



2026

Musica Viva Australia's
STRIKE A CHORD

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the many lands on which we meet, work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past and present – people who have sung their songs, danced their dances and told their stories on these lands for thousands of generations, and who continue to do so.



2/	Welcome
\5	Program
8/	Vanta Quartet
	Nightingale Trio
\9	ATC Trio
	LED Trio
10/	Quatuor Fabriqués
	The Celeste Quartet
\11	JPMS Ensemble Sonore
	Kingsland Piano Trio
12/	CHROMOS Trio
	Kingussie Trio
\13	ELIJA Quartet
	Quartet Avenoir
14/	Prizes
18/	Monash Strike A Chord Workshop
\21	ACT Workshops
\23	Jury Chair
24/	Jury
\29	Regional Residencies
\31	All 2026 Entries
\33	Past Winners
34/	Donors & Partners

Welcome to the 2026 National Final of Musica Viva Australia's Strike A Chord chamber music competition.

My fellow jurors and I congratulate every student who participated in the Strike A Chord program this year. From our Foundation ensembles, just beginning their musical journeys, to the outstanding performers at Championship level, every group has demonstrated individual dedication and committed teamwork.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the teachers, families, and mentors whose expertise, encouragement and support make these musical journeys possible. The exceptional standard on display today is a testament to your collective efforts.

To all of this year's participants, we encourage you to continue challenging yourselves and embracing every opportunity to learn and grow. Your passion for chamber music is inspiring, and we look forward to seeing where your musical journeys lead.

—

Wilma Smith

Artistic Director of Competitions
Musica Viva Australia



Welcome to Melbourne Recital Centre!

As one of the world's most distinguished live music venues with a rich history of presenting chamber music, we are proud to partner with Musica Viva Australia on today's Strike A Chord National Final. For seventeen years, we have worked closely with Musica Viva Australia as a vital key presenting partner and together, we have created unforgettable musical experiences for tens of thousands of concertgoers.

Thank you for joining us today. By being here, you are more than an audience member. You are supporting the next generation of Australia musicians; the performers that will continue to light up our stages for many years to come. Since its inception, Strike A Chord has been instrumental in nurturing Australia's emerging artists, and we applaud the Musica Viva Australia team for their ongoing leadership of this transformative program.

To our extraordinary finalists, today as you journey from the dressing room to the stage — a walk many of the world's finest musicians have done — I hope you find a moment to celebrate yourself. It is your hard work, your dedication, your talent that has brought you to this moment. Congratulations, and good luck.

—

Sandra Willis
CEO Melbourne Recital Centre

Each year, the National Final of Strike A Chord offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the remarkable talent, artistry and dedication of Australia's young chamber musicians. It is a privilege to welcome our twelve finalist ensembles as they share the results of months of collaboration, commitment and musical growth.

Strike A Chord reflects the bright future of chamber music in Australia. The creativity, curiosity and passion of these young musicians continues to inspire us and reaffirms the importance of nurturing emerging talent. Now in its sixth year, Strike A Chord has become an important platform for some of Australia's most exciting emerging chamber musicians, and we look forward to seeing the program continue to grow and evolve in the years ahead.

The Strike A Chord program is only possible through the generosity of our supporters, whose investment helps ensure that young musicians have opportunities to develop, collaborate and perform at the highest level, and which commenced with donor Tom Breen's early and significant support in enabling MVA to establish the program. This year, we are particularly grateful to Jane Hansen and Paul Little of the Hansen Little Foundation, whose principal support has made the 2026 presentation of Strike A Chord possible. Their extraordinary

commitment to philanthropy and the arts has enabled hundreds of students from across Australia to participate in the national coaching program, with the country's finest young chamber ensembles progressing to today's National Final to represent their states. Thank you, Jane and Paul, for your vision, generosity and belief in the transformative power of music for young people.

We are also delighted to welcome Di Jameson OAM and Rowena Danziger AM as founding members of a consortium of supporters who will help us build a bright future for Strike A Chord in the years ahead. Finally, we would like to acknowledge a recent bequest made by the late Helen Clemency Dick, whose passion for supporting the development of young artists will also contribute to the future growth and sustainability of this vital program.

To our finalists, congratulations on this outstanding achievement. We wish you every success in today's performances and hope you enjoy every moment of this well-earned experience.

—

Anne Frankenberg
CEO Musica Viva Australia

Paul Kildea
Artistic Director Musica Viva Australia



FIREBIRD TRIO

Firebird Trio is thrilled to be a mentoring partner with **Strike A Chord 2026**.

Congratulations to the hundreds of young musicians who have made chamber music their passion!

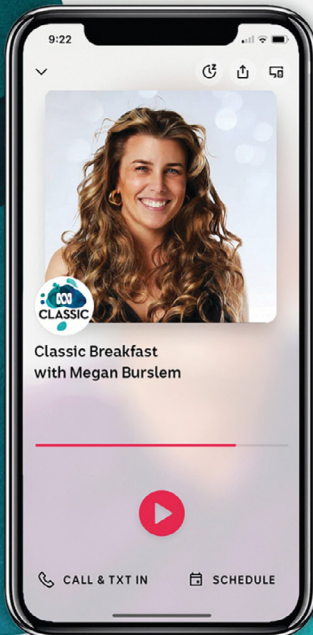
Benjamin Martin - piano

Josephine Vains - cello

Curt Thompson - violin

www.firebirdtrio.net

".. an ensemble of immense energy and focus..."
The Australian



LISTEN TO ABC CLASSIC ON THE GO

Download the
ABC listen app
abc.net.au/listen



PROGRAM Saturday 29 August 2026, 2pm • Melbourne Recital Centre

1	NSW	Vanta Quartet PIANO QUARTET	Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949) Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 13 (1884–85) I Allegro	11 min
2	VIC	Nightingale Trio PIANO TRIO	Arno BABAJANIAN (1921–1983) Piano Trio in F-sharp minor (1952) III Allegro vivace	7 min
3	QLD	ATC Trio PIANO TRIO	Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828) Trio in B-flat major, D. 898 Op. 99 (1828) I Allegro moderato	10 min
4	VIC	LED Trio PIANO TRIO	Maurice RAVEL (1875–1937) Piano Trio in A minor, M. 67 (1914) I Modéré	9 min
5	VIC	Quatuor Fabriqués STRING QUARTET	Paul STANHOPE (b. 1969) String Quartet No. 1, <i>Elegies and Dances</i> (2008)	11 min
6	SA	The Celeste Quartet STRING QUARTET	Alexander BORODIN (1833–1887) String Quartet No. 2 in D major (1881) III Notturmo	7 min
INTERVAL				
7	QLD	JPMS Ensemble Sonore PERCUSSION	Adam SILVERMAN (b. 1973) <i>Sparklefrog</i> (2014)	12 min
8	ACT	Kingsland Piano Trio PIANO TRIO	Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827) Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 1 No. 1 (1795) I Allegro	10 min
9	WA	CHROMOS Trio PIANO TRIO	Josef SUK (1874–1935) Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 2 (1889–91) I Allegro	6 min
10	VIC	Kingussie Trio PIANO TRIO	Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828) Piano Trio in E-flat major, D. 929 Op. 100 (1827) I Allegro	12 min
11	QLD	ELIJA Quartet STRING QUARTET	Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847) String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 44 No. 3 (1838) IV Molto allegro con fuoco	10 min
12	TAS QLD NSW VIC	Quartet Avenoir STRING QUARTET	Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893) String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 11 (1871) III Scherzo IV Finale	11 min



Silver AMEB Award recipients, Victoria & Louie.



