

# 2016 Annual Report

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# Chairman's Report

2016 will be remembered as a significant year for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

It marked the third year of Maestro Asher Fisch's tenure as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, Laurence Jackson's first year as Concertmaster, and culminated in the Orchestra's first international tour in 10 years – arguably the Orchestra's most significant activity in decades. Across the year the company presented 544 performances, workshops and artist development activities to an audience of over 206,000. Recording a profit of \$137,671, WASO has enjoyed both artistic and financial success in 2016.

There were many artistic highlights during the MACA Limited Classics and Alcohol.Think Again Masters series, with WASO performing alongside an exceptional list of guest soloist and conductors. In 2016 WASO welcomed numerous outstanding guest artists to the Orchestra for the first time. WASO debuts included soloists Javier Perianes, Kiandra Howarth, Derek Welton, Mary Carewe, Eleanor Dennis, Helen Charlston, Gwilym Bowen, Robert Davies as well as WASO's own Brent Grapes and Laurence Jackson. Conductors making their WASO debut included Kazuki Yamada and Daniel Blendulf.

Other highlights of the 2016 season included a stunning performance of Mahler's Symphony No.2 *Resurrection* conducted by Asher Fisch, and a concert led by conductor Simone Young which featured Holst's *The Planets* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in a single program. In his first year as Concertmaster of WASO, Laurence Jackson gave an exquisite performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Another important artistic highlight of 2016 was the concert with Asher Fisch and esteemed Australian tenor Stuart Skelton in November. This concert featured music by Bruckner and Wagner, and was the first step towards WASO's two-year Wagner project across 2017/18 which will culminate in concert performances of Wagner's definitive opera *Tristan und Isolde* in 2018. WASO also released a double CD on the ABC Classics label of the Brahms Symphonies, conducted by Asher Fisch, and thus re-entered the commercial recording space.

Under the outstanding leadership of Chorus Director Christopher van Tuinen and Chorus Vocal Coach Andrew Foote, the WASO Chorus had an exceptional year. The Chorus featured in a variety of concerts throughout the year, including Mahler's Symphony No.2, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Elena Kats-Chernin's *Prelude and Cube*, Holst's *The Planets*, Mozart's Requiem, Handel's *Messiah* as well as various repertoire in our Last Night at the Proms and Symphony in the City concerts.

WASO presented a number of special events during 2016. The Orchestra performed *Cirque de la Symphonie*, featuring mesmerizing acrobats, jugglers, strongmen, contortionists and high-flying aerialists from around the world. WASO presented a sold-out performance titled Last Night at the Proms featuring popular classics and patriotic anthems, and *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* Live in Concert.

WASO's Community Engagement department continues to blaze a trail in this country. The Orchestra's Crescendo program is the only El Sistema inspired music education program in Western Australia, and WASO remains the only major performing arts company in the State working with Principals and school communities to deliver long-term sustainable free education programs in schools. WASO continued its Onslow Kids Music Education Program (OK ME!) at Onslow Primary School in North-West WA. Other Outreach programs continued to expand, with an increased number of Harmony Music visits to schools with Special Educational Needs students. Our Hospital Orchestra Project (HOP) at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in partnership with the School of Special Education Needs: Medical & Mental Health with support from the Starlight Children's Foundation, was featured at the 8th Annual International Arts and Health Conference in Sydney. The Rusty Orchestra, which includes almost 50 amateur musicians from across WA performing alongside WASO musicians in a 90+ orchestra, performed to a capacity audience at Perth Concert Hall.

WASO remains committed to presenting outstanding education experiences for students and teachers, and we brought this approach to the prestigious Beijing Musical Festival. There we presented

two concerts and a masterclass for school children, making WASO the first ever organisation to include education performances in the Festival. WASO also presented a very successful Education Week at Perth Concert Hall. These events were attended by over 7,000 audience members across seven days of performances at five different sites, catering to all ages. They included the final showing of the Composition Project, the Rusty Orchestra and performances by WASO's Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO) which celebrated a landmark 21 years of Kids Cushion Concerts and in-school presentations.

On behalf of the Board, we are extremely grateful to those who have made it possible for WASO to present another year of wonderful music to the Western Australian community. In particular I acknowledge and thank the Federal and State Governments, our Principal Partner Wesfarmers Arts, and our generous network of partners, patrons, donors and subscribers, for helping enable our mission, to touch souls and enrich lives through music.

A heartfelt thank you to our musicians and administration staff for their tireless hard work and passion that has contributed immensely to this defining year in our Orchestra's history. Finally, I thank my fellow Board members, whose wealth of experience, time and efforts contribute immeasurably to WASO.

*Janet Holmes à Court*

**Janet Holmes à Court AC**  
Chairman



# Chief Executive's Report

At the West Australian Symphony Orchestra's Patron and Friends Christmas party last year I stated proudly that it was an exciting time to be a part of this company, and as I sit here reflecting on 2016 I'm even more certain in this belief. I cannot help but be proud of the achievements of WASO in 2016, as we returned to international touring after a 10 year hiatus with acclaimed performances in Abu Dhabi, Beijing, and Shanghai, continued to deliver performances under our Principal Conductor of sublime intelligence and musicality, and took huge strides in achieving our mission to *touch souls and enrich lives through music* as our education and community outreach programs reached over 50,000 West Australian across the state. I am also delighted that WASO was able to deliver a modest surplus (WASO's 14th surplus in a row) at a particularly volatile time in the West Australian economy. WASO remains the only Australian orchestra to have achieved a surplus every year in the last 14 years and indeed is the only Australian Orchestra to have delivered a surplus in each of the last five years. The fact that we have been able to achieve this at a time when the company is investing more money than ever before into the quality and vibrancy of its artistic program, and in building the most comprehensive education and community engagement program of any Australian orchestra is a testament to the drive of the people who make up this great company, and our community of supporters.

In a year of artistic highlights it is difficult to go past WASO's extraordinary performances in Abu Dhabi, Beijing and Shanghai. The Orchestra's performance in Abu Dhabi was the first by a major Australian performing arts company in the United Arab Emirates. The concert was close to a sell-out and we were delighted to have in attendance two members of the Abu Dhabi Royal family, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nayhan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, and His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA). Also in attendance was Senior Royal Court Advisor, His Excellency Zaki Nuseibeh, Cultural Advisor at Ministry of Presidential Affairs. The members of the Royal Family led the standing ovation, and were

glowing in their praise of the Orchestra's performance. After the performance His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nayhan stated that "it had been a long time since they had heard a concert of such quality" and His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak shared his appreciation of the "fabulous" playing of the orchestra. "In that hall tonight there were no states, no religions, and no races. We, all of us, were united as one in our love of music". As a result of these comments and other feedback received by the TCA, WASO was immediately invited to return to Abu Dhabi.

With the orchestra on a high after a musically-exceptional performance in Abu Dhabi, the tour party travelled to Beijing. WASO's first musical commitments comprised two community engagement performances on 9 October. At Beijing No. 1 Experimental School, one of the city's most elite public schools attended by children of government officials, over 400 children and local media sang, danced and laughed throughout WASO's Education Chamber Ensemble Orchestra (EChO) performance of *EChO the Gecko's Outback Adventure*. Later the same day at the No. 8 Middle School, 40 students, including middle and high-school students, benefited from a performance and masterclass from our brass quintet and two students received an individual masterclass in horn and trombone.

The level of joy the performances brought to the children was obvious for all to see, clearly achieving WASO's mission of *touching souls and enriching lives through music*. I was lucky enough to be in the audience at the EChO performance, and it will go down as one of the most memorable and emotional experiences of my time at WASO. The level of engagement and good will developed between our orchestra and the school students was beautifully symbolised through the gift of an exquisite silk scroll, over three metres wide, hand-painted by the students of Beijing No. 1 Experimental School. This will remain a treasured gift of WASO, and an enduring memory of the China Tour for many decades to come.

WASO performed the following day to a sold out audience at the Forbidden City Concert Hall (capacity 1,200) as part of the Beijing Music Festival. The concert, which was live streamed on LeTV and

watched by over 600,000 people live and many, many more on demand (WASO's concert was the most watched concert in the Beijing Music Festival), was a resounding success, with the Orchestra and our Principal Conductor Asher Fisch receiving a standing ovation. The encore, a special arrangement of a very well-known Chinese folk song *My Mother Taught Me a Song* was so warmly received that many in the audience were in tears, as were the Chinese born members of WASO.

