

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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17

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CITY  
RECITAL  
HALL  
LIMITED



Image: artof2  
Concert: Ignite!

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Image: Keith Saunders  
Concert: Dianne Reeves

## VISION

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

## MISSION

Our mission is to unlock the cultural, social and economic value of City Recital Hall.

We will achieve 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 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

To be known as the arts and entertainment destination of Sydney's vibrant Angel Place precinct.

To be considered to be amongst the best – the first choice venue for Australia's major music organisations and international artists.

To be admired for our enterprising, diverse and inclusive programs.

That audiences of all ages, backgrounds and cultures attend our concerts and events.

To be accessible to all.

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

**175,568**  
TOTAL AUDIENCE  
ATTENDANCE



TOTAL WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS  
**1,222,235**

TOTAL WEBSITE USERS  
**241,217**

**251**  
PERFORMANCES  
AND EVENTS

**41**  
RECORDINGS  
AND BROADCASTS

**75**  
PERFORMANCES FEATURED  
INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS/ENSEMBLES

**62**  
CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS  
CONCERTS AND EVENTS

**29,164**  
ATTENDED CITY RECITAL HALL  
PRESENTS CONCERTS AND EVENTS

**449**  
MEMBERS

REACHED  
**3,400,411**  
PEOPLE ON FACEBOOK



**60,163**  
TWITTER IMPRESSIONS



**8,082**  
TOTAL FACEBOOK  
CHECK-INS



**7,438**  
FACEBOOK FANS



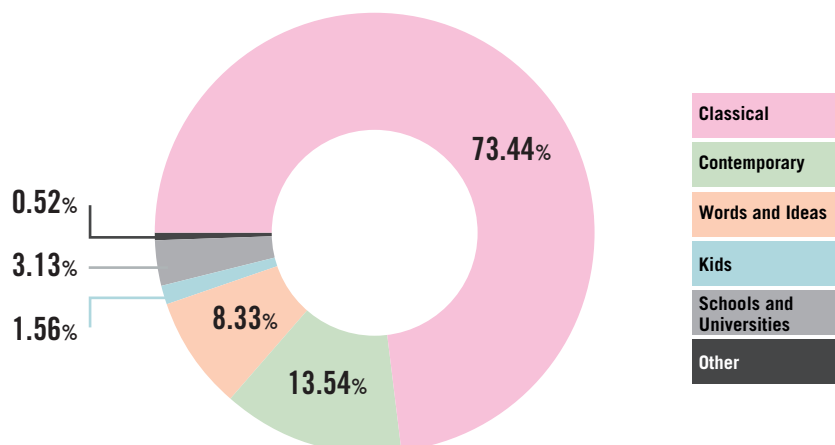
**2,402**  
TWITTER  
FOLLOWERS



**971**  
INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS

**91%**  
TOTAL EVENTS WERE  
**ARTS AND  
CULTURAL**

GENRE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS  
2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR AT CITY RECITAL HALL





# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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It has been two years since this not-for-profit company took over the management of City Recital Hall. We have made great strides across all areas, both in infrastructure and on our stage.

At our inaugural annual program launch in October 2016, I spoke about the incredible pace at which the company had grown, none more so than evidenced by the over three-fold increase in the number of concerts and events presented by the company over these last 12 months.

I am particularly proud of the community engagement activities in our program which have welcomed so many new visitors to this wonderful hall. The enthusiasm to which Sydney-siders have embraced our free spontaneous choir, Sydney Flash Mob Choir, has been overwhelming. Over 6100 are now registered to receive an SMS to join these sessions, with between 600 and 750 turning up each time to join with strangers to sing.

In January we commenced capital improvement works, upgrading the administration office, the box office and introducing a permanent bar on the ground floor. We have significantly increased the seating capacity across all our foyers, and we have seen many visitors arriving earlier and staying post-concert to enjoy our inviting and comfortable spaces.

We are extremely grateful to our Principal Sponsor, the City of Sydney, for their continued support. Their ongoing commitment to our company and this venue, enables us to make a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city. Our thanks goes to Lord Mayor Clover Moore and all the Councillors, Monica Barone, Bill Carter, Ann Hoban, Tracey Hargans, David White, Alex Bowen, Sasha Baroni and Jennifer Trinca.

Thanks also to our new partners across the fields of media and technology, whose support has enabled us to attract new artists and reach new audiences for our concerts and events.

My gratitude goes to each and every one of our Board of Directors: Tim Cox, Helen Bauer, Jo Dyer, Elizabeth Fullerton, Kerri Glasscock, Marcus McArdle, Clive Paget and Maria Sykes. The Board's expertise across artistic, marketing and communications, venue management, commercial strategy, legal, finance, philanthropy and community engagement means the company continues to grow and develop from sound foundations. Thanks in particular to Tim Cox whose wise counsel as Deputy Chair and Chair of Audit & Risk has ensured the company steadily builds solid foundations.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of CEO Elaine Chia and all the staff. Their enthusiasm and commitment to our vision, and their care and skill in implementing that vision ensures that every artist can perform at their peak, and every visitor enjoys a memorable experience.

