

**CITY
RECITAL
HALL**



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

CITY RECITAL HALL LIMITED

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Concert: *Considering Matthew Shepard*
Photo: Robert Catto

Front Cover
Photo: Maria Prada Photography

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Concert: *Echoes of the Jazz Age*
Photo: Maria Boyadgis

VISION

To be one of the 'must visit' cultural destinations in Australia.

MISSION

To unlock the cultural, social and economic value of City Recital Hall.

We will do this by:

- producing, promoting, presenting, encouraging and facilitating excellent cultural events;
- ensuring diversity of users, audiences and programs;
- engaging new audiences; and
- operating and managing the venue responsibly and sustainably, and in cooperation with stakeholders.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- **Progressive thinking and creative excellence** underpin everything we do. We think outside the square to deliver unique and creative experiences for our artists, partners and audiences.
- **Democratic and diverse** - Everyone plays an important part, every voice is heard, everyone is respected. We champion diversity by engaging with all genres, all peoples, all ideas. We are proud to be open, transparent and inclusive.
- **Playful** - We love exploring ideas and opportunities in a fun and creative cultural environment.
- We must be **connected** locally, nationally and internationally with our artists, partners and audiences.
- We act with **integrity and professionalism** at all times.

STRATEGIC GOALS

BRAND

City Recital Hall is a place that offers "music and more" to a wide audience

PLACE

The beating cultural heart of the Sydney CBD

QUALITY

If it's on at City Recital Hall, it must be good

SERVICE

City Recital Hall is an excellently run arts company with a talented, passionate and flexible team that goes above and beyond

TRUST

City Recital Hall is financially sustainable, and strongly supported by the City of Sydney and a loyal group of members, sponsors and donors

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE

126,574

TOTAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS:

206

TOTAL RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS:

24

PERFORMANCES FEATURING INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS/ENSEMBLES:

54

CRH PRESENTS CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

75

TOTAL AUDIENCE FOR CRH CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

32,806

CITY RECITAL HALL ACTIVE MEMBERS

493

PERCENTAGE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS:

93%



FACEBOOK TOTAL REACH

2,391,460



FACEBOOK TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

3,722,453



FACEBOOK TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS

147,500



TWEET IMPRESSIONS

373,000



INSTAGRAM REACH

56,189



INSTAGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

2,910



WEBSITE

TOTAL UNIQUE AUDIENCES

250,300

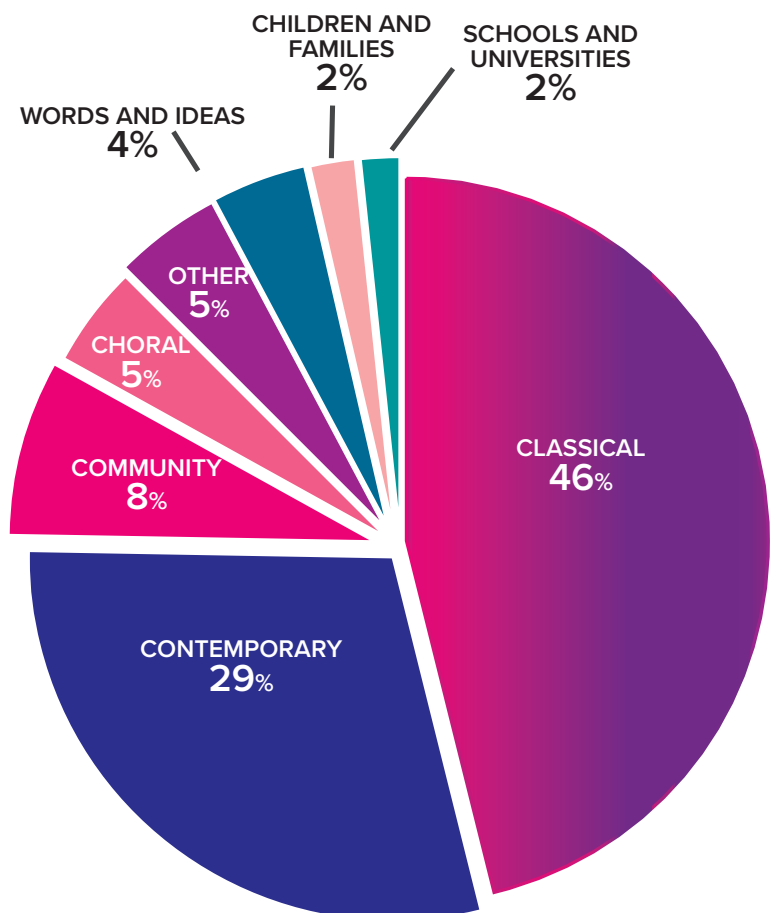
TOTAL SESSIONS

1,294,893

CITY RECITAL HALL TV COMMERCIAL SCREENED

596,950

TIMES ON SBS ON-DEMAND



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



First and foremost, our thoughts and well wishes go to every individual of the Australian performing arts industry who have been impacted so significantly by COVID-19. City Recital Hall has a proud history of presenting our country's finest musicians and performers and we take solace knowing the music they have streamed into our homes over recent months will shortly return, as live concert experiences, to the City Recital Hall stage.

We farewelled Elaine Chia in February after four years as CEO of City Recital Hall with heartfelt thanks for her distinguished service as our inaugural CEO since January 2016. The artistic and organisational foundations Elaine developed are again reflected in this report and are testament to her dedication and passion for our growth. We warmly welcomed Justin Boschetti to the position in May and we look forward to the future direction of City Recital Hall under Justin's leadership.