As WASO made its way to Shanghai to perform at the truly amazing 1,200 seat Shanghai Symphony Hall, regarded as the best concert hall in China and indeed one of the finest halls in the world, the Orchestra and its performance in Beijing was trending on Chinese social media. This sold out performance was without doubt the finest of the tour. Aided by an extraordinary acoustic in the hall, the orchestra have never heard each other more clearly and as a result never played together better. I have never seen an audience respond to an orchestra at the end of the performance the way they did in Shanghai. WASO principal Conductor Asher Fisch made curtain call after curtain call whilst the audience stood, stamped their feet, cheered and clapped in time; it was an extraordinary experience.

Our Community Engagement and Education programs continue to be a priority for WASO, and in 2016 WASO presented 434 community outreach and education performances, workshops, classes and masterclasses to almost 20,000 participants and/or audience members in diverse locations across Western Australian and internationally. These included our wonderful Hospital Orchestra Project at Princess Margaret's Hospital for Children, Harmony Music – a program for children with special educational needs, our OK ME! program in the far north community of Onslow, and our extraordinary Crescendo program that operates in two Primary schools in Kwinana. We are immensely proud of these programs and believe they are wonderful illustrations of WASO's mission to *touch souls and enrich lives through music* in action.

WASO's commitment to visiting regional and remote locations across the state took WASO on the Road to Leinster, Leonora, Menzies, Boulder



# Chief Executive's Report

and Kalgoorlie. Our new Regional Arts Program (ReAP) is presented with support from the Department of Education. WASO is the only arts company accessing the Video Conferencing platform established as part of the Pilbara Cities Education Project – E-Learning, to work alongside staff and schools across the Pilbara region to support academic and music extension.

WASO takes its role in the development of the next generation of orchestral musicians, composers and conductors seriously. As such WASO again undertook a number of young and emerging artists programs in 2016 including international masterclasses, series, and our composition project. The latter provides a number of young and emerging composers the opportunity to write a composition for WASO's EChO ensemble and to be mentored by esteemed Western Australian composer James Ledger.

Of course none of the success of 2016 would have been possible without the extraordinary contribution from our community of supporters, and I wish

to echo the thanks of our Chairman to the Australian and West Australian Governments, our sponsors, donors and valued audience members. In particular I would like to thank Richard Goyder and the team at Wesfarmers for the phenomenal leadership role they play in supporting the arts in Western Australia, and in particular WASO. All of us at WASO are immensely proud to be associated with this great West Australian company, and with the announcement in 2016 of an extension of their Principal Partnership for a further five years, we look forward to building on our successful relationship for many years to come.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors and in particular Chairman Janet Holmes à Court for their strong corporate governance and wise counsel. Last but by no means least I would like to acknowledge the Orchestra, Chorus and administrative staff who make up the WASO team. Without the collective and impressive talent and creative endeavour of all our people – our musicians, chorus and administrative team alike we would not be able to serve the community of Western Australia in the way we do.

I thank them all for their outstanding contribution and dedication to the ongoing success of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.



**Craig Whitehead**  
Chief Executive



WASO performing in the Shanghai Symphony Hall.

# Overview of Activities

WASO presented 544 performances, workshops and artist development activities to in excess of 206,000 people.

## Classical Music Performances

	No. Performances		Attendances	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Masters	16	16	22,676	21,032
Classics	16	17	22,126	24,887
Morning Symphony	8	8	12,956	12,764
Family	4	4	6,008	5,700
Other Classical	4	4	6,399	6,421
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>70,165</b>	<b>70,804</b>

## Other Performances, Workshops and Artist Development Activities

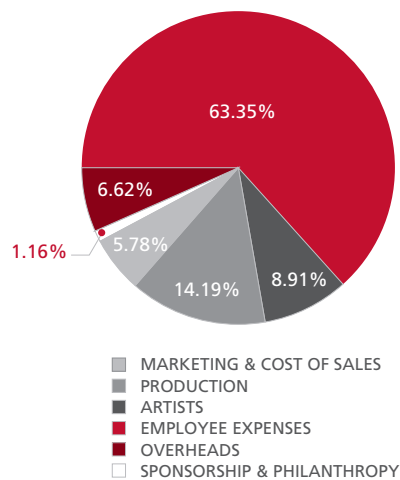
	No. Performances		Attendances	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Specials	8	10	14,262	17,620
Hires	5	12	22,476	24,606
Education	373	295	10,614	8,581
Free and other community	36	42	27,442	33,965
Touring and Outer Metropolitan*	30	76	7,456	5,181
Artist development	4	8	349	560
Opera**	16	18	32,364	32,229
Ballet	24	26	21,716	17,769
<b>Total</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>136,679</b>	<b>140,511</b>

\*Data includes China and Abu Dhabi performances.

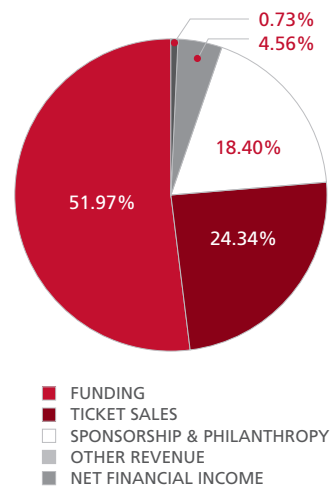
\*\*Data includes Opera in the Park performance.

# Financial Statistics

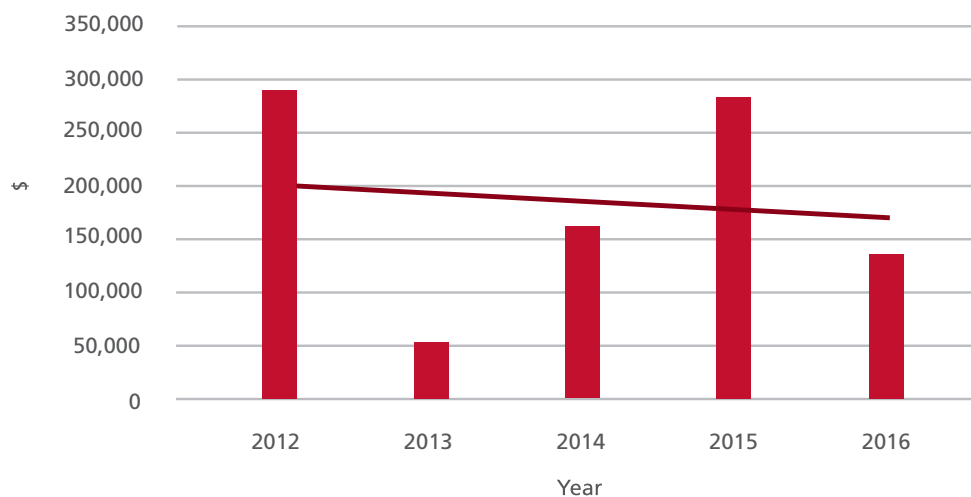
## EXPENDITURE



## INCOME



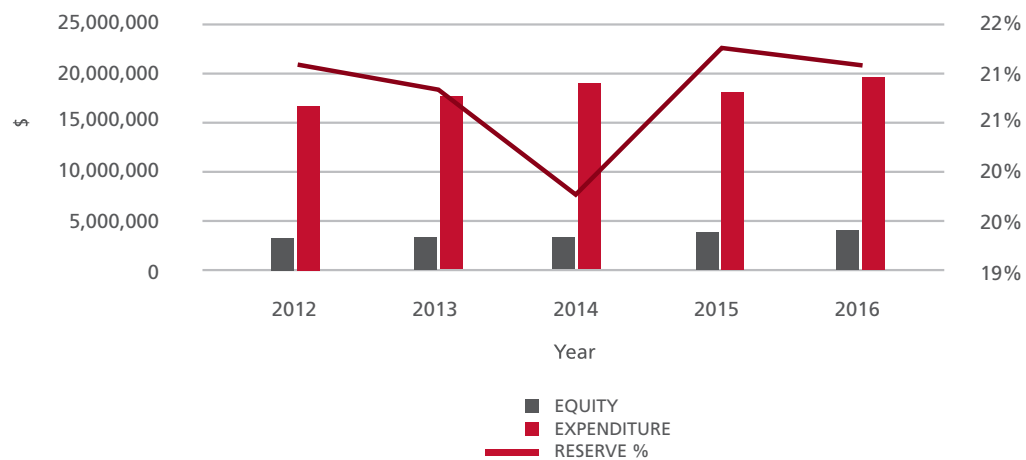
## PROFIT



In an ever increasingly difficult financial climate, WASO has now achieved 14 surplus results in a row.