In late December 2016 the company was granted Deductible Gift Recipient Status by the Register of Cultural Organisations, following which we launched our new Philanthropic program. I would like to offer my personal thanks to many of you who share our vision with your financial contributions.

Music is the heart and soul of City Recital Hall. That is why it was built and that remains our primary purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renata Kaldor'.

**Renata Kaldor AO**  
Chair

# CEO'S MESSAGE

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2016-17 saw our first full year of operations in managing City Recital Hall as a curated venue, and over 250 concerts and events.

As part of our vision to reimagine and renew, the company held its inaugural launch in October 2016 to mark the release of our first ever annual program of concerts and events. The program brochure included concerts and events across all presentations, from our hirers as well as our own City Recital Hall presentations and co-presentations. We were delighted with the positive feedback which extended well into 2017.

In balancing our own program with those of our hirers, we have focused on contemporary music, spoken word and new offerings which broaden the range of music presented, and in turn, a wider demographic, and I'm pleased to see that we have succeeded.

Over 80% of respondents to our post-event surveys for City Recital Hall presentations rated the concerts and events as excellent. Also, pleasingly, 71% rated their overall experience of visiting City Recital Hall also as excellent, up from 69% the previous year. Given the over three-fold increase in the number of concerts and events we presented (62 compared to 18 the previous year), it is a strong endorsement of our activities.

In June we partnered with Destination NSW for Vivid 2017 for 'Metamorphosis at City Recital Hall', wholly reimaging the venue for contemporary experiences of sound and light. The period saw total visitation of 9,352, of which around 10% were interstate and international visitors. Our programming without doubt reached new audiences, with 30.67% of survey respondents indicating that this was their first visit to City Recital Hall.

Our artistic vibrancy would not be possible without the talented artists on our stage, and this year we welcomed many new friends to City Recital Hall. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the inimitable Richard Gill AO who readily embraced my invitation to lead our new initiative Sydney Flash Mob Choir, with a "sounds crazy, let's try it".

My thanks to the Lord Mayor, Councillors and staff of the City of Sydney for their strong engagement at our concerts and events, and ongoing support across our operations and building management. We are also thankful for the support of our ever growing group of partners, sponsors and donors.

I am deeply appreciative of the support and guidance from the Board who have, individually and together, continued to make themselves available to be a sounding board and to provide invaluable advice across many areas. In particular, a very special thank you to Renata Kaldor for the continued encouragement and trust in me.

I am inspired every day because I work alongside an amazingly talented, creative and passionate team. I would like to acknowledge and thank each and every one of them: full-time, part-time, seasonal and casual. Each contribution is truly valued and appreciated.

To the 175,568 people who attended a concert and event this past year, thank you. We hope you had a great time, and that next time will be even better.

Our mission is to unlock the cultural, social and economic value of City Recital Hall. We decided that this mission is best achieved by being brave, and yes, to take the (calculated) risk that not all we try will be a success. This year has shown that being brave can pay dividends, and for that we thank all who have shared our vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Chia'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'E' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Elaine Chia**  
CEO



# PRESENTING PARTNERS AND HIRERS

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Andrew McKinnon Presentations	Inspiring Australia NSW
APA Group	John Cristian Productions
APRA AMCOS	Maxima Artist Management
Ausfeng	Meriden School
Australian Brandenburg Orchestra	MLC School
Australian Chamber Orchestra	Moore College
Australian College of Applied Psychology	Musica Viva Australia
Australian Haydn Ensemble	NSW Ambulance
Australian Institute of Company Directors	Omega Ensemble
Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra	Orchestral Manoeuvres Pty Ltd
Australian String Quartet	Pinchgut Opera Ltd.
Beatroot Services	Selby & Friends
Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand	Spooky Men's Chorale
Chris Hooper Promotions	St Andrew's Cathedral School
City of Sydney	St Mary's Cathedral
Collective Artists	Sydney Chamber Choir Inc.
CQ University Sydney	Sydney Festival Ltd
Curtin Sydney	Sydney Peace Foundation
Destination NSW	Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Gondwana Choirs	Sydney Writers' Festival
Greek Festival of Sydney	The Ethics Centre
Hoang Pham	Troubadour Music Australia
Human Synergistics Australia Pty Ltd	University of Tasmania
HUSH Foundation	Women in Banking and Finance
Incognito Events	World Projects South Pacific
	Zaccaria Concerts & Touring

# APPEARING ON OUR STAGE



Image: Keith Saunders  
Concert: Dianne Reeves

Alim Qasimov Ensemble  
 Australian Brandenburg Orchestra  
 Australian Chamber Orchestra  
 Australian Haydn Ensemble  
 Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra  
 Australian String Quartet  
 Avi Avital  
 Black Arm Band  
 Dimitris Basis  
 Benjamin Beilman & Andrew Tyson  
 Sarah Blasko  
 Jeremy Brennan  
 Ane Brun  
 Andrew Bukenya  
 Kate Ceberano & Paul Grabowsky  
 Circa  
 Choir of Trinity College  
 Dappled Cities  
 Lloyd Cole  
 Robert Dessaix  
 Eighth Blackbird  
 Anne Enright  
 Kate Evans  
 Taryn Fiebig  
 Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn  
 Nelson Freire  
 Roxanne Gay  
 Richard Gill AO  
 Jayson Gillham  
 Ayse Göknur Sonal  
 Gondwana Choirs  
 Slava & Leonard Grigoryan  
 Angela Hewitt  
 Teije Hylkema  
 Israel Camerata Jerusalem  
 Jerusalem Quartet