Learn,
perform &
volunteer
with the

AMEB

Award program



Find out more
ameb.edu.au/award



WHY JOIN AUSTA?

Supporting String
teachers, students,
players, enthusiasts
and programs across
Australia

AUSTA Connects
you with the tools,
people, resources
and opportunities
within the string
community.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP. REAL SUPPORT. LASTING IMPACT.



Teaching
Resources



Professional
Learning



Community &
Connection



Events & Opportunities



Member Value

JOIN AUSTA TODAY

www.austa.asn.au





**EXCITING.
DIVERSE.
YOURS.**



MONASH
University

Compose a rewarding, fulfilling, future of your making and complement your Bachelor of Music with areas as diverse as Science, Law, Commerce and Education.

Visit: monash.edu/arts/music



Vanta Quartet

ROLAN XU

violin Conservatorium High School Y12

HARUKI MURAMATSU

viola Conservatorium High School Y11

ROY ZHANG

cello Conservatorium High School Y12

KEVIN CHU

piano Cranbrook School Y12

Vanta Quartet is a self-tutored group formed in late 2025, comprising four accomplished young musicians: Rolan Xu, Haruki Muramatsu, Roy Zhang and Kevin Chu. Earlier this year, Vanta Quartet won the Sydney Eisteddfod Chamber Music Any Age category and was invited to record with 2MBS Fine Music, returning for a second recording following the success of their first. They share a mutual love and devotion for chamber music and look forward to sharing their performance with you all.



Nightingale Trio

ANGELA DENG

violin Strathcona Girls Grammar School Y9

ANNY WANG

cello Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School Y11

CHARLIE WU

piano Caulfield Grammar School Y8

The Nightingale Trio is a Melbourne-based piano trio comprising pianist Charlie Wu, violinist Angela Deng and cellist Anny Wang from Caulfield Grammar School, Strathcona Girls Grammar School, and VCASS. As individual musicians, the Trio's members have received numerous awards at competitions. Guided by a shared commitment to artistic excellence and collaboration, the Trio enjoys exploring a variety of repertoire and sharing their love of chamber music with diverse audiences.

Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949)

Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 13 (1884–85) 11 min

I Allegro

Arno BABAJANIAN (1921–1983)

Piano Trio in F-sharp minor (1952) 7 min

III Allegro vivace



ATC Trio

QLD

ELLIE KYOUNG

violin Brisbane State High School Y11

PATRICK PHILLIPS

cello Brisbane State High School Y12

ISABELLA OXENBRIDGE

piano Canterbury College Y12

ATC Trio brings together three exceptional young musicians with a shared passion for collaborative music-making. Ellie Kyoung (violin), Patrick Phillips (cello) and Isabella Oxenbridge (piano) each hold Licentiate Diplomas with Distinction and have been recognised through prizes at prestigious state and national competitions. The trio was formed through the University of Queensland School of Music Chamber Music Academy. United by their love of chamber music, ATC Trio actively seeks out opportunities to collaborate with fellow musicians.



LED Trio

VIC

EMMA LI

violin Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School Y11

LIEUN PARK

cello Caulfield Grammar School Y12

DIEGO YU

piano Wesley College Y11

The LED Trio is a chamber group consisting of Emma Li (violin), Lieun Park (cello) and Diego Yu (piano), studying with Fintan Murphy, David Berlin and Glenn Riddle respectively. These three musicians were brought together through Melbourne String Ensemble and their shared love for music.

The trio was a finalist in the Strike A Chord 2025 competition, receiving the 3MBS Prize as well as the Firebird Trio Mentorship Prize. The trio aims to continue their collaboration and development as both solo and chamber musicians.

Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Trio in B-flat major, D. 898 Op. 99 (1828)

10 min

I Allegro moderato

Maurice RAVEL (1875–1937)

Piano Trio in A minor, M. 67 (1914)

9 min

I Modéré



Quatuor Fabriqués

KANE SHUM

violin Scotch College Y12

KIERAN LIN

violin Scotch College Y11

WILLIAM CHEAH

viola Scotch College Y12

JUN GARDINER

cello Scotch College Y10

Formed in 2023, Quatuor Fabriqués comprises Kane Shum, Kieran Lin, William Cheah and Jun Gardiner from Scotch College. The quartet takes its name from the French word ‘to make’, reflecting their collaborative approach to chamber music. Mentored by Rollin Zhao, they were awarded the Monash Chamber Music Prize and the Flinders Quartet Mentorship Prize at Strike A Chord 2025, and have worked with faculty from the Zelman Cowan School of Music and members of the Flinders Quartet throughout 2026. They look forward to performing at this year’s Strike A Chord as a culmination of their time together at Scotch.



The Celeste Quartet

AIYANA ISHINO

violin Marryatville High School Y11

ALANNA KENNEDY

violin St Dominic’s Priory College Y11

ANNIKA GANESH

viola Wilderness School Y11

SHERRY CHENG

cello Concordia College Y12

The Celeste Quartet members; Aiyana Ishino, Alanna Kennedy, Annika Ganesh and Sherry Cheng, met as spirited nine-year-olds in the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, where their shared love of music forged a lasting friendship. They established their ensemble in 2024 under the mentorship of Dr. Stephen King and Dr. Helen Ayres through the Elder Conservatorium’s Open Music Academy, where they enjoy exploring the expansive world of string quartet repertoire. Performance highlights include the Australian String Quartet’s 40th Anniversary Celebrations, Recitals Australia’s Lunch Hour Series, the Elder Conservatorium’s String Quartet Weekend, and success in the Adelaide Strings Eisteddfod. These invaluable experiences have strengthened their commitment and passion for chamber music.

Paul STANHOPE (b. 1969)

String Quartet No. 1,
Elegies and Dances (2008)

11 min

Alexander BORODIN (1833–1887)

String Quartet No. 2 in D major (1881)
III *Notturmo*

7 min



QLD JPMS Ensemble Sonore

Table with 2 columns: Name, School. Rows include Hue Tan, Charleigh Sing, Joyce Wong, Anita Lin, Lucas Zhou, Chaska Hung, Timothy Lee, and Frederick Chen.

Since 2022, the award-winning JPMS Ensemble Sonore has travelled across Australia, earning praise for performances that bring the music to life. Frederick Chen first experienced the Strike A Chord finals buzz as a 10-year-old, and is thrilled to share that adrenaline rush once more alongside friends Anita, Chaska, Charleigh, Hue, Joyce, Lucas, and Timothy. All accomplished soloists, they have been working at weaving their individual creative perspectives into a collective interpretation of Sparklefrog. Committed to exploring nuances, they look forward to sharing a playful yet complex soundscape, welcoming listeners into a rhythmic ecosystem alive with unexpected colours.



