

COASTAL SUMMERS

PORT
FAIRY
SPRING
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
2024



11-13 OCTOBER

portfairyspringfest.com.au



COLIN BROOKS MP Minister for Creative Industries

One of Port Fairy's many charms is its vibrant arts scene. For more than 30 years, the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival has celebrated music, creativity and community - bringing together locals and attracting visitors who return year after year. This year's program offers something for all music lovers. Across 3 days, the Festival will showcase the talents of more than 50 musicians and artists and celebrate genres from classical music to jazz and music theatre. The Allan Labor Government is a proud and longstanding supporter of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival. It's a gem of our cultural calendar and an example of how creative events benefit towns and regions - boosting tourism and the local economy, providing a stage for local and visiting artists, and bringing the community together through memorable and inspiring experiences. Congratulations to the Festival organisers, incredible volunteers and artists on this year's exciting program.

Enjoy exploring the Festival and the Port Fairy Cosmos!



PENNY HUTCHINSON Festival Chair

We are all thrilled to welcome our Friends and audiences, both long-standing and new back to Port Fairy, for what we hope will be a stellar Festival this year. As Chair, I have the opportunity to see some 'back of house' scenes that are a reminder of how many people make vital contributions to the Festival's success and consequently to the local community. Still shining brightly on my radar from last year is Dermot Tutty rehearsing local school students in the foyer of the Reardon, and Suzanne Brimacombe welcoming us to her house for a rehearsal with the handbell group! The Artistic Directors and Board all appreciate the support the Festival receives from Creative Victoria, the Moyne Shire, many corporate and philanthropic supporters and individuals who all share a commitment to the Festival's musical ambitions and community contribution. The 'with Covid' challenges in the performing arts sector are still with us, and the financial and in-kind contributions we receive are vital to the sustainability of the Festival. This year Monica and Stefan have put together another outstanding programme which reflects their passion and commitment to music making. The stars shine brightly in Port Fairy's dark night sky, as will the musical stars in this year's line-up. We look forward to seeing you at the Festival this year, in one of Victoria's most beautiful places.



W E L C O M E

MONICA CURRO & STEFAN CASSOMENOS *Artistic Directors*

COSMOS - regenerating from a pandemic in 2022, and embracing the theme of *Habitat* in 2023, we expand our horizons in 2024 to marvel at the wonders of the Universe, and explore how philosophers, scientists, theologians and creatives have responded to its magnitude and mysteries since time began. The less we know about something, the more it fascinates us and the more we are compelled to understand it. Music has a unique way of expressing the inexplicable, and has the power to not only utilize and represent concepts of space and time, but also has the ability to bend and suspend them. This year, PFSMF presents a galaxy of stellar artists, and a heavenly host of sounds from across the ages. Our musical sky is variously lit with intensity bursts of Beethoven and Brahms, and with the everlasting radiance of Schubert and Mozart; we sharpen our musical telescope on ancient trailblazers Gesualdo, Weelkes, Telemann and Biber; we embark on warp-speed treks with breathtaking modern melodists Korngold, Schulhoff, Messiaen, Bacewicz and Holst; we glide back to Earth on the transcendent, stargazing harmonies of Elgar, Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Czarniecki, Ravel and Debussy. On returning home, we witness a spellbinding aurora of eight Australian composers - Shauntai Sherree Abdul-Rahman, Kevin March, Melody Eötvös, Luke Styles, Allara Briggs-Pattison, Stefan Cassomenos, Natalie Williams, and composer-in-residence Andrew Ford - including three world premieres. Our starship's crew includes esteemed string theorists Timo-Veikko Valve, Helena Rathbone, Christopher Moore, Zoë Black, the Orava Quartet, Elizabeth Sellars, Molly Kadarach, Monica Curro, Campbell Banks, Douglas Rutherford, and members of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra; lauded aerodynamic engineers Carla Blackwood and Laila Engle; eminent applied astrophysicists Slava Grigoryan, Leonard Grigoryan, Hannah Lane, Louise Devenish, and Port Fairy Ring of Bells; expert navigation officers Stephen McIntyre, Rhodri Clarke, Toni Lalich and Stefan Cassomenos tapping away at the controls; an impressive squad of Southwest Victorian cosmonauts-in-training; and a starburst of intergalactic voices including Josh Piterman, Lotte Betts-Dean, Judith Dodsworth, Aurora Kurth, Anna-Lee Robertson, Demby McKenzie, the Consort of Melbourne, the PFSMF Chorus, and our annually awe-inspiring PFSMF Children's Chorus - joining you all this October, for a mesmerizing journey across our boundless musical cosmos.



