

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEW VIOLINIST**

Current violinists under consideration, in order or likelihood of appointment:

- Brigid Collieridge - returning to Melbourne after a number of years in the US, <https://www.merztrio.com/brigid-1>.
- Elizabeth Sellars - undertaking first FQ 2023 program. Liz is mindful of not taking on too much work, so an FQ permanent position may not be suitable.
- Sophie Rowell - we will know more once she settles into her new role as Artistic Director of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.
- Cameron Hill - may be interested in a permanent FQ appointment if he is successful gaining the MSO concertmaster position.

### **TIMELINE:**

- Brigid - at this early stage, we have hopes that Brigid may be a suitable candidate. With a house concert scheduled for June 17, 2023, if Brigid was suitable, the earliest an offer could be made is July 2023.
- Liz - if Liz is determined to be a likely candidate, the earliest an offer could be made is July 2023 (after the house concert with Brigid).
- Sophie - we will reconnect with Sophie in March 2023 once she has settled into her MCO position to ascertain her interest. If neither Brigid nor Liz prove suitable candidates, we will organise a trial performance with Sophie in the second half of 2023 with the earliest an offer could be made to Sophie being November 2023.
- Cam - with Cam only being in consideration if he is awarded the MSO position, this is a longer time frame, looking at 2024 being the earliest an offer could be made.

## **2023 ACTIVITY**

Most of our activity, including the 2023 subscription series, is outlined in our 2023 season brochure: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/67285187/flinders-quartet-2023-season-brochure>

A summary of key dates can be found here: <https://www.flindersquartet.com/2023-dates-board>

Additional activity in 2023:

- Clare Strong premiere (commission supported by Julian Burnside)  
A new work suitable for high level amateur musicians to be workshopped throughout the year and premiered in December as part of John Noble Itet program. It will then be used in mentoring activity and promoted through Strike a Chord to enable student groups to have something satisfying by a female Australian composer to play
- Natalie Nicolas premiere (commission supported by Andrew Domasevicius)  
A new work commissioned by Andrew to commemorate his wife Aida's 55th birthday. Private premiere and in-house recording in November 2023. Dependent on the work's suitability, it may be programmed in future seasons.

- Monash residency  
FQ will be mentoring the string sections of the Monash Orchestra in August 2023. Wilma and Helen will be away, Jenny Khafagi and Brigid Colledge have been approached to take part. Monash are comfortable with three replacement musicians as FQ is not featured in this instance.

## COMPOSER PROGRAMS

Due to the costs and quartet workload, we will be alternating Ascend and Emerge programs each year.

### **Emerge 2023 program**

- 2023 Emerge program submissions closed October 1<sup>st</sup>, with 71 submissions received (40% of female, 59% from male, and 1% from non-binary identifying composers)
- The field of applicants was so strong, we are considering offering 6 composers places in the program (provided it does not increase costs)
- This program will commence in January 2023 and conclude in January 2024 with a public performance of the resulting compositions

## SHEPPARTON ART MUSEUM FESTIVAL

Due to flooding, a new director, funding, and the desire to build real relationships with the Shepparton region, FQ has decided to use 2023 as a relationship-building and fundraising year for the possible partnership with SAM.

Zoe has met with Melinda Martin and Carmel Johnson and there is a mutual desire to see music in the gallery in a way that enhances the architecture, FQ's music, and celebrates local artists, musicians and composers.

## FUTURE PLANNING

### **Australia Council four-year funding (2025-2028)**

We are preparing an EOI for the Australia Council four-year funding round, seeking support for the 2025-2028 period; the EOI is due 14 February 2023. As part of the artistic activity, FQ is looking to nurture early career chamber musicians by engaging them to deliver FQ's regional and mentoring work, alongside at least two of the permanent/core FQ musicians. This plus the extra funding sought through Australia Council will be to give the FQ musicians the time (and brainspace!) needed to push themselves further artistically by allowing more of the FTE call count to be dedicated to core quartet activity.

### **2024**

Program A

Feliz, my brother Mendesslohn (hybrid production)

Program B

Beethoven Op.18. No.6

Caroline Shaw Blueprint

Beethoven

Program C

Ethel Smyth

Gordon Kerry

TBC

## **2025 (25th anniversary season)**

- Beethoven cycle - 5 concerts, comprising 5 months activity.
- Dance collaboration with true partnership between composers, musicians and dancers. Lucy Guerin Inc, Stephanie Lake and Chunky Move have been approached.
- Creating international opportunities through co-commissioning pieces with international string quartets.

*These activities will be planned in accordance with funding availability*

## **2022 FEEDBACK**

### ***A small snapshot of audience and other feedback we've received in 2022***

"It is with the most extreme gratitude that I write to thank you - once again for the enormous joy that I had in listening to your concert yesterday in Flinders. To be able to drive locally, park out the front, pay very minimal ticket price, & hear your sublime music is a gift I do not take for granted. You give Winter "down here" a whole other dimension of something wonderful to look forward to." *Regional audience member*

"Thank you too for your very lucid and incisive commentary on the music. As you've demonstrated with the talks at U3A in Bendigo a couple of times, you have a real gift for giving your audience an understanding and insight into the music that they'll be listening to." *Regional audience member*

"I have been meaning to email to thank you for the generous offer of tickets for our students at your MRC concert. The students were absolutely thrilled to attend and came out of it very excited about quartet playing and especially Beethoven! They were also enchanted by the Vignettes and were wondering about the possibility of purchasing the parts in order to be able to play them in their own quartets at VCASS next year!" *VCASS teacher*

"It was so inspiring to watch you at work yesterday! Actually everybody should see this sort of thing from time to time." *Open rehearsal attendee*

"The absolute silence of the audience during all of the works indicated how closely they were concentrating on the perfection of the playing in all of the three works. It was a privilege for our audience to hear music played to this level of brilliance. Many comments praising the performance were made to me by the audience as they were leaving. We look forward to inviting the Quartet back. You are already on our planning list for 2024. Thank you as well for all your efficient help in getting the concert organised for us." *Presenter*

"... your concert with Melody and Katy was an absolute delight. Ashlyn's interpretation was delivered with clarity and charm. Vehicles such as F.Q. play such a vital role providing an outlet for contemporary local composers. [If I had a hammer, I'd break any remnant glass ceilings]" *Subscriber*

"Loved your concert last night. The voice of your opera singer was amazing, just so rich and warm. Fitted perfectly with the quartet. I was not expecting opera with a strings quartet, but it worked! The chat commentary was really interesting too, it gave us a perspective of how you as players experienced the music while rehearsing it and the connection with people who composed the music. It was also interesting to read in your chat about what you saw when you looked back at your own concert recording. Having chat and the video was very connecting for the viewer as well. A fascinating evening all round, just wonderful!" *FQ Digital subscriber*