ACT Kingsland Piano Trio

Table with 2 columns: Name, School. Rows include Evie Kurzawa, Sylvia Kurzawa, and Ryan Xing.

The Kingsland Piano Trio brings together violinist Evie Kurzawa, cellist Sylvia Kurzawa, and pianist Ryan Xing. Formed in late 2024, the trio builds on a longstanding musical partnership developed over three years in Canberra Symphony Orchestra Future Pathways ensembles. Within its first year, the trio won First Prize in the 18 Years and Under Chamber Music Section of the Australian National Eisteddfod and First Prize in the Open Age Chamber Music Section of the ACT Music Academy Competition. Selection as 2026 Strike A Chord Championship Section Finalists is an exciting achievement for these young musicians.

Adam SILVERMAN (b. 1973) Sparklefrog (2014) 12 min

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827) Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 1 No. 1 (1795) 10 min I Allegro



CHROMOS Trio

LUCAS ALLMARK

violin Perth Modern School Y9

ZACHARIAS ZETHNER

cello Bob Hawke College Y9

MICHAEL CUI

piano Christ Church Grammar School Y9

CHROMOS Trio draws its name from the Greek word *chrôma*, meaning colour, and the element Chromium, which creates a vivid spectrum of colour in compound. CHROMOS Trio seeks to explore colour and expression in the realm of sound as they make music together. Lucas Allmark studies violin with Kylie Liang and Zacharias Zethner studies cello with Xiaole Wu. Both are members of the Western Australian Youth Orchestra. Pianist Michael Cui studies with Mr Yoon Sen Lee and is an international prize winner, recently performing as concerto soloist in Italy.



Kingussie Trio

DAVID CHON

violin Camberwell Grammar School Y10

GABRIEL LIU

cello Camberwell Grammar School Y10

DILLON CHAN

piano Camberwell Grammar School Y9

The Kingussie Trio makes its third consecutive appearance at the Strike A Chord National Final this year. Comprising three music scholars from Camberwell Grammar School, the ensemble is coached by Rachel Atkinson. The Trio has achieved notable success at Victorian Eisteddfods, and individually, Dillon, David, and Gabriel have won prizes at national and international competitions. Dillon studies with Ian Munro, David with Sulki Yu, and Gabriel studies under the tutelage of David Berlin and Howard Penny. The Trio has performed in masterclasses for Tair Khisambeev, Sophie Rowell, Danny Gu, Caroline Almonte, and Gil Sullivan, and has been broadcast frequently on 3MBS Fine Music.

Josef SUK (1874–1935)

Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 2 (1889–91)

6 min

I Allegro

Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

Piano Trio in E-flat major,
D. 929 Op. 100 (1827)

11 min

I Allegro



ELIJA Quartet

ELLIE KYOUNG

violin Brisbane State High School Y11

ELIZABETH LU

violin Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology Y12

AMY SEO

viola Canterbury College Y9

JEWEL YANG

cello Brisbane State High School Y11

Ellie, Elizabeth, Jewel and Amy first met while attending QYO yonks ago. After watching what seemed like every second friend get hooked on chamber music, they eventually decided they should probably give it a go too, forming the ELIJA Quartet in February this year. Coached by Tim Li, the quartet was invited to perform at the public unveiling of QPAC's new Glasshouse Theatre and has since enjoyed masterclasses with Natsuko Yoshimoto and Glenn Christensen. They have discovered that string quartets are equal parts musical collaboration, democratic discussion and occasional disagreement—but wouldn't have it any other way. They are thrilled to be making their national finals debut at Strike A Chord.



Quartet Avenoir

TAS QLD NSW VIC

SAMUEL HOOPER

violin Taroona High School, Hobart Y10

LIAM BEAK

violin Brisbane Boys' College, Brisbane Y11

JUAH HYUN

viola MLC School, Sydney Y12

JUN GARDINER

cello Scotch College, Melbourne Y10

Quartet Avenoir is an interstate-based string quartet consisting of violinists Samuel Hooper and Liam Beak, violist Juah Hyun and cellist Jun Gardiner, who met as participants in the Australian Youth Orchestra. Under the guidance of Jos Jonker, these young performers from Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria continue to develop their artistic vision and, through close musical collaboration, bring a unified musical voice to performances that are distinctly their own. Performing at the Melbourne Recital Centre represents a long-standing artistic ambition, and Quartet Avenoir is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform for the Strike A Chord audience.

Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847)

String Quartet in E-flat major,
Op. 44 No. 3 (1838) 10 min

IV *Molto allegro con fuoco*

Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893)

String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 11 (1871) 11 min

III *Scherzo*
IV *Finale*



Prizes

Awarded at National Final

FIRST PRIZE — \$5000

The Robert Salzer Prize

- Invitation to attend the Australian Festival of Chamber Music Pathways Program 2027, supported by AFCM and Musica Viva Australia
- The opportunity to record a studio album with ABC Classic

SECOND PRIZE — \$4000

The Paul Morawetz Prize

THIRD PRIZE — \$2500

Youth Music Foundation of Australia Prize

THE CRAIG REYNOLDS ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

— \$1500

Awarded to a finalist group that doesn't receive a major cash prize but displays outstanding potential through qualities such as enthusiasm, conviction, musicality, stage presence, and interpretation.

NATIONAL FINALIST AWARDS

— \$500 per group

For all other finalist groups not awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Encouragement prizes.

Awarded at any stage

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC PRIZE

The Pam Cudlipp Prize

— \$2000

Awarded for the best performance of an Australian work, which may include student compositions.

MONASH CHAMBER MUSIC PRIZE

For an ensemble (trio or quartet) that the adjudicators believe would most benefit from a week-long coaching residency at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance, Monash University (dates to be discussed and agreed upon with all parties).

- Travel & accommodation for up to four participants and one accompanying adult
- Coaching staff and program
- Rehearsal room
- Closed performance opportunity at end of week

FLINDERS QUARTET MENTORSHIP PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury, in consultation with Flinders Quartet, to a string quartet that shows commitment and potential to take their ensemble to the next level. The prize will be part of FQ Sessions in Melbourne from 23–28 November 2027. The week will involve rehearsals and workshops alongside Flinders Quartet mentee groups, culminating in a weekend of concerts. Groups travelling from interstate will receive a \$4000 stipend to help cover travel and accommodation costs, and in recognition of the time required to take part in this opportunity.

FIREBIRD TRIO MENTORSHIP PRIZE

Awarded to a group of any instrumentation (must include piano) that shows commitment and potential to take their ensemble to the next level. The prize includes up to 8 hours of coaching (in person or online) over a 12 month period, and a collaborative performance with Firebird Trio if circumstances allow. Travel to Melbourne may be subsidised where required.

2MBS PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from New South Wales. A pre-recorded performance at a mutually agreed time and date on 2MBS Showcase program in 2026. Audio and video of the performance will be recorded, and the winning ensemble will be provided with a copy of both for use at their discretion. The ensemble's performance will be promoted on air and on social media, and will be available through the 2MBS on demand service.