MADE BY KAWAI,
PLAYED BY PFSMF



KAWAI

 **PORT
FAIRY
SPRING
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

KAWAI OPENING GALA: COSMOS

A Musical Meteor Shower

Friday 8.00pm / Reardon Theatre

\$59 / \$52

SHAUNTAI SHERREE ABDUL-RAHMAN

Wula Murun (world premiere)

LUKE STYLES *A Shot at the Stars*

SLAWOMIR CZARNECKI

String Quartet No 2, Op 33, "Spis"

THOMAS WEELKES

Thule the period of cosmography

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Veni creator spiritus

CARLO GESUALDO

When you, my star, look at the

beautiful swarm of stars

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Cantato Domino omnis terra

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD

Piano Quintet, Op 15

Consort of Melbourne

Orava Quartet:

Daniel Kowalik *Violin*

David Dalseno *Violin*

Thomas Chawner *Viola*

Karol Kowalik *Cello*

Zoë Black *Violin*

Monica Curro *Violin*

Helena Rathbone *Violin*

Christopher Moore *Viola*

Molly Kadarrauch *Cello*

Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*

Douglas Rutherford *Double Bass*

Carla Blackwood *French Horn*

Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

The 2024 Festival launches into hyperspace with a stellar line-up of 21 artists presenting spectacular music from across the ages. Opening with a newly commissioned world premiere string quintet from visionary Wiradjuri composer Shauntai Sherree Abdul-Rahman - *Wula Murun*, speaking life into existence - the journey continues with haunting solo horn shooting for the stars, pulsations of Polish folk music, ancient cosmographic a cappella, and culminating in a ravishing and rarely performed piano quintet by legendary Hollywood film composer, Erich Wolfgang Korngold. There's something for everyone in this exploration of a multiverse of genres, from thrilling works of right now back to our most familiar favourites. We have lift off!

CABARET CONSTELLATION

Lustrous Late Night

Friday 10.00pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$45 / \$39 (includes beverage)

Lotte Betts-Dean *Mezzo-Soprano*

Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Luminary UK-based Australian mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean, internationally respected for her "irrepressible sense of drama and unmissable, urgent musicality" (The Guardian) and "arrestingly opulent voice" (Gramophone), unveils an unearthly compendium of cabaret cult-classics from vaunted maestros Kurt Weill, Blossom Dearie, Benjamin Britten, Charles Trenet, Arnold Schönberg, William Bolcom, Madeleine Dring, and Édith Piaf.



F R I D A Y

INTERSTELLAIRE

Harmonic Journeys Through Space-Time

Saturday 10.00am / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

OLIVIER MESSIAEN

Appel Interstellaire

NATALIE WILLIAMS *Talking Points*

GABRIEL FAURÉ

Piano Quartet No 1, Op 15

Helena Rathbone *Violin*
Christopher Moore *Viola*
Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*
Carla Blackwood *French Horn*
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Melbourne French Horn heroine Carla Blackwood ushers us into a monumental day of music with the heraldic *Interstellar Call* from Olivier Messiaen's *From the Canyons to the Stars*, complete with the chattering bird calls of the Chinese Thrush and the Canyon Wren.

Celebrated Sydney composer Natalie Williams' *Talking Points*, featuring violist extraordinaire Christopher Moore, depicts the viola and piano interacting as characters in a conversation, in turn revealing their character traits, jostling for supremacy, and expressing nostalgia for their shared past, until the viola disappears into eternity.