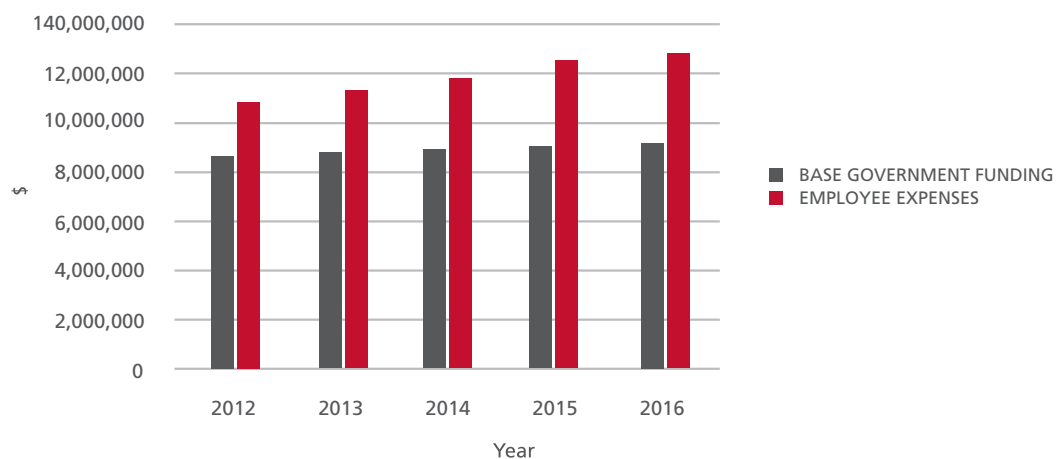
# Financial Statistics Cont.

## RESERVES



WASO is currently maintaining its reserves level above 20% as requested by the federal and state funding agencies.

## FUNDING GAP



The gap between base government funding and employee expenses has increased by \$1m over the last 5 years



# The Company

## ORCHESTRA

**Asher Fisch** *Principal Conductor & Artistic Adviser*

**Vladimir Verbitsky** *Conductor Laureate*

**Lachlan Skipworth** *Composer in Residence*

### Violin

Laurence Jackson  
(*Concertmaster*)

Semra Lee-Smith  
(*Assistant Concertmaster*)

Graeme Norris  
(*Associate Concertmaster*)

Rebecca Glorie  
(*Acting Principal 1st Violin*)

Zak Rowntree  
(*Principal 2nd Violin*)

Kylie Liang  
(*Associate Principal 2nd Violin*)

Vacancy  
(*Associate Principal 2nd Violin*)

Sarah Blackman

Fleur Challen

Stephanie Dean

Beth Hebert

Sunmi Jung

Christina Katsimbardis

Ellie Lawrence

Shaun Lee-Chen

Akiko Miyazawa

Anna O'Hagan

Ken Peeler

Melanie Pearn

Graham Pyatt

Louise Sandercock

Jolanta Schenk

Jane Serrangeli

Jacek Slawomirski

Kate Sullivan

Bao Di Tang

Cerys Tooby

David Yeh

### Viola

Vacancy  
(*Principal*)

Alex Brogan  
(*Acting Principal Viola*)

Kierstan Arkleysmith

Nikola Babic

Ben Caddy

Alison Hall

Rachael Kirk

Allan McLean

Helen Tuckey

### Cello

Rod McGrath  
(*Principal*)

Louise McKay  
(*Associate Principal*)

Shigeru Komatsu

Oliver McAslan

Nicholas Metcalfe

Eve Silver

Fotis Skordas

Tim South

Xiaole Wu

### Double Bass

Andrew Sinclair  
(*Principal*)

Joan Wright  
(*Associate Principal*)

Louise Elaerts

Christine Reitzenstein

Andrew Tait

Mark Tooby

### Flute

Andrew Nicholson  
(*Principal*)

Mary-Anne Blades  
(*Associate Principal*)

### Piccolo

Michael Waye  
(*Principal*)

### Oboe

Peter Facer  
(*Principal*)

Liz Chee  
(*Associate Principal*)

### Cor Anglais

Leanne Glover  
(*Principal*)

### Clarinet

Allan Meyer  
(*Principal*)

Lorna Cook

### Bass Clarinet

Alexander Millier  
(*Principal*)

### Bassoon

Jane Kircher-Lindner  
(*Principal*)

Adam Mikulicz  
(*Associate Principal*)

### Contra Bassoon

Chloe Turner  
(*Principal*)

### Horn

David Evans  
(*Principal*)

Sharn McIver  
(*Associate Principal*)

Robert Gladstones  
(*Principal 3rd*)

Julia Brooke

Francesco Lo Surdo

### Trumpet

Brent Grapes  
(*Principal*)

Evan Cromie  
(*Associate Principal*)

Peter Miller

### Trombone

Joshua Davis  
(*Principal*)

Liam O'Malley  
(*Associate Principal*)

### Bass Trombone

Philip Holdsworth  
(*Principal*)

### Tuba

Cameron Brook  
(*Principal*)

### Timpani

Alex Timcke  
(*Principal*)

### Percussion

Brian Maloney  
(*Principal*)

Troy Greatz  
(*Associate Principal Percussion & Timpani*)

### Harp

Sarah Bowman  
(*Principal*)

# The Company Cont.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Holmes à Court AC (Chairman)  
Barrie Lepley (Deputy Chairman)  
Mark Coughlan  
Keith Kessell  
Anne Nolan  
Paul Shannon  
Julian Sher  
Michael Utsler

## ADMINISTRATION

### Executive Office

Craig Whitehead	Chief Executive
Rebecca Smith	Executive Assistant

### Human Resources

Tony Pickburn	Human Resources Manager
Narelle Coghill	Human Resources Coordinator
Svetlana Williams	Payroll Administrator

### Artistic Planning

Evan Kennea	Executive Manager, Artistic Planning
Alan Tyrrell	Program Manager
Natalie De Biasi	Program Coordinator

### Orchestral Management

Keith McGowan	Executive Manager, Orchestral Management
David Cotgreave	Production and Technical Manager
Alistair Cox	Orchestra Manager
Breanna Evangelista	Orchestral Coordinator
Wee Ming Khoo	Music Librarian
Jenna Boston	Orchestral Operations Manager

### Business Services

Peter Freemantle	Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Chew	Systems Administrator
Angela Miller	Accountant
Renu Kara	Accounts Officer
Alexander Spartalis	Information Systems Support

### Community Engagement

Cassandra Lake	Executive Manager, Community Engagement
Fiona Taylor	Education Coordinator
Lily Protter	Community Engagement Assistant
Fiona Campbell	Crescendo Teaching Artist
Michaela Ivory	Crescendo Teaching Artist
Alicia Metusela	Crescendo Teaching Artist

### Corporate Development

Marina Woodhouse	Executive Manager, Corporate Development
Cliona Hayes	Corporate Partnerships Coordinator
Ginny Luff	Corporate Partnerships & Events Coordinator

### Philanthropy

Alecia Benzie	Executive Manager, Philanthropy
Jane Clare	Fundraising & Philanthropy Manager
Sarah Tompkin	Planned Giving Manager
Megan Lo Surdo	Philanthropy & Events Coordinator

### Marketing

Kelli Carnachan	Executive Manager, Marketing
Marc Missiaen	Relationship Marketing Manager
Luke Pownall	Public Relations Manager
Kirsty Chisholm	Marketing Coordinator

# The Company Cont.

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## ADMINISTRATION

### **New West Australian Symphony Orchestra employees:**

Fiona Campbell	Teaching Artist
Lawrence Grosvenor	Graphic Designer
Michaela Ivory	Teaching Artist
Laurence Jackson	Concertmaster
Sunmi Jung	Violin Rank & File
Brian Maloney	Principal Percussion
Chiron Meller	Assoc. Principal Percussion
Jamie Parkin	Corporate Partnerships Manager
Julie Read	Payroll Officer
Sarah Tompkin	Planned Giving Manager

### **And farewell to:**

Maya Kraj-Krajewski	Artist Liason/Chorus Administrator
Nancy Hackett	Marketing Manager
Zoe Lawrence	Marketing Officer
Graham Pyatt	Violin Rank & File
Lawrence Grosvenor	Graphic Designer
Svetlana Williams	Payroll Officer
Alicia Metusela	Teaching Artist
Rebekah Ryan	Sales Consultant – Team Leader