3MBS PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from Victoria. A live-to-air performance and interview for the winning ensemble at a mutually agreed time and date on 3MBS's Melbourne in Concert program (6-8pm Sunday nights) in September or October 2026. Audio and video of the performance will be recorded, and the winning ensemble will be provided with a copy of both for use at their discretion.

4MBS PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from Queensland. A performance in the annual 4MBS Summer School. The performance will be recorded for broadcast and filmed and a copy provided to the ensemble. The ensemble's performance will be promoted on air and on social media, and will be available through 4MBS PLUS – the 4MBS on demand service.

5MBS PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from South Australia. A live-to-air performance and interview at a mutually agreed time and date on 5MBS. Audio and video of the performance will be recorded, and the winning ensemble will be provided with a copy of both for use at their discretion, with clips being used on 5MBS's social media channels.

ARTSOUND FM PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from the Australian Capital Territory. A complimentary one hour recording session in the ArtSound FM Recording Room with an Audio Technician. The winning ensemble will be provided with a copy of the recording for use at their discretion.

RADIO FREMANTLE PRIZE

Awarded by the Jury to the top group from Western Australia. A live-to-air performance and interview at a mutually agreed time and date on Radio Fremantle. Audio and video of the performance will be recorded, and the winning ensemble will be provided with a copy of both for use at their discretion, with clips being used on Radio Fremantle's social media channels.

First Round Prizes

AMEB EMERGING ENSEMBLE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

— \$1000

For a group that shows a need for additional resources.

★ Sea Breeze Strings /QLD

THE SPIRIT OF CHAMBER MUSIC PRIZE

— \$200

Generously provided by Elizabeth Sellars, in memory of John and Lesley Sellars. For a group who the jury feels in some way touches upon the essential character and/or spirituality of a work.

★ Marryatville High School SA Baroque Ensemble /SA

At the discretion of the Artistic Director, one or more prizes may be awarded in each of the following categories. Each prize \$200 cash.

WOODWIND PRIZE

Groups that include at least 50% woodwind instruments.

- ★ Bermuda Trio /QLD
- ★ The Byron Quartet /SA
- ★ The Doppler Effect /QLD
- ★ Neapolitan Trio /VIC
- ★ Windykeys /NSW

STRING PRIZE

Groups that include at least 50% string instruments.
Sponsored by AUSTA – the Australian Strings Association.

- ★ The 242 Strings /VIC
- ★ Aura Quartet /NSW
- ★ The Dean Quartet /QLD
- ★ The Fellowship of the Strings /QLD
- ★ Kadenza Quartet /WA
- ★ Mallinson Trio /VIC
- ★ Quartet Centauri /NSW
- ★ Studio 3 String Quartet /NSW
- ★ Trio Bellissimo /WA
- ★ WolfGang /QLD

JUNIOR PRIZE

Groups in which all players are in school grade 7 or lower.

- ★ Aureum Trio /QLD
- ★ E.A.K. Trio /VIC
- ★ JPMS Primary Chamber Ensemble /QLD
- ★ Ling Ling Piano Trio /NSW

KEYBOARD PRIZE

Groups that include at least one keyboard instrument.

- ★ MELOdiya /QLD
- ★ The Piccolos /NSW
- ★ Roystead Quintet /VIC
- ★ SACS Piano Faure Quartet /NSW
- ★ Trio Azzurro /VIC

PERCUSSION PRIZE

Groups that include at least 50% percussion instruments.

- ★ Bella J /QLD
- ★ JPMS Ensemble Energico /QLD

BRASS PRIZE

Groups that include at least 50% brass instruments.

- ★ Kingsland Brass Quintet /ACT

WORLD OF MUSIC PRIZE

Celebrating the rich diversity of music from cultures around the world. Groups must include at least one non-western instrument.

- ★ Do Re Mi Harmonica Trio /VIC
- ★ Jade Harmony /VIC

MIXED ENSEMBLE PRIZE

Groups not eligible for any other instrumental category.

- ★ DJO Vivo /NSW
- ★ Trio Étoile /VIC
- ★ Wattlebird Trio /VIC

Foundation Section Prizes

FIRST PRIZE

— \$400

★ Banksia Quartet /VIC

SECOND PRIZE

— \$250

★ Brisbane Boys' College Clarinet Ensemble /QLD

THIRD PRIZE

— \$150

★ Kingsland Strings Epic Trio /ACT

HIGHLY COMMENDED

★ C.A.T.S. Quartet /VIC

★ CREW /WA

★ Illusive Harmony /QLD

★ Iolite String Quartet /QLD

★ JPMS Jammers /QLD

★ LMV Woodwind Quartet /NSW

★ Meriden Flute Trio /NSW

★ Newhaven College String Quartet /VIC

★ Rosin Renegades /VIC

★ Rubellite Beta Chamber Group /QLD

★ String Theory /SA

★ Treble Makers /VIC

STRIKE A CHORD AWARD FOR COURAGE, COMMITMENT AND INNOVATION

— \$250 per group

To support one or more groups/individuals who have made an extra-special effort to enter Strike A Chord in 2026. Musica Viva Australia acknowledges that the opportunity to make music is limited for many students for a whole range of reasons. This prize recognises and rewards groups/individual students who experience barriers to participation in music-making, including (but not limited to) students with disability, those who are LGBTQIA+, and students facing geographic or socio-economic barriers. This prize aims to make a small but impactful difference, recognising students' courage and dedication and supporting them to continue their musical journey.

★ Austin and Ky Baker /NSW

★ Illusive Harmony – Victoria Point State High School /QLD

★ Molly Foot-Schmager /VIC

★ Yuri Chaseling /VIC

Proud winners of the First Prize
in 2025: The IncrediBows.



© James Grant



MONASH STRIKE A CHORD

The tutors were all very engaging, supportive, and clearly passionate about what they do, which made the sessions both fun and inspiring. I picked up quite a few useful techniques that I can apply moving forward. My favourite part was the vocal session, as it was something quite different from my usual experience. It gave me a fresh perspective on phrasing, breathing, and musical expression.

— WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT (QLD)

This April, the fourth annual Monash Strike A Chord Workshop welcomed another talented group of young chamber musicians for two inspiring days of music-making.

Presented in partnership with the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University, the workshop brought together students from across Australia to refine their ensemble skills and connect with like-minded peers.

Alongside intensive chamber coaching from expert musicians, participants enjoyed a series of specialist sessions designed to broaden their musicianship. Kaylie Melville from Speak Percussion led an energetic rhythm workshop, Dermot Tutty from the Victorian College of



All photos © Mathew Chen

ORD WORKSHOP 2026

the Arts Secondary School explored vocal musicianship and musical expression, while Simon Rickard introduced students to the world of Baroque dance and historical performance.

The workshop concluded with an informal performance for family and friends, showcasing the musical progress made over the weekend.

—

Want to be part of next year's workshop? Applications for the 2027 Monash Strike A Chord Workshop open in March. Sign up to the Musica Viva Australia eNews to receive application updates and the latest Strike A Chord news.

After the activity, we can see that the children bring a whole new kind of enrichment into their music. This growth comes from the inspiration of different tutors, the stimulation of peer interaction, and the joy they experience through a diverse range of courses.

