

Currently, FQ is actively engaged in five areas of education activity. There has been a natural attrition of activity that has been overly time-consuming or ineffective over 2023.

In this document, we aim to align the activity and its impact with our vision, mission and purpose and our four pillars of activity:

Vision

An industry exemplar for diversity, relevance and masterful performance.

Mission

To be the vanguard of artistic excellence and generosity, championing art-form renewal, community engagement, creative and commercial vibrancy.

Purpose

To challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia.

Four pillars of activity:

1. Subscription concerts and innovative programming
2. Touring - regional / national / international
3. Industry development
4. Education

JOHN NOBLE ITET PROGRAM

Summary of Activity

- John Noble mentors around 10 ensembles in 7 regional areas.
- He chooses players that wouldn't normally have the opportunity to take part in an ensemble; not always the most accomplished players in a regional centre.
- In 2023, the side-by-side concerts were mostly held in aged care facilities, with one held in a school due to a covid outbreak in the aged care facility.

FQ's Aims/Goals

- To foster strong connections within the regional communities through chamber music
- Increase awareness of FQ in regional areas
- Build long lasting connections with regional areas
- Increase level of instrumental playing in regional areas
- Support regional instrumental teachers
- Encourage future regional instrumental teachers

PILLARS

- Education
- Regional touring

- Industry Development

Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

- Artistic generosity
- Community engagement
- To challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia
- An industry exemplar for diversity, relevance and masterful performance

Time invested in 2023

4 musicians:

- 4 Side by Side concerts (12 calls per player)
- 1 end of year concert with preparation rehearsal (5 calls per player)

1 Musician (As part of AD salary)

- Mildura overnight for mentoring and community concert (6 calls)

Number of participants reached in 2023

36

Approximate number of times individuals came into contact with a member of FQ

3 (Side by side concert end of year workshop and concert)

Estimation of impact

Medium

Comments

Previously, FQ musicians delivered online coaching and in person mentoring but we found the musicians were not prepared and did not make best use of FQ musician time; in 2023, we decided to focus primarily on the side-by-side concerts in aged care facilities which has worked particularly well. The benefit of a low stress concert for the musicians and having live music for the Aged Care residents has been a good match

In 2024, a large part of our John Noble activity will be the "Art is" festival in Horsham, bringing together musicians from Horsham and Mildura (and potentially Bendigo). Zoe went in person to Mildura and noticed that the groups were burnt out and lacking direction. John has suggested that the Mildura groups need to do some internal assessment and not to do an in person visit in 2024.

John will report back to FQ mid 2024 with any further developments.

RESONANCE STRING ORCHESTRA AND STRING QUARTET

Summary of Activity

- A community string orchestra with an emphasis on inclusion and excellence
- Two ensembles in Woodend and Castlemaine

- Combined rehearsals 6 times per year with an end of year concert in Castlemaine Town Hall (which sold out in 2022, leading to two concerts on the one day in 2023)
- Two string quartets created in Woodend and Castlemaine in 2022 led by Zoe

FQ's Aims/Goals

- Encourage highest possible level of string playing in regional areas
- Build on string quartet community in Woodend and Castlemaine to add to local events
- Partner with an ensemble like-minded in programming and industry development ideals
- Develop a prototype for a systematic approach to string quartet playing
- Create long and meaningful relationship with a regional community

PILLARS

- Education
- Industry Development

Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

- **artistic generosity**
- **community engagement with emphasis on striving for artistic excellence**
- **Creative vibrancy**
- **To challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia**
- **An industry exemplar for diversity, relevance and masterful performance**

Time invested in 2023

One musician (as part of AD salary)

- 4 Saturdays in Castlemaine
- 3 Fridays in Castlemaine
- 3 Mondays in Woodend
- 12 individual 30 minute sessions with quartet members
- 6 sessions per quartet

Number of participants reached in 2023

- 40

Number of times people came into contact with a member of FQ

- Average of 6

Estimation of impact

High

Comments

The string community of Resonance is enthusiastic and creative, and produces concerts with deep meaning and thought; they are perfectly aligned to FQ. In 2024, the quartet program will focus on one string quartet and it will be on a project basis of intensives to minimise burnout and ensure momentum. Resonance and FQ are in discussions about a mini festival of concerts in Castlemaine

in 2025, culminating in the Mendelssohn Octet performed with the Castlemaine Chamber players. As AD, Zoe will offer a similar time commitment to Resonance Orchestra in 2024. We will look into working in funding to record these projects into future grant submissions.

REGIONAL QUARTET IN RESIDENCE

Summary of Activity

FQ mentorship of Castlemaine Chamber Players includes coaching and career development sessions as well as marketing support and promotion.