**We thank them for their professional and personal contributions to the company.**

# The Company Cont.

## WASO CHORUS

**Christopher van Tuinen** *Chorus Director*

**Andrew Foote** *Vocal Coach*

**Lea Hayward** *Accompanist*

### Soprano

Julie Anderson  
Valerie Bannan  
Lisa Barrett  
Marian Birtwistle  
Anna Börner  
Annie Burke  
Kathryn Buselich  
Alinta Carroll  
Jennifer Clarke  
Penelope Colgan  
Clara Connor  
Rebecca Cooper  
Cate Creedon  
Erika Dietrich  
Ciara Donegan  
Jordan Dunne  
Ceridwen Dumergue  
Bronwyn Elliott  
Nike Titilola Etim  
Fay Farah Edwards  
Davina Farinola  
Joanna Fawcett  
Lindsay Foster  
Louise Gillett  
Kath Goodman  
Lesley Goodwin  
Pauline Handford  
Diane Hawkins  
Blanche Holzman  
Michelle John  
Emma Lambert  
Katherine Langdon  
Ginny Luff  
Marie McKinnon  
Alicia Metusela  
Gemma Mullaney  
Elysia Murphy  
Stephanie Parkinson  
Sheila Price

Rochelle Rabel  
Erika Riecken  
Fiona Robson  
Jane Royle  
Chelsea Seymour  
Sarah Shneier  
Rachel Singer  
Gosia Slawomirski  
Magdalena Todea  
Margot Warburton  
Rochelle Williams  
Nicole Zago

### Alto

Marian Agombar  
Lisa Barz  
Janet Baxter  
Llewela Benn  
Daniela Birch  
Patsy Brown  
Imogen Castledine  
Sarah Choy  
Sue Coleson  
Catherine Dunn  
Julie Durant  
Kaye Fairbairn  
Jenny Fay  
Susanna Fleck  
Dianne Graves  
Louise Hayes  
Victoria Hogg  
Jill Jones  
Serena Kay  
Gaylene Kelso  
Shew-lee Lee  
Kate Lewis  
Diana MacCallum  
Chrissie Mavrofridis  
Tina McDonald

Lyn Mills  
Margot Morgan  
Lynne Naylor  
Philomena Nulsen  
Deborah Pearson  
Deborah Piesse  
Shannon Reid  
Liz Rombawa  
Neb Ryland  
Louise Sutton  
Claire Taylor  
Olga Ward  
Moirá Westmore  
Jacquie Wright

### Tenor

John Beamish  
Rod Gonzales  
Allan Griffiths  
Peter Handford  
David Lancaster  
John Milton  
Donald Moore  
John Moreton  
John Murphy  
Grant O'Neil  
Andrew Paterson  
Jay Reso  
Rey Rombawa Jr  
Christopher Ryland  
Simon Tang  
Stephen Turley  
Malcolm Vernon  
Matthew Vukomanovic  
Brad Wake

### Bass

Justin Audcent  
Michael Berkeley-Hill  
Charlie Bond  
Allan Davies  
Tony Errington  
Ken Gasmier  
Stephen Hastings  
Brian Kent  
Tony King  
Benjamin Lee  
Justin Low  
Andrew Lynch  
Tony Marrior  
Benjamin Martis  
Patrick Melling  
Peter Ormond  
Jim Rhoads  
Glenn Rogers  
Steve Sherwood  
Christopher Smith  
Tim Strahan  
Robert Turnbull  
Mark Wiklund  
Donald Wilson  
Andrew Wong

# Artistic Report

2016 will undoubtedly be remembered as a “banner year” in the history of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. The musical relationship between the Orchestra and Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser, Asher Fisch, continued to strengthen and develop, with outstanding performances across the year. At the end of his first three-year contract it is clear that Asher is achieving his artistic vision for the Orchestra, improving its overall sound quality and creating a more distinctive, richer sound profile. It is notable that so many of the finest concerts throughout the year were conducted by Asher, which is a clear demonstration of the great artistic relationship and understanding that he has developed with his Orchestra.

The artistic highlight of 2016 was the Orchestra’s impressive performances on WASO’s first international tour in 10 years. Taking two different concert programs, with two different soloists and two different conductors to two very different parts of the world (Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Beijing and Shanghai in China) was a huge musical challenge, but

one that the Orchestra responded to magnificently, giving outstanding performances in all three cities. In Abu Dhabi the Orchestra performed an all-Wagner program conducted by Sir Richard Armstrong and with soloist Simon O’Neill, the great New Zealand heldentenor. This was the first performance by a major Australian performing arts company in the UAE and the Orchestra made a deep impression on the audience in Abu Dhabi with its idiomatic performance. In Beijing and Shanghai the Orchestra was joined by Principal Conductor Asher Fisch and soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The Orchestra’s performance of Mahler’s Symphony No.5 was a real tour de force, drawing acclaim from both audiences and critics alike. Most memorable was the encore performed in both cities, an arrangement of a popular Chinese song entitled *A Song My Mother Taught Me*, which deeply moved the audiences in both Beijing and Shanghai.

Other highlights of the 2016 season included a stunning performance of Mahler’s Symphony No.2 *Resurrection* conducted by Asher Fisch, which

was also notable for the impressive Perth debut of Australian soprano Kiandra Howarth. Conductor Simone Young returned to Perth for two concert weeks, the highlight of which was undoubtedly her Masters Series concert which featured Holst’s *The Planets* and Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* in the one program! Our new concertmaster Laurence Jackson gave a fine performance of Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto and also demonstrated his exceptional leadership when he stepped in on little notice to direct concerts due to be conducted by Bernard Labadie, who had to withdraw through ill-health.

The other important artistic highlight in the 2016 season was our concert with Asher Fisch and the great Australian tenor Stuart Skelton in November. This concert featured music by Bruckner and Wagner, and was the first step towards our two-year Wagner project in 2017/18 which will culminate in concert performances of Wagner’s opera *Tristan und Isolde* in August 2018.



# Artistic Report Cont.

Building ongoing relationships with great established artists and exciting emerging musicians is something WASO takes great pride in and that helps ensure a high level of music-making across the season. In 2016 we welcomed back returning and regular guest conductors including Simone Young, Andrew Grams, Johannes Fritzsch, Paul Dyer, Guy Noble, Benjamin Northey, Christopher Dragon, Christopher van Tuinen and Stephen Layton and soloists Behzod Abduraimov, Stuart Skelton, Simone Lamsma, Ning Feng, Alban Gerhardt, Stefani Irányi, Steve Davislim, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Baiba Skride, Fiona Campbell, Andrew Collis, Paul McMahon, Andrew Foote, Richard Butler, Sally-Anne Russell and Sara Macliver.

Making their WASO debut were conductors Kazuki Yamada and Daniel Blendulf and soloists Javier Perianes, Kiandra Howarth, Derek Welton, Mary Carewe, Eleanor Dennis, Helen Charlston, Gwilym Bowen, Robert Davies as well as WASO's own Brent Grapes and Laurence Jackson.

Once again our Morning Symphony Series featured eight concerts across the season and continued to attract large audiences. Our Family Series concerts are a vital part of our concert offerings, enabling the orchestra to engage with and entertain children, parents and grandparents in large numbers to Perth Concert Hall. We were also delighted to welcome back our former Assistant Conductor Christopher Dragon with whom we performed at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre and the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, as well as with the brilliant Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.

One of WASO's core beliefs is that great music is for everyone and we aim to bring world-class concerts and events to as broad an audience as possible. Our Pops Series, Films and other Special Events enable us to connect with a large and diverse audience both at Perth Concert Hall and in other venues across Perth. The first Perth performance by *Cirque de la Symphonie* astonished audiences with daring acrobatics, aerialists and contortionists, all accompanied by live music. British vocalist Mary Carewe performed timeless hits from the stage and screen in *From Broadway to Hollywood* and we continued our highly successful series of classic films performed live with orchestra at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre with *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

The orchestra commenced its concert season supporting the great American jazz diva Diana Krall at Kings Park, performed with Australian legends Hilltop Hoods at the Perth Arena, and in November paid tribute to the late David Bowie with a spectacular concert of his greatest hits sung by Australian rock/pop legends including Tim Rogers and Deborah Conway.

WASO also re-entered the commercial recording space, releasing a double CD on the ABC Classics label of the Brahms Symphonies, conducted by Asher Fisch.

## Australian Artists

As one of Australia's leading orchestras, WASO seeks to engage talented Australian artists and showcase their artistry to our audience. In 2016 we were delighted to work with the following Australian artists:

### Conductors

Simone Young, Benjamin Northey, Peter Moore, Christopher Dragon, Christopher van Tuinen, Guy Noble.

