

MOSAIC



PORT
FAIRY
SPRING
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
2025

10-12 OCTOBER
portfairyspringfest.com.au

COLIN BROOKS MP MINISTER FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



There is a reason why people keep coming back to the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival. For 35 years the festival has attracted visitors from far and wide to this wonderful part of our state to celebrate music and creativity with the local community. Over 3 days, more than 70 established and emerging artists and musicians will showcase their talents across the town's theatres, community venues and open spaces. Highlights this year include an interactive musical performance for children, the unique Port Fairy Ring of Bells, free programming for schools, master classes for local rising

talent, and a closing gala featuring instrumentalists and local singers of all ages. The Victorian Government is proud to support this event which epitomises Port Fairy's vibrant arts scene and community spirit. It's a drawcard for tourists, and its benefits for the local community and economy are far-reaching. The festival's longevity is a testament to the vision and hard work of the festival team, the quality of the artists featured, and the dedication of the volunteers and supporters who help bring it to life. Happy 35th birthday to the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival - here's to another year of memorable and inspiring experiences!

PENNY HUTCHINSON FESTIVAL CHAIR



It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to this year's celebration of music, musicians, and community spirit. Immersed in the heart of Port Fairy, our Festival has long been a beacon of cultural vibrancy; uniting artists, audiences, and the picturesque charm of this coastal gem of a town. Monica and Stefan's 2025 program is a testament to our commitment to artistic excellence and diversity. Across three days, we will host a myriad of performances, from classical masterpieces to contemporary innovations, showcasing artists both cherished and emerging. This year's theme, "Mosaic" reflects our dedication to fostering connections through music – transcending geographical, cultural, and generational divides. With this in mind, we have some new events which will invite anyone to be part of the Festival. Our Festival owes its success to the unwavering support of our supporters from government, sponsors, generous individuals and the local community. Your generosity sustains the vision that makes Port Fairy a cultural destination year after year. To our artists, whose creativity and passion illuminate each performance, and to our tireless volunteers, whose many hours of dedication ensure the smooth flow of events, I extend heartfelt gratitude from the board. I encourage you to immerse yourself in the Festival's offerings – whether in the long tradition of small ensemble classical offerings or the contemporary, or the outdoor. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning as a longtime supporter, I trust you will find inspiration, joy, and connection here. Thank you for being part of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival. Let the music move you, at a time we need it more than ever.

MONICA CURRO & STEFAN CASSOMENOS ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

MOSAIC – the ancient practice of assembling thousands of tiny pieces into an exquisitely unified image – multi-faceted, textural, and an artwork much greater than the sum of its parts. In 2025 PFSMF explores the metaphorical symbolism of *MOSAIC* to represent the unique threads of our individual human DNA, bloodlines and heritage; to rejoice in the miracle of how millions of notes in the hands of master musicians are crafted into stunning sonic stories; and to pay homage to the Ancient Greek origins of the word itself, which celebrates the inspiration of the Muses in all artistic endeavours. We unveil a boundless spectrum of pigments – from the familiar wavelengths of Mozart, Chopin, Schubert, Liszt, Sibelius, Brahms, Bizet, Bach and Beethoven – to the nuanced tones of Stravinsky, Poulenc, Albeniz, Messiaen, Mompou, Schulz-Evler, Britten, Prokofiev, and Korngold – from the lustre of Piazzolla, Gade, Agri, Carli, Lecuona, and Nazareth – to the blushing shades of Bartók, Crumb, Skalkottas, Khachaturian, Tan Dun, Hosokawa, Ngurah, Seletsky, and Lutosławski. We marvel at the antique dyes of Purcell, Lully, Scarlatti, Colombi, Cabezón, Jiménez, Seixas, Anglés, Milano, Attaignant, Visée, Erlebach, Abel, Piccinini, Fischer, Kapsperger, Dowland, and Pachelbel – and at many so ancient, we have no name by which to call them. Our prism is brightly burnished with the breathtakingly fresh hues of Elena Kats-Chernin, Aaron Wyatt, Alma Mahler, Rebecca Clarke, John Zorn, Kate Moore, Maria Grenfell, Kaija Saariaho, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, Marc-André Hamelin, Nicholas Pollock, Wally Gunn, Kym Alexandra Dillon, Stefan Cassomenos, Paul Dean, Lee Bradshaw, and Neeharika Shyju – including four to be witnessed by you for the very first time. We are blessed with an atelier of expert artisans, including esteemed tesserae polishers Jonathan Békés, Zoë Black, Monica Curro, Rohan Dasika, Eclective, Phoebe Green, Caroline Henbest, Nils Hobiger, Molly Kadarauch, Jenny Khafagi, Hannah Lane, Christopher Moore, Nicholas Pollock, Douglas Rutherford, and Timo-Veikko Valve; lauded colourists Philip Arkinstall, Emmanuel Cassimatis, Francesco Celata, Charles MacInnes and Amos Roach; eminent lapidaries Phil Carroll, James Crabb, Louise Devenish, Peter de Jager, Kaylie Melville, Zela Papageorgiou, Hamish Upton, and Port Fairy's Ring of Bells; and finally, to give our *MOSAIC* the breath of life, we present Mia Robinson, Ruth Roshan, Lior, Jude Perl, Louis Hurley, Judith Dodsworth, Aidan Hodder, Jeremy Kleeman, Merlyn Quaife, Nathan Lay, Peter Rose, T-Shirt Opera, The Consort of Melbourne, Vox Plexus, the PFSMF Chorus, and our now-legendary PFSMF Children's Chorus – joining you all this October to lovingly craft our iridescent weekend in glowing Port Fairy.





Sum - mon mem' - ries with a stroke of the keys

mp *mf*

Instrumental to Life

KAWAI

KAWAI OPENING GALA: MOSAIC

A MUSICAL KALEIDOSCOPE

FRIDAY 8.00PM | REARDON THEATRE

\$59 | \$52

AARON WYATT *Djeran*

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN *Eliza Aria*

WITOLD LUTOSŁAWSKI *Variations on a Theme by Paganini* (arr. Crabb)

GEORGES BIZET | PABLO DE SARASATE | EFREM ZIMBALIST

Carmen Fantasy (arr. Cassomenos)

JOHANNES BRAHMS *Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor, Op 25*

Mia Robinson *Soprano* | Zoë Black *Violin* | Monica Curro *Violin* |

Jenny Khafagi *Violin* | Caroline Henbest *Viola* | Christopher Moore *Viola* |

Jonathan Békés *Cello* | Molly Kadarauach *Cello* | Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello* |

Rohan Dasika *Double Bass* | Francesco Celata *Clarinet* |

James Crabb *Classical Accordion* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Our 2025 grand tour of the mosaic of musical heritages begins in Noongar country, deep in the Southwest sanctum of the world's oldest continent, as solo violist Christopher Moore and Festival strings conjure Aaron Wyatt's heartfelt evocation of dewy mornings, flowering banksias, and the hues of an ageless landscape dotted with red gums. We then glide into the world's most-loved Aussie vocalise, *Eliza Aria* from Elena Kats-Chernin's ballet *Wild Swans*, featuring ascendant star soprano Mia Robinson. Virtuoso classical accordionist James Crabb and Festival Co-Director Stefan Cassomenos team up for Lutosławski's adrenalin-charged incarnation of everybody's favourite Paganini caprice, and are then joined by esteemed colleagues for an arrangement of an adaptation based on a fantasy on Bizet's famous frenzy of Spanish Gypsy blockbusters. Our Festival opener concludes with Brahms' own moment of Gypsy extravaganza indulgence, with its peak-Hungarian turbocharged *Rondo alla Zingarese* finale, completing our tracklist of delectable ingredients for a dazzling gala – never to be forgotten!