Christopher is then joined by esteemed colleagues for Gabriel Fauré's luscious first piano quartet - considered to be one of the masterpieces of his youth, wonderfully lyrical and trailblazingly inventive for his time, intoxicating and otherworldly with themes that seem constantly to be drawn skywards.



SHARDS OF LIGHT

Luminous Spheres of Sound

Saturday 11.30am / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

MELODY EÖTVÖS

Shivelight (world premiere)

EDWARD ELGAR *Violin Sonata, Op 82*

Quercus Trio:

Elizabeth Sellars *Violin*
Carla Blackwood *French Horn*
Rhodri Clarke *Piano*
Helena Rathbone *Violin*
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Revered British-born violinist Helena Rathbone, Principal Violin of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, champions English composer Edward Elgar's majestic and heartfelt Violin Sonata, written in mid-1918 as the first world war continued to rage, and described by Elgar's wife as inspired by the luminous Fittleworth Woods and their 'wood magic' or *genii loci*, the protective spirits of place shining their guiding light through the leaves and branches.

To set the scene, the Melbourne-based Quercus Trio, hailed as "exceptionally stunning" and now established as Australia's foremost pioneers of the horn trio repertoire, make their PFSMF debut to give life to the enchanting new work by Australian composer Melody Eötvös, whose music is regularly heard in concert venues across the globe. Her world premiere *Shivelight* is commissioned by Continuo Community, through the awarding to Eötvös of the Continuo Commissioning Circle's 2023 commission. It takes its title from a word first used by one of Elgar's contemporaries, the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, who coined the term to describe the shafts of light that pierce and filter through the foliage and canopies of trees.



MCO + ALLARA

Featuring Yorta Yorta Sensation Allara Briggs-Pattison

Saturday 11.30am / St John's Anglican Church

\$39 / \$32

Allara Briggs-Pattison

Voice and Double Bass

Musicians of the Melbourne

Chamber Orchestra:

Sophie Rowell *Violin*
Rochelle Ughetti *Violin*
Merewyn Bramble *Viola*
Blair Harris *Cello*
Emma Sullivan *Double Bass*

The MCO + Allara project brings together musicians from Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and powerful Yorta Yorta winyarr Allara Briggs-Pattison in a unique concert experience that authentically blends First Nations' voices and perspectives with Classical music traditions. Allara is a storyteller, composer, director, producer, musician and soundscape

designer, and is fast emerging as an important First Nations musician of her generation.

Allara's innovative music combines loops on the double bass with justice-driven spoken word poetry and simple yet punchy choruses, often including elements of Yorta Yorta language. It explores issues including equality, reconciliation and sustainability, and speaks to Blak justice and sovereignty.



THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF MUSIC

Food for Thought with Andrew Ford

Saturday 12.45pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$45 / \$39 (includes lunch and beverage)

Andrew Ford *Speaker and Author*
Monica Curro *Speaker*

Award-winning broadcaster and composer Andrew Ford joins PFSMF co-artistic director Monica Curro to talk about Ford's latest book, *The Shortest History of Music* - a lively, authoritative tour through several thousand years of music.

Packed with colourful characters and surprising details, it sets out to understand what exactly music is, and why humans are irresistibly drawn to making it. How has music interacted with other social forces, such as religion and the economy? How have technological changes shaped the kinds of music humans make? From lullabies to concert halls, songlines to streaming services, what has music meant to humans at different times and in different places?



SATURDAY

BLAZING BEETHOVEN

Phosphorescent Favourites

Saturday 2.00pm / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 5 No 2

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN *Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op 70 No 2*

Helena Rathbone *Violin*
Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Illustrious Finnish-born cellist Timo-Veikko 'Tipi' Valve, Principal Cello of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, inhabits the Beethoven Cello Sonatas with every fibre of his being, and he teams up with fellow

Beethoven-enthusiast and Festival co-director Stefan Cassomenos in a performance of the grandly conceived second sonata, an opera-inspired macrocosm from the darkly dramatic to the irresistibly mischievous. Tipi and Stefan are then joined by ACO legend Helena Rathbone for a collective immersion in one of Beethoven's most blazingly sunlit works, the opulent E-flat major trio Op 70 No 2, brimming with vitality and seamless joy.