FQ's Aims/Goals

- Establish a tiered approach to regional engagement
- Nurture a high standard of chamber music by local musicians
- Where possible, work with local teachers in the ensemble in residence

PILLARS:

- Regional touring
- Industry Development
- Education

Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

- Artistic excellence and generosity
- Creative vibrancy
- Community engagement
- To challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia

Time invested in 2023

One musician:

- 4 chamber coaching sessions as part of AD salary
- 1 career development session

Number of participants reached in 2023

4

Approximate number of times individuals came into contact with a member of FQ

5

Estimation of impact

Medium-High

Comments:

Having worked with the Mallee string quartet (Mildura) and Castlemaine Chamber Players, FQ is confident that the model of a regional string quartet in residence is worth pursuing. The Mallee quartet was made up of string players with other occupations, thus creating a demand on their time,

however the Castlemaine Quartet is made up of local string teachers and the commitment to longevity and a career plan is noticeable. Castlemaine Chamber players are already planning into 2025 with FQ's help.

STRIKE A CHORD

Summary of Activity

- Each year FQ awards a prize to a string quartet as part of the Musica Viva Strike a Chord competition, offering up to 10 coaching sessions and 2 career development sessions and a performance in a Flinders Quartet concert.
- FQ provides flights and accommodation for interstate ensembles.

FQ's Aims/Goals

- Nurture longevity in young string quartets
- Give aspiring professional chamber musicians a professional experience
- Identify young string quartets who are capable of performing works from FQ Emerge and Ascend programs
- Align FQ with the best young students in the country

PILLARS

- Education
- Industry Development

Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

- **Artistic excellence and generosity**
- **Creative vibrancy**
- **An industry exemplar for diversity, relevance and masterful performance**

Time invested in 2023

2 Musicians

2 sessions

4 musicians

Three sessions

Number of participants reached in 2023

4

Approximate number of times individuals came into contact with a member of FQ

6

Estimation of impact

Medium - High

Comments

Working with the nation's top teenage string players has been inspiring. Having performed both Shostakovich Octet and the Mendelssohn Octet with prize winners, the model of a week of mentoring with a series of concerts seems to work well. A focus has been ensuring the group can participate in more than one concert and can play a piece on their own to a discerning audience.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Summary of Activity

- Students given free tickets to 1pm concerts
- FQ doing an open rehearsal for VCE students studying for their interpretation assessment
FQ supporting string ensembles
- Shostakovich project: using Shostakovich string quartets to allow students using other mediums (Visual communication, visual art etc) the chance to delve deep into the music and its meaning and relevance to them

FQ's Aims/Goals

- Nurture future audience members
- Give teenagers an easy way into classical music and chamber music
- Support public school teachers and introduce the highest level of music making to secondary school
- Work with the students in a collaborative way where possible

PILLARS

- Education
- Industry Development (Audience)

Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

- Artistic generosity
- Community engagement
- To challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia
- An industry exemplar for diversity, relevance and masterful performance

Time invested in 2023

MacRob:

One musician

- 3 sessions X 2 classes (6 sessions)

Administration for poster project

Ringwood Secondary:

One musician

- 1 session

VCASS:

No time outside concert

Footscray High School:

Four musicians

- One session of with VCE students
- One session with VCE sound production students

Number of participants reached in 2023

MacRob: 30	Ringwood Secondary: 20	VCASS: 30	Footscray High School: 30
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Approximate number of times individuals came into contact with a member of FQ

MacRob: 4 (including one concert)	Ringwood Secondary: 2 (including one concert)	VCASS: 3 (concerts)	Footscray High School: 3 (including 2 concerts)
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Estimation of impact

MacRob: High	Ringwood Secondary: Medium	VCASS: Medium	Footscray High School: High
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Comments

The impact and efficacy of engagement largely depends on the teacher's ability to engage the students:

- Bill Coomblas at MacRob
- Paul Dooley at Footscray
- Julie Haskell at VCASS

Future planning:

- Bringing students into the FQ 1pm concerts is well appreciated but we should supplement this with resources in advance.
- Open rehearsal and discussion with students at Footscray is well appreciated - perhaps offer this to VCASS in 2024.
- Ringwood Secondary College is at maximum capacity in their activity already. A strong music program that leaves little time for the teachers to contemplate something new.

- The project with MacRob was Shostakovich specific. There is the possibility to do a simple poster exercise with students from MacRob for the 2024 Mendelssohn project (program 3). Fiona Phillips also has a colleague who may be interested in a similar project in 2024.