## Other Artists

Stuart Skelton, Kiandra Howarth, Fiona Campbell, Paul McMahon, Andre Foote, Andrew Collis, Sara Macliver, Sally-Anne Russell, Richard Butler, Jose Carbo, Jennifer Barrington, Shuan Hern Lee, Steve Davislim, Derek Welton, Tim Rogers, Steve Kilbey, Adalita, Deborah Conway, iOTA and the St George's Cathedral Consort.

## WASO Musicians

WASO was proud to highlight the exceptional talents of Principal Clarinet Allan Meyer, Concertmaster Laurence Jackson, Principal Cello Rod McGrath, Principal Trumpet Brent Grapes and Principal Horn David Evans in our 2016 season.

## New Music

WASO believes that it plays a vital role in developing new orchestral repertoire, particularly that written by Australian composers. We also believe in revisiting recent repertoire by Australian and international composers, helping their works to continue to have life in the concert hall. In 2016 we were pleased to welcome Lachlan Skipworth as our Composer in Residence and are eagerly looking forward to premiering the first work he composes as part of this residency in early 2017. We were delighted to give the first performance of Elena Kats-Chernin's *Prelude and Cube* in its new orchestral version, the work having originally been composed for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. We gave our first performance of Brett Dean's *Testament*, our second performance of Magnus Lindberg's *Expo* and gave the Australian premiere of Colin Matthew's exquisite arrangements of two Debussy Preludes.



# Artistic Report Cont.

## Broadcasts

The ABC supports WASO through regular broadcasts of our concerts throughout the year. A total of 36 broadcasts of WASO performances were heard on ABC Classic FM around Australia and around the world. WASO webcast two performances live, which are also available on-demand on the WASO website. Selected webcasts were screened at the Northbridge Piazza and the Symphony in the City webcast was also simulcast at theatres in Albany, Kalgoorlie and Port Hedland. It was also broadcast live at 24 Community Resource Centres, including Toodyay, Nannup, Kununurra, Bridgetown, Norseman and Cocos Island via Westlink.

## WASO Chorus

The WASO Chorus continued to be led by Chorus Director Christopher van Tuinen and Chorus Vocal Coach Andrew Foote. The chorus performed a wide variety of repertoire across the season including Mahler's Symphony No.2, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Elena Kats-Chernin's *Prelude and Cube*, Holst's *The Planets*, Mozart's Requiem, Handel's *Messiah* as well as various repertoire in our Last Night at the Proms and Symphony in the City concerts.

## Symphony in the City

In 2016 we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Symphony in the City, and this annual season-ending concert drew approximately 21,000 people to Langley Park. Guy Noble (who conducted the very first SITC) returned as both conductor and host, and we featured West Australian soloists in the program.

## Collaborations

### Perth International Arts Festival

Wynton Marsalis: *Swing Symphony*  
Conductor – Christopher Dragon

### West Australia Opera

Puccini: *Gianni Schicchi*  
[Opera in the Park]  
Conductor – Brad Cohen

Iain Grandage: *The Riders*  
Conductor – Brad Cohen

Donizetti: *L'elisir d'amore*  
Conductor – Stuart Stratford

### West Australian Ballet

*Beauty & the Beast*  
Conductor – Myron Romanul

Prokofiev: *Romeo and Juliet*  
Conductor – Nigel Gaynor



# Community Engagement Report

WASO's passion for and dedication to reaching audiences across Western Australia has resulted in new initiatives in our Community Engagement portfolio, and increased efforts to deliver live musical experiences across multiple platforms. In 2016, after stellar years of growth in this area of programming, WASO presented 434 Community Outreach and Education performances, workshops, classes and masterclasses to almost 20,000 participants and/or audience members in diverse locations across the State, and internationally.



## Community Outreach

WASO's Crescendo program is the only El Sistema inspired music education program in Western Australia, and WASO remain the only major performing arts company in the State working with Principals and school communities to deliver long-term sustainable free education programs in schools. The Crescendo program delivered weekly music lessons to all Pre-primary to Year 2 students at Medina Primary School and North Parmelia Primary School. The vocal based program seeks to empower participants and school communities by using music as a tool to develop the whole child through

group lessons, with opportunities for students to perform for peers and community, as well as experience chamber and full symphony orchestra performances throughout the year.

Onslow Kids Music Education Program (OK ME!) continued at Onslow Primary School in North-West WA, with teaching artists utilising percussion instruments and instrument making as the foundation to teach music.

Other Outreach programs continued to expand, with an increased number of Harmony Music visits to schools with Special Educational Needs

students. Our Hospital Orchestra Project (HOP) at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in partnership with the School of Special Education Needs: Medical & Mental Health with support from the Starlight Children's Foundation, was featured at the 8th Annual International Arts and Health Conference in Sydney.

Our Rusty Orchestra performed to a capacity audience with almost 50 amateur musicians from Perth and regional WA performing alongside WASO musicians in a 90+ orchestra.



# Community Engagement Report cont.

## Education

In 2016, our Education program received international acclaim as part of our tour to Abu Dhabi and China, with performances by our 15-piece Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO) and Brass Quintet for elementary and middle school students in Beijing.

EChO is one of the most established education programs delivered by an Australian Orchestra, and celebrated a landmark 21 years of Kids Cushion Concerts and in-school presentations.

Our Education Week reached more than 7,000 audience members across 7 days of performances at 5 different sites, presenting a total of 13 workshops and performances for audiences of all ages.

The ATAR Western Art Music Designated Works Concert, Open

Rehearsals, Backstage Pass and Morning Symphony concerts featured a number of our finest international soloists and conductors across a wide range of orchestral repertoire, and tailored resources supported teachers across all streams of the Music Syllabus in the Western Australian Curriculum. We also presented The Sound of Picture Books, featuring Parachute (Danny Parker - Author, Matt Ottley - Illustrator/Composer) in partnership with The Literature Centre.

WASO's commitment to visiting regional and remote locations across the state took WASO on the Road to Leinster, Leonora, Menzies, Boulder and Kalgoorlie. Our new Regional Arts Program (ReAP) is presented with support from the Department of Education. WASO are the only arts company accessing the Video Conferencing platform established as part of the Pilbara

Cities Education Project – E-Learning, to work alongside staff and schools across the Pilbara region to support academic and music extension.

## Young and Emerging Artists

WASO's Young & Emerging Artists programs are designed to bridge the gap between student life and professional career. With a focus on mentoring and hands on training experiences, we are delighted to be working with the UWA School of Music to develop a Masters in Orchestral Performance. Four composition students participated in the 3-month long Composition Project with Artistic Director James Ledger, and our International Artist Masterclass series featured Ning Feng (violin), Steve Davislim (voice) and Alban Gerhardt (cello).



# Philanthropy Report

WASO staff, musicians and Board enjoy a strong relationship with our philanthropic community of Patrons, Friends, bequestors and volunteers. 2016 was a remarkable year for the Orchestra. We toured for the first time in ten years, extended the tenure of Principal Conductor Asher Fisch for another three years and continued to expand our Education & Community Engagement programs. This was made possible in large part due to the generous and ongoing support from our philanthropic community. Excluding bequests, WASO Philanthropy income grew by 36% in 2016, with annual giving contributing over \$600,000.

Our Annual Giving community is an essential component of WASO Philanthropy and special acknowledgement and thank you goes to the Patrons who have made annual donations since 2007, celebrating ten years of giving to WASO:

Catherine Bagster  
David & Suzanne Biddles  
Gavin Bunning  
Betty Barker  
Gay & Bob Branchi  
Hon June Craig AM  
Stephen Davis & Linda Savage  
Gilbert George  
Graham & Barbara Goulden  
Deidre Greenfeld  
Alan Harvey & Dr Paulien de Boer  
Lilian & Roger Jennings  
Dr Patricia Kailis  
Noelle & Anthony Keller AM  
Rosalind Lilley  
S.B. Monger-Hay  
Pamela Platt  
Thomas & Diana Potter  
Alpha & Richard Pilpel OAM  
Joshua & Pamela Pitt  
James & Nicola Ridsdill-Smith  
Judith E Shaw

Mary Townsend  
Ros Thomson  
Janet Williams  
Jean & Ian Williams AO  
Anonymous (3)

Alongside Annual Giving, we have philanthropy campaigns supporting different programs that WASO undertakes over the course of the year. In 2016 our Touring Campaign directly supported our tour to China and Abu Dhabi as well as our local touring of ensembles across regional WA. Our Excellence Circle is leading the way in supporting our upcoming Wagner programs over the next two years, helping enable WASO to undertake one of our most exciting artistic programs to date.

