

FLINDERS QUARTET

MEDIA RELEASE
2019 PROGRAM ONE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENUE AND TICKETING INFORMATION: <http://www.flindersquartet.com/2019-program-1>

IMAGES: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t7p7eocimfooszr/AABc36NWkGYvJjw7jAAtumppa?dl=0>

2019 SEASON VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/299105762>

FLINDERS QUARTET OPEN 2019 SEASON WITH VIM AND VIGOUR AND REVEALS THE SECRET TO ITS LONGEVITY



L-R Thibaud Pavlovic-Hobba (violin), Nicholas Waters (violin), Zoe Knighton (cello), Helen Ireland (viola)

Surviving multiple personnel changes and a competitive artistic environment certainly has its challenges. Cellist, Zoe Knighton, suggests the group's ability to thrive through the changes is largely due to the continued love of the string quartet repertoire: "We always try to put the music at the core of what we do, and our shared love of the string quartet brings us together. The music is totally addictive and all consuming."

An ensemble whose mission is to ensure everyone has a chance to fall in love with the music of the string quartet, Flinders Quartet's passion for the music it plays is second to none. Critics have showered the recent incarnation of Flinders Quartet with praise:

"... perfectly balanced..."

"...great vim and vigour on display by the FQ musicians that thoroughly thrilled this audience."

The first concert of their 2019 season promises no less excitement. Violinist Nicholas Waters has been championing Schumann's third string quartet for years and now has his chance to live a dream of playing this thoroughly romantic work. "It's real heart on your sleeve stuff," he says, "I have always wanted to play this piece." It has certainly won the quartet over with cellist Zoe Knighton saying, "Schumann allows us to really let our emotions loose. It's such gratifying music to listen to and perhaps some of the most perfect romantic music ever written."

Taking its role as one of the nation's leading ensembles very seriously, FQ runs numerous education and outreach programs including its celebrated annual Composer Development Program. As Zoe Knighton explains, these programs are focussed on fostering and developing talent over an extended period of time.

In 2019, Flinders Quartet launches the career of Matthew Laing from its Composer Development Program; promoting his journey from 2017 participant, to a residency at All That We Are artist retreat in Hobart, to having his first full string quartet premiered in 2019 in FQ's season. Laing was also recently awarded an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant to support his travel to Berlin to mentor with musician and composer, Brett Dean, with whom he will work on the FQ commission. A rare chance to witness the beginning of a career, FQ is confident Matthew Laing's music will one day be heard internationally.

Subscriptions and single tickets for FQ's 2019 season are now available now through
Melbourne Recital Centre melbournerecital.com.au or 03 9699 3333

~ RELEASE ENDS ~

PROGRAM DATES AND DETAILS

FEBRUARY 2019 TOUR: **QUARTET**

JOSEPH HAYDN String Quartet Op. 64, No. 3

MATTHEW LAING *Out of Hibernation**

ROBERT SCHUMANN String Quartet No. 3 in A major, Op. 41, No. 3

* World premiere; Laing was a 2017 FQ Composer Development Program participant

ELTHAM Sunday 24 February, 2.30pm, Montsalvat Barn Gallery

MELBOURNE Tuesday 26 February, 1.00pm, Collins Street Baptist Church^

SOUTHBANK Thursday 28 February, 7.00pm, Melbourne Recital Centre (Primrose Potter Salon)

MORNINGTON Saturday 2 March, 7.30pm

^ one-hour lunchtime concert, please visit flindersquartet.com for specific program details

FLINDERS QUARTET

"... Flinders Quartet displays a tight ensemble with exemplary intonation ... We are indeed fortunate to have resident in Australia a quartet of this very high calibre." — CLASSIKON, July 2017

Flinders Quartet (FQ) is instantly recognisable as one of Australia's most loved chamber music ensembles. A quartet for the twenty-first century, FQ continues its second decade with acknowledged musical skill and maturity. The group's dynamic and stirring performances of a full spectrum of repertoire have audiences and critics articulating their esteem, and the quartet is a highly-respected force in Australian chamber music.

FQ regularly commissions and premieres works by Australian composers. In 2018, the quartet premiered new works by Andrew Ford and Iain Grandage; and revisited a commissioned work by Calvin Bowman. In their ongoing mission to further the Australian tradition of chamber music, FQ has previously commissioned and premiered works by Katy Abbott, Ross Edwards, Elena Kats-Chernin, Stuart Greenbaum, Paul Dean, Paul Grabowsky, Andrew Ford, Ian Munro and Tom Henry. In 2016, FQ launched its Composer Development Program, working with emerging Australian composers, one of whom, Matthew Laing, features in their 2019 season.

Vanguards of the Melbourne chamber music scene, FQ initiated its own annual subscription series in 2002. The series has gained momentum each year, and the quartet now enjoys programming and presenting its own season in three Melbourne venues.

The quartet is regularly invited to perform and tour for chamber music presenters such as Musica Viva, and is in demand at festivals throughout Australia often in association with some of the country's finest talents, including Slava Grigoryan, Kristian Chong, Ian Munro, Paul Dean, Karin Schaupp, Genevieve Lacey and Jayson Gillham. International engagements have taken FQ to the UK, Singapore, Canada, and most recently, Sweden and Finland, where its was invited to perform the complete string quartets by Sibelius.

Building on its 2006 Limelight Award and 2007 Melbourne Prize for Music nomination, FQ was nominated for a 2007 ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) award for its performance of Gillian Whitehead's "Bright Forms Return" in collaboration with new music ensemble Halcyon. In 2010, Flinders was again nominated for the Melbourne Prize for Music, and in 2011 received an ARIA nomination for its CD release with Karin Schaupp (guitar), "Fandango".

FQ was Radio 3MBS FM's inaugural Artists in Residence, a position held until 2006. The quartet continues to receive regular airplay on that station, as well as on ABC Classic FM, Sydney's Fine Music FM, various other Australian stations, and on Finland's Radio Vega and the UK's BBC Three.

FQ's first commercial CD release, "Reinventions" with Genevieve Lacey, met with critical and popular acclaim and was re-released on the ABC Classics label in 2015, reaching #1 on the ARIA Core Classical Album Chart. Also on the ABC Classics label is their ARIA-nominated 2011 release, "Fandango", with Karin Schaupp, and 2015 release "Intimate Voices: Sibelius String Quartets". In late 2018, FQ released a 2-CD set of four Australian works commissioned and/or premiered by the quartet.

The members of Flinders Quartet have a steadfast commitment to the development of Australian chamber music, musicians and audiences. As teachers and mentors, they regularly work with the Australian Youth Orchestra and its developmental programs for young chamber groups. They also work with the Victorian Amateur Chamber Music Society, and are regularly invited to tutor at secondary and tertiary institutions throughout Australia including the University of Melbourne. In 2018, Flinders Quartet were appointed Artistic Patrons of John Noble's Quartet Program.

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

MATTHEW LAING primarily works as a freelance viola player in Melbourne, but has had several original works performed over the last few years including solo works for viola and e flat clarinet, culminating in his involvement in Flinders Quartet's 2017 Composer Development Program. This follows on from an extensive arranging portfolio, working as an arranger in the classical and pop music scene for various groups including the Auric Quartet and Giovanni Sollima, Ensemble Sacamano, and an acclaimed performance of Winter from the Piazzolla Four Seasons for 3 cellos and piano in Bulgaria. In 2018, Matthew was awarded an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant to support his travel to Berlin to mentor with musician and composer, Brett Dean.



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Melbourne's string quartet since 2000

www.flindersquartet.com