CHRONOLOGY

DREAMING OF TIME IMMEMORIAL

FRIDAY 8.00PM | LECTURE HALL

\$59 | \$52

AMOS ROACH *Petyan from The Six Seasons*

ANONYMOUS *Ricercar* (Ness. 69)

FRANCESCO DA MILANO *Fantasia 34 'La Compagna'*

ANONYMOUS *Untitled (4857 B3v)*

FRANCESCO DA MILANO *Fantasia 5*

FRANCESCO DA MILANO *Ricercar 2*

PIERRE ATTAINGNANT *La Roque*

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART *Clarinet Quintet in A major, K 581*

ALMA MAHLER *Fünf Lieder* (arr. Colnot)

HAROLD SELETSKY *Klezmer Fantasy Concertino for Clarinet and String Quartet*

Amos Roach *Didgeridoo* | Nicholas Pollock *Theorbo* | Mia Robinson *Soprano* |

Philip Arkinstall *Clarinet* | Monica Curro *Violin* | Jenny Khafagi *Violin* |

Caroline Henbest *Viola* | Molly Kadarauach *Cello* | **Ectective:** Lachlan MacLaren *Violin* |

Rollin Zhao *Violin* | Eunise Cheng *Viola* | Daniel Smith *Cello*

Dreaming of tens of thousands of years of human history, we find ourselves on the sacred Western Victorian sandstone of Gariwerd with the phenomenal artistry of Amos Roach's *Petyan*, a narrative of a thousand generations of springtimes; whilst in medieval Italy, amongst the Roman ruins, a wandering trovatore strums an anonymous tune of indeterminable age and origin on his theorbo, then pens a newly imagined *Fantasia* or *Ricercar*, unwittingly laying the foundations for centuries of harmonic and melodic invention; Mozart picks up the thread, creating one of his most treasured gifts to humanity; a young Alma Mahler is inspired to masterfully set poetry by Dehmel, Hartleben, Falke, Rilke and Heine and waits 10 years before her husband allows her to publish; finally, Seletsky reunites us with the musical embodiment of centuries of displacement and migration – and we keep dreaming, of tens of thousands of years of human history.



RUTH ROSHAN: SALON NOIR

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF EUROPE

FRIDAY 10.00PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL

\$45 | \$39

Ruth Roshan *Voice, Mandolin* | Phil Carroll *Accordion* | Rollin Zhao *Violin* | Nils Hobiger *Cello* | Philip Arkinstall *Clarinet* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Ruth Roshan tells a great story of her first encounter with live Argentinean Tango in Paris at the age of 23 – of what must have been an unimaginably powerful experience for a young classical mandolinist from Warrnambool. Fast forward to now, and with her many ensembles including Tango Noir and Chamber Noir, she has recorded four albums of melodic tango-inspired pieces and songs, toured the world, and gathered an exceptional group of musicians around her in the process. Roshan is a born storyteller with a compelling vision – to transport her listeners through moonlit scenes of waltzes on cobblestones and rain drenched embraces; sometimes with her own music, sometimes with arrangements of Piazzolla, Gade, and Cohen; irreverently cavorting across times and styles, genres and moods, ranging from cinematic classical to European Tango, from the French waltz to the habanera. She talks us through at every step, leading the way as we journey to the bittersweet heart of the 1930s European salon.

(includes beverage)



RESONANT ARTEFACTS

PETRUSHKA, PUNCH & PULCINELLA

SATURDAY 10.00AM | REARDON THEATRE

\$39 | \$32

IGOR STRAVINSKY *Trois mouvements de Petrouchka*
PAUL DEAN *Punch and Judy* (World Premiere*)
IGOR STRAVINSKY *Suite Italienne* (from *Pulcinella*)

Zoë Black *Violin* | Peter de Jager *Piano* / PLEXUS: Monica Curro *Violin* | Philip Arkinstall *Clarinet* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Our resident polymath pianist Peter de Jager draws us on a deep dive into the tragicomic archetype of the subversive puppet, with Stravinsky's own piano arrangement of three scenes from his iconic 1911 ballet *Petrushka*, created for pianist Artur Rubinstein in 1921. The composer admitted that he himself could not play it, for want of adequate left-hand technique! PLEXUS then present their newly commissioned world premiere trio, *Punch and Judy – a ballet in four scenes* for violin, clarinet and piano, by prolific Queensland composer Paul Dean, in which he pays homage to Stravinsky's deranged puppets, *Pulcinella* and *Petrushka*, and Milhaud's *Scaramouche* before them. Finally, to complete the unholy trinity of malevolent marionettes, de Jager returns with master puppeteer Zoë Black to pull (and play!) the strings of Stravinsky's ballet *Pulcinella*, in a violin and piano version collaboratively reworked with violinist Samuel Dushkin. This *Suite Italienne*, featuring melodies artfully borrowed from Italian baroque composers Gallo, Monza, and Pergolesi, is an elegant banquet of neoclassical effervescence.

**Dedicated by the composer to the memory of the great music lover and patron, Jan Grant.*

Paul Dean's commission is generously supported by Michael Aquilina.



VENDESTINY

THE POWER TO EVOKE

SATURDAY 10.00AM | LECTURE HALL

\$39 | \$32

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *Vanishing Act*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *Then, the sound of bells*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *The open road*

FRANZ LISZT *Au lac de Wallenstadt*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *The rain's coming in*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *Seamstress' tale*

KEITH JARRETT *Part IIc ('Memories of Tomorrow', from 'The Köln Concert')*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *Readygo*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *Take this with you*

KYM ALEXANDRA DILLON *The Waves*

Kym Alexandra Dillon *Piano*

Kym Alexandra Dillon is an award-winning composer, pianist, and presenter currently based in Melbourne and Geelong. She is continuously engaged across a broad spectrum of genres and contexts, from contemporary classical composition, orchestration and arranging, through to jazz performance, accompanying, community choir leading and public speaking about music. Her original works have been commissioned by many presenters, including Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Musica Viva, and Melbourne Recital Centre, and her music has been performed in Australia, the U.K., North America, Romania and Italy. Dillon makes her PFSMF debut with a recital of her brand new pieces that invite the listener to explore the mosaic of worlds that a single piano can conjure, celebrating the imagination and the piano's power to evoke. Alongside, she presents works by Franz Liszt and Keith Jarrett, two artists whom she regards as greatly having influenced her sound. Dillon's arrestingly beautiful compositions and mesmerising playing create an atmosphere of exquisite enchantment.



HARMONIC ARTISANS

MUSIC AS THE LANGUAGE OF YEARNING

SATURDAY 11.30AM | REARDON THEATRE

\$39 | \$32

FRYDERYK CHOPIN *Mazurkas: Op 50 No 3 in C-sharp minor;*

Op 6 No 3 in E major; Op 7 No 1 in B-flat major;

Op 24 No 2 in C major; Op 30 No 2 in B minor;

Op 41 No 3 in B major; & Op 56 No 1 in B major

LEE BRADSHAW *Trio* (World Premiere)

PLEXUS: Monica Curro *Violin* | Philip Arkinstall *Clarinet* |

Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Chopin wrote at least 59 Mazurkas, inspired by the traditional Polish dance Mazur. They were composed steadily throughout his life, perhaps as entries in a personal musical journal or diary. Festival Co-Director Stefan Cassomenos presents a group of seven, capturing a moment in Chopin's life – having just completed his Op 50 No 3, contemplating the future, casting his mind back to his first published set from 1830-31 on the cusp of leaving his Polish homeland for Paris, recounting the years and Mazurkas in between, before finding the resolve to write his next *Mazurka, Op 56 No 1*.