ORBITAL RESONANCE

Thermodynamic Duo

Saturday 2.00pm / St John's Anglican Church

\$39 / \$32

Slava Grigoryan *Guitar*
Leonard Grigoryan *Guitar*

With a repertoire spanning centuries, continents and genres, having astonishing telepathy and the ability to draw emotion from every note, classical guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan are counted amongst the finest musicians of their generation.

This atmospheric and eclectic program is a retrospective of their huge body of work, including commissions and arrangements from living Australian composers alongside Cuban and jazz masters, as well as a selection of self-penned works from their collaboration with the National Museum of Australia - *This is Us: A Musical Reflection of Australia*.

DARK MATTER

Powerhouse Musicians Split the Atom

Saturday 3.30pm / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Piano Quartet No 3, Op 60

GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ

Piano Quintet No 1

Orava Quartet:

Daniel Kowalik *Violin*

David Dalseno *Violin*

Thomas Chawner *Viola*

Karol Kowalik *Cello*

Helena Rathbone *Violin*

Christopher Moore *Viola*

Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*

Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

This star-studded line-up of musical dynamos join thermonuclear forces to perform Johannes Brahms'

exquisite and powerfully volatile third piano quartet - conceived out of an irreconcilable clash of emotion, between his overwhelming despair for his dying friend Robert Schumann and his deep love for Robert's wife Clara, and not completed until nearly 20 years later in 1875 - and Grażyna Bacewicz's potently explosive first piano quintet from 1952, a work similarly torn between intensely beautiful lyricism and unbridled passionate dissonance, utterly embodying the earth-shattering themes of the mid-twentieth century.

THE UNKNOWN SWIMMER

Stellar Soprano Dives into the Deep End

Saturday 3.30pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$39 / \$32

KEVIN MARCH

The Unknown Swimmer

Judith Dodsworth *Soprano*

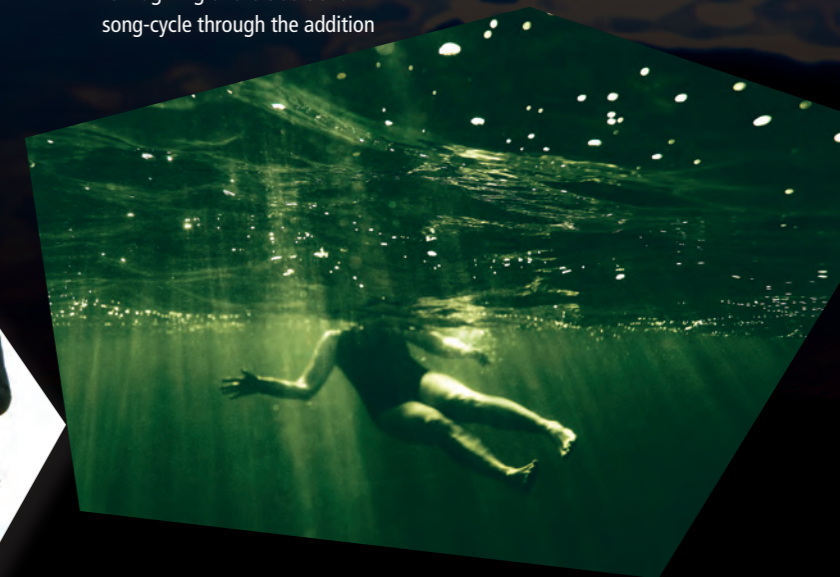
Laila Engle *Flute*

Campbell Banks *Cello*

Louise Devenish *Percussion*

This exciting recent work by acclaimed composer Kevin March and soprano/librettist Judith Dodsworth, with direction by Alyson Campbell, is a multi-media reimagining of the traditional song-cycle through the addition

of spoken word, and a unique immersive digital environment created by award-winning photographer Jason Reekie, with projection design by Justin Gardam. This deeply moving autobiographical work depicts Dodsworth's profound, personal transformation as she ventures into coldwater swimming to navigate questions around mental health, ageing, and sexuality.