Reach Out is a philanthropic campaign that supports our Education & Community Engagement programs. We are extremely grateful for the Trusts, Foundations and many individual donors who support these programs.

Patrons who purchased instruments for the WASO made a very special contribution to the Orchestra. In 2016 Susan Lorimer and Dr John Albright funded the purchase of a double bass made by luthier and WASO musician Andrew Tait for WASO's Education Chamber Orchestra (EChO)'s 21st birthday. Peter & Jean Stokes also made a generous contribution enabling WASO to purchase a tuba and cello.

## Compose Your Legacy

Leaving a gift in your Will is a decision that an increasing number of WASO Patrons and subscribers are making, enabling WASO to look towards the future with confidence. 2016 saw a significant increase in bequest

notifications with a total of 21 notifications, taking the total number to 63. We are deeply grateful to our Symphony Circle members.

One important way we connect with our philanthropic community is through events. Our Patrons & Friends Committee supports events we hold for the broader Patrons & Friends community and all proceeds from these events go toward the Friends of WASO Scholarship providing professional development opportunities for full-time WASO musicians. In 2016 this Scholarship was awarded to Associate Principal Cello Louise McKay. The Patrons and Friends Committee also volunteer their time to help with other WASO events, including fundraising at our Symphony in the City each year. Our thanks to the 2016 Patrons & Friends Committee:

Robyn Glindemann, President  
Barry Neubecker, Vice President  
Chris Rtshiladze, Secretary  
Dr Glenda Campbell-Evans  
Jennifer Gardiner (new 2016 member)  
Gina Humphries  
Wolfgang Lehmkuhl  
Graham Mahoney  
Margaret Marston  
Ian Watson (new 2016 member)  
Frankie Lo Surdo, Musician representative  
Alecia Benzie, WASO management representative

**And thank you to Christine Reitzenstein for her role as Musician representative in 2014 and 2015.**

# Philanthropy Report Cont.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

*We thank the following Patrons for their generous contributions to WASO Philanthropy across 2016.*

### Endowment Fund for the Orchestra

**This fund includes major donations and bequests**

Tom & Jean Arkley  
Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Minderoo Foundation  
Sagitte Yom-Tov Fund

### Estates

**WASO is extremely grateful for the bequests received from Estates**

Rachel Mabel Chapman  
Mrs Roslyn Warrick  
Judy Sienkiewicz  
Anonymous (3)

### Symphony Circle

**Recognising Patrons who have made a provision in their Will to the Orchestra**

Ms Davilia Bleckly  
Mr John Bonny  
Dr G Campbell-Evans  
Deirdre Carlin  
Anita & James Clayton  
Dr Michael Flacks  
Judith Gederö  
Robyn Glindemann  
Gwenyth Greenwood  
The Guy Family  
Emi & Warren Jones  
Rachael Kirk & Tim White  
Paul Lee (deceased)  
Wolfgang Lehmkuhl  
Deborah Marsh  
Tosi Nottage in memory of Edgar Nottage  
Nigel & Dr Heather Rogers  
Gavin Toovey & Jaehan Lee  
Sheila Wileman  
Sagitte Yom-Tov Fund  
Anonymous (31)

## Excellence Circle

**Supporting excellence across all we do**

Jean Arkley  
Bob & Gay Branchi  
Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Dr Patricia Kailis  
Torsten & Mona Ketelsen  
Rod & Margaret Marston  
Michael Utsler  
Leanne & Sam Walsh

### The WASO Song Book

**We are grateful to those who have supported new works commissioned for the Orchestra**

Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Peter Dawson  
Geoff Stearn

### The WASO Song Book group commission

Catherine Bagster in memory of Christine Bagster  
Bernard & Jackie Barnwell  
Geoff Stearn  
Anonymous (1)

## Reach Out

**Supporting our Education & Community Engagement programs**

John Albright & Susan Lorimer – purchase of the EChO Double Bass  
Jean Arkley  
Creative Partnerships Australia  
Ron & Penny Crittall  
Ken Evans  
Feilman Foundation  
The James Galvin Foundation  
Robyn Glindemann  
Barrie & Jude Lepley  
Mrs Morrell  
Lynn Murray  
Joan Reyland  
John & Alison Rigg  
Simon Lee Foundation  
The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation  
Jean & Peter Stokes  
Trish Williams – Strategic Interactions

## Crescendo Giving Circle

**Supporting our El Sistema-inspired 'Crescendo' music education program in Kwinana**

AOT Consulting Pty Ltd  
Euroz Charitable Foundation  
Madeleine King MP, Federal Member for Brand  
Rosalind Lilley  
Pamela Pitt  
Valerie Vicich

## Touring WASO

**Supporting WASO's international and regional tours in 2016**

*Lead Gifts (\$5,000 and above)*

Jean Arkley  
Gay & Bob Branchi  
Bridget Faye  
Gilbert George  
Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Keith Kessel  
Torsten & Mona Ketelsen  
John Poynton AO  
Michael Utsler  
Anonymous (1)

### Gifts

Bernard & Jackie Barnwell  
Pamela Beard  
Gebor Bedo  
Davilia Bleckly  
Bill & Jenny Bunbury  
Dr G Campbell-Evans  
Sandra Carruthers  
Keith & Frauke Chambers  
James & Anita Clayton  
Barry J Cobb  
Miss Ann Darby  
Associate Professor Wayne Iwan Lee Davies  
Lesley Davies  
Monique De Vianna  
Paul Duncan  
Bev East  
Rowena Eirrell  
Margaret Ellerton  
Jenny Fay  
David Forster  
Gary Giles & Stuart Pekin  
Dale Halnan

# Philanthropy Report Cont.

Laura Hamilton  
Dr Penny Herbert in memory of  
Dunstan Herbert  
Jo Hiller  
Helen Hollingshead  
Rosemary Howarth  
Margaret L Huntsman  
Cynthia Jee  
Bob Kelliher  
Wolfgang Lehmkuhl  
David Lewis  
Rosalind Lilley  
Gregg & Sue Marshman  
Pam Mathews & Mark Brogan  
Mrs Morrell  
Suzanne Nash  
Barry & Val Neubecker  
Marianne Nilsson  
Tim Pavy & Cathy Cole  
Pamela Platt  
Eveline Read  
Shirley Ridgwell  
John & Alison Rigg  
Leigh Robinson  
Chris Rtshiladze  
Michael Snell & Vicki Stewart  
Geoff & Christine Soutar  
Geoff Stearn  
David Stevenson  
Dr Donald Stewart  
Ann Ten Seldam  
Jan Trazona  
Sheila Wade  
Craig Whitehead & Gabrielle Shepherd  
Margaret Whitter  
B M Wilcox  
Ian Williams AO & Jean Williams  
Trish Williams – Strategic Interactions  
Sally Willis  
Anonymous (30)

## ANNUAL GIVING

We are proud to acknowledge the following Patrons for their generous contribution to WASO in the last twelve months through WASO's Annual Giving program.

## Principal Conductor's Circle

### Gifts \$20,000+

Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Patricia New

## Impresario Patron

### Gifts \$10,000 - \$19,999

John Albright & Susan Lorimer  
Gay & Bob Branchi  
Gavin Bunning  
Peter & Lesley Davies  
Tony & Gwenyth Lennon  
Margaret & Rod Marston  
Joshua & Pamela Pitt  
Trish Williams – Strategic Interactions

## Maestro Patron

### Gifts \$5,000 - \$9,999

Jean Arkley in memory of Tom Arkley  
Dr Roland & Therese Brand  
Ian & Elizabeth Constable  
Moira & John Dobson  
Tim & Lexie Elliott  
Bridget Faye AM  
Gilbert George  
Warwick Hemsley & Melissa Parke  
Dr Patricia Kailis  
Kelly Family  
Alison Kennedy  
Keith & Gaye Kessell  
Dr Ronny Low & Dr Emma Richardson  
Bryant & Louise Macfie  
Paula & John Phillips  
Peter & Jean Stokes  
Richard Tarala & Lyn Beazley AO  
Ros Thomson  
Alan Whitham  
Sue & Ron Wooller  
Anonymous (4)