— PARENT (VIC)



Melbourne's best classical music & jazz

Proud Media Partner of Strike a Chord



Download the app

ACT WORKSHOPS

This year, the Strike A Chord program included two new workshops in the Australian Capital Territory thanks to the generous support of the ACT Government, in partnership with the ANU Community Music Centre and Canberra Youth Orchestra.

Across two workshops, more than 70 young musicians took part in a day of chamber music coaching and ensemble development. Designed to complement each organisation's existing programs, the workshops gave students the opportunity to work closely with experienced chamber musicians and educators from Sydney and Melbourne.

Participants enjoyed intensive chamber coaching alongside orchestral sectionals and a vocal musicianship workshop led by Adele Cummings. Together, these sessions strengthened communication and ensemble skills while developing practical skills the students could immediately apply to their own rehearsals and performances.

These workshops reflect Strike A Chord's core goal to create opportunities for young musicians to learn from professional artists and deepen their understanding of chamber music.

We had the chance to learn so much from the tutors and from each other. It was inspiring to work with other young musicians and come away with new ideas to take back to our own ensembles.

— WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

We are grateful to the ACT Government, the ANU Community Music Centre and Canberra Youth Orchestra for making these workshops possible.



Australian Festival of Chamber Music

8 Reasons to visit Cairns in 2027.
One comes in Eight parts.

v o c e s 8

Exclusively in Cairns, Queensland

Live only at AFCM 2027

Scan this QR code to
see 8 reasons why you
should visit Cairns in
2027.



RADIO FREMANTLE 107.9FM

Something for nearly everyone!



**PROUD SUPPORTERS OF
STRIKE A CHORD**

Jury Chair

WILMA SMITH

Born in Fiji and raised in New Zealand, Wilma Smith studied in Boston where she was founding First Violinist of the Lydian Quartet, winner of the Naumburg Award for Chamber Music and multiple prizes at Evian, Banff and Portsmouth International String Quartet Competitions. She returned to New Zealand as founding First Violinist of the New Zealand String Quartet before her appointment as Concertmaster of the New Zealand then Melbourne Symphony Orchestras.

Wilma has now returned to her chamber music roots as Second Violinist of Flinders Quartet, curator/violinist of Wilma & Friends, Artistic Director of Competitions for Musica Viva Australia, overseeing Strike A Chord, and Co-Artistic Director of the Martinborough Music Festival in New Zealand. Since February 2026, she has headed a new team as Artistic Director of the now-independent Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition which will celebrate its 10th edition in July 2027. Wilma was presented with the 2025 Sir Bernard Heinze Award for her contribution to music in Australia.



AURA GO

National Final



Aura Go is a performer, curator and educator. She performs internationally as concerto soloist in repertoire from JS Bach to Sofia Gubaidulina, as recitalist and chamber musician in imaginative programs that

interweave old and new music, and as narrator and actor in cross-artform and educational projects.

Aura has performed as soloist with the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. Festival highlights include the Edinburgh Festival, PianoEspoo, Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

Aura enjoys musical partnerships with Tomoe Kawabata as the KIAZMA Piano Duo, and with Timo-Veikko 'Tipi' Valve (Principal Cellist, Australian Chamber Orchestra). Her discography includes the complete Beethoven cello and piano sonatas and Japanese piano duo repertoire.

Aura is Head of Piano at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University.

ROHAN DE KORTE

National Final



As one of the tallest cellists in the world, Rohan de Korte has enjoyed an unobstructed view of nearly every conductor he has ever worked with. A graduate of the Köln Hochschule für Musik, Rohan studied cello with Claus Kanngiesser and

chamber music with the Alban Berg Quartett. Other teachers include Valter Dešpalj, Nelson Cooke and Henry Wenig.

In 2000 Rohan returned to Australia to work first with the Sydney Symphony, then as the Associate Principal Cellist with Orchestra Victoria before finally joining the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2009.

Rohan is an active chamber musician, performing in the MSO chamber players series, with Wilma and Friends, and the Roger Young Collective among others. Rohan also teaches cello and chamber music at the University of Melbourne and arranges music for cello quartet.

BRENT MILLER

National Final



Brent Miller has a multifaceted career as a timpanist, percussionist, conductor, curator, researcher and educator, and is Head of Percussion at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Brent's extensive

orchestral career includes engagements with most major orchestras in Australasia, including the Australian World Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Brent performs with Plexus and was the founding percussionist of Ensemble Q.

A frequent performer of new music, he has premiered over 100 compositions, including Catherine Likhuta's *Timpani Concerto* (2023). Brent is a long-serving member of the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) and Artistic Director of the Australasian Percussion Gathering. Proudly championing Australian music, Brent records new percussion works in the studio every year with MYRIAD, the Percussion Ensemble of the Melbourne Conservatorium.

FIONA SARGEANT

National Final



Fiona Sargeant is a performer, chamber musician and educator. A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, she continued her studies in Germany under Hermann Voss of the Melos Quartet at the Hochschule für

Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, and with Ulrich Koch, Wolfram Christ and Gérard Caussé, becoming a finalist at the Maurice Vieux International Viola Competition.

Fiona has held Principal Viola positions with the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne (OCL) and Det Jyske Ensemble, and performed Hindemith's *Der Schwanendreher* with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2025. She is a founding member of the viola section of the Australian World Orchestra, performing under conductors including Zubin Mehta and Sir Simon Rattle.

A regular recitalist and chamber musician, Fiona's collaborators include Yefim Bronfman, James Ehnes and Piers Lane. Fiona has taught at the Australian National Academy of Music and the University of Melbourne.

EDWARD NEEMAN

Championship First Round



Australian-American pianist Edward Neeman has performed across five continents and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Juilliard School. A top prizewinner of numerous international piano competitions, including first prize in the Joaquín Rodrigo Competition in Madrid, he has appeared as a soloist with orchestras including the Madrid Philharmonia, Sydney Symphony, and Melbourne Symphony.

Edward has released three critically acclaimed solo albums: Rachmaninoff & Sitsky (2016), Language of Angels (2022), and Poems for Piano (2025). His live recording of the Concierto para piano by Joaquín Rodrigo with the Prague Philharmonic was released on the Rodrigo Foundation label in 2012.

He currently teaches at the Australian National University in Canberra and the Elly Lim Music Conservatory in Jakarta, Indonesia. www.neemanpianoduo.com

FRANCESCA HIEW

Championship First Round



Francesca Hiew grew up in a household immersed in music and began violin lessons at the Stoliarsky School of Music at the age of 4. She went on to study at the

Queensland Conservatorium with Michele Walsh, before continuing her studies at the Australian National Academy of Music with William Hennessy.

Francesca was a founding member of the Auric Quartet, selected as a finalist in both the Asia Pacific Chamber Music Competition and the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition. In 2014, Francesca joined the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and two years later, she joined the Australian String Quartet as Second Violinist and Co-artistic Director.

Francesca performs on a 1748–49 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin, generously on loan from the UKARIA Foundation.

