an illuminating journey through the evolution of The Classical Symphony and exploring how great composers transformed famous keyboard works into orchestral masterpieces in The Art of Orchestration.

In a special event for 2019, WASO will be joined on stage by some of Australia's most talented young and emerging artists from Melbourne's Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) to bring Shostakovich's Symphony No.7 *Leningrad* to life. WASO and ANAM Side by Side will be conducted by Simone Young.

The ever-popular Last Night of the Proms is a firm fixture in the WASO program. In 2019, the irrepressible mezzo-soprano, Jacqueline Dark, joins the "un-repressible!" conductor, Guy Noble, as he leads WASO - and the audience! - through an evening of all-British favourites. WASO also celebrates the talents of home grown star of the stage and screen Lucy Durack with an evening of musical theatre and Disney favourites. Singing legend Kate Ceberano, X-Factor finalist Nathaniel Willemse and a sensational Australian cast join WASO to perform disco hits of the Studio 54 era in an electrifying Disco Wonderland concert thanks to EY.

WASO will bring the magic of a live symphony orchestra to our youngest audience members in a specially-designed one-hour concert for families in June. Maximus Musicus Joins the Choir follows the adventures of Maximus Musicus, the musical mouse who finds himself in the Perth Concert Hall surrounded by WASO musicians and a children's choir.

In all, the 2019 WASO Season comprises over sixty concerts, two world premieres and features eight artists making their WASO debuts.

For over 90 years WASO has been renowned for its world class performances and deep commitment to and engagement with the Western Australian community. The 2019 Season of concerts and community activities continues to build upon its great heritage and history and provides a launching point for the Orchestra to commence its journey forward towards an exciting centenary.

Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts.

WASO 2019 Subscription Tickets

Season packages on sale now.
For bookings phone WASO on 9326 0000 or visit waso.com.au

WASO 2019 Single Tickets

Tickets on sale from 9am, Wednesday 28 November 2018
For bookings phone WASO on 9326 0000 or visit waso.com.au

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert

Tickets on sale now.
For bookings phone Ticketek on 1300 795 012 or visit waso.com.au

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back – In Concert

Tickets on sale 9am, Monday 1 October 2018
For bookings phone Ticketek on 1300 795 012 or visit waso.com.au

For further details please contact:

Lynne Burford
Lynne Burford Publicity
Mob: 041 792 1038
lburford@iinet.net.au

Brad Martin
WASO Executive Manager, Marketing
Ph: 9326 0060
martinb@waso.com.au