PLEXUS then present the world premiere of their newly commissioned Trio from luminary Melbourne composer Lee Bradshaw – an impassioned work emerging from a deeply personal landscape, shaped by the composer's strong familial ties to his mother's Eastern European heritage, and the complex experience of cultural identity as an Australian-born artist.

Both Chopin and Bradshaw channel a profound sense of longing and displacement, reflecting the subtle but persistent ache of belonging to a culture that is both intimately familiar and yet, at times, just out of reach.

Lee Bradshaw's commission is generously supported by Michael Aquilina.



ANTIQUE SHARDS

SOLO THEORBO - VIRTUOSO FARRAGO

SATURDAY 11.30AM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH \$39 | \$32

NICHOLAS POLLOCK *Prelude in C sol fa ut*

JOHAN CASPAR FERDINAND FISCHER *Allemande "Le Clio"* (arr. Pollock)

NICHOLAS POLLOCK *Chaconne 'D'apres les Maîtres Anciens'*

GIOVANNI GIROLAMO KAPSPERGER : *Preludio 16, libro quarto; Toccata 6, libro quarto; Preludio 8, libro quarto; & Toccata 3, libro terzo*

JOHAN CASPAR FERDINAND FISCHER *Prelude, allemande, courante, sarabande* (arr. Pollock)

JEAN BAPTISTE LULLY *Entrée d'Apollon* (arr. de Visée)

ALESSANDRO PICCININI: *Tenore detto il Mercatello; Corrente detto Nasazzo fatta sopra il Mercatello; & Gagliarda*

ROBERT DE VISÉE *Suite en E si mi: Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Gigue et sa double*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Suite in G major: Prelude BWV 1007* (arr. Pollock)

PHILIPP HEINRICH ERLEBACH *'Ich sei auch wo ich sei, Bleibt mein Andenken treu'* (arr. Pollock)

CARL FRIEDRICH ABEL *Allegro in D major from the Drexel manuscript* (arr. Pollock)

Nicholas Pollock *Theorbo*

Farrago delves into the authentic music-making of the baroque theorbo player. At a moment's notice, these musicians might be asked to play a piece from an opera or a recent ballet, improvise, compose a new piece, or even perform music originally intended for another instrument. Theorbo mastermind Nicholas Pollock devises an ingenious program capturing that experience – the selected pieces have been arranged, composed, and stolen to please the ear of the discerning listener, featuring music from 17th and 18th century Europe. Much of the music presented here has never been performed on the theorbo, ranging from the well-known J. S. Bach to the lesser-known but equally brilliant Carl F. Abel. We discover enchanting pieces by Philipp H. Erlebach and Johann C. F. Fischer, reimagined for an instrument forced by its tuning and quirks to transcend the complexities of baroque counterpoint. Presented alongside are works from some of the most notable theorbo players of the era, such as Giovanni G. Kapsperger, Alessandro Piccinini, and Robert de Visée – drawn from the rich farrago of baroque music.



PERCUSSION, CONVERSATION, DEGUSTATION

LUNCH WITH DURÉ DARA

SATURDAY 12.45PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL

\$45 | \$39

Speak Percussion:

Duré Dara *Percussion* | Kaylie Melville *Percussion* |

Zela Papageorgiou *Percussion* | Rohan Goldsmith *Sound Engineer*

Speak Percussion's virtuosic soundscape artists are led by Melbourne food industry legend, percussionist, and trailblazing women's equity activist Duré Dara OAM in a 'made-to-order' event presenting never-to-be-repeated 'courses' of improvised music, anecdotal storytelling, and locally sourced bites of food – nourishing for the body, mind and spirit!

"She's probably one of the best storytellers you'll ever meet."
– Melbourne Food and Wine Festival

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

(includes lunch and beverage)



ATTENTION, PLEASE!

ROSE AND CURRO KISS THE BLARNEY STONE

SATURDAY 12.45PM | BLARNEY BOOKS & ART FREE

Peter Rose *Speaker and Author* | Monica Curro *Speaker*

"Rose is a real shock to the system." – Peter Porter

Peter Rose – celebrated poet, playwright, actor, biographer and editor of *Australian Book Review* for 24 years – is also well known as one of Melbourne's most prolific and erudite music critics.

He joins Festival Co-Director Monica Curro in conversation about music, his extensive body of creative work, his fascinating life's journey (beginning with being the son of Collingwood champion Bob Rose) and his seventh and latest collection of poetry, *Attention, Please!*

"Rose writes like an intellectual libertine, radically reminding us that poetry should give pleasure, even as it may disturb or enlighten. The elegies, meditations, catalogues, satires, and odes that make up this collection range from the hilarious to the heartbreaking (often both), evoking moments that are equally replete with meaning and light as air." – David McCooy



TIME TRANSFIXED

REVELATIONS OF ETERNAL ECSTASY

SATURDAY 2.00PM | LECTURE HALL \$39 | \$32

OLIVIER MESSIAEN *Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus*

MARIA GRENFELL *Time Transfixed*

FRANCIS POULENC *Sonate pour violoncelle et piano*

Jonathan Békés *Cello* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Principal Cellist Jonathan Békés and Festival Co-Director Stefan Cassomenos unite to transport us to an alternate temporal continuum with three composers' expressions of hypnotic soundscapes. Inspired by a text from the Book of Revelation – "that there shall be time no longer" – Messiaen's transcendent *Quartet for the End of Time* was composed while he was interned in a German prisoner-of-war camp. In this fifth movement, the tempo marking is "infinitely slow, ecstatic", and in its "Praise for the Eternity of Jesus" invokes a suspension of time as we experience it – in the presence of The Divine. Fêted Australian composer Maria Grenfell takes her inspiration from surrealist artist René Magritte's "Time Transfixed" – a painting of a steam train emerging from a domestic fireplace, at once thermodynamic and frozen in the stasis of the artwork. Poulenc's gorgeous and rarely performed Sonata provides a nostalgic snapshot of a bygone Parisian era, with the characteristic fragrances of dance halls, cafés and salons. The sublime *Cavatina* provides an unearthly moment of reflective stillness, before thrusting us back to the carefree antics of the "real" world.



LUX AETERNA

THE ARTISTRY OF AARON WYATT

SATURDAY 2.00PM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH \$39 | \$32

AARON WYATT *The connections we make*

AARON WYATT *Under the canopy*

AARON WYATT *Lux Aeterna*

AARON WYATT *Cirrus*

AARON WYATT *The coming dawn*

Zoë Black *Violin* | Jenny Khafagi *Violin* | Aaron Wyatt *Viola* | Molly Kadarauch *Cello* | Rohan Dasika *Double Bass* | Amos Roach *Didgeridoo* | Emmanuel Cassimatis *Oboe* | Francesco Celata *Clarinet* | Charles MacInnes *Trombone* | Louise Devenish *Percussion*

Renaissance man Aaron Wyatt is an accomplished violist, conductor, composer, programmer and academic. The first Indigenous Australian to conduct a state symphony orchestra in concert, he has conducted for MSO, ASO, SSO, WA Opera, and Perth Festival. He is Director of Ensemble Dutala, Australia's first First Nations chamber ensemble. A long-term member of the award-winning Decibel New Music ensemble, he is also the developer behind the Decibel ScorePlayer app, the group's cutting edge, animated graphic notation software for the iPad.

Wyatt curates a prismatic retrospective of recent commissions for major presenters, composed for diverse instrumental combinations, and highlighting his variegated musical and conceptual interests – including the interplay of sound, the emergent poetic vision to which this gives way, glimpses of awe and beauty in the natural world, its fragility and its interaction with the human impact of our modern existence, and notions of community and of the freedom to be who we really are. Shimmering soundscapes depict lush canopies of forest, canvases of deep azure, the piercing first light of dawn, and the dramatic colours of blazing sunrise.