MARK BAIN

Championship First Round



Mark Bain is a professional trumpet player, music educator, and performance coach based in Hobart. He is currently Tutti Trumpet with the Tasmanian

Symphony Orchestra and has performed with leading orchestras across Australasia, Europe, and the Middle East.

Mark studied at the Australian National University (ANU) and the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Mark has held teaching roles at the ANU, the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, and the University of Tasmania in Hobart. He has been a Brass Examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board since 2013.

In 2019, Mark founded Performance Under Pressure, which delivers evidence-based workshops on performance psychology to organisations across Australia and internationally.

NICK RUSSONIELLO

Championship First Round



Nick Russoniello is a saxophonist, composer, ensemble leader, and educator. A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Conservatorio

di Musica “Giuseppe Verdi” in Milan, Nick has performed with many of Australia’s leading arts organisations, including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Australian World Orchestra.

Nick’s projects—including his acclaimed solo show Air Mass—have been featured by Sydney Festival, Royal College of Music (London), Musica Viva Australia,

ABC Classic FM, Conservatorio di Milano, Strasbourg Cité de la Musique and Phoenix Central Park.

Nick was awarded the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year and the 2MBS Fine Music Kruger Scholarship. A prolific composer, Nick’s music is frequently performed by saxophonists around the world.

Nick holds a doctorate from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and is a Yamaha Australia Artist and a D’Addario Woodwind Artist.

NICOLE CANHAM

Championship First Round



Nicole Canham is a clarinettist and tárogató player. As Head of Woodwind at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University,

she is dedicated to supporting the next generation of musicians to develop rewarding and sustainable careers in music.

Nicole’s passion for chamber music has led to performances in Mexico, the USA, France, the UK and Belgium. Orchestral highlights have included work with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Opera Orchestra and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Her repertoire includes pieces written for her by Aaron Wyatt, Elena Kats-Chernin, Nick Tsiavos, Drew Crawford, Robert Davidson, Su Min Lee, Paula Matthusen, Carlos Lopez and Rodrigo Sigal.

She is currently working on a VCE clarinet repertoire project, recording Australian works for clarinet and piano composed after 1990.

PATRICK MURPHY

Championship First Round



Patrick Murphy teaches at the University of Queensland's School of Music and is the cellist of the Tinalley String Quartet, whose recent ABC Classics release

met with critical acclaim.

Patrick is a founding member of the Tankstream Quartet, competing in the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition. The Tankstream Quartet studied with the Alban Berg Quartett, Milan Skampa, Walter Levin and Rainer Schmidt.

Patrick is a member of the Southern Cross Soloists, The Sydney Soloists, and Nexus Piano Quartet, with whom he has performed at major Australian and international music festivals. Patrick works with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Opera Orchestra, and the Australian World Orchestra. He studied with cellists Alexander Ivashkin, Gregory Baron, Michael Goldschlager and Rosemary Iversen.

SONIA CROUCHER

Championship First Round



Sonia Croucher is Principal Piccolo of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. She has appeared as guest principal piccolo with the Australia World

Orchestra, NZSO, and major Australian orchestras. During 21 years as Principal Piccolo of the 43-nation Malaysian Philharmonic, Sonia performed over 2000 concerts and collaborated with luminaries including Lorin Maazel, Joshua Bell, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, José Carreras, and Branford Marsalis.

Sonia's passion for nurturing young talent runs deep: from mentoring hundreds of MPO Youth Orchestra musicians, to her current teaching at the University of Western Australia, and delivering masterclasses at ANAM,

Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland Conservatoriums. Her adjudication experience spans national and international panels, including Australian Youth Orchestra auditions, the Lyrical Flute International Championship, and WA state competitions.

SULKI YU

Championship First Round



Concertmaster of Orchestra Victoria, violinist Sulki Yu enjoys a vibrant career as a chamber musician, orchestral leader and soloist. Sulki studied at

the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under David Takeno and with Augustin Dumay at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Brussels.

A prize-winner at the 2006 Yehudi Menuhin and 2007 Szigeti-Hubay International Violin Competitions, Sulki has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic, Orchestre Nationale de Lille, Budapest Symphony and Royal Wallonie Chamber Orchestras.

As a passionate chamber musician, Sulki has been invited to many international chamber music festivals and is the founding member of the award-winning Fournier Trio.

Until 2020, Sulki served as Principal First Violin at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Future engagements include guest concertmaster appearances with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

CELIA CRAIG

Foundation



Celia Craig is an internationally acclaimed musician, educator and neurodiversity advocate, recognised as one of the world's leading performers with synaesthesia. Her career has spanned five continents, including performances across

Europe, the Americas and Asia, recording at Abbey Road Studios, and performing for the Royal Family and Doctor Who.

Following diagnoses of ADHD and anxiety disorder, Celia is recognised as a Twice Exceptional (2E) musician, combining lived experience with evidence-based understanding of creativity, leadership and neurodivergence. An EMCC-qualified coach, she was personally coached by Leonard Bernstein early in her career.

Celia has held senior educational, curatorial and advisory roles internationally and served as Chairman of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. She is currently a Biennial Artist through CreateSA.

MADELEINE JEVONS

Foundation



Melbourne/Naarm-based violinist Madeleine Jevons enjoys a vibrant freelance career as a performer, curator and community-minded musician. She is a

founding member of the Penny Quartet and a member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective.

Madeleine studied at the Victorian College of the Arts and the Australian National Academy of Music, receiving multiple chamber music and achievement awards and a nomination for a Freedman Fellowship in 2019. She has toured extensively throughout Europe, the United States and Australia, and regularly collaborates with leading arts organisations and festivals.

Madeleine appears frequently in contemporary recordings and live performances, and has performed as a soloist with ACO Collective and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. She is currently a Musica Viva FutureMaker Fellow and Artist in Residence with Liza Lim's ARC project.



VCASS

Victorian College of the Arts
Secondary School

VISIT US @
WWW.VCASS.VIC.EDU.AU

57 MILES STREET, SOUTHBANK 3006

T: 03 8644 8644

E: enquiries@vcass.vic.edu.au



**VICTORIA'S LEADING SECONDARY SCHOOL
FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF TALENTED
MUSICIANS, DANCERS, THEATRE AND VISUAL ARTISTS**

4MBS *Classic* FM
103.7

At the Concert

Fridays at 8pm

Tune into 4MBS
for exclusive recordings of concerts
from Brisbane and beyond, captured
by the 4MBS Concert Recording Team.

103.7FM or 4mbs.com.au



REGIONAL RESIDENCIES

Introduced in 2025, the Strike A Chord Regional Residencies were created to support schools that have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to chamber music despite the challenges of distance, geography and access to specialist opportunities.

The pilot residencies took place at Maryborough Education Centre in regional Victoria and Spinifex State College in Mount Isa, Queensland. Working closely with teachers at each school, MVA tailored the residency to meet the needs of their students, delivering a combination of coaching, tutorials, workshops, performances and side-by-side music-making with professional artists.

It means so much to our community when musicians such as yourselves are willing to come out and provide opportunities for our students. Thank you!