Our positive financial result for 2020, a surplus of \$284,500, is a direct result of the company's profitable programming activity in the first three quarters of the reporting year along with our diligent reserves policy and conservative budget forecasting. The Board of Directors have therefore assured City Recital Hall Limited as a going concern and recognise the Australian Government's JobKeeper subsidy as a vital underpinning of our operational and financial sustainability at this time.

While the year has been an interrupted one, we saw strong growth in programming activity with 206 concerts and events achieving a combined total audience attendance of 126,574. We closed City Recital Hall temporarily on 16th March 2020. The Board and I want to particularly thank our work colleagues for their support during these dark months. They have tirelessly worked to maintain our organisation and we are extremely grateful for these efforts. We reopened on 5th September 2020 and now look forward to the return of all our Key Presenters – Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Musica Viva, Pinchgut Opera and Sydney Symphony Orchestra – in the months ahead.

We continue to reach new audiences with our valued media partners *TimeOut* and *The Saturday Paper* and we acknowledge *SBS* for their three years of partnership as well as our continued corporate partners AV1, JPJ Audio, Chalk Hill and Claymore Wines facilitated by Fisher Fine Wines and Young Henrys.

It is a great honour to work with a Board of Directors whose valued counsel continues to ensure City Recital Hall's ongoing cultural, social and economic viability. In 2019, the Board welcomed Rachel Launders and Paul Mason and we farewelled Maria Sykes, Elizabeth Fullerton and Helen Bauer. I thank them all for their dedication and express warm appreciation for their service over the years.

We are immensely grateful for the City of Sydney's ongoing support in a renewed five-year funding agreement as our Principal Sponsor. This commitment allows us to continue to provide residents and visitors to Sydney the experience of world class acoustics and performances in the very heart of our city. Our sincere gratitude to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore and Councillors of City of Sydney for their encouragement and advocacy for our success in managing this key cultural asset.



Renata Kaldor AO

CEO'S MESSAGE



It was a great honour to be appointed as the CEO in May, and a privilege to be entrusted by the Board to continue the musical legacy of City Recital Hall. This year saw the completion of a strategic plan and funding cycle and we look forward to a new period of success presenting, producing and supporting musical excellence for our current and future audiences. 2020 will be remembered as year of two halves, and although our operation has been required to pause, this report gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to the successes of our team who have worked to ensure the Company's vibrancy.

The year saw many programming highlights including our 20th anniversary event celebrations on 30 October 2019. The day saw a range of activities from back of house tours, a talk by venue architect, Andrew Andersons AO, and a televised Sydney Flash Mob Choir, culminating in a specially curated performance by Megan Washington supported by Electric Fields, Topolgy and Luke Howard. The return of new music festival *Extended Play* transformed the venue into multiple performance spaces for almost 100 artists across twelve hours featuring international new piano musician Margaret Leng Tan.

And, in January, following the devastating impact of the summer bushfires, Sydney musicians joined forces to support of our relief concert *Music For Our Country* to raise funds for community and wildlife recovery efforts. My sincere thanks to all who so generously gave of their time and talent for this event.

The sudden impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector and society cannot be ignored. The suspension of live performance in March left a void in the lives of artists and concertgoers. The most successful year in City Recital Hall's history was cut abruptly short by the pandemic, though with careful management and the generosity of our donors and audiences, we look forward to returning to live performance soon.

Our Principal Sponsor, City of Sydney, continues to provide essential support and I extend my thanks to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore and Concillors of City of Sydney, Monica Barone, Bill Carter and all the staff across the Creative City and Property teams.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment, hard-work and leadership of the Board, especially acknowledge the tireless dedication of Renata Kaldor AO. Renata has been an invaluable guide during the last few months and has

helped me to continually look forward and plan for the future at the other side of the current crisis.

The last year has highlighted the passion of the City Recital Hall team who are so deeply committed to the mission of our company and who continually exceed expectations to ensure we always deliver for our audiences and artists. I would also like to thank Elaine Chia for her leadership and commitment during the past four years as CEO. Elaine's vision has both expanded City Recital Hall's offering and broadened our audiences.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the artists and audience members who have trusted City Recital Hall to deliver the joy and beauty of live music during the last year. As custodians of this magnificent venue, we exist for our artists and audiences. I look forward to welcoming you back.

Justin Boschetti

PRESENTING PARTNERS AND HIRERS



ABC Radio
Abstract Entertainment
Arts Communication, Finance Industries
and Property Services (ACFIPS)
Andrew McKinnon Presents
Artology
Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
Australian Chamber Orchestra
Australian Directors Guild
Australian Haydn Ensemble
Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra
Australian String Quartet
Australian World Orchestra
Australian Writers Guild
Camelot Lounge
Chugg Entertainment
David Jones
Destination NSW
Fane Productions Australia
Giant Entertainment
Gondwana Choirs

Good Egg Creative
Hoang Pham
Human Synergistics Australia
Incognito Events
John Cristian Productions
Leichhardt Espresso Chorus
Live Nation
Meriden School
Minter Ellison
Moore College
Musica Viva Australia
NSW Ambulance
NSW Education Standards Authority
NSW Ministry of Health
Omega Ensemble
Origin Energy
Penney & Logan
Pinchgut Opera
RAZ Music
Selby & Friends
Spacious Sky Music College