S A T U R D A Y S A T U R D A Y

COSMONAUTS IN TRAINING

Southwest Music Students in Full Flight

Saturday 5.15pm / Lecture Hall

\$32 / \$25

Southwest Music Students
with Rhodri Clarke *Piano*

The cream of the crop of our Southwest Victorian high-school performers come together to celebrate their marvellous achievements as they approach their VCE music studies, giving us a thrilling snapshot of the next wave of voyagers across musical dimensions.

"One truth I have discovered for sure: when you believe that all things are possible and you are willing to work hard to accomplish your goals, you can achieve the next 'impossible' dream. No dream is too high!"

- Buzz Aldrin



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Music Theatre Superstar Josh Piterman in his Element

Saturday 8.00pm / Reardon Theatre

\$59 / \$52

Josh Piterman *Voice*
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*
with

Demby McKenzie *Voice*
Anna-Lee Robertson *Voice*
Consort of Melbourne
PFSMF Chorus

Following recent triumphs in London's West End headlining seasons of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables*, the endlessly vibrant and versatile Josh Piterman

returns to his spiritual home of Port Fairy, with a sumptuous feast of his favourite tunes from the worlds of opera, cutting-edge music theatre, and the mainstream. Joining Josh on stage are two brilliant artists from Southwest Victoria - soprano Anna-Lee Robertson and tenor Demby McKenzie - as well as the Consort of Melbourne, the PFSMF Chorus, and Stefan Cassomenos, in a night to remember for all eternity.



BEYOND THE SUNSET

Shimmering Chanteuse, Incandescent Instrumentalists

Saturday 8.00pm / St John's Anglican Church

\$59 / \$52

GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN
Concerto for 4 Violins, TWV40:202
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
Horn Quintet, K 407
OTTORINO RESPIGHI
Il Tramonto
JOHANNES BRAHMS
String Quintet No 2, Op 111

Orava Quartet:
Daniel Kowalik *Violin*
David Dalseno *Violin*
Thomas Chawner *Viola*
Karol Kowalik *Cello*
Lotte Betts-Dean *Mezzo-Soprano*
Zoë Black *Violin*
Monica Curro *Violin*
Helena Rathbone *Violin*
Elizabeth Sellars *Violin*
Christopher Moore *Viola*
Molly Kadarau *Cello*
Carla Blackwood *French Horn*

The high-octane Orava Quartet fuses with the magical mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean, alongside Australian Chamber Orchestra luminaries past and present, in a dazzling display of rare gems from the chamber music treasure trove. The ritual begins with Telemann's ethereal quartet of violins, an echo of antiquity, then the church walls resound with the jubilant exultations of Mozart's virtuosic horn quintet. *Il Tramonto* is Respighi's bittersweet setting for voice and string quartet, of Percy Bysshe Shelley's gothic, angst-ridden poem *The Sunset*, the tale of star-crossed lovers seeking, and missing, a glimpse of the sunset on what tragically turns out to be their last night together. Brahms' sublime second string quintet restores hope with its ecstatic and exhilarating optimism transporting us into the spiritual world beyond.



DELECTABLY DIVINE DIVAS

A Celebration of the Female Voice

Saturday 10.00pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$45 / \$39 (includes beverage)

Judith Dodsworth *Voice*
Aurora Kurth *Voice*
Anna-Lee Robertson *Voice*
Toni Lalach *Piano*
Dawn Holland *Producer*

Our astronomical Saturday comes to a zenith of deliciousness with Delectably Divine Divas - a gorgeous journey across times and genres, tracing the past 200 years of composition showcasing women's vocals.

Our masterfully curated junket features a satisfyingly succulent smorgasbord of opera, musical theatre, cabaret, jazz and pop, expertly guided by our divine tour leaders Anna-Lee Robertson, Aurora Kurth, Judith Dodsworth, and Toni Lalach on piano. Grab a drink, sit back and settle in for a delectable evening!