— KATELYN HOFFMAN, SPINIFEX STATE COLLEGE

The Partridge String Quartet spent two days working with students in Maryborough, while Arcadia Winds travelled to Mount Isa to deliver an intensive program of coaching and performance. Across both residencies, students developed their ensemble skills while experiencing the confidence and sense of community that chamber music can bring.

I have seen students take on your lessons, mentoring each other, fighting for their best sound, using a whole new world of vocabulary and standing just that little bit taller... The impact of this program is rippling out all over the place.

— SARINA WALTER, MARYBOROUGH EDUCATION CENTRE

Students from Maryborough's MECtet ensemble performed in the foyer at the 2025 Strike A Chord National Final, while ensembles from both schools received recognition in the competition, including Courage and Commitment and Highly Commended Foundation Awards.

The success of these pilot residencies has reinforced the importance of ensuring young musicians in regional Australia have access to the same high-quality learning experiences as their metropolitan peers. We look forward to expanding the program and bringing the joy of chamber music to even more communities across Australia.



ArtSound  **fm 92.7**
90.3 | DAB +



Tune In.
Get Involved.
Belong.

- Discover unique music you won't hear anywhere else
- Support local artists
- Volunteer
- Become a Member
- Help keep community radio thriving

2MBS Founders' Studio Hire

A modern, purpose-built, acoustically-treated recording studio for hire at 2MBS Fine Music Sydney in St Leonards

The Founders' Studio is equipped with a Kawai Shigeru Concert Series grand piano. It is ideal for your next rehearsal, recording or live performance.





All 2026 Entries

- Adelaide Youth Orchestras' Mahogany String Quartet
- Adelaide Youth Orchestras' Pernambuco String Quartet
- Aether String Quartet
- Amber String Quartet
- Apex Sax Quartet
- APHS String Trio
- Ascham String Quartet
- ATC Trio
- Aura Quartet
- Aureum Trio
- Ausyouth String Quartet
- Autumnus Piano Trio
- AVA String Trio
- Baker Parsons
- Banksia Quartet
- Bella J
- Bermuda Trio
- Blossom Bubbles Buttercup
- Brass & Ivory (ANU Community Music Centre)
- BrassTAStic
- Breezeway Flute Ensemble
- Brighton Grammar String Octet
- Brisbane Boys' College Clarinet Ensemble
- Brisbane Boys' College String Quartet
- Brisbane Boys' College Wind Quintet
- Bush Turkey Wind Quintet
- C.A.T.S Quartet
- Cadence Trio
- CadenzaFour
- Cantabile Cello Quartet
- CHROMOS Trio
- Cranbrook Clarinet Ensemble
- CREW
- Diabolically Bombastic Quartet
- DJO Vivo
- Do Re Mi Harmonica Trio
- Dragonfly Saxophone Quartet
- E.A.K Trio
- ELIJA Quartet
- Elkara Trio
- Eltham High School String Quartet
- Even More Treble Makers
- Fiveline Quintet
- Flute Belissimo
- From my Pod
- Glendalough Year 4 Violin Ensemble
- Glendalough Year 6 Violin Sextet
- Hale Bravura String Quartet
- Hemiola Quintet
- Highview College Chamber Ensemble
- Illusive Harmony
- Invaria Trio
- Iolite String Quartet
- Jade Harmony
- JPMS Ensemble Energico
- JPMS Ensemble Sonore
- JPMS Jammers
- JPMS Primary Chamber Ensemble
- Kadenza Quartet
- Kingsland Brass Quintet
- Kingsland Cello Trio
- Kingsland Dvorak Trio
- Kingsland Piano Trio
- Kingsland Strings Epic Trio
- Kingussie Trio
- Lazurite String Quartet
- LED Trio
- Ling Ling Piano Trio
- LMV Allegra String Quartet
- LMV Valora String Quartet
- LMV Woodwind Quartet
- Lumino Trio
- Mackillop Tutti Fluti Flute Ensemble
- Macosa Trio
- Mallinson Trio
- Marryatville High School SA Baroque Ensemble
- MECtet
- Melbourne High School Strike Trio 2026
- MELodiya
- Meriden Clarinet Ensemble
- Meriden Flute Trio
- MLC Soya String Quartet
- Monochromatics
- Music between us
- Neapolitan trio
- Newc
- Newhaven College Chamber Strings
- Newhaven College String Quartet
- Nightingale Trio
- Old Satisfaction
- Opal Quartet
- Overture Quartet
- Peanut Double Jelly Trio
- Pembroke Senior String Quartet
- PLC Sydney Flute Quartet
- PLC Sydney Sextet
- Quartet Avenoir
- Quartet Centauri
- Quartet Ksubi
- Quatre Vent
- Quatuor Fabriqués
- Rosin Renegades
- Roystead Quintet
- Rubellite Alpha Chamber Group
- Rubellite Beta Chamber Group
- SACS Piano Faure Quartet
- Santa Sabina Quartet
- Santa Sabina Trio
- SAS Trio
- Saxit 4
- Schmozzle Trio
- SCMP Octet
- Sea Breeze Strings
- Seymour Chamber Strings
- Seymour College Piano Trio
- Sonare String Quartet
- Spectra Trio
- St. Andrews Lutheran College Marimba Machine
- St. Andrew's Cathedral School String Quartet
- String Theory
- Strings of Gold
- StringTAStic
- Stringybark Quartet
- Studio 3 String Quartet
- Sunny Side Up
- Sutherland Quartet
- Sydney String Trio
- TAS Clarinet Trio
- TAS Flute Ensemble
- TAS Piano Chamber
- Terra String Quartet
- The 242 Strings
- The Academy
- The Adelaidies
- The AZ Piano Ensemble
- The Byron Quartet
- The Celeste Quartet
- The Dean Quartet
- The Doppler Effect
- The Fellowship of the Strings
- The Highly Strung Quartet
- The MegaKnight Trio
- The Piccolos
- THE Quartet
- The SchuperStars
- The Senior String Quartet of The Cathedral School of St Anne and St James
- The Vths
- Topaz Alpha Chamber Group
- Topaz Beta Chamber Group
- Treble Makers
- Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill Middle School Quartet
- Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill Senior Quartet
- Trio Arcélo
- Trio Azzurro
- Trio Bellissimo
- Trio Bravura
- Trio Con Brio (Beethoven)
- Trio Con Brio (Mendelssohn)
- Trio Étoile
- Trio FanTAStic
- Turquoise String Quartet
- UnRavel Trio
- Vanta Quartet
- VCASS Piano Trio
- Virtuosi di Corda
- Vivace Trio
- Wattlebird Trio
- Windykeys
- WolfGang
- Yarra Valley Grammar Piano Quintet

Connecting People Through Music



Adelaide's home of classical, jazz, blues and world music.
Broadcasting 24 hours a day on 5MBS 99.9FM and online.

