

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA StudioCasts



SEVEN STUNNING FILMS

**Features the
world-renowned
Australian Chamber
Orchestra**

StudioCasts is a season of seven beautifully shot one-hour films that showcase the musical breadth and daring virtuosity for which the ACO is renowned around the world.

Lead by Artistic Director Richard Tognetti, the films feature exquisite audio and cinematography to capture the orchestra in full flight.

From intimate quartet performances to larger-scale, immersive performances against epic projections, the ACO delivers works by contemporary composers including Pēteris Vasks and Arvo Pärt, along with masterpieces from the likes of Bach, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

HD 7 x 60'

Australian Chamber Orchestra



ACO IN THE MEDIA



‘A band unlike any other’

– [The Guardian](#)

‘Routinely voted one of the best orchestras of its kind on the planet’

– [Australian Financial Review](#)

‘Small in number, but big in impact’

– [The Daily Telegraph](#)

‘Uniformly high-octane, arresting and never ordinary’

– [The Australian](#)

‘The fleet, bold performance these impressive Australian musicians gave would have sounded great almost anywhere’

– [The New York Times](#)

BACH AND THE BEYOND

The music of Bach is showcased in this evocative and impassioned film

At a time when we are all grappling with finding trust in this new world and hope for the future, it is astonishing how relevant Bach remains. This stunning music film pitches Bach's timeless search for redemption alongside compositions by ACO Artistic Director Richard Tognetti and elevated by the mesmerising vocals of Principal Violin Satu Vänskä.

Bach's Ricercar from 'The Musical Offering', with guest flautist Emmanuel Pahud (Principal Flute of the Berlin Philharmonic, filmed at the Pierre Boulz Saal in Berlin), is a tumultuous six-part fugue tinged with personal anguish, while his 'Erbarme dich' from the 'St Matthew Passion', yearns for comfort in a heart-rending cello solo by ACO Principal Timo-Veikko Valve.

There is a natural connection with excerpts from the ACO's 2012 film, *The Reef*, in particular Richard Tognetti's 'Beyond', which was inspired by images of underwater swimmers seemingly caught in the "troubled peace" between life and death.

Lest the afterlife feel placid and safe, 'Deviance', Tognetti's re-imagining of Paganini's Caprice No.24, suggests the world beyond could be happily devilish too.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra





BEETHOVEN & BRIDGETOWER

Beethoven's much-loved sonata is performed in a passionate and sweeping musical film

Two soulmates, a sonata immortalised, and a name lost to history.

It's an epic work, but there is also drama off stage in what is arguably Beethoven's most loved and performed violin sonata, performed here in an arrangement by Richard Tognetti for solo violin and string orchestra.

Known as '*The Kreutzer*' for its dedication to the violinist Rudolphe Kreutzer (who likely never played this difficult, titanic work), what has been lost in history is its original dedication to George Bridgetower, a far more accomplished violinist of West Indian descent and something of a kindred spirit to Beethoven.

Bridgetower performed with the composer at the Sonata's premiere but they fell out spectacularly and his name was removed from the dedication.

But in this corner of the world he is not forgotten, as Richard Tognetti and the ACO seek to restore Bridgetower's rightful place in history.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra



LOVE & TRANSFIGURATION

An exquisitely beautiful and moving journey

In 'Vox amoris', written for Richard Tognetti in 2009 by Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks, the violin sings a song to the glory of love through emotional highs and lows.

Such balancing of melancholy and light also underpins the moral complexity in Schoenberg's 'Verklärte Nacht', but the resolution finds love as a redeemer. Even Bach's 'Ich ruf zu dir' – made famous by its inclusion in Tarkovsky's film *Solaris* – performed by Richard Tognetti and ACO

Principals Stefanie Farrands, Timo-Veikko Valve and Maxime Bibeau, is a cry of yearning to be freed from earthly suffering that takes on a joyous aspect.

This is a film that will lift you out of daily life and into the light.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra

RAPTURE & REVOLUTION

The beauty and emotion of the music of Beethoven and Vaughan Williams takes centre stage

Filmed in the grand and expansive Centennial Hall at Sydney Town Hall, *Rapture & Revolution* opens with Schubert's 'Quartettsatz', followed by Vaughan Williams's 'The Lark Ascending'. Universally loved, it has long been a calling card for Richard Tognetti and a place for rapture in a pure sense.

There is a similar emotional impact in Beethoven's 'Cavatina', which may be one of the most moving pieces ever written. Indeed, so moved was Beethoven that it's said he finished it with tears falling onto his manuscript.

Emotions transcend time and so does Beethoven's 'Grosse Fuge' which was perhaps too revolutionary for an early-19th-century audience.

Now though, inspired by the intellectual drive within it, we celebrate the 'Grosse Fuge' as another moment of beauty and rapture.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra

SCHUBERT'S QUINTET

Experience the intimacy
and intensity of Schubert's
masterwork string quintet

Schubert's career was marked by admiration for Beethoven and his desire to match the heights achieved by his hero. In his "perfect" Quintet, possibly the best longform piece of chamber music ever written, he achieved that goal.

Composed in the final weeks of his far-too-short life, the writing is symphonic, alluding to far more harmonic colours and textures than had ever been thought possible for an ensemble of this size.

Featuring a star-studded ACO ensemble, this soulful emotional journey through sadness, fear, contemplation and joy is the intimate and the grand brilliantly merged.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra

TABULA RASA

Richard Tognetti leads the ACO through performances of Arvo Pärt's 'Tabula Rasa' and Shostakovich's 'Chamber Symphony'

Directed by Matisse Ruby, this spectacular music film features Artistic Director Richard Tognetti leading the ACO through performances of Arvo Pärt's 'Tabula Rasa' and Shostakovich's 'Chamber Symphony', integrated with imagery and video projections by renowned cinematographer Jon Frank and Beizj Studio.

Estonian Arvo Pärt is one of the most performed living composers, and his extraordinary music is revered by musicians and non-musicians alike around the world. Written while his Estonian homeland was under Soviet control, 'Tabula Rasa' strives to break free and start afresh through spirituality and independence.

Shostakovich's 'Chamber Symphony' is a lament for victims of fascism and war, but also an act of self-reflection as it moves from elegy to brutal force into haunting acceptance.

HD 1 x 60'

Australian Chamber Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY'S SERENADE

The much-loved music of Tchaikovsky
is performed by this remarkable orchestra

Majestic and nation-defying music is no small feat, demanding spirit, nationalism and honour. However, music coming from one's innermost feelings asks something special too, as in George Walker's 'Lyric for Strings' which blends lamentation and lushness direct from the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer's emotional core.

It was a question of emotional core which played on the mind of Tchaikovsky when he wrote his 'Serenade for Strings', one of the most loved pieces for string orchestra.

We hear Tchaikovsky reaching into his innermost feelings, his nostalgic adoration for Mozart, and the energy and influence of Russian folk music.

Many said it was the best thing he had yet written.

HD 1 x 60'
Australian Chamber Orchestra