S A T U R D A Y

S A T U R D A Y

ASTRAL IMPRESSIONISTS

Rockstar Quartet Illuminate the Imagination

Sunday 10.00am / St John's Anglican Church

\$39 / \$32

ERWIN SCHULHOFF

String Quartet No 1, Op 8

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

String Quartet, Op 10

Orava Quartet:

Daniel Kowalik *Violin*

David Dalseno *Violin*

Thomas Chawner *Viola*

Karol Kowalik *Cello*

Praised by the *Washington Post* for their dramatic playing - "beautifully calculated and co-ordinated... time and motion seemed to defy the laws of physics" - Australia's own universe-bending Orava Quartet are warmly welcomed back to the

Port Fairy Spring Music Festival with a captivating program centrally featuring French impressionist composer Claude Debussy's sensually extravagant String Quartet. Presented alongside is the String Quartet No 1 by Erwin Schulhoff - one of central Europe's most gifted and versatile Jewish musicians, whose life was tragically cut short in a Nazi prison in 1942 - a versatile pianist as equally at home in the concert hall as the swing band, whose music similarly shapeshifts to the gravitational pull of impressionism, romanticism, folk tunes, and jazz riffs.

MIRROR WORLDS

Piano Guru Weaves Magic

Sunday 11.30am / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

MAURICE RAVEL

Pavane pour une infante défunte

MAURICE RAVEL *Miroirs*

MAURICE RAVEL *La valse*

Stephen McIntyre *Piano*

Festival titan and past artistic director Stephen McIntyre, renowned in Australia and around the world as one of this country's most cherished musicians, transports us with a recital of entrancing music by Maurice Ravel, masterfully unveiling a portal to parallel universes of the surreal. The stage is set with a tender evocation of a little princess

from a bygone Spanish court, before Ravel holds up his magic *Miroirs* and behold, a resplendent array of sights and sounds - a valley of sonorous bells, a lone ship on the rippling waves of the ocean, glistening invocations of sorrowful birds and flickering moths, and a Spanish court jester exuberantly performing his *Alborada* or morning song - and concluding with swirling mists and vapours, gradually and tantalizingly revealing an immense ballroom filled with dancers in the frenzied throes of *La Valse*.

COSMIC MYSTERIES

Virtuoso Violin Cracks the Code of the Cross

Sunday 11.30am / St John's Anglican Church

\$39 / \$32

HEINRICH IGNAZ FRANZ BIBER

Mystery Sonatas of the Rosary (selections)

Zoë Black *Violin*

Hannah Lane *Triple Harp*

Molly Kadarrauch *Cello*

Stefan Cassomenos *Organ*

In the late 1600s, the Bohemian composer Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber was way ahead of his time - crafting works with avant-garde techniques and radical tuning systems that were so difficult, only he could play them. This set of Sonatas for violin and various continuo instruments follows the *15 Mysteries of the*

Rosary, the Catholic processional meditation on the lives of Christ and the Virgin Mary, depicting joyful scenes from Jesus' early life, the sorrowful anguish of his Crucifixion, and the glory of his Resurrection. Completed around 1676, these mysterious Sonatas lay silent in the Bavarian State Library until their 1905 publication. Fearless and incomparable violinist Zoë Black faithfully interprets a selection of them, together with devoted continuo collaborators Molly Kadarrauch, Hannah Lane and Stefan Cassomenos.

THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF MUSIC

Food for Thought with Andrew Ford

Sunday 12.45pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$45 / \$39 (includes lunch and beverage)

Andrew Ford *Speaker and Author*
Monica Curro *Speaker*

Award-winning broadcaster and composer Andrew Ford joins PFSMF co-artistic director Monica Curro to talk about Ford's latest book, *The Shortest History of Music* - a lively, authoritative tour through several thousand years of music. Packed with colourful characters and surprising details, it sets out to understand what exactly music is, and why humans are irresistibly drawn to making it. How has music

interacted with other social forces, such as religion and the economy? How have technological changes shaped the kinds of music humans make? From lullabies to concert halls, songlines to streaming services, what has music meant to humans at different times and in different places?