ANCESTRAL ECHOES

THE BELLS OF TIME

SATURDAY 2:00PM | REARDON THEATRE \$39 | \$32

Suzanne Brimacombe *Director* | Ring of Bells | Vox Plexus |

Ectective: Lachlan MacLaren *Violin* | Rollin Zhao *Violin* | Eunise Cheng *Viola* |

Daniel Smith *Cello* | Douglas Rutherford *Double Bass*

Bells have reverberated throughout human culture for at least 5000 years, from the earliest surviving ceramic ling in Neolithic China to the colossal Tsarsky Kolokol of Moscow – serving an infinity of deeply human purposes, with which our imagination associates them. The long history of their use as musical instruments struck a turning point with the evolution of the modern handbell in late 1600s England, and the birth of a new and uniquely synergistic genre of music-making – ensembles of handbell ringers seamlessly integrating to act as one instrument.

Minnesota-born Suzanne Brimacombe, Director and Conductor of the Ring of Bells, moved to Port Fairy in 2017 after completing an extensive career in music education, bringing with her a magnificent 3-octave chromatic set of Schulmerich bronze handbells. The evolution of the Ring of Bells has been due to a determined and dedicated group of women from the surrounds of Southwest Victoria. These players share the heavenly sonorities and deep seeded vibrational connections these magical bells possess.

The Ring of Bells combine with a vivid montage of instruments and voices to present a collection of traditional tunes that echo across generations – interspersed with more recent works they have inspired – including the Shaker song *Simple Gifts*, reclaimed English folk melody *Wondrous Love*, the anonymous round *Dona Nobis Pacem – Song of Peace*, and a Quaker setting of the famous 14th century words from Mother Julian of Norwich, *All Will Be Well*.



MOONLITE

A TRUE-CRIME QUEER LOVE STORY

SATURDAY 3.30PM | REARDON THEATRE

\$59 | \$52

WALLY GUNN | MARIA ZAJKOWSKI *Moonlite*

Miranda Hill *Co-Director* | Steven Hodgson *Co-Director*

The Consort of Melbourne: Katherine Norman *Soprano* | Kristy Biber *Soprano* | Elspeth Bawden *Soprano* | Timothy Reynolds *Tenor* | Jack Jordan *Tenor* | Lachlan McDonald *Baritone* | Louise Devenish *Percussion* | Kaylie Melville *Percussion* | Zela Papageorgiou *Percussion* | Hamish Upton *Percussion* | Phoebe Green *Viola*

Victorian Gold Fields history comes to life in *Moonlite*, an award-winning oratorio inspired by the diaries and letters of Andrew George Scott, an educated Irishman who rose to infamy as the bushranger "Captain Moonlite". Accused of crimes still considered inconclusively proven today, he was hanged in Sydney in 1880. Scott documented the events of his life in his own words in *The Death Cell Letters of Andrew George Scott* – revealing that his desire for justice was only surpassed by his love for fellow bushranger James Nesbitt.

Moonlite tells this true-crime queer love story in the form of a 90-minute oratorio for voices, percussion and viola, effortlessly transcending musical genres to paint a picture of Victoria's own star-crossed lovers, set uniquely in our Gold-rush-era past.

Winner of the Albert Maggs composition prize, this powerful work is presented in its Australian premiere season by Homophonic! – a leading voice championing queer classical music in performance, regional touring, and commissioning since 2011.

This performance is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



OPERA UNMASKED

ARIAS AND ANECDOTES

SATURDAY 3.30PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL

\$59 | \$52

Lisette Bolton *Soprano* | Chloe James *Mezzo-Soprano* | Alastair Cooper-Golec *Tenor* | James Billson *Baritone* | Angus Billson *Narrator* | Julian Wade *Piano* | Claire Billson *Producer, Director* | Katie Fisher *Producer, Director*

T-Shirt Opera presents Opera Unmasked – an open invitation to step into a world of passion, drama, storytelling and song, designed to demystify Opera and open it up to new audiences. Enjoy comedic anecdotes about the composers, the plots, and some of Opera's best loved arias, as our young team of T-shirt-wearing up-and-coming opera stars unmask the stories behind the songs.

Whether you're a seasoned opera lover or someone curious to explore it for the first time, this event promises to be both entertaining and enlightening – a new generation of talent brings centuries of opera to life!

"No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible." – W.H. Auden

This event is generously supported by the Cope-Williams Arts Foundation, which is committed to providing a supportive and collaborative environment for talented classical musicians to thrive. By nurturing the talent of these promising young musicians, the foundation is helping to secure the future of classical music and ensuring that it remains a vital and vibrant art form for generations to come. copewilliamsfoundation.com.au



EURASIAN EXPEDITION

MELODIES ACROSS CONTINENTS

SATURDAY 3.30PM | LECTURE HALL

\$39 | \$32

FRANZ LISZT *Capriccio alla turca sur de Motifs de Beethoven (Ruines d'Athènes)*

NIKOS SKALKOTTAS *3 Greek Folk Songs*

BÉLA BARTÓK | ZOLTÁN SZÉKELY *Romanian Folk Dances*

ARAM KHACHATURIAN *Trio for clarinet, violin and piano*

TAN DUN *Sorrow in the Desert, from Hero Sonata*

TOSHIO HOSOKAWA *"Mai" - uralte japanische Tanzmusik*

BUDHI NGURAH *9 Variasi Pelog*

NEEHARIKA SHYJU *New work (World Premiere)*

Monica Curro *Violin* | Francesco Celata *Clarinet* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Distinguished clarinetist Francesco Celata, of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, joins forces with Festival Co-Directors Monica Curro and Stefan Cassomenos, for an eclectic journey across continents. Our quest begins with the shifting Balkan borders of the Ottoman Empire, a musical melting pot celebrated by composers as diverse as Beethoven, Bartók, Liszt, and Skalkottas. We head towards the Caucasus with Khachaturian's homage to his Armenian heritage, then continue across the Great Steppe to the Western frontier of China with Tan Dun's ethno-musical excavation. We voyage to the Far East and to Southeast Asia, with Hosokawa's *Mai* and Ngurah's *Pelog* Variations, before completing our journey with a world premiere from emerging Australian composer Neeharika Shyju, in an exploration of her own cultural roots in South India.



DREAMCRAFTERS

EMERGING ARTISTS OF SOUTHWEST VICTORIA

SATURDAY 5:30PM | LECTURE HALL

\$32 | \$25

"The purpose of music is to understand better: to evolve and expand our inner world. Legends of many peoples deem music to be of divine origin; thus, when we have reached the boundaries of human understanding, music points beyond, into a world that cannot be explored but merely guessed at." – Zoltan Kodaly, 1944

Witness the next wave of vibrant Western Districts performers as they take to the stage for a sonic photomontage of their achievements as they aspire towards their VCE music studies, on their pathway to realising their artistic dreams.