Suncorp
Sydney Festival
Sydney Philharmonia Choirs
Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Sydney Writers' Festival
Sydney Youth Orchestra
The Harbour Agency
Trinity Grammar School
Troubadour Music Australia
University of NSW
University of Tasmania
WME Entertainment
World Projects South Pacific
Zurich Financial Services Australia

Concert: *Indies and Idols* performed
by Australian Chamber Orchestra

APPEARING ON OUR STAGE

Alexandre da Costa with Jean-Philippe Sylvestre

Alex Waite

Alistair Campbell

Angie McMahon

Anthony Pasquill

Archie Roach with Paul Grabowsky, Sally Dastey and Emma Donovan

Athésia

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

with Morgan Balfour, Emma Black, Brandenburg Choir, Xavier de Maistre, Annie Gard, Christian Li, Matthew Manchester and Madison Nonoa

Australian Chamber Orchestra with Australian National Academy of Music, Brett Dean, Erin Helyard, Dejan Lazić and Lior

Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra with The Idea of North and Jakob Lehmann

Australian String Quartet

Australian World Orchestra with David Berlin, Natalie Chee, Andra Darzins, Daniel Dodds, Tahlia Petrosian and Julia Thompson

Back Akademie Australia

Ben Marshall

Brandon Dodd

Cameron Jones Trio

Choir of King's College Cambridge with Umberto Clerici and Alice Giles

Christina Mimmocchi with Jess Ciampa

Damian Wright with Bandaluzia

Decibel

Doug Parkinson

Dr. Rebecca Gelding with Sarah Toth

Dr. V's Swing Thing

Emerson String Quartet

Emily Granger with Tim Brigden

Emily Sun with Clemens Leske

Garrick Ohlsson

Geoffrey Lancaster

George Ellis

Georgie Williamson with Heathcliffe Auchinachie

Gondwana Choirs

Guy Noble

Halcyon

Helen Garner

Music For Our Country with William Barton, James Burke, Luke Byrne, Tamara Cislowska, Taryn Fiebig, Christine Johnston, Erin Helyard, Elena Kats-Chernin, Andrew O'Connor, Helena

Rathbone, Josie Ryan, Kathryn Selby AM, Veronique Serret, Koen van Stade,

Sally Walker, Sally Whitwell and hosted by Margaret Throsby

Hoang Pham

Auckland Youth Choir, Guam Territorial Band, Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra, John XXIII College Chamber Choir, Seri Puteri Symphonic Winds and Shenzhen Nanshan Chinese International College Choir

Intercurrent

Jayson Gillham

John Bell with Simon Tedeschi and Blazey Best

Julia Donaldson with Malcolm Donaldson

Julian Day

Justine Clarke

Kammerklang

Kate Ceberano with Paul Grabowsky



Concert: *Considering Matthew Shepard*
Photo: Robert Catto



Kathryn Selby AM with Andrew Haveron, Elena Kats-Chernan, Daniel Dodds, Ben Mellefont, Richard Narroway, Clancy Newman, Susie Park, Julian Smiles, Emily Sunm Harry Ward and Timo-Veikko Valve
Kiki Dee with Carmelo Luggeri

LC Beats

Leichardt Espresso Chorus

Sydney Cabaret Festival with Trevor Ashley with Jonathan Biggins, Tim Draxl, Frisky and Mannish, Lily Goodfellow, Jennifer Holiday, Alison Jear, Natalie Joy Johnson, Reuben Kaye, Brian Nash, Phil Scott and Kim David Smith

Lloyd Cole

Lolo Lovina

High Standards with Cath Alcorn, Tom Burlinson, David Campbell, Kate Ceberano, Alinta Chidzey, Jane Cho, Rodger Corder, Tania Doko, Michael Falzon, iOTA, Luke Kennedy, Matt Lee, Ben Mingay, Zahra Newman and Emma Pask

Margaret Leng Tan

Mark Manson

Megan Washington with Electric Fields, Luke Howard and Topology

Michelle Leonard with Bev Kennedy

Miles Merrill with Moe Clark and Melanie Mununggurr-Williams,

Mirusia with the Original Seekers: Athol Guy, Keith Potger, Bruce Woodley and Michael Cristiano

Mojo Juku

Nat Grant

Nevermind

Nexas Quartet

Nicole Car with Etienne Dupuis and Jayson Gillham

Nonsemble

Northern Beaches Chorus, The Jubilate Chamber Choir, Endearvour Harmony chorus, Rover City Voices, Bondi Sings Community Choir, Soulfood A Capella, Voice Male, Central Coast Ukulele Club Choi, Cultural Commune Sydney, The Vocal Company [Nepean CAPA High School], ParkinSong

Oliver Shermacher

Omega Ensemble with Brett Brown, David Greco, Gordon Hamilton, Sally Whitwell and Timothy Reynolds

Paco Peña

Patty Griffin

Paul Jarman with Kate Johnson

Paul McDermott with Stephen Gates

Pinchgut Opera with Jacqueline Dark, Taryn Fiebig, Christopher Lowrey, Michael Petrucci, Timothy Reynolds, Max Riebl and Helen Sherman

Prof. Sandra Garrido, Dr. Sandra Garrido, Nick Begbie, Jess Ciampa, Naomi Crellin and Glenn Rhodes

Prof. Toby Walsh, Charlton Hill and Justin Shave

Robyn Archer

Skride Piano Quartet

Sonya Lifschitz with Christine Johnston

Speak Percussion

Steve Kilbey with George Ellis

Steve Murphy with Javier Pena

Sydney Chamber Choir with Sam Allchurch, Stephanie Dillon, Andrew Goodwin, Amy Moore, Andrew O'Connor and The Muffat Collective

Sydney Children's Choir

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

with Kirill Gerstein and Paul Lewis

Sydney Youth Orchestra

Synergy with Polymorphic Orchestra

Taikoz with Jess Ciampa

Daughters with Tammy Brennan with Moo Baulch, Andrea Durbach, Aivale Carrasco and Leni Phillipe-Janon.