## Virtuoso Patron

### Gifts \$2,500 - \$4,999

Prof Fred & Mrs Margaret Affleck  
Neil Archibald & Alan R Dodge AM  
Tony & Mary Beeley  
David & Suzanne Biddles  
Peter & Marjorie Bird  
Alan & Anne Blanckensee  
Dr G Campbell-Evans  
Prof Jonathan Carapetis & Prof Sue Skull  
Mark Coughlan & Dr Pei-Yin Hsu  
Stephen Davis & Linda Savage  
Richard Farago  
Robyn Glindemann

Brian & Romola Haggerty  
Sue Hovell  
Sylvia & Wally Hyams  
Eleanor John  
Michael & Dale Kitney  
Mrs Morrell  
Jane & Jock Morrison  
Anne Nolan  
Tim Pavy & Cathy Cole  
Dr Lance Risbey & Ms Elizabeth Sachse  
Melanie & Paul Shannon  
Gail & Tony Sutherland  
Gene Tilbrook  
M & H Tuite  
Stan & Valerie Vicich  
Ian Watson  
Joyce Westrip OAM  
Andrew & Marie Yuncken  
Anonymous (2)

## Principal Patron

### Gifts \$1,000 - \$2,499

Caroline Allen & Sandy Dunn  
Prue Ashurst in memory of Eoin Cameron  
Margaret Atkins  
Dan & Gail Bam  
Betty Barker  
Noelle Beasley  
Michael & Nadia Berkeley-Hill  
Kevin Blake  
Matthew J C Blampey  
Namy Bodinner  
Susy Bogle  
Peter & Eve Boland  
Dr & Mrs P Breidahl  
Jean Brodie-Hall AM  
James & Gay Brown  
Marilyn & Ian Burton  
Dr Anne Chester  
Peter & Sue Clifton  
David Cooke  
Arthur & Nerina Coopes  
Hon June Craig AM  
Gay & John Cruickshank  
Rai & Erika Dolinschek  
Julian Dowse  
Bev East  
Megan Edwards  
Lorraine Ellard



# Philanthropy Report Cont.

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Dane Etheridge & Brooke Fowles  
Annette Finn  
P & J Fisher  
Don & Marie Forrest  
E & EA Fraunschiel  
Dr Andrew Gardner  
Roger & Ann Gillbanks  
Graham & Barbara Goulden  
Jannette Gray  
Deidre Greenfeld  
Grussgott Family Trust  
Richard B Hammond  
Pauline & Peter Handford  
Dr Penny Herbert in memory of  
Dunstan Herbert  
Jacoba Hohnen & Stuart Cooksey  
Michael Hollingdale  
Helen Hollingshead  
John & Katrina Hopkins  
J & S Huan  
Jim & Freda Irenic  
Cynthia Jee  
Lilian & Roger Jennings  
Anthony Kane in memory of Jane  
Leahy-Kane  
Bill Kean  
Noelle & Anthony Keller AM  
Stephanie & John Kobelke  
In memory of Eileen Hayes  
Irving Lane  
Paul Lee (deceased)  
Meg Lewis  
Teresa & Jemima Loveland  
Graham & Muriel Mahony  
Gregg & Sue Marshman  
Betty & Con Michael AO  
Mrs Carolyn Milton-Smith in loving  
memory of Emeritus Prof John Milton-  
Smith  
Hon Justice S R Moncrieff  
Valmae & Geoff Morris  
Val & Barry Neubecker  
Delys & Alan Newman  
Dr P J Noble  
John Overton  
Ron & Philippa Packer  
Michael & Lesley Page  
Athena Paton  
Rosemary Peek  
Charmian Phillips in memory of Colin

Craft  
Pamela Platt  
Thomas & Diana Potter  
Barry & Dot Price  
Dr Leon Prindiville  
Chester Reeve  
Joan Reyland  
John & Alison Rigg  
Leigh Robinson  
Nigel & Dr Heather Rogers  
Gerry & Maurice Rousset OAM  
Roger Sandercock  
Dr R & J Schwenger  
Glenice Shephard  
Julian & Noreen Sher  
Laurel & Ross Smith  
PAI Smith & DA Harry  
Michael Snell & Vicki Stewart  
Geoff & Christine Soutar  
Ruth Thomas  
Gavin Toovey & Jaehan Lee  
Mary Townsend  
James & Rosemary Trotter  
Dr Robert Turnbull  
Maggie Venerys  
Adrienne & Max Walters  
Diana Warnock  
Watering Concepts  
Ann Whyntie (deceased)  
Dai & Anne Williams  
Ian Williams AO & Jean Williams  
Jim & Gill Williams  
Judith Wilton & David Turner  
Hilary & Peter Winterton AM  
Anonymous (27)

## **Tutti Patron**

### **Gifts \$500 - \$999**

Geoff & Joan Airey  
Ian Apps  
Catherine Bagster  
Merle I Bardwell (deceased)  
Bernard & Jackie Barnwell  
Shirley Barraclough  
Mrs Berwine Barrett-Lennard  
Pamela M Bennet  
John & Sue Bird in memory of Penny  
Bird  
Dermot & Jennifer Blackweir  
Elaine Bonds

Diane & Ron Bowyer  
Alison Bunker & Myles Harmer  
Lucia Buralli  
Ann Butcher & Dean R Kubank  
Michelle Candy  
Nanette Carnachan  
Claire Chambers & Dr Andrea  
Shoebridge  
Fred & Angela Chaney  
Dr Sarah Cherian  
Lyn & Harvey Coates AO  
Agatha & Alex Cohen AO  
Helen Cook  
Gina & Neil Davidson  
Professor Wayne Iwan Lee Davies FRSB  
Jop & Hanneke Delfos  
Judy Dolan  
Simon & Pamela Douglas  
Mrs G Ewen  
Maxine & Bill Farrell AM  
Joan Gagliardi  
Jennifer & Stephen Gardiner  
George Gavranic  
Elaine Gimson  
Isobel Glencross  
Pitsamai & Kevin Green  
David & Valerie Gulland  
Alan Harvey & Dr Paulien de Boer  
Eric & Elizabeth Heenan  
John Hill  
Christopher, Julie, Rosemary &  
Bronwyn Hudson  
Peter Ingram  
Peter S Jones  
Warren & Emi Jones  
B M Kent  
Dorothy Kingston  
Nelly Kleyn  
Ulrich & Gloria Kunzmann  
John Kusinski & Annie Motherway  
Trevor & Ane Marie Lacy  
Martin & Ruth Levit  
Megan Lowe  
The Lucas Family  
Mary Ellen in memory of Kerensa  
Geoff Massey  
Jennifer & Arthur McComb  
James Meneghello & Mabel Chew  
S B Monger-Hay  
André & Barbara Morkel  
Dr Peter Moss  
Phuong Nguyen

# Philanthropy Report Cont.

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Peter O'Sullivan  
Dr Walter Ong & Graeme Marshall  
Marjan Oxley  
Graham & Hildegarde Pennefather  
Bev Penny  
Adrian & Ruth Phelps  
Alison & John Price  
James & Nicola Ridsdill-Smith  
Paul Roberts  
Chris & Serge Rtshiladze  
Her Excellency The Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC  
Carole Sexton  
The Sherwood Family  
Paul & Margaret Skerritt  
Hendrik Smit  
Dr L Sparrow & Family  
Peggy & Tom Stacy  
Eleanor Steinhardt  
In Memoriam of Mr Andrew David Stewart  
Lisa & Andrew Telford  
Ruth E Thorn  
Patricia Turner  
Margaret Wallace  
John & Nita Walshe  
Anne Watson  
Joy Wearne  
Patricia Weston  
Dr Chris & Mrs Vimala Whitaker  
B M Wilcox  
Geoff Wilkinson  
Violette William  
Janet Williams  
Chris Ziatis  
Anonymous (26)

## **Friends**

### **Gifts \$40 - \$499**

Thank you to all our 753 Friends who supported WASO through their gift.



# Corporate Development Report

A combination of new partnerships and renewed commitment from WASO's long-term sponsors contributed to a successful year in Corporate Development during an economically challenging time. In 2016, WASO retained 86% of its partnerships and welcomed a record number of new supporters.

WASO is very proud of the strong and successful partnership established with **Wesfarmers Arts** and in 2016 they continued to lead WASO's family of corporate partners as Principal Partner - supporting the company's mission *to touch souls and enrich lives through music*.

Alongside **Wesfarmers Arts**, the long-term commitment and support from WASO's network of partners provided an important foundation for many artistic, education and community activities.