With Kym Alexandra Dillon *Piano*



ANGELS & DEVILS

TANGO SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 8.00PM | REARDON THEATRE

\$59 | \$52

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Libertango* (arr. Crabb)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Concerto for two keyboards in C minor, BWV 1060* (arr. Crabb)

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN *Take Me Along*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Angels and Devils Suite* (arr. Crabb)

ANTONIO PABLO AGRÍ | JOSE CARLI *Desde Adentro* (arr. Crabb)

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Oblivion* (arr. Crabb)

Zoë Black *Violin* | Monica Curro *Violin* | Jenny Khafagi *Violin* |

Caroline Henbest *Viola* | Jonathan Békés *Cello* | Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello* |

Rohan Dasika *Double Bass* | Francesco Celata *Clarinet* |

James Crabb *Classical Accordion* | Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

On the fertile banks of the Río de la Plata, circa 150 years ago, a primordial plasma of rhythmic and harmonic energy conceived an immortal spirit – a genie that could not be contained, that reverse-colonised Europe, then the rest of the planet, spawned numerous sub-genres, and permanently implanted its DNA into the core genome of human culture. Irresistibly attractive – the offspring of its many multi-racial parents including *Milonga*, *Habanera*, and *Candombe* which variously trace their musical roots to Africa, Spain, Cuba, and the indigenous peoples of Uruguay and Argentina – its destiny was to become synonymous with Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) in whose hands it absorbed the polyphony of Bach and other classical influences. In the early 2020s lockdown era, while we all collected dust, it continued to multiply, infecting all six ravishing movements of *Take Me Along* by Australia's own queen of this genre, Elena Kats-Chernin. And to lead us in tonight's celebration, our very own internationally renowned king of the virtuoso classical accordion, Scotland-born Sydney-based James Crabb, heads up an all-star cast for an intoxicating body-and-soul immersion in TANGO.



LIOR + ECLECTIVE

LEGENDARY SINGER/SONGWRITER IN CONCERT

SATURDAY 8.00PM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

\$59 | \$52

Lior *Voice, Guitar* | **Eclective:** Lachlan MacLaren *Violin* | Rollin Zhao *Violin* | Eunise Cheng *Viola* | Daniel Smith *Cello*

Hailed for his dynamic and moving performances, singer/songwriter Lior has earned a reputation as one of Australia's finest live performers. Bursting on to the Australian music scene in 2005 with *Autumn Flow*, one of the most successful independent debut albums in Australian history, Lior earned three Aria nominations (including Best Male Artist) as well as Triple J's prestigious 'J Award' nomination for Album of the Year, with subsequent releases *Corner of an Endless Road* (2008) and *Tumbling into the Dawn* (2010) topping the charts for several weeks and garnering a further three Aria nominations. Lior's groundbreaking 2013 symphonic collaboration with Nigel Westlake, *Compassion*, continues to be performed regularly with all the major Australian orchestras and internationally. Featuring ancient texts in both Hebrew and Arabic, its success is a reflection of Lior's supreme gifts as a communicator, and has led to a plethora of stunning symphonic and chamber collaborations. Lior returns to PFSMF this year, accompanied by versatile string quartet Eclective, in a rare opportunity for us to witness his inspiring artistry up close, harking back to archetypal 'salon' concerts – where both audience and performer share an evening enjoying the connection that only proximity can offer.



JUDE PERL: SONGS FOR OVERTHINKERS

COMEDY SENSATION CONTEMPLATES CHAOS

SATURDAY 10:00PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL

\$45 | \$39

Jude Perl *Voice, Piano*

Jude is a multi-award winning singer, songwriter and comedian based in Melbourne. Texas born, but Melbourne bred, Jude has created a name for herself by writing and performing hilarious, yet brutally honest, stream-of-consciousness style lyrics, set to undeniably catchy and well-crafted songs.

In "Songs for Overthinkers" Jude holds up a mirror to life, ponders on whether to smash the mirror just to see how it would smash, remembers that it's probably going to mean seven years bad luck (or is it really?), asks a bunch of people whether she should smash the mirror, berates herself for being so superstitious and indecisive, finally finds the courage to smash the mirror, spends some time being horrified and berates herself for being so decisive, then eventually – skilfully and lovingly – gathers all the pieces together and transforms the shards into a brilliant new mirror – a mosaic – no, a disco ball! A disco ball of that same life, which makes us see it completely, wonderfully, differently... (see more)

(includes beverage)



HEIRLOOMS

REIMAGINING OUR MUSICAL INHERITANCE

SUNDAY 10.00AM | REARDON THEATRE

\$39 | \$32

TRAD. *A selection of traditional Scottish Reels* (arr. Crabb)

JOHANN PACHELBEL *Ciaccona in F minor*

FRANZ SCHUBERT *Arpeggione Sonata, D 821*

Zoë Black *Violin* | Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello* | James Crabb *Classical Accordion*

Maestros of the musical imagination, Zoë Black, Timo-Veikko Valve, and James Crabb, take us on the ultimate joyride on the superhighway of human creativity, celebrating this artform's limitless capacity for evolution and rejuvenation, with a selection of stirring keepsakes adoringly transformed into fresh new thrills. We begin with a deep breath of the crisp air of Scottish folk music, dancing our way through a medley of rousing traditional reels, in James' heartwarming arrangement for violin and classical accordion. Our next stop is a visit to the Holy Roman Empire where we discover that Johann Pachelbel, famous for his immortal *Canon in D*, did in fact write some other pieces of music as well, including the majestic organ chaconne in F minor, which we experience in this expert adaptation for classical accordion. Our final destination is Vienna, where we take a supreme leap into Franz Schubert's well-known masterwork, originally written for arpeggione and piano, here boldly reinterpreted as a sonata for cello and classical accordion. Buckle your seatbelts!



IBERIAN ICONS

PIANO WHIZ UNEARTHS TREASURES

SUNDAY 10.00AM | LECTURE HALL

\$39 | \$32

ERNESTO NAZARETH *Nenê*

ANTONIO DE CABEZÓN *Diferencias sobre 'El Canto del Caballero'*

JOSÉ JIMÉNEZ *Tiento*

DOMENICO SCARLATTI *Sonatas: K 490 in D major;*

K 491 in D major; & K 175 in A minor

CARLOS SEIXAS *Sonata No 15 in C minor*

RAFAEL ANGLÉS *Sonata in F major*

FEDERICO MOMPOU *Canción y Danza No 6*

ERNESTO LECUONA *La conga de media noche, from 6 Danzas Afro-Cubanas*

ISAAC ALBÉNIZ *El Albaicín, from Iberia*

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN *Étude No 6, "Esercizio per pianoforte, Omaggio a Domenico Scarlatti"*

Peter de Jager *Piano*

Prize-winning pianist Peter de Jager is one of Australia's most accomplished musicians, thrilling audiences with performances of music from Bach and Mozart to Xenakis and Dench, and intriguing them with his own compositions. Winner of the 2011 Australian International Chopin Competition, Peter performed the formidable complete solo keyboard works of Xenakis at the 2017 Melbourne Festival, and his performance of Chris Dench's monumental 98-minute *Piano Sonata*, which he commissioned, won him the 2017 Art Music Awards Performance of the Year. Together with Actor/Writer Bethany Simons he co-wrote and performed *Reception: The Musical*, which was nominated for a Greenroom Award, and delighted audiences Australia-wide (most notably at the 2019 PFSMF.) Peter makes a triumphant return to Port Fairy for multiple performances of mind-bogglingly virtuosic piano repertoire, including this blazing showcase of prized gems of the Iberian cultural sphere - from the 1500s-1600s with Cabezón and Jiménez, to more familiar Scarlatti and Albéniz, via exciting detours to Brazil and Cuba, and concluding with fellow virtuoso Marc-André Hamelin's own homage to Scarlatti.