Tanya Sparke with Henry Junor

Tenebrae

The Australian Voices

The Idea of North with Kai Kitamura

The Milk Carton Confessions

The Nano Symphony

Tom Burlinson

UNSW New Music Collective

Valer Sabadus with Orchestra of the Antipodes and Erin Helyard

Vince Jones and The Astral Orchestra

William Zappa with Patrick Dickson

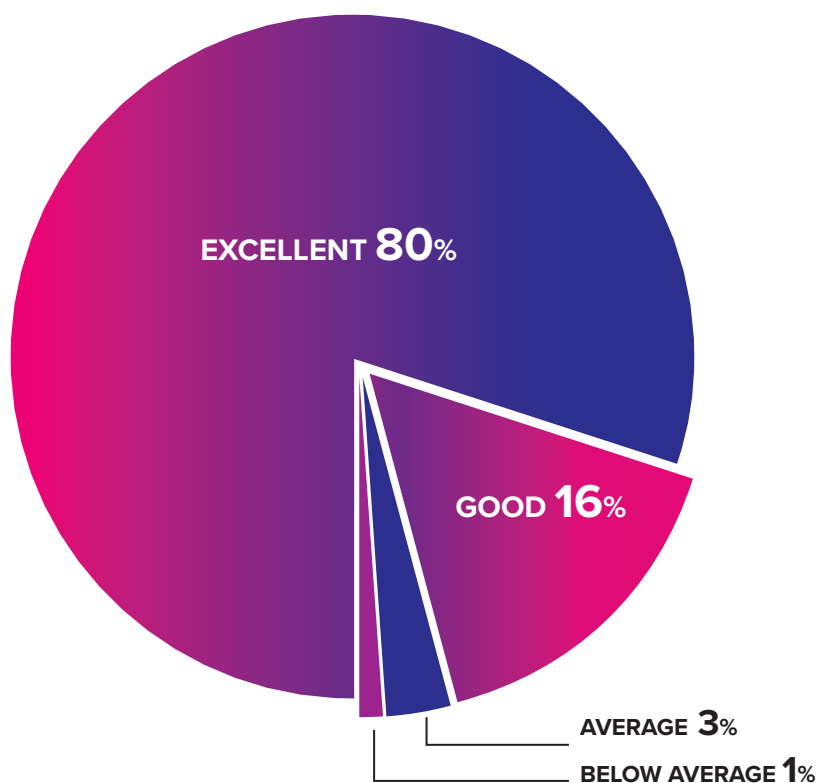
Yanis Varoufakis with Bart van Es

Yaron Hallis with Jess Ciampa

Zephyr Quartet

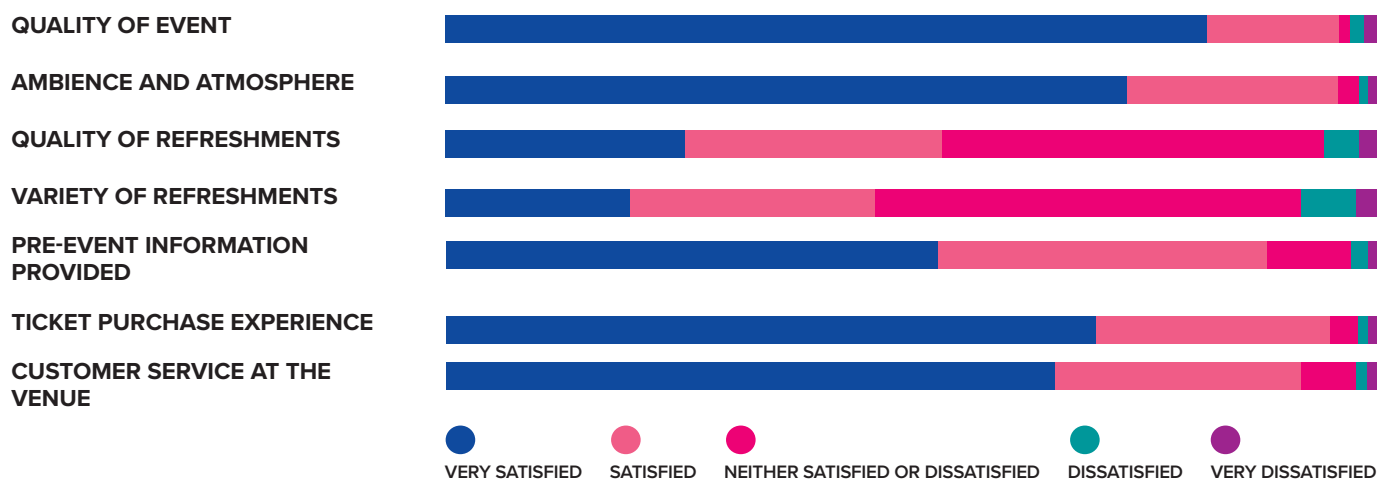
VISITOR EXPERIENCE

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL OPINION OF THE EVENT/CONCERT?



42%
NEW TICKET
BUYERS AT
CITY RECITAL HALL
PRESENTS
PERFORMANCES

HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE?





