

2023



**PORT  
FAIRY  
SPRING  
MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**

13-15 October

[portfairyspringfest.com.au](http://portfairyspringfest.com.au)

**HABITAT**

WELCOME

**STEFAN CASSOMENOS AND MONICA CURRO** *Artistic Directors*

HABITAT - from a microscopic cell to the vast expanse of the universe, our natural environment is the space inhabited by all living organisms, where we not only exist, but where we have the safety to thrive and evolve. In 2023 PFSMF explores and celebrates the miracle of life in nature, highlighting its exquisite fragility and the urgent necessity to do everything to ensure its survival. We tell and sing our stories of microcosms and macrospheres, and the histories of our ecosystems through the pinnacle of human achievement - creative expression.

The Festival's bucolic biosphere reverberates with over a hundred artists from all corners of the cultural firmament - an organist, a harpist, a didgeridoo player, an author, a visual art curator, a set designer, two conductors, two percussionists, three brass players, four pianists, four world premiere composers, eight woodwinds, eleven strings, fifteen vocal soloists, a bevy of bellringers, and a colossal chorus.



Amos Roach's and Brenda Gifford's healing songlines connect us with Country and Culture; Steve Davislim joins PLEXUS in giving voice to mythological narratives through both Australian and Schubertian lenses; Kristian Chong, Alex Raineri and Stefan Cassomenos traverse panoramic pianistic territory; Michelle Nicolle champions women in jazz; and Sarah Curro and Gareth Colliton spotlight Australian composers and Southwest visual artists. Vox Plexus make their Port Fairy debut, and we warmly welcome back Festival favourites The Sutherland Trio. Gerry Connolly and Leyland Jones split our sides with capricious cabarets, and Thomas Heywood brings the organ of St John's to life.

To bring it all home, this year's trilogy of epic galas showcase three of the greatest symphonies of all time - Beethoven's Pastoral, Mahler's Titan, and Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms - celebrating habitats of terrain, ancestry, and spirit.

EVENTS  
→



## OPENING GALA: PASTORALE

Central European  
Symphonic Landscapes

Friday 7.30pm / Reardon

\$59 / \$52

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral', Op 68* (arr. Fischer for string sextet) /  
DVORAK *Piano Quintet in A major, Op 81*

Zoë Black *Violin* / Sarah Curro *Violin* /  
Caroline Henbest *Viola* / Molly Collier-  
O'Boyle *Viola* / Michelle Wood *Cello* /  
Noah Lawrence *Cello* / Caroline  
Almonte *Piano*



## SONGS IN THE KEY OF W

Celebrating Wondrous Women in  
Song with Michelle Nicolle

Friday 10.00pm / St Patrick's

\$45 / \$39 \*includes beverage

In her welcome return to our 2023 Festival, Michelle Nicolle presents her original compositions alongside her favourite song discoveries all composed by women - including Abbey Lincoln, Bernice Petkere and Irene Higginbotham - spanning over 100 years of the great jazz tradition.

Michelle Nicolle *Voice* / Angela Davis *Alto Saxophone* / Jon Hunt *Clarinet and Tenor Saxophone* / Sam Anning *Bass* / Ronny Ferella *Drums*



## ARIOSO

Opera Beyond Words  
with Alex Raineri

Saturday 10.00am / Reardon

\$39 / \$32

MOZART *Overture from Le Nozze di Figaro* (arr. Chen) / RAINERI ... *after Dido...* /  
GOUNOD *Valse de Faust* (arr. Liszt) / WAGNER *Prelude from Tristan und Isolde* (arr. Kocsis) /  
WAGNER *Isolde's Liebestod* (arr. Liszt) /  
STRAUSS *Dance of the Seven Veils from Salome* (arr. Raineri)

Alex Raineri *Piano*



## SOUTHWEST RISING STARS

Protégés in Recital

Saturday 10.00am / Lecture Hall

\$32 / \$25

Southwest Rising Stars showcases the best and brightest performers from Southwest Victoria as they approach their VCE music studies. Join us in this celebration of exciting local talent, giving us a glimpse into the next generation of future music-makers.

with Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*



## PROMETHEUS

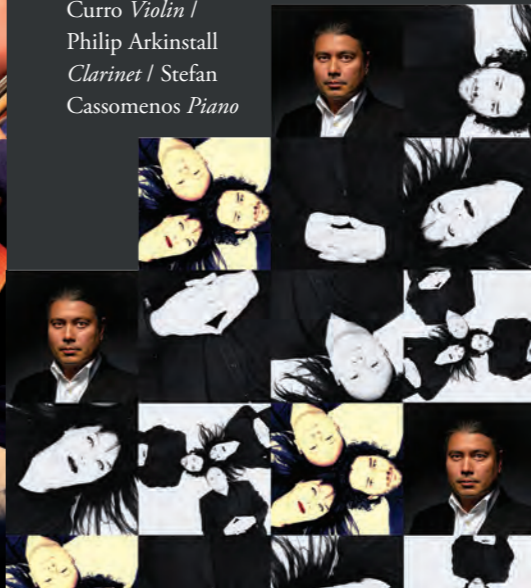
Steve Davislim and PLEXUS  
Recreate Mythic Lieder

Saturday 11.30am / Reardon

\$39 / \$32

MILLS *Ganymed and Leda* / SCHUBERT (arr. Cassomenos) *Die Götter Griechenlands / Philoktet / Atys / Die Liebesgötter / Memnon / Gruppe aus dem Tartarus / Ganymed / Freiwilliges Versinken / Prometheus*

Steve Davislim *Tenor* /  
PLEXUS: Monica  
Curro *Violin* /  
Philip Arkinstall  
*Clarinet* / Stefan  
Cassomenos *Piano*



## GREEN PASTURES

Arcadian A Cappella with  
Vox Plexus

Saturday 11.30am / St John's

\$39 / \$32

FINZI *I praise the tender flower* / FINZI *Clear and gentle stream* / DELIUS *To be sung on a summer night on the water I* / DELIUS *To be sung on a summer night on the water II* / DELIUS *On Craig Ddu* / Delius *Wanderer's Song* / BRITTEN *Marsh flowers* / Britten *Evening primrose* / KODÁLY *Mountain Nights I* / STENHAMMER *September* / STENHAMMER *I seraillets have* / SAINT-SAËNS *Calme des nuits* / SAINT-SAËNS *Les Fleurs et les arbres* / RICHARDS *Le baylere*

Vox Plexus: Lily Flynn / Elspeth Bawden / Liz Chong / Mei Wah Chan / Anish Nair / Dylan Casey / Thomas Drent / Lachlan McDonald





## INNER SONG

Insights from Margaret Sutherland's Biographer  
Saturday and Sunday 12.45pm  
Blarney Books / Free entry

Join author Jillian Graham in a lunchtime conversation with Co-Artistic Director Monica Curro, where they reveal Margaret Sutherland's remarkable and inspiring story, and shed light on this unsung heroine's enormous legacy to Australian music, musicians and audiences.

Jillian Graham  
Speaker and Author /  
Monica Curro  
Speaker



## DISKOGESANG

The Best of the Würst  
Saturday and Sunday 12.45pm  
St Patrick's / \$45 / \$39  
*\*includes lunch and beverage*

Cavendish luminary and basso profundo Leyland Jones, widely acclaimed for his 2021 Port Fairy Spring Music Festival Autumn Gala debut - *Nina (From Argentina)* - joins forcefully with Co-Artistic Director and aspiring singer-songwriter Stefan Cassomenos for a lieder-laden luncheon scaling the saucy heights and unsavoury depths of avant-garde English-language postmodern German art song.

KAHANE Selections from *Craigislistlieder* /  
Selections from *Twitterkreis* / CASSOMENOS  
Selections from *Diskogesang* (World Premiere)  
Leyland Jones *Bass* / Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*



## SOLILOQUY

Intense Introspectives  
with Kristian Chong  
Saturday 2.00pm / Reardon  
\$39 / \$32

MOZART *Fantasia in C minor, K 475* /  
SCHUBERT *Sonata in B-flat major, D 960*

Kristian Chong *Piano*



## DUOLOGUES

Continental Counterpoint  
with Sellars and Kadarrauch  
Saturday 2.00pm / St John's  
\$39 / \$32

KODÁLY *Duo for violin and cello, Op 71* /  
RAVEL *Sonata for violin and cello, M 73*

