

**FLINDERS QUARTET INC.  
EDUCATION & REGIONAL IMPACT PAPER  
prepared by Zoe Knighton  
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### **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.

Flinders Quartet's four pillars of activity:

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

## **SUMMARY OF FUNDED ACTIVITY IN 2024**

SUPPORTED BY CYBEC FOUNDATION (confirmed) AND ROBERT SALZER FOUNDATION (unconfirmed)

## JOHN NOBLE ITET PROGRAM

### **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**

### **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

## Summary of 2024 activity

- John Noble mentors 9 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
- Side-by-side concerts in Bendigo, Horsham and Hume with the possibility of Shepparton being part of a Shepparton Art Museum performance
- Participation in 'Art Is' festival in June
- End of year concert in Gippsland with 2 FQ members
- Zoe to travel to Mildura in September as AD to work with 3 ensembles
- Zoe to support John in online coaching where needed as AD (up to 6 sessions online)

## Time invested in 2024

4 musicians:

- 4 Side by Side concerts (12 calls per player)
- 1 end of year concert with preparation rehearsal (2 players with 6 calls each)
- 6 sessions online with ensembles (AD salary)

1 Musician (as part of AD salary)

- Mildura overnight for mentoring and community concert (AD salary with Itet covering accom and flights)

## Number of participants anticipated in 2024

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

John needs some support in being able to sustain the mentoring for the ensembles. The 6 sessions allocated to AD salary may not be needed.

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) and connecting with Resonance String Orchestra

John reported that Zoe's in-person coaching in Mildura in 2023 had significant impact and has requested the same in 2024.

The end of year concert is in Gippsland and will include 2 FQ members allowing space for other professional musicians to take part.

Itet has also been connected with suitable composers who have applied but not been successful in gaining a place in our composer programs.

## RESONANCE STRING ORCHESTRA AND STRING QUARTET

### 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**

### 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

### Summary of 2024 activity

- A community string orchestra with an emphasis on inclusion and excellence
- One quartet in Woodend led by Zoe as AD
- Combined rehearsals 6 times per year with 2 end of year concerts in Castlemaine Town Hall
- Woodend Quartet from 2023 to play Ella Macens "Resting With Angels" at fundraising events and other public performance opportunities.

### Time invested in 2024

One musician (as part of AD salary)

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

### Number of participants anticipated in 2024

- 50

### 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. Resonance has also been connected with suitable composers who have applied but not been successful in gaining a place in our composer programs.

## REGIONAL QUARTET 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

### 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

### Summary of 2024 activity

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

### Time invested in 2024

One musician:

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

### Number of participants anticipated in 2024

4

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

5

## Estimation of impact

Medium-High

## Comments:

CCP has made the most of their position as FQ Regional String Quartet in Residence in 2023 utilising coaching sessions and seeking career advice. To find a similar ensemble in Victoria when their term has ended will be difficult so we may consider having them continue in 2025.

## STRIKE A CHORD (Musica Viva Australia)

### PILLARS

- Education
- Industry Development

### Alignment with vision/mission/purpose:

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

## 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

## Summary of 2024 activity

- Each year that the Strike a Chord (SAC) competition is run, FQ awards a prize to a string quartet, 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.

## Time invested in 2024

1 Musician (AD)

2 sessions

## Number of participants anticipated in 2024

4

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

2

## **Estimation of impact**

Medium - High

## **Comments**

As there was no SAC in 2023, we will be selecting an FQ prize-winner in August and anticipate being able to have 2 sessions before the end of the year.

## **HIGH SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

### **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**
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### **Summary of 2024 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
- Curation of material to support attendance at 1pm concerts

### **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

### **Time invested in 2024**

Ringwood Secondary:

One musician

- 1 session

VCASS:

- 2 chamber coaching sessions (AD)

Footscray High School:

Four musicians

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

### **Number of participants anticipated in 2024**

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**

Ringwood Secondary: 2 (including one concert)	VCASS: 3 (concerts and chamber sessions)	Footscray High School: 3 (including 2 concerts)
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### **Estimation of impact**

Ringwood Secondary: Medium	VCASS: High	Footscray High School: High
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### **Comments**

- Bringing students into the FQ 1pm concerts is well appreciated and we will trial supplementing this with resources in advance.
- Open rehearsal and discussion with students at Footscray is well appreciated - offering 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 in 2023 was Shostakovich specific. There is the possibility of pursuing a similar project but perhaps more realistically in 2025.