SUPPORT FOR THE SECTOR

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

City Recital Hall is committed to fostering the arts professionals of the future through formal traineeships, and to supporting our sector through participation in professional development opportunities.

In conjunction with AV1, Apprenticeship Careers Australia, and ACFIPS, Morgan Higgin and Liam Calcutt commenced Certificate III Live Production and Services Traineeships in August 2019. This program is providing Liam and Morgan with experience in all areas of technical production.

EMERGING ARTISTS

We continue to pursue opportunities to engage with emerging artists to support their musical careers and introduce these artists to our audiences.

Our Extended Play festival featured emerging artists from the UNSW New Music Collective

We continued our partnership with Word Travels to present the Australian Poetry Slam CBD Heat and My Dream Show as part of our Open House series, which both provide opportunities for emerging poets to present their work.

Considering Matthew Shepard, co-presented with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs featured emerging artists from the choir's young adult ensemble, VOX.

EXTERNAL VENUES

City Recital Hall provides customer support and online services to 14 events presented by Sydney based not-for-profit organizations including St James Church, St Mary's Cathedral and Sydney Town Hall, facilitating the ticketing requirements of 11,233 audience members.

INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIP

We are proud to be members of the following industry organisations which provide important advocacy and support for artists and arts workers:

- Australian Music Centre (AMC)
- International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA)
- Live Performance Australia (LPA)
- Sydney Arts Management Group (SAMAG)
- The Arts Wellbeing Collective



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACCESSIBILITY

City Recital Hall aims to provide exceptional experiences to wide audiences, and accessibility is therefore an ongoing priority through infrastructure and expanding opportunities for attendance for those with specific access needs.

The auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop, accessible seating and the provision of courtesy wheelchairs for all performances. Our website incorporates accessibility features to assist audiences accessing the venue.

Concession priced tickets totalled almost 20% of all tickets sold by City Recital Hall, and 65 Companion Card tickets were issued.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Our commitment to providing events to engage and excite young children, school-aged students and families with 10 performances catering to 5,980 attendees.

Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra presented two performances

of Voyage of Musical Discovery series to an audience including 1,184 high school students.

In conjunction with our presenting partner Gondwana Choirs, we welcomed 230 children to perform on our stage. We also hosted 350 international youth musicians participating in activities by World Projects South Pacific.

Writer and narrator Justine Clarke and composer and conductor George Ellis co-presented with City Recital Hall, to take young audiences on an orchestral journey with Mimi the magpie for a World Premiere performance of *Mimi's Symphony*.

FREE AND LOW-COST

This year, 7,403 people attended 35 low cost events and over 5,000 people participated in 20 free events.

This Sounds Like Science, a series of lunchtime talks hosted in partnership with Inspiring Australia (NSW), continued to fascinate audiences with discussions linking science and music by leading Australian researchers. This year's four events covered musical composition by

Artificial Intelligence, the mathematics of music, the effect of music on mood, and the neuroscience of musical imagery.

Each of the nine sessions of our popular Sydney Flash Mob Choir events continued to attract a loyal following together with wave of new participants for our free vocal events that combine professionally-led vocal exercises, rehearsals and performances suitable for singers of all levels.

Our long-running lunchtime concert series, A Little Lunch Music, co-curated by City Recital Hall and Kathryn Selby AM, delighted audiences with diverse musical experiences. Thirty-eight contemporary and classical Australian artists performed a range of genres from Beethoven to bluegrass, and tango to jazz in six performances to 4,131 attendees.

Ears to the Ground provided an intimate platform for contemporary artists in our foyers. Two collaborations with Word Travels allowed emerging and life-long amateur poets the opportunity to perform and participate in a intimate and casual environment.

CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS CONCERTS

Concert: *We Are Twenty*
Photo: Asaf Luft

MIMI'S SYMPHONY

During July school holidays we opened our doors to our youngest audiences and their families for the World Premiere of Mimi's Symphony. A new orchestral work for children created by writer and narrator Justine Clarke and composer and conductor George Ellis, Mimi's Symphony was an engaging, lively and distinctly Australian story introducing kids to the different sections of the orchestra as they came together in a joyous symphony.

SYDNEY CABARET ALL-STAR GALA

City Recital Hall was thrilled to co-present the inaugural Sydney Cabaret Festival's opening night *All-Star Gala* on Friday 5 July. Hosted by Festival Director, Trevor Ashley, the concert featured international stars Jennifer Holliday, Natalie Joy Johnson and Frisky and Mannish alongside Australian cabaret favourites, Phil Scott, Jonathan Biggins, Tim Draxl, and Alison Jear.

THE IDEA OF NORTH: HARMONIC HISTRIONIC

We collaborated with Australia's most highly-awarded and best-loved contemporary a cappella group The Idea of North to present their new show, *Harmonic Histrionic*, on Thursday 8 August.

This beautifully-crafted and virtuosic show explored vocal harmony across five centuries from Gregorian Chant, Bach, Madrigals and the Andrew Sisters to contemporary harmony-laden classics, delivered with the group's signature self-deprecating humour and charm.

EXTENDED PLAY

Following the success of the inaugural festival in 2018, *Extended Play* returned to City Recital Hall on Saturday 31 August. This ambitious 12-hour new music festival, produced by City Recital Hall and Lyle Chan, saw music fill every corner of the venue with five performance spaces created across the four levels.