SUNDAY SUNDAY

CELESTIAL SCHUBERT

Extra-Terrestrial Trinity

Sunday 2.00pm / Reardon Theatre

\$39 / \$32

FRANZ SCHUBERT
Trio No 2, D 929

Zoë Black *Violin*
Timo-Veikko Valve *Cello*
Stefan Cassomenos *Piano*

Coming together on stage for Franz Schubert's colossal *Trio in E-flat Major*, the most cosmological of all piano trios, are violinist Zoë Black, cellist Timo-Veikko Valve and pianist Stefan Cassomenos. This electrifying music from 1827 - now heard frequently as the soundtrack of dozens of feature films, miniseries, and documentaries - can trace

its ethno-cultural origins to the mystical key characteristics of E-flat major, which with its three flats was long thought to be connected to the holy trinity and therefore the key granting access to the divine, whilst it was also described as the key of heroism, of majesty, and of grave seriousness. Schubert takes us on a wild cosmic ride through almost all the keys in this kaleidoscopic work - as his colleague Robert Schumann wrote, "a Trio by Schubert passed across the musical world like some angry comet in the sky."

PITERMAN IN CONVERSATION

Revelations of the Mastery Behind the Magic

Sunday 2.00pm / St Patrick's Hall

\$32 / \$25

Josh Piterman *Speaker*
Andrew Ford *Speaker*

In a meeting of two monumental hearts and minds, international singing sensation Josh Piterman reveals the secrets of his success to PFSMF's very own Letterman - the composer, author and broadcaster Andrew Ford. This is a rare opportunity to gain insights into the dedication and desire required to forge an impactful path in the arts, and the versatility, resilience, and mindfulness needed to sustain a long and rewarding career.

CLOSING GALA: THE PLANETS

Featuring the Entire Known Cosmos

Sunday 3.30pm / Reardon Theatre

\$59 / \$52

ANDREW FORD
A Martian Sends a Postcard Home
GUSTAV HOLST
The Planets Op 32 (arr. Cassomenos)

STEFAN CASSOMENOS
Pluto (world premiere) composed collaboratively with Southwest Victorian schoolchildren

Demby McKenzie *Tenor*
Carla Blackwood *French Horn*
Rhodri Clarke *Piano*
PFSMF Chamber Orchestra
Stefan Cassomenos *Conductor*
Monica Curro *Concertmaster*
Consort of Melbourne
PFSMF Chorus

PFSMF Children's Chorus:
Dermot Tutty *Director*
Port Fairy Ring of Bells:
Suzanne Brimacombe *Director*

Our 2024 Closing Gala brings together instrumentalists and choristers from all over Southwest Victoria, alongside Melbourne musicians and magnificent soloists, led by PFSMF co-artistic directors Monica Curro and Stefan Cassomenos, on one enormous shared stage. Homegrown talent Demby McKenzie (Tenor) launches us into outer space with Andrew Ford's *A Martian Sends a Postcard Home* - a setting of Craig Raine's imagined visitor's impression

of life on planet Earth - with Carla Blackwood (French Horn) and Rhodri Clarke (Piano). We continue our interplanetary journey with Gustav Holst's seven-movement smash-hit in a new arrangement that completely reimagines *The Planets* as a choral work with chamber orchestra, and text variously exploring scientific planetary observations, early writings about the mythological figures after whom the planets are named, and diverse descriptions of the planets drawn from ancient astronomical traditions across the globe, including the many names given to the planets in different

languages. Holst's work did not include Pluto - which remained an undiscovered planet until 1930, and then in 2006 was deemed too small to even be called a planet - and so we conclude our 2024 PFSMF with the world premiere of a fresh new work entitled *Pluto*, collaboratively created by local Southwest schoolchildren together with facilitator Stefan Cassomenos, in a voyage of discovery of what even the smallest of us can and will achieve, in the face of the unimaginable parameters of our Cosmos.



SUNDAY SUNDAY

COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS CONCERTS: GAME DAY!