APPARITIONS

BECKONING THE SHADOW REALM

SUNDAY 11.30AM | REARDON THEATRE

\$39 | \$32

JOHN ZORN *Road Runner*

GEORGE CRUMB *Apparition*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA *Le Grand Tango*

Judith Dodsworth *Soprano* | Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello* | Peter de Jager *Piano* |

James Crabb *Classical Accordion*

Superstar classical accordionist James Crabb launches us into the glorious pandemonium of John Zorn's *Road Runner*, an exhilarating maze of ever-changing style and instantly-recognisable musical quotation that propulsively ignites the spectre of our much-loved uncatchable Looney Tunes character. Sparks keep flying as electrifying soprano Judith Dodsworth and pianistic dynamo Peter de Jager combine superpowers to summon George Crumb's *Apparition*, his spellbinding setting of Walt Whitman's 1865 poem *When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd*, brimming with tenderness and mysticism. Crabb then returns to the stage with cello wizard Timo-Veikko Valve, a potent partnership to unleash the sizzling soul of Astor Piazzolla's flashy masterpiece, *Le Grand Tango*.



ANCIENT FRAGMENTS

ENGLAND THROUGH FOLKSONG AND ART SONG

SUNDAY 11:30AM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH \$39 | \$32

Louis Hurley *Tenor* | Hannah Lane *Triple Harp*

Tenor Louis Hurley, lauded for his “honeyed tenor” and “light finesse” (*Limelight Magazine, Sydney Morning Herald*), partners with internationally-acclaimed baroque harpist Hannah Lane, hailed as “a true master of this instrument” (*Australian Stage*), for a program that delves into the rich fabric of English musical heritage. Tracing an expressive lineage from the haunting songs of John Dowland and the poignant poetry settings of Henry Purcell through to the introspective beauty of Rebecca Clarke and the folk-inspired genius of Benjamin Britten, Hurley and Lane explore how English composers have long drawn from the well of vernacular tradition. Interwoven with much-loved English folk songs – some of which may have echoed through taverns and courts in Purcell and Dowland’s own time – this performance portrays the diverse cultural and emotional landscapes that have shaped England’s resplendent tapestry of harmony and melody.



PERCUSSION, CONVERSATION, DEGUSTATION

LUNCH WITH DURÉ DARA

SUNDAY 12.45PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL \$45 | \$39

Speak Percussion:

Duré Dara *Percussion* | Kaylie Melville *Percussion* |
Zela Papageorgiou *Percussion* | Rohan Goldsmith *Sound Engineer*

Speak Percussion's virtuosic soundscape artists are led by Melbourne food industry legend, percussionist, and trailblazing women's equity activist Duré Dara OAM in a 'made-to-order' event presenting never-to-be-repeated 'courses' of improvised music, anecdotal storytelling, and locally sourced bites of food – nourishing for the body, mind and spirit!

"She's probably one of the best storytellers you'll ever meet." –
Melbourne Food and Wine Festival

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

(includes lunch and beverage)



ATTENTION, PLEASE!

ROSE AND CURRO KISS THE BLARNEY STONE

SUNDAY 12.45PM | BLARNEY BOOKS & ART

FREE

Peter Rose *Speaker and Author*

"Rose is a real shock to the system." – Peter Porter

Peter Rose – celebrated poet, playwright, actor, biographer and editor of *Australian Book Review* for 24 years – is also well known as one of Melbourne's most prolific and erudite music critics.

He joins Festival Co-Director Monica Curro in conversation about music, his extensive body of creative work, his fascinating life's journey (beginning with being the son of Collingwood champion Bob Rose) and his seventh and latest collection of poetry, *Attention, Please!*

"Rose writes like an intellectual libertine, radically reminding us that poetry should give pleasure, even as it may disturb or enlighten. The elegies, meditations, catalogues, satires, and odes that make up this collection range from the hilarious to the heartbreaking (often both), evoking moments that are equally replete with meaning and light as air." – David McCooley



SONIC SCULPTURES

AN AFTERNOON OF AUSTRIAN ARABESQUES

SUNDAY 2.00PM | REARDON THEATRE

\$39 | \$32

ADOLF ANDREY SCHULZ-EVLER *Concert Arabesques on themes by Johann Strauss, "By the Beautiful Blue Danube"*

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD *Piano Trio in D major, Op 1*

Monica Curro *Violin* | Jonathan Békés *Cello* |

Stefan Cassomenos *Piano* | Peter de Jager *Piano*

A fearless master interpreter at the keyboard, Peter de Jager takes us on a luxurious cruise down the Beautiful Blue Danube, with Schulz-Evler's incandescently virtuosic and mellifluous piano transcription of the world's most beloved waltz. Hot on his heels, the intrepid trio of Jonathan Békés, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's star Principal Cellist, and Festival Directors Monica Curro and Stefan Cassomenos, follow in the great Austrian tradition of evocative cinematic soundscapes with Erich Korngold's prodigious *Trio* Opus 1. Composed when he was just 12 years old, he takes the tenderness and charm of Johann Strauss II and expands the scene with his intensely overt romanticism, which was to become the hallmark of his sumptuous later works for opera, ballet, and his Oscar-winning scores to many films in the Golden Age of Hollywood.



TESSELLATED VISIONS

CRISS-CROSSING THROUGH TIME

SUNDAY 2:00PM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH \$39 | \$32

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007*
KATE MOORE *Lidy's Piece*
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH *Prelude from Cello Suite No. 4 in E-flat major, BWV 1010*
ANNE LEILEHUA LANZILOTTI *ko'u inoa*
GIUSEPPE COLOMBI *Chiacona*
KAIJA SAARIAHO *Dreaming Chaconne*
JEAN SIBELIUS *Theme and Variations*

Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*

Powerhouse cellist Timo-Veikko Valve returns to Port Fairy with a visionary recital program, testament to his active commitment to the music of our times through curating and commissioning, which has seen him delivering world premiere performances of multiple concertos and other significant works written especially for him. His versatility shines as he effortlessly leaps across centuries and dances between styles. With Bach as a starting point, the serenely uplifting *G Major Prelude* blooms into *Lidy's Piece*, Kate Moore's whimsical dance piece telling a mysterious ancient tale that, like birdsong, cannot be deciphered, while the dramatic *E-flat Major Prelude* heralds *ko'u inoa*, described by Lanzilotti as "a homesick bariolage based on the anthem *Hawai'i Aloha*." Colombi's famous *Chiacona* is the theme for Kaija Saariaho's dreamy variation, taking us to Tipi's native Finland for a grand Sibelius finale.



KINDER PROMS

A MUSICAL ADVENTURE FOR CHILDREN

SUNDAY 2:00PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL \$25 | CHILDREN FREE

LEE BRADSHAW *Four Poems by A.A. Milne*
SERGEI PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf* (arr. Bradshaw)

Eclective: Lachlan MacLaren *Violin* | Rollin Zhao *Violin* | Eunise Cheng *Viola* | Daniel Smith *Cello* | Lee Bradshaw *Narrator*

Step into the enchanting world of music and storytelling with Kinder Proms – a relaxed performance for children aged zero to a hundred! Music, humour, story-telling and drama combine for a uniquely Aussie presentation of Prokofiev's classic work for children, *Peter and the Wolf* – here rearranged and reimaged as *Peter and the Great White Shark!* – and the charm of the beloved poetry of A.A. Milne, creator of "Winnie-the-Pooh", brought to life in Lee Bradshaw's musical setting *Four Poems by A.A. Milne*.

Performed by exciting young string quartet Eclective, and narrated by Lee Bradshaw himself, this accessible sensory-friendly family concert promises laughter, wonder, and the joy of discovery for children and grown-ups alike.

Children are introduced to the individual instruments in a playful and interactive way, coming close to the music, and even participating in the performance. Help yourself to a bean bag, a picnic rug, or a cup of tea or coffee. Fun and fantasy for all the family – perfect for introducing little ones to the magic of live music!