The event featured 20 performances with local and international artists including Synergy, Sonya Lifschitz and Christine Johnston, Decibel, Halcyon, Australian Voices and Zephyr Quartet. A highlight of the festival was Margaret Leng Tan, the

foremost performer of new piano music and the world's first toy piano virtuoso, for her Sydney debut, performing a brand new work by composer George Crumb.

DAUGHTERS

We were proud to partner with The Big Anxiety and Tammy Brennan to present *Daughters*, an important new work by librettist, Tammy Brennan, on Thursday 17 October. Through the expressive form of the Portuguese fado, guitar and song joined together to tell the real-life stories of women and girls effected by gender violence.

TAIKOZ: SEVEN FLOWERS

On Friday 18 October, Taikoz returned to the City Recital Hall stage with a brand new show, *Seven Flowers*. This spectacular performance explored the many faceted phases of an artist's life and work, featuring taiko drumming with beautiful song, dynamic movement, colourful percussion, and an evocative stage design.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY AND WE ARE TWENTY

Wednesday 30 October marked the 20th anniversary of the opening of City Recital Hall. Festivities kicked off with a *Sydney Flash Mob Choir*, followed by behind the scenes venue tours, a lunchtime concert by Bach Akademie Australia and a talk by City Recital Hall architect, Andrew Andersons AO.

In the evening, we marked the occasion with a very special concert curated by Australian musician and songwriter Megan Washington. For the first time, Megan collaborated with renowned electronic music artists Electric Fields, pianist and composer Luke Howard and indie classical ensemble Topology looking toward the music of tomorrow with a classical crossover theme.

The event featured the World Premiere performance of 'Crystal Clear', with music by Robert Davidson, lyrics by Greta Thunberg and Megan Washington.

ROBYN ARCHER: THE (OTHER) GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Following the success of *Que Reste T'il* and *Dancing on the Volcano*, Robyn Archer completed her trilogy of performances at City Recital Hall with *The (Other) Great American Songbook* on Thursday 21 November. Offering a different portrait of America over time through song, Robyn's performance and stories covered everything from the Civil War and The Great Depression to many of its citizens' favourite vices. Accompanied by pianist Michael Morley and George Butrumlis on accordion, Robyn delighted the audience with an epic range of song, including music by Stephen Foster, Rodgers and Hart, Bob Dylan, Pink and Broadway classics.

MOJO JUJU: NATIVE TONGUE

We were thrilled to present Mojo Juju on Tuesday 26 November, performing her extraordinary album *Native Tongue* in its entirety with her brother and long-time collaborator Steve 'T-Bone' Ruiz de Luzuriaga. Raw, honest, emotional and intrinsically political, the show contemplated her mother's Indigenous heritage, her father's experience as a Filipino immigrant and her own place in the cultural landscape of modern Australia.

VOICES OF ANGELS: 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We rounded off 2019 with our much-loved annual festive season celebration, *Voices of Angels*, co-presented with Gondwana Choirs, with two performances on Monday 15 December and Tuesday 16 December. This year's innovative program paired The Twelve Days of Christmas and their associated gifts with beautiful music from across the centuries. Under the direction of Sam Allchurch, the

IRON IN THE BLOOD

In partnership with Sydney Writers' Festival and Earshift Music we presented *Iron in the Blood* as part of the Sydney Festival calendar. *Iron in the Blood* was a captivating musical production, inspired by Robert Hughes' famous book *The Fatal Shore*, with jazz orchestra, visual projections and narration by actors William Zappa and Patrick Dickson. With a score praised for its eclecticism and boldness, composed by Jeremy Rose, the work was brought to life by Rose's award-winning 17 piece Earshift Orchestra featuring Australia's new generation of creative jazz talent.

MUSIC FOR OUR COUNTRY: AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES FUNDRAISER CONCERT

In response to the devastating summer bushfires, City Recital Hall gathered Sydney's classical music community to present a fundraiser concert on Thursday 30 January in which all performers donated their time. All ticket and bar sales were donated to the Australian Red Cross, WIRES Wildlife Rescue and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. Hosted by Margaret Throsby, *Music For Our Country* featured performances from Elena Kats-Chernin and Tamara Anna Cislowska, William Barton and Veronique Serret, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Kathryn Selby, Sally Walker with musicians from Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Erin Helyard.

ECHOES OF THE JAZZ AGE

On Thursday 6 February, actor and director John Bell, pianist Simon Tedeschi and special guest Blazey Best transported audiences back to the brilliance and bedazzlement of the Jazz Age. The performance featured the irresistible music of Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong and James P Johnson, and songs by George Gershwin, Ray Henderson and Fats Waller.

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD

We were proud to collaborate with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs to present Considering Matthew Shepard as part of the 2020 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. In 1998 Matthew Shepard, a first-year college student in Wyoming, was kidnapped, beaten and left to die in a brutal anti-gay hate crime that inspired anguish and outrage. Nearly 20 years later, it inspired Craig Hella Johnson to compose Considering Matthew Shepard and create a space for reflection, consideration and unity around Matthew's life and legacy. Directed by Shaun Rennie with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' VOX ensemble, the semi-staged concert reverberated with hope and serenity, featuring eclectic music that shifts between Lutheran hymnody, chant, blues, cowboy songs and musical theatre

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

On Saturday 14 March, just days before Covid-19 forced the closure of our venue, it was our great privilege to partner with Sydney Chamber Choir to present Messiah. Handel's Messiah shocked the authorities, disrupted traffic, enthralled its audiences and brought a king to his feet. Composed in just 24 days, it was an instant hit and for almost three centuries has remained one of the world's favourite choral works. An absolute treasure-trove of exquisite arias and glorious choruses, the work was performed at City Recital Hall by Sydney Chamber Choir and The Muffat Collective, conducted by Sam Allchurch.