Monday 14th October
10.00am - 3.00 pm

What do professional sport and classical music have in common? Both feature performers who train for hours so they can do what they love for their fans. Join the musicians of The Phoenix Collective Quartet, as they explore what it means to work together to accomplish their goals, and find out how teamwork really does make the dream work. www.musicaviva.com.au/ensembles/program/game-day

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 schools students are presented in partnership with Australia's Musica Viva in Schools on Monday 14th 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

SPRING FESTIVAL WORSHIP

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 13th October, which will include a featured performance from outstanding triple harpist Hannah Lane.

KAWAI POP-UP RECITAL HUB

Saturday 12th and Sunday
13th October 9.30am - 4.00pm

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 - you will be rewarded with coffee on the house!

MASTERCLASSES

Saturday 12th and Sunday
13th October 10.00am - 4.00pm

Come along and watch Festival artists present masterclasses throughout the weekend. Southwest Victorian secondary school-age 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

	<i>Performance</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
FRIDAY	KAWAI OPENING GALA: COSMOS A Musical Meteor Shower	8.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	CABARET CONSTELLATION Lustrous Late Night	10.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
SATURDAY	INTERSTELLAIRE Harmonic Journeys Through Space-Time	10.00am	Reardon Theatre
	SHARDS OF LIGHT Luminous Spheres of Sound	11.30am	Reardon Theatre
	MCO + ALLARA Featuring Yorta Yorta Sensation Allara Briggs-Pattison	11.30am	St John's Anglican Church
	THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF MUSIC Food for Thought with Andrew Ford	12.45pm	St Patrick's Hall
	BLAZING BEETHOVEN Phosphorescent Favourites	2.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	ORBITAL RESONANCE Thermodynamic Duo	2.00pm	St John's Anglican Church
	DARK MATTER Powerhouse Musicians Split the Atom	3.30pm	Reardon Theatre
	THE UNKNOWN SWIMMER Stellar Soprano Dives into the Deep End	3.30pm	St Patrick's Hall
	COSMONAUTS IN TRAINING Southwest Music Students in Full Flight	5.15pm	Lecture Hall
	ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE Music Theatre Superstar Josh Piterman in his Element	8.00pm	Reardon Theatre
SUNDAY	BEYOND THE SUNSET Shimmering Chanteuse, Incandescent Instrumentalists	8.00pm	St John's Anglican Church
	DELECTABLY DIVINE DIVAS A Celebration of the Female Voice	10.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
	ASTRAL IMPRESSIONISTS Rockstar Quartet Illuminate the Imagination	10.00am	St John's Anglican Church
	MIRROR WORLDS Piano Guru Weaves Magic	11.30am	Reardon Theatre
	COSMIC MYSTERIES Virtuoso Violin Cracks the Code of the Cross	11.30am	St John's Anglican Church
	THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF MUSIC Food for Thought with Andrew Ford	12.45pm	St Patrick's Hall
	CELESTIAL SCHUBERT Extra-Terrestrial Trinity	2.00pm	Reardon Theatre
	PITERMAN IN CONVERSATION Revelations of the Mastery Behind the Magic	2.00pm	St Patrick's Hall
CLOSING GALA: THE PLANETS Featuring the Entire Known Cosmos	3.30pm	Reardon Theatre	

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

We will provide a full refund for unwanted tickets returned and received no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled concert. No refunds will be issued for tickets returned less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled concert. If we have to cancel or reschedule a concert, we will fully refund the cost of tickets or replace your tickets with tickets to the new 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/



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

37 James Street
Port Fairy

6

The Hub

74 Sackville Street
Port Fairy

DONATIONS

The Festival relies on continuing philanthropic support to enable us to present high quality performances to a wide audience. Over the past 33 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.

NEXT YEAR

The Port Fairy Spring Music Festival next year will be held over the weekend of 10 - 12 October 2025. For updates about the Festival during the year please visit the website: portfairyspringfest.com.au

2025

OUR SPONSORS

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

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 (03) 5568 3030
or 0429 372 287

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

*We acknowledge the Gunditjmarra 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 Oat Vaiyaboon,
from Hangingpixels Photo Art as
principal photographer for this year's
program images, along with the many
other photographers whose images
are featured. All photographer's
details are listed on our website.*