(relaxed + accessible + sensory-friendly performance)



CLOSING GALA: EVA

AN EPIC STORY OF SURVIVAL

SUNDAY 3.30PM | REARDON THEATRE

\$59 | \$52

STEFAN CASSOMENOS *Eva* (World Premiere*)

Mia Robinson *Soprano* | Aidan Hodder *Baritone* | Jeremy Kleeman *Bass Baritone* |
Merlyn Quaife *Soprano* | Nathan Lay *Baritone* | **PFSMF Chamber Orchestra** :
Stefan Cassomenos *Conductor* | Monica Curro *Concertmaster* |
The Consort of Melbourne | **Vox Plexus** | **PFSMF Chorus** |
PFSMF Children's Chorus: Dermot Tutty *Director*

The 2025 Closing Gala features a gleaming array of soloists, the PFSMF Chamber Orchestra, The Consort of Melbourne, Vox Plexus, Port Fairy schoolchildren, and our combined Southwest Victorian PFSMF chorus, led by Festival Co-Directors Monica Curro and Stefan Cassomenos,

for the world premiere of *Eva* – the dramatic telling of the Southwest Victorian tale of the Loch Ard shipwreck of 1878, of which there were only two survivors, passenger Eva Carmichael and midshipman Thomas Pearce. Based on a meticulously researched and masterfully written libretto by Mary-Jane Gething, this new work composed by Stefan Cassomenos grapples with Eva's unthinkable story of survival, her fragile relationship with fate and destiny, and her symphony of emotions in the immediate aftermath and the events that followed. Presented as a semi-staged opera-in-concert, *Eva* is the compositional embodiment of something deeply and indescribably Australian, interwoven throughout with the universal themes and questions that form the human experience. Our whirlwind 2025 tour of the mosaic of human heritage, having taken us to so many different times and places, reaches its powerful conclusion right here in Southwest Victoria, as we come together on one shared stage to tell an epic story of our very own.

**Dedicated by the librettist to her late husband, Joseph Sambrook.*



"Raby 1" by Marion Manifold used with permission

COMMUNITY AND OUTDOOR EVENTS

TOP SECRET EVENT

SATURDAY 11:30AM - 12:30PM | VILLAGE GREEN

Join us on the Village Green for a light-hearted, welcoming event with a touch of musical mystery! No experience needed – just bring your curiosity and an open heart. Expect laughter, connection, and maybe a little magic, all with a tuneful twist. We won't say too much, but singing may be involved. Everyone is welcome, and surprises await! Full details to be announced on Saturday 11th October at 11:29am.

FLOWERPOT MUSIC

SUNDAY 9:30AM - 12:00PM | VILLAGE GREEN

Flowerpot Music by Elliot Cole is a participatory music event celebrating the sonic beauty of the humble flowerpot. Led by percussionist extraordinaire Louise Devenish, participants will be guided through a series of musical games to learn the piece. No musical experience is required to participate – just bring your own flowerpot! This event is open to everyone aged between 10 and 100. Full details to be announced on the Festival website. For enquiries and booking details, please contact festival administration at: contact@portfairyspringfest.com.au

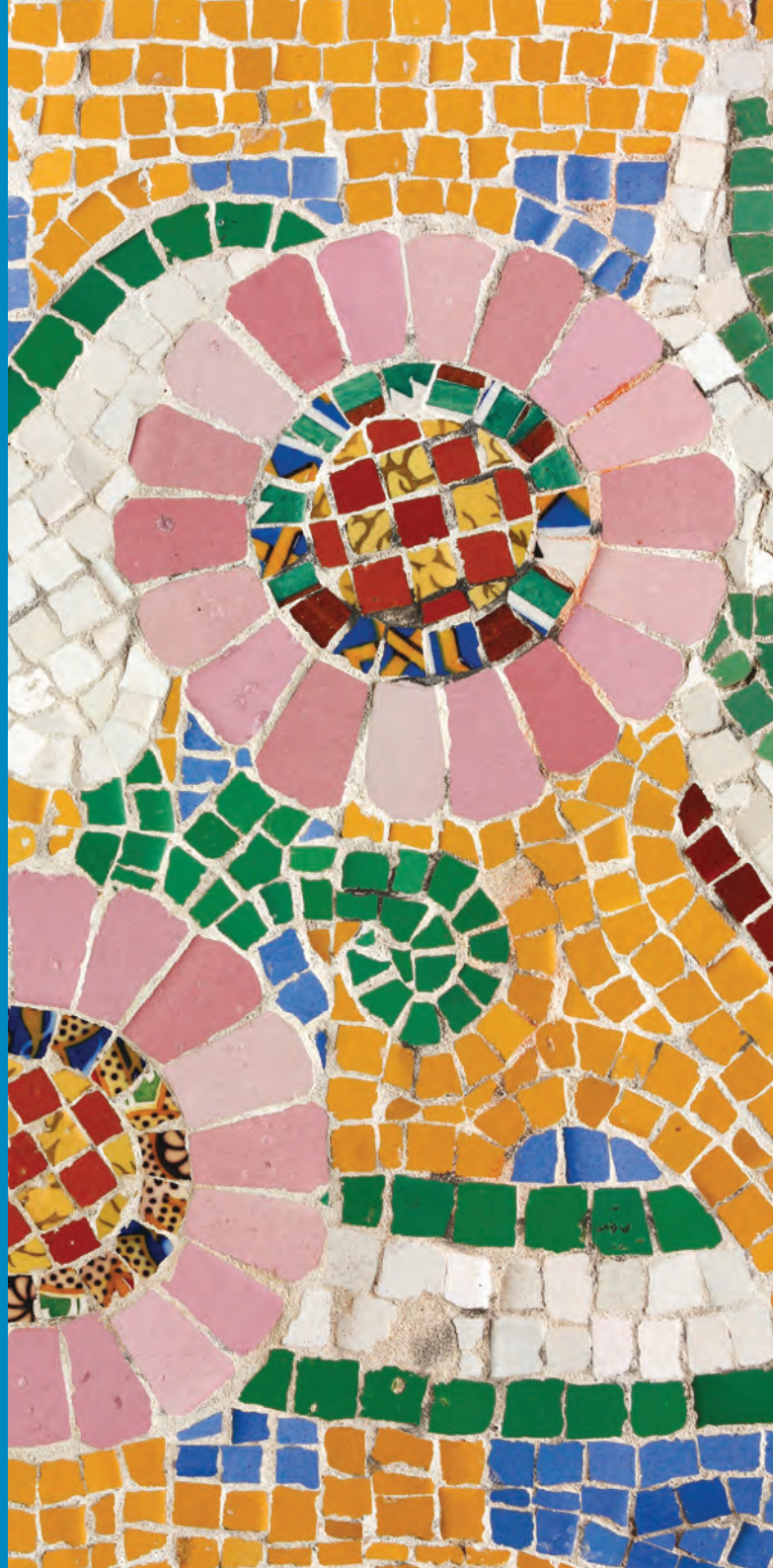
KAWAI POP-UP PIANO

Call in between concerts, or stay for some hours, at this popular event! Festival artists, masterclass students and audience members are all invited to give an impromptu performance at the Village Green on the Kawai Pop-Up Piano, which will be available throughout the Festival weekend for everyone to enjoy!

SPRING FESTIVAL WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9:00AM - 10:00AM | ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The iconic St John's Anglican Church was built in 1856 from local bluestone quarried within the church grounds, and has held continuous worship ever since. Join us for the local parish's early morning worship on Sunday 12th October, which will include a featured organ performance from Festival Co-Director Stefan Cassomenos.