FLINDERS QUARTET



**"Seeing incredible professionals
up close, working and having
fun together, was an experience
that we will never forget, and
has ignited newfound passion for
chamber music which will stay
with us for the rest of our lives."**

- 2021 FQ Prize winners, Piruli Quartet

flindersquartet.com



HALL OF FAME

FIRST PRIZE	The IncrediBows	QLD
SECOND PRIZE	Kingussie Trio	VIC
THIRD PRIZE	ATC Trio	QLD

Finalists

4 Bartolomey (NSW), Amaryllis Piano Trio (VIC), ATC Trio (QLD), Hale Bravura String Quartet (WA), Ignite Trio (ACT), Imber Trio (SA), The IncrediBows (QLD), Kingussie Trio (VIC), LeBrahm Trio (NSW), LED Trio (VIC), Quartet Alla Zingarese (QLD), Roystead Trio (VIC)

FIRST PRIZE	The Fritzi Trio	NSW/VIC
SECOND PRIZE	Take Six	QLD
THIRD PRIZE	JPMS Ensemble Animato	QLD

Finalists

Aneres Piano Trio (VIC), The Astra Octet (NSW), The Fritzi Trio (NSW/VIC), The Frosty Shosty Quartet (NSW), JPMS Ensemble Animato (QLD), Kingussie Trio (VIC), Lumina Quartet (NSW), Marryatville High School Baroque Ensemble (SA), Syncopact (ACT), Take Six (QLD), Timli Trio (QLD), Trio Fantastique (WA)

FIRST PRIZE	JPMS Ensemble Volante	QLD
SECOND PRIZE	Bajeshka Piano Quartet	NSW
THIRD PRIZE	Esperanza	SA

Finalists

Amazon Trio (NSW), Bajeshka Piano Quartet (NSW), Domi (VIC), Esperanza (SA), Esplanade Trio (VIC), Finesse Quartet (WA), The IncrediBows (QLD), JPMS Ensemble Volante (QLD), Open School Winther Quartet (ACT), Piccolo String Quartet (NSW), Pier String Quartet (NSW), Trio Bellissimo (QLD)

FIRST PRIZE	Amogus Trio	QLD
SECOND PRIZE	JPMS Ensemble Spirito	QLD
THIRD PRIZE	False Relations	NSW

Finalists

Amogus Trio (QLD), Bartholdy Trio (NSW), The Canberra Reds (ACT), False Relations (NSW), Four Strings (WA), Piccolo String Quartet (NSW), James Campbell String Quartet (VIC), JPMS Ensemble Spirito (QLD), Pirulí String Quartet (SA), Shell Shocked (QLD), Trio Finifugal (VIC), Vdub (VIC)

FIRST PRIZE	Cousin Quartet	NSW
	Eureka Quartet*	VIC
SECOND PRIZE	JPMS Ensemble Brillante	QLD
	Miles Street 4*	VIC
THIRD PRIZE	The Lashavi Trio	NSW
	Scotch College Horn Trio*	VIC

* LOCKDOWN LEGENDS

Finalists

Cousin Quartet (NSW), CelloLujah (VIC), Esperanza (SA), JPMS Ensemble Animato (QLD), JPMS Ensemble Brillante (QLD), Lammoyip Trio (NSW), The Lashavi Trio (NSW), Magnolia Quintet (NSW), The Millenium Trio (WA), Open School Trio (ACT), Piccolo Piano Quartet (NSW), Serendipity Quartet (NSW)

© James Grant





Thank you to our Donors & Partners

Individual Gifts

\$50,000+

Rowena Danziger AM in memory of Ken Coles AM

\$20,000+

Marjorie Nicholas OAM

\$10,000+

Mercer Family Foundation
The Morawetz Family
in memory of Paul Morawetz
Anonymous

\$5000+

Lorna Chapman
Craig Reynolds
Victorian Committee of MVA

\$2000+

Tom Breen & Rachael Kohn AO
Alastair & Sue Campbell
In memory of Pam Cudlipp
Dr Elizabeth Douglas
Doug Hooley
Graham Lovelock & Steve Singer
Anne Sutcliffe
WA Committee of MVA
Youth Music Foundation of Australia

\$500+

Richard Chapman & Sue Fletcher
Lynn & John Kelly
KP Kemp
Peter Kingsbury
Keith Moore
Rebecca O'Brien
Anonymous

\$50+

Edward Ashmore
In memory of Nan Francis
Deborah Lehmann in
memory of Michael Alpers
M Millard
Anne Ricketts
Janet Williams
Anonymous

We gratefully acknowledge the late Helen Dick, whose generous bequest supports our Emerging Artists program and the future of Strike A Chord, creating a lasting legacy for future generations of chamber musicians.

Emerging Artists Giving Circle

The collective support of our Emerging Artists Patrons enables the artistic development of the next generation of Australian chamber musicians via our Masterclasses, Strike A Chord and FutureMakers programs.

Nicholas Callinan AO
& Elizabeth Callinan
Lorna Chapman
Caroline & Robert Clemente
Elisabeth Hodson &
the late Dr Thomas Karplus
Mercer Family Foundation
The Morawetz Family
in memory of Paul Morawetz
Marjorie Nicholas OAM
Patricia H Reid Endowment
Craig Reynolds
Andrew Sisson AO & Tracey Sisson
Kay Vernon
Youth Music Foundation of Australia
Anonymous (2)

Interested in supporting the future of chamber music? Contact Zoë Cobden-Jewitt at zcobden-jewitt@musicaviva.com.au

Principal Partner

**HANSEN LITTLE
FOUNDATION**

Event Partner

**MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE**

University Partner

**MONASH
University**

Key Philanthropic Partners

Chamber Music
Foundation

**JAMESON
FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

Patricia H Reid
Endowment

Perpetual Foundation
– Alan (AGL) Shaw
Endowment

**THE
ROBERT
SALZER
FOUNDATION**

Scobie & Claire
Mackinnon Trust

Tom Breen
Founding Patron
of the National
Development Program

Government Partner

**ACT
Government**

Venue Partner

VCASS
Victorian College of the Arts
Secondary School

Media Partner

3MBS
MELBOURNE 103.5FM

Print Partner

SPECIAL T

Partners

2mbs
Fine Music
Sydney

4MBS Classic FM
103.7

radio 5mbs
99.9fm

CLASSIC

Australian
Festival of
Chamber
Music

**Australian
Music
Examinations
Board**

ArtSound
90.3 | DAB+ fm 92.7

AUSTA
AUSTRALIAN STRINGS ASSOCIATION

**FIREBIRD
TRIO**

**FLINDERS
QUARTET**

RADIO FREMANTLE
107.9 FM

Our 2026 Strike A Chord National Final forms part of our Musica Viva Australia Creative Development Mentorship. This initiative, generously funded by the Ian Potter Foundation, aims to strengthen and evolve Australia's chamber music sector through professional development opportunities for specialist production technicians. A special thanks to 3MBS, who collaborated with Jackson Clarke and Jack Delaney behind the scenes (video streaming and sound recording) as part of the mentorship.

RENOWNED
DUTCH CELLIST
PIETER WISPELWEY
RETURNS FOR A
TRILOGY THROUGH
TIME ALONGSIDE
PIERS LANE.

15, 17 & 18 SEPTEMBER

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



**CREATIVE
VICTORIA**



Musica Viva Australia

strikeachord@musicaviva.com.au

musicaviva.com.au/strikeachord



[strikeachordau](https://www.instagram.com/strikeachordau)



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



Musica Viva Australia is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.