KEY PRESENTERS

We are proud to host Australia's most celebrated musicians and performing arts organisations. The extraordinary musicianship of our Key Presenters significantly contributes to the cultural vibrancy and the continued success of City Recital Hall.

This year, the Key Presenters together presented 69 performances to an audience of 66,746

- Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
- Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Musica Viva
- Pinchgut Opera
- Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Photo: Australian Chamber Orchestra

VENUE HIRERS

Our calendar of activity has again been complemented by concerts and events from Australia's leading presenters, promoters, ensembles and artists. The important addition of venue hiring gives contributes to the musical richness of City Recital Halls program and productively draws new audiences to the Hall.

Our hirers presented 53 concerts and events with a total ticketed audience of 24,783.

"Armed with a guitar, and striking in a red suit, Angie McMahon showed she was a storyteller first and foremost." Sydney Morning Herald

"...the songs, poetry and musings of Leonard Cohen became less a concert and more a diary of what it means to be human." Sydney Morning Herald

"Tenebrae's performance was a delight, showing both the beauty and solemnity of this music." Sydney Morning Herald



Concert: Archie Roach *Tell Me Why*, Sydney Festival 2020
Photo: Yaya Stempler

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the partnerships that played an important role in supporting City Recital Hall's artistic, technical and operational activities.

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

CITY OF SYDNEY 

MEDIA PARTNERS



The Saturday
Paper

TimeOut

PRODUCTION PARTNERS



SERIES PARTNER



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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CLARE VALLEY

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**YOUNG
HENRYS**



GIVING

We gratefully acknowledge the generous gifts of our donors who provide the vital support for City Recital hall to produce, present and promote a diverse program of music and experiences.

We also acknowledge the Naomi Milgrim Foundation and an anonymous donor for the second year of support toward City Recital Hall's new music festival, *Extended Play*.

FOUNDING DONORS

David Albert
Janie and Michael Austin
Helen Bauer and Helen Lynch AM
Abby Bloom and Robert Angyal
The Boyarsky Family
Ian and Jennifer Burton
Tim Cox AO and Bryony Cox
Cuffe Family Foundation
Fiorella and Phillip de Boos-Smith
The Goodridge Foundation
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Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO
Mrs W.G. Keighley
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Rachel Launders and Paul Clark
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Suzanne and Michael Lynch

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Catriona Mordant AM and Simon Mordant AM
Lisa and Egil Paulsen
Andrew Rogers
David and Daniela Shannon
Belinda Storr
Mary-Lynne Taylor and the Estate of the Late Ted Taylor
Wilson Asset Management (Louise Walsh)
Anonymous (1)

BRAVO CIRCLE

Elaine Chia and Ettore Altomare
Jill Berry
Ellen Borda
Ian and Jennifer Burton
Christine and Diane Malcolm Dioptics
Jean McPherson
Michael Sirmay and Rebecca Finkelstein
Anonymous (2)

COMMUNITY AND ACCESS SUPPORTERS

Rob Macfarlan and Nicole Abadee
Ben Adamson
Ian and Jennifer Burton
Kate Dixon
Iphygenia Kallinikos
Fiona McDonald

Sue Radford
Sylvia Rosenblum
Jennie Sager and family
Satya Sinha
Anne Smith
Andrew and Masako Walker
Anonymous (1)

ENCORE CIRCLE

Dr David Millons
Lawrence Osborn

SUPPORTERS

Peter Cassidy
Lisa Chung and Philip Howard
David Cooper
Suvan and Shamistha de Soysa
Timothy Freeman
L Goodridge
Andrea Govaert
Peter Halas
Mrs Georgina Horton
Dr Veronica Lambert
Quang Ly
Robert Mangioni
Marcus McArdle
Roslyn Morgan
Michele Nealon
Dr P and Mrs D Southwell-Keely
Ernestine Spiegel
Prof Prue Vines
Anonymous (1)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The City Recital Hall Limited Board saw several changes during the 2019/20 financial year. Rachel Launders and Paul Mason joined the Board in December 2019. This year also saw the departure of Maria Sykes, Elizabeth Fullerton and Helen Bauer who have each made an invaluable contribution to the Board.

The Board consists of nine directors who provide invaluable counsel to successfully guide the direction of the company through their experience of music, performing arts, business strategy, finance, legal, governance, marketing and media, programming and community engagement.

The Board met on nine occasions, and implemented a number of key actions including:

- Setting strategic priorities for the company
- Approving the annual budget and monthly financial reports
- Ensuring compliance and effective risk management
- Confirmed increase of City of Sydney multi-year funding through to 2025
- Secured capital works commitment by City of Sydney

There are four sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Nominations, Artistic, Development.

DIRECTOR	BOARD	AUDIT & RISK	NOMINATIONS	ARTISTIC	DEVELOPMENT
Renata Kaldor AO	Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tim Cox AO	Deputy Chair	Chair	✓		✓
David Albert	✓	✓			
Helen Bauer Resigned 30 June 2020	✓	✓	Chair		
Elizabeth Fullerton Resigned 15 August 2019	✓	✓			
Rachel Launders Joined 1 December 2019	✓	✓			
Paul Mason Joined 1 December 2019	✓			✓	
Marcus McArdle	✓	✓			
Carol Mills	✓		✓		
Jennie Sager	✓				
Maria Sykes Resigned 8 October 2019	✓				
Louise Walsh	✓				Chair

BOARD



RENATA KALDOR AO
CHAIR

Renata has been involved in business, education and community affairs. She is a Director of Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW. In the past, Renata has been a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House, a Board Member of Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a Director of Sydney Children's Hospital Network, and the Australian World Orchestra, a Judicial Commissioner, Deputy Chancellor at the University of Sydney, as well as Chair of the NSW Women's Advisory Council. In 2002 Renata was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and received the Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2005 she was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney.