EDUCATION

SCHOOLS CONCERTS: EL CAMINO

A JOURNEY INTO CULTURE AND MUSIC

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 10:00AM – 3:00PM | ST PATRICK'S HALL

El Camino (“The Journey”) is an immersive new show developed with the Australian group Sonido. El Camino celebrates the music of the performers’ Latin American heritage alongside musical influences from their home in culturally vibrant Western Sydney. Hear songs in ancient languages, performed with traditional instruments like the zampoña (pan-flute), charango (10-string guitar) and bombo (cow-hide drum), as the musicians share the heart and soul of their cultures.

Students will engage in interactive learning by playing percussion instruments, singing in language, and moving to captivating rhythms. El Camino shines a light on the richness of our immigrant cultures and celebrates the power of music to unite and inspire us all.

musicaviva.com.au/elcamino

SONIDO

MARCO ANTONIO CARVAJAL *Percussion, Vocals, Winds*

CÉSAR MARIN *Percussion, Strings, Vocals, Winds*

EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ *Strings, Vocals, Winds*

Generously supported by Community Bank Port Fairy and District (Bendigo Bank), by Moyne Shire, and by PFSMF patrons, these free events for Southwest Victorian primary school students are presented in partnership with Musica Viva Australia In Schools on Monday 13th October in Port Fairy. Local schools are invited to reserve places for their students. For enquiries and booking details, please contact festival administration at:

contact@portfairyspringfest.com.au

MASTERCLASSES

Come along and watch Festival artists present masterclasses throughout the weekend. Southwest Victorian music students are invited to sign up for this opportunity to work closely with renowned musicians in a relaxed and friendly setting. Festival Friends and visitors welcome. Places are limited and booking is essential. Presented with the generous support of Moyne Shire, and of Community Bank Port Fairy and District (Bendigo Bank). Full details to be announced on the Festival website. For enquiries and booking details, please contact festival administration at:

contact@portfairyspringfest.com.au



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	PERFORMANCE	TIME	VENUE
FRIDAY	KAWAI OPENING GALA: MOSAIC A Musical Kaleidoscope	8.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	CHRONOLOGY Dreaming of Time Immemorial	8.00pm	Lecture Hall
	RUTH ROSHAN: SALON NOIR Journey to the Heart of Europe	10.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
SATURDAY	RESONANT ARTEFACTS Petrushka, Punch & Pulcinella	10.00am	Reardon Theatre
	VENDESTINY The Power to Evoke	10.00am	Lecture Hall
	HARMONIC ARTISANS Music as the Language of Yearning	11.30am	Reardon Theatre
	ANTIQUÉ SHARDS Solo Theorbo – Virtuoso Farrago	11.30am	St John's Anglican Church
	PERCUSSION, CONVERSATION, DEGUSTATION Lunch with Duré Dara	12.45pm	St Patrick's Hall
	ATTENTION, PLEASE! Rose and Curro Kiss the Blarney Stone	12.45pm	Blarney Books & Art
	TIME TRANSFIXED Revelations of Eternal Ecstasy	2.00pm	Lecture Hall
	LUX AETERNA The Artistry of Aaron Wyatt	2.00pm	St John's Anglican Church
	ANCESTRAL ECHOES The Bells of Time	2.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	MOONLITE A True-Crime Queer Love Story	3.30pm	Reardon Theatre
	OPERA UNMASKED Arias and Anecdotes	3.30pm	St Patrick's Hall
	EURASIAN EXPEDITION Melodies Across Continents	3.30pm	Lecture Hall
	DREAMCRAFTERS Emerging Artists of Southwest Victoria	5.30pm	Lecture Hall
	ANGELS & DEVILS Tango Spectacular	8.00pm	Reardon Theatre
SUNDAY	LIOR + ECLECTIVE Legendary Singer/Songwriter in Concert	8.00pm	St John's Anglican Church
	JUDE PERL: SONGS FOR OVERTHINKERS Comedy Sensation Contemplates Chaos	10.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
	HEIRLOOMS Reimagining our Musical Inheritance	10.00am	Reardon Theatre
	IBERIAN ICONS Piano Whiz Unearths Treasures	10.00am	Lecture Hall
	APPARITIONS Beckoning the Shadow Realm	11.30am	Reardon Theatre
	ANCIENT FRAGMENTS England through Folksong and Art Song	11.30am	St John's Anglican Church
	PERCUSSION, CONVERSATION, DEGUSTATION Lunch with Duré Dara	12.45pm	St Patrick's Hall
	ATTENTION, PLEASE! Rose and Curro Kiss the Blarney Stone	12.45pm	Blarney Books & Art
	SONIC SCULPTURES An Afternoon of Austrian Arabesques	2.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	TESSELLATED VISIONS Criss-Crossing Through Time	2.00pm	St John's Anglican Church
	KINDER PROMS A Musical Adventure for Children	2.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
CLOSING GALA: EVA An Epic Story of Survival	3.30pm	Reardon Theatre	



1

Reardon

Reardon Theatre
35 Bank Street
Port Fairy

2

St John's

St John's Anglican Church
21 Regent Street
Port Fairy

3

St Patrick's

St Patrick's Hall
9-11 William Street
Port Fairy

4

Lecture Hall

Sackville Street
Port fairy

5

Blarney Books & Art

37 James Street
Port Fairy

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets can be booked through our website at www.portfairyspringfest.com.au/program/
If you have any difficulty making your bookings please call us on (03) 5568 3030 or 0429 372 287 or email tickets@portfairyspringfest.com.au

Refunds

Please note a change to our refund policy in 2025.

*If you cannot attend a concert you must advise us by **COB Tuesday, September 30**. A refund equal to the value of tickets cancelled will be paid to you. No refunds will be issued from October 1, although tickets may be exchanged for other tickets in the Festival program.*

If we have to cancel or reschedule a concert, we will fully refund the cost of tickets or replace them with tickets to another concert, whichever you prefer.

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

Supporters of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival have the opportunity to enhance their involvement by becoming Friends of the Festival. The annual subscription is \$43 for a single membership and \$73 for a double membership and entitles you to:
Priority booking of tickets and seat allocations
Invitation to the Launch of the Festival Program in Melbourne or in Port Fairy
Invitation to the Festival Opening Reception in Port Fairy.

To become a Friend simply join online at portfairyspringfest.com.au/become-a-friend/

NEXT YEAR

The Festival relies on continuing philanthropic support to enable us to present high quality performances to a wide audience. Over the past 35 years we have had thousands of loyal and enlightened patrons and supporters, without whom our Festival would not have survived and thrived - every contribution of any size is so gratefully received and makes a real difference to our capacity to deliver an inspirational and uplifting program at Festival time, and with events all throughout the year. Donations can be made at: portfairyspringfest.com.au/donate/

The Port Fairy Spring Music Festival Inc Public Fund is listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under Subdivision 30-F of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

2026

The Port Fairy Spring Music Festival next year will be held over the weekend of 9 - 11 October 2026. For updates about the Festival during the year please visit the website: portfairyspringfest.com.au

OUR SPONSORS

We acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors
and all other supporters and donors

KAWAI

CREATIVE VICTORIA



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Festival



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VICTORIAN
OPERA



THANK YOU

Port Fairy Spring Music Festival is a celebration of fine music making within the idyllic surrounds of picturesque Port Fairy. We invite you to enjoy our exciting collection of concerts across one vibrant weekend in October. For tickets, Friends Memberships and donations please visit portfairyspringfest.com.au or call us on 0429 372 287

For Media enquiries please contact Courtney Smith: hello@courtcomms.com



We acknowledge the Gunditjmara people, traditional owners of the areas now encompassing Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Woolsthorpe and Portland, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

PFSMF acknowledges the many photographers whose images are featured in our 2025 program. All photographer's details are listed on our website.