Elizabeth Sellars *Violin* /  
Molly Kadarrauch *Cello*



## ARC-EN-CIEL

Refractions of the Pianistic Prism  
with Stefan Cassomenos  
Saturday 3.30pm / Reardon  
\$39 / \$32

LIGETI *Etude No 5, "Arc-en-ciel"* /  
CHABRIER *Idylle* from *Pièces pittoresques* /  
L BOULANGER *D'un Jardin Clair* from *Trois morceaux* /  
MESSIAEN *Le Merle Noir* from *Petites esquisses d'oiseaux* /  
DEBUSSY *L'Isle Joyeuse* /  
LIGETI *Etude No 4, "Fanfares"* /  
RACHMANINOFF *Étude-Tableau in D minor, Op 33 No. 5* /  
*Étude-Tableau in C minor, Op 39 No. 1* /  
*Prelude in G minor, Op 23 No. 5* /  
*Polichinelle in F-sharp major, Op 3 No. 4* /  
*Étude-Tableau in F minor, Op 33 No. 1* /  
*Vocalise Op 34 No. 14* /  
*Étude-Tableau in D major, Op 39 No. 9*

Stefan Cassomenos  
*Piano*



## CONNECTION

Country, Birdsong  
and Nature's Music  
Saturday 3:30pm / St John's  
\$39 / \$32

ROACH *Gwungal Moronn* for solo didgeridoo, from *The Six Seasons* /  
SELLECK *Spindrift* for solo harp /  
SELLECK *New Work* for didgeridoo, flutes and electro-acoustic soundscape (World Premiere) /  
ROACH/MURRAY *Balliyang: Flying-fox: Bat* for didgeridoo, flute, viola, and harp /  
MURRAY *1st Suite: Birds* for solo viola /  
SELLECK *Hoon: Black Cockatoo!* for didgeridoo, flute, viola, harp and field recordings

Amos Roach *Didgeridoo* / Johanna Selleck *Flute* /  
Molly Collier-O'Boyle *Viola* /  
Jacinta Dennett *Harp*





## KAWAI SATURDAY GALA: NIGHT SKY

Symphonic Skyscapes Across  
Space and Time

Saturday 7.30pm / Reardon  
\$59 / \$52

GIFFORD *Dhawara Miriwa* for clarinet,  
violin and piano (World Premiere) /  
POULENC *Sextet* for piano and winds /  
MAHLER *Symphony No. 1* (art. Simon  
for chamber orchestra)

Fabian Russell *Conductor* / Zoë Black  
*Violin* / Sarah Curro *Violin* / Monica Curro  
*Violin* / Caroline Henbest *Viola* / Michelle  
Wood *Cello* / Douglas Rutherford *Bass* /  
Eliza Shephard *Flute* / Emmanuel Cassimatis  
*Oboe* / Philip Arkininstall *Clarinet* / Matthew  
Larsen *Clarinet* / Matthew Kneale *Bassoon* /  
Peter Luff *Horn* / Rachel Shaw *Horn* /  
Tristram Williams *Trumpet* / Greg Sully  
*Percussion* / Alex Raineri *Piano* / Stefan  
Cassomenos *Piano and Harmonium*

## NOW WHAT...?

Gerry Connolly Questions

Saturday 10.00pm / St Patrick's  
\$45 / \$39 \*includes beverage

The Queen is dead... Now what?  
The national tour of Agatha Christie's  
*The Mousetrap* is complete... Now what?  
The winter chill is heading north...  
Then what? Port Fairy of course. Gerry  
Connolly questions and answers... not very  
much. With his trusty sidekick, the piano,  
Gerry will attempt to explain himself: from  
rags to riches, bags to britches, drags to...  
don't even go there. Performing some of his  
favourite musical gems like Tom Lehrer's  
*Vatican Rag*, Zez Confrey's *Kitten on the  
Keys* and a world-premiere of his own  
(promise), he will astound you that he  
can just about sit upright at a grand.  
Or is it the other way round?