- 2016 marked the 10th Anniversary of WASO's free and largest community concert – **City of Perth** Symphony in the City which saw the orchestra perform to approximately 21,000 people in Langley Park and reach many more across the state through webcasts and broadcasts. The 10th Anniversary celebrations were bolstered with thanks to support from **Lotterywest** and **Water Corporation**.
- WASO also acknowledges **Healthway** and **MACA Limited** for their ongoing and growing support of WASO's flagship Masters Series and Classics Series, respectively.
- WASO's Tertiary Education partnership with **UWA** was secured for a further three years as the framework for a Masters in Orchestral Performance continued

to take shape.

In 2016, WASO was delighted to secure a number of new partnerships and welcome back some previous sponsors:

- WASO is grateful to **Woodside** for making a generous contribution towards the Orchestra's annual artistic and community programs.
- WASO was thrilled to establish a new arts partnership with **Tokyo Gas** who joined as Sonata Partner, supporting the Musician Chair - Principal Cello, Rod McGrath.
- **Perth Airport** provided support toward a special Harmony Music session for the students of Moorditj Noongar Community College, Middle Swan, a school of disadvantaged Aboriginal students who come from backgrounds of generational poverty.
- WASO also established an exciting new partnership with the prestigious **COMO The Treasury** to provide accommodation and hospitality for visiting artists.
- After a brief sojourn, **Juniper Estate** and **Happs Wines** returned as Margaret River Wine Partners providing premium wines for guests to enjoy at WASO's corporate functions and event.

A major artistic and community engagement achievement, WASO's first international tour in 10 years was made possible with the generous support of a number of partners and we sincerely thank **The State Government of Western Australia** through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department for State Development and Department of Culture and Arts, **Rio Tinto**, **Lepley Properties**, **Driftwood Pty Ltd**, **COMO The Treasury** and

## Metals of Africa.

Tour events were also gratefully supported by WASO partners, **Pierro** and **Howard Park Wines**.

WASO also acknowledges the support of Australia's Embassies in Abu Dhabi and Beijing, and Consulate in Shanghai for their collaboration and keen engagement in local events.

Throughout the year WASO's corporate partners were treated to networking events offering exclusive access to "behind-the-scenes" experiences. **On Stage with the WASO Chorus** offered sponsors and philanthropic supporters a unique insight into the world of a symphonic chorus with first-hand experience as guests joined the WASO Chorus during a rehearsal warm-up.

On the eve of WASO's International Tour, WASO hosted a **Farewell Gala Dinner** at Frasers, Kings Park where over 200 guests dined with Principal Conductor Asher Fisch, virtuoso pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the Orchestra. Guests were warmly welcomed by Chairman, Janet Holmes à Court and The Premier of Western Australia and heard about the Orchestra's preparations for their performances.

Executive Manager Artistic Planning, Evan Kennea provided sponsors an overview of the upcoming season at the **2017 with WASO** event. This provided some special season highlights and support for sponsors in planning and maximising their sponsorship benefits in the year ahead.

Finally, the corporate events calendar came to a close as we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the spectacular annual community concert, **City of Perth Symphony in the City** under the stars at Langley Park.



# 2016 Corporate Partners

**WASO thanks all 2016 corporate partners for their long-term vision and commitment:**

Aquinas College  
City of Perth  
Clayton Utz  
COMO The Treasury  
EY  
Future Logic  
Grace Removals Group  
Hale School  
Happs Wines  
Heyder & Shears  
Healthway  
Howard Park Wines  
Japan Australia LNG (MIMI)  
Juniper Estate  
Leeuwin Estate  
Lotterywest  
MACA Limited  
Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsui E&P  
Penrhos College  
Perron Group  
Perth Airport  
Pierro Margaret River Vineyards  
RICOH  
Singapore Airlines  
Star Physio  
Stott Hoare  
The Perth Mint  
The West Australian  
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# West Australian Symphony Orchestra Pty Ltd

## Corporate Governance Statement

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### General

As the largest performing arts company in Western Australia, WASO is committed to high standards of corporate governance.

WASO is a wholly owned subsidiary of WASO Holdings Limited. The Board consists of a maximum of ten directors.

The Company's Board is currently made up of 8 highly qualified individuals with credentials across a wide spectrum including backgrounds in business, music, law, accounting, economics, marketing, investment and banking.

### Role of the Board

The Board is responsible for providing strategic guidance to the Company, and for the effective oversight of management. As such the Board is accountable for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra's overall performance and for ensuring the Company performs its functions in a manner consistent with sound commercial practice.

The Board has adopted a charter which defines the roles and responsibilities of the board and management. A separate board policy (BS-005 "Authority Limits") ensures an appropriate delegation of authority to management.

The Board sets the Company's key objectives and strategies through a rolling five year strategic plan, which is revised annually. It also approves the artistic program and budget on an annual basis, and monitors the major risks facing the organisation.

New Board members are provided with appropriate information to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities, including the Board Charter, Constitution and other relevant information.

### Board Sub-Committees

In order to deal with the many issues that confront the Orchestra and to assist the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities, a number of Board sub-committees have been formed. These comprise the following:

#### Artistic

Mark Coughlan  
Keith Kessell

#### Finance, Audit and Risk

Anne Nolan  
Paul Shannon  
Julian Sher

#### Development, Marketing & Sales

Barrie Lepley  
Mike Utsler

#### Accommodation

Janet Holmes à Court AC  
Julian Sher  
Barrie Lepley

#### Nominations & Remuneration Committee

Janet Holmes à Court  
Barrie Lepley  
Keith Kessell

#### WAVE

Paul Shannon  
Mark Coughlan  
Barrie Lepley

The sub-committees each have a charter that defines the role of the committee, its members, terms of reference and duties. The sub-committees meet on a regular basis and meetings are minuted. The minutes are tabled at Board meetings and any issues raised from the minutes are discussed and dealt with as appropriate. The Board sub-committee structure is regularly reviewed.

This Committee reporting structure allows the Board to receive and review regular comprehensive reports on all key business areas.

### Board Size, Composition & Terms of Appointment

The Board is comprised of an appropriate number of well qualified individuals who have a proper understanding of the current and future issues facing the organisation. All Board members are non executive.

The composition of the Board is regularly reviewed to ensure that the composition meets the current and future needs of the Company. Directors are appointed for specific terms and re-appointment is not automatic. The Board does not believe that a maximum term of tenure would be in the best interests of the Company.

### Ethical Decision Making

The Board is committed to maintaining ethical and responsible decision making processes based on the principles of fairness, integrity and honesty and to ensure compliance with Australian laws and regulations.

Directors who may have a material personal interest in a matter to be considered by the Board or a board committee are required to make the nature of that interest known and must not be present while the matter is being considered. Details of such disclosures are recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Where an issue to be considered by the Board or a board committee is thought to present a Director with a potential conflict of interest, that Director will not be provided with the related material in the first instance.

The Board has adopted the code of conduct promulgated by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

# West Australian Symphony Orchestra Pty Ltd

## Corporate Governance Statement Cont

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### **Integrity in Financial Reporting**

The Board requires the CEO and CFO to attest in writing that the Company's financial reports present a true and fair view of the Company's financial condition and operational results and are in accordance with relevant accounting standards.

The Board has established a Finance, Audit & Risk Committee that has a charter and includes at least one member who has financial expertise. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee considers the effectiveness of the external auditor on a regular basis.

### **Management of Risk**

The Board has approved a risk management policy and implemented a risk management program, designed to identify the sources of risk, quantify the impact of these risks and any related controls, and reduce risk through practical and cost effective measures.

The program involves the development of standards throughout the Company, which require awareness and action from all sub-committees to minimise risks and losses. In addition, the Company uses risk management techniques, including insurance, to reduce the financial impact of any uncontrollable or catastrophic losses. The Company carries sufficient insurance for the size and nature of its business to protect its assets.

The Company's risk management framework is reviewed annually by the Board and the risk environment is monitored regularly for changes that may be relevant to the Company.

### **Board Performance Appraisal**

The Board has participated in an external review of its performance in 2015. The Board has also undertaken to ensure such a review is completed at least once every two years. In alternate years, the Directors will conduct an informal review of the Board's performance during the previous twelve months.

### **Remuneration Practices**

The Board adopts remuneration policies that are designed to attract and retain talented and motivated individuals and to encourage enhanced company performance. The Board has input to the remuneration of the CEO and Principal Conductor.

Board members do not receive any remuneration from the Company.

### **Interests of Stakeholders**

The legitimate interests of stakeholders are recognised by the Board. Procedures have been established to guide compliance with legal obligations in areas such as OHS and to ensure the timely provision of relevant information to funding agencies.



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