TIM COX AO
DEPUTY CHAIR

Tim founded his public relations company Cox Inall Communications in 1975, an award-winning company working with some of Australia's largest companies and with state and federal governments. Tim joined the Board of The Australian Ballet in 1984, becoming Chair for four years from 1995. He was Chair of Bell Shakespeare from 1999 for 10 years. From Tim's suggestion that all performing arts companies should collaborate more, the Australian Major Performing Arts Group was established in 1999, and has been extremely successful since. Tim also served on the Major Performing Arts Panel of the Australia Council from 2011 to 2015 and was Deputy Chair of Sydney Film Festival. In recognition of his distinguished service within the arts industry, Tim was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2003.



RACHEL LAUNDERS
COMPANY SECRETARY

Rachel Launders is a lawyer with over 25 years' experience working across private practice, businesses and government. She is currently General Counsel and Company Secretary at Nine Entertainment Co, an ASX-listed media company. Rachel was formerly a partner of Gilbert + Tobin, where she specialised in corporate and commercial transactions and advisory work, acting for a wide range of clients, including a number of not-for-profit bodies. Rachel is a director of Giant Steps, which provides school and post-school programs for children and adults with autism in Sydney and Melbourne, and has formerly been a Councillor of Sancta Sophia College at the University of Sydney and Chair of that Council.



Concert: *Mimi's Symphony*
Photo: Katelyn-Jane Dunn



DAVID ALBERT

David is the CEO of Alberts and part of the fifth generation to work in the Albert family business that has been operating in Australia since 1885. He joined Alberts in 2004 after a career working across the globe in marketing roles with companies including Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak and Kellogg's, and back home with telcos Optus and Telstra.

David holds an MBA from MGSM, a Masters from the University of Massachusetts, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, has recently graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also has a number of Not for Profit director roles.



MARCUS MCARDLE

Marcus is a Partner in the Audit Division of KPMG. Marcus is the Audit Division's Risk Management Partner and leads the United States' desk in KPMG Australia's National Technical Group (Department of Professional Practice). Marcus has over 25 years of experience in providing audit and advisory services to Australian and international companies in the information, communications, biotech and energy and natural resources industries, including three years in KPMG's New York office. Marcus also assists companies with United States and European Union debt and equity raisings.



PAUL MASON

Paul Mason is an experienced and respected music professional, who has worked in broadcasting, live music and government. From 2009 - 2019 he was the Director of Music at the Australia Council for the Arts overseeing federal funding for music. He established the Australian Music Radio Airplay Project (AMRAP) a federally funded initiative that connects broadcasters with musicians and record labels. He was a board member of Radio Fbi 94.5 from its establishment to the year 2000 when the station was awarded its permanent broadcast licence. Between 2004 - 2007 he was President of Music NSW. Paul has also delivered technology projects for the ABC, and programmed live music venues and festivals and worked as a musician.



CAROL MILLS

Carol is the Director, Institute for Public Policy and Governance at the University of Technology Sydney. Carol has been a chief executive in the NSW Public Service and Australian Parliamentary Service and has worked as a management consultant focusing on governance, strategy and change management. As a public servant Carol was responsible for some of Australia's most significant public assets and has extensive experience in public policy, regulation, grants and arts administration. Carol has served on a number of boards including the Sydney Festival, Sydney Film Festival and the National Art School. She is presently also the President of Gymnastics NSW.



JENNIE SAGER

Jennie Sager is a Media Executive known for creating and delivering global first campaigns for top tier companies. Throughout her career in television and tech, Jennie has produced award-winning programs for major television networks, including MTV, Discovery, NBC, ABC, CBS, and The Nine Network and brought to life some of the world's biggest events, including Superbowl XLVIII, The Academy Awards, and The Grammys. As an Executive in the United States and a regional leader in Asia Pacific, Jennie has managed teams across many borders. Now as the Head of Nextdoor Australia, Jennie uses her tech background to drive positive change, focused on building stronger and safer communities across Australia.



LOUISE WALSH

Louise Walsh is the Chief Executive Officer of the Future Generation companies founded by Wilson Asset Management Chairman Geoff Wilson. Louise also works with Wilson Asset Management on its philanthropic initiatives. Louise is a senior executive with a strong mix of experience in the not-for-profit, government and private sectors. A former solicitor at Allens, she has spent most of her career in sport, arts and philanthropy. Louise was recently the CEO of Philanthropy Australia, the peak body for philanthropy in Australia. Louise is a board member of St Vincent's Curran Foundation and the Snow Foundation.

STAFF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Justin Boschetti

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Renée Bryant

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

Peter Silver

CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER

Keith Foote

CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER

Jayden Spillane

PRODUCER

Linly Goh

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Andrew Hudson

TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR

Timothy Cramsie

BUILDING SERVICES MANAGER

Graham Parsons

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Nadine Wheeler

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Brett Reynolds

MARKETING MANAGER

Cynthia Crespo

DIGITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR

Krista Tanuwibawa

TICKETING SERVICES MANAGER

Vanessa Knox



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