Gerry Connolly *Voice and Piano*

## GHOSTSCAPES

Environmental Apparitions  
with Sutherland Trio

Sunday 10.00am / St Patrick's  
\$39 / \$32

BARTSCH *Haze for Days* / VASKS  
*Plainscapes* / BEETHOVEN *Trio in  
D major Op 70 No. 1, "Ghost"*

Sutherland Trio: Elizabeth Sellars  
*Violin* / Molly Kadaraucho *Cello* /  
Caroline Almonte *Piano*



## VOLUME 13

A Sonic Cross-pollination  
of Artforms

Sunday 11.30am / Lecture Hall  
\$39 / \$32

Volume 13 is an immersive soundscape  
enhanced by a visual artscape featuring  
the very best of the Southwest, intertwined  
and co-curated together with Southwest  
art mage Gareth Colliton.

KAITLER *Cascades* / CROSTHWAITE  
*Counterpoise* / LABBAN *Beating Aerophobia* /  
HALASEH *Desolate Land* / CROSTHWAITE  
*Into the Night* / TIMMIS *Cargo* / COGHILL  
*Dawn of Ending* / CHARLES *Be More Silent* /  
HAMMOND *That Wild Mercury Sound*

Sarah Curro *Violin and Co-Curator* /  
Gareth Colliton *Co-Curator*



## VOX CELESTIS

Organist Extraordinaire  
in Natural Habitat

Sunday 11.30am / St John's  
\$39 / \$32

GUILMANT *Grand Choeur in D major  
"Alla Handel" Op 18 No. 1* / HOLLINS  
*Spring Song* / VIVALDI *Allegro* from *Concerto  
in A minor Op 3 No. 8* [trans. Bach] /  
RACHMANINOFF *Prelude in C-sharp minor,  
Op 3 No. 2* [trans. Hull] / PARRY *Bridal  
March and Finale*, from *The Music to 'The  
Birds' of Aristophanes* [trans. Alcock] /  
HANDEL *Allegro ma non presto* from *Organ  
Concerto in B-flat major Op 4 No. 2* [trans.  
Best] / BACHE *Introduction and Allegro in  
Ancient Style* [ed. Best] / ELGAR *Imperial  
March Op 32* [trans. Martin] / MOZART  
*Church Sonata in D major, K 144* [trans.  
Fullard] / FLETCHER *Festival Toccata*

Thomas Heywood *Organ*



## CLOSING GALA: THE END OF TIME

Symphonic Prayers for  
Fragile Worlds

Sunday 2pm / Reardon  
\$49 / \$42

STRAVINSKY *Symphony of Psalms*  
(art. Cassomenos) / CASSOMENOS  
*Requiem for the End of Time*

Peter Luff *Conductor* / Merlyn Quaipe *Soprano*  
/ Liane Keegan *Contralto* / Christian Smith  
*Bass-Baritone* / PLEXUS: Monica Curro  
*Violin* / Philip Arkininstall *Clarinet* / Michelle  
Wood *Cello* / Douglas Rutherford *Bass* /  
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano* / Port Fairy Ring  
of Bells: Suzanne Brimacomb *Director* / Port  
Fairy Spring Music Festival Chorus featuring  
members of Vox Plexus / Cantori / U3A Port  
Fairy Choir / SW Vic choristers / SW Vic  
Children's Chorus / Dermot Tutty *Children's  
Chorus Director*





## KAWAI POP-UP RECITAL HUB

**Saturday and Sunday  
9.00am – 4.00pm / The Hub**

Call in between concerts, or stay for some hours, at this popular event! Enjoy coffee and a snack while Festival artists, masterclass students and audience members pop in all day to entertain and chat. A schedule will be posted at The Hub on the Friday afternoon. Please feel free to Pop Up with a piece of your own to play on a superb Kawai piano – and be rewarded with coffee on the house!

## MASTERCLASSES AND SCHOOLS CONCERTS

Southwest Victorian secondary school-age students are invited to sign up to work with Festival artists in a series of free masterclasses at the Lecture Hall throughout the weekend, and students from local primary schools are invited to join us for free schools concerts presented on Friday morning. Festival visitors and friends welcome. Full details to be announced on the Festival website – please contact festival administration at [contact@portfairyspringfest.com.au](mailto:contact@portfairyspringfest.com.au) for enquiries and booking details.

## VENUES

Reardon  
Reardon Theatre  
35 Bank Street Port Fairy

St John's  
Saint John's Anglican Church  
21 Regent Street Port Fairy

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

Lecture Hall  
Sackville Street Port Fairy

Blarney Books  
37 James Street Port Fairy

# THANK YOU

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS  
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**KAWAI**



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VICTORIAN  
OPERA



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