Sumi Jo  
 Vince Jones  
 Elena Kats-Chernin  
 Thomas Keneally  
 Bev Kennedy  
 Steve Kilbey  
 Naomi Klein  
 Pekka Kuusisto  
 Jay Laga'aia  
 Stephen Layton  
 Genevieve Lemon  
 Elisabeth Leonskaja  
 Polina Leschenko  
 Lior  
 Nicole Lizée  
 Paul Mac  
 Lubomyr Melnyk  
 Paul Meyer  
 DJ Dan Murphy  
 Katie Noonan & Karin Schaupp  
 Omega Ensemble  
 Pacifica Quartet  
 Paris Combo  
 Jonah Peretti  
 Punch Brothers  
 Ian Rankin  
 Diane Reeves  
 Shunske Sato  
 George Saunders  
 Kathryn Selby  
 Spooky Men's Chorale  
 Oliver Stone  
 Sydney Chamber Choir  
 Sydney Symphony Orchestra  
 Sydney Youth Orchestra  
 Teddy Tahu-Rhodes  
 Tallis Scholars  
 The Idea of North  
 Daniil Trifonov  
 Nobuyuki Tsujii  
 Timo-Veikko Valve  
 Lars Vogt  
 Jimmy Webb  
 Colson Whitehead  
 Joy Williams  
 Valda Wilson  
 Wolfgang Muthspiel Trio



# IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VENUE



Image: artof2

The renewal and reimagining of City Recital Hall occurred not only on stage with our first annual season, but also in some significant internal improvements to the venue.

After 17 years, the spaces were in desperate need of both reconfiguration and upgrade to ensure staff could efficiently and effectively utilise all areas of operations as well as meeting expectations of the audiences of today.

Following initial consultation with Andrew Andersons AO, the building's original architect, we worked closely with Ashley Dunn and his team at Dunn+Hillam Architects to develop the brief which focused on two areas: the reconfiguration of the administration office and box office, and to establish a permanent bar in the entry level foyer.

Lochbuild successfully tendered for the works, and commenced in January.

The resulting improvements, including a much greater number of seating options across all levels, has received much positive feedback. Most of the team are now located in one open plan office with a dedicated meeting space; hirers are now able to access their own ticketing system alongside our box office staff in the one location in the busy period before performances; and audiences are now welcomed into our foyers to catch up with friends and to enjoy a drink and snack both before and after a concert.

Alongside the physical improvements, we also installed WiFi across all our foyers to enable ticket scanning and paperless ticketing to be introduced in the not too distant future.

Improvements to the venue were not limited to the administration and public areas. Following the installation of a permanent Barcom 14K projector by AV1 in the previous year, we worked with JPJ Audio to undertake a full upgrade of our PA system. A full concert grade L-Acoustics sound system was installed in January, significantly improving our technical capacity to deliver concerts of contemporary music previously not entertained due to the cost of hiring external gear.



# SUPPORT FOR THE SECTOR

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership program was revitalised as part of our inaugural launch in late 2016, with new and enhanced offerings in recognition of our membership base who are regular attendees to the venue.

Our pre-concert Members Lounge continues to be a popular gathering place for Members and their guests to meet with the City Recital Hall team and enjoy some light refreshments before the performance. It is often during these moments, and the subsequent opportunity for direct feedback, that results in improvements to every visitor experience.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is a priority to City Recital Hall and our team. City Recital Hall aims to assist patrons with specific access needs; provide lower price tickets; and present free events to enable a broader audience to engage with the arts.

Concession price tickets totalled 14% of tickets sold by City Recital Hall, and 104 Companion Card tickets were provided.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The company participated in a range of industry and workplace training activities.

In December and again in June we supported students from NIDA's Technical Diploma course to work with our crew and the production team from Pinchgut Opera.

During the year we welcomed interns Linda Olsson and Ben Chadwell from TAFE Sydney undertaking placement as part of their Diploma of Events course, and work experience school students Charlotte Wiltshire and Phillip Kristyono.

The company joined the ArtsReady traineeship program in 2017, welcoming Olivia Turner as our Administration Trainee. Olivia is gaining broad experience working across office administration, marketing, box office and finance.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Image: Linly Goh

Venues, including City Recital Hall, play an important role in nurturing the cultural life of their cities. Cultural facilities can be an important anchor for a community. We believe the hallmarks of great cultural venues are:

- to continually engage audiences
- to be a place for critical comment
- to showcase excellence and diversity of performers.

## HUSH 16: A PIECE OF QUIET

On Tuesday 15 November 2016, City Recital Hall co-presented *Hush 16: A Piece of Quiet*, a concert to launch the new album by The Hush Foundation.

The Hush Foundation, founded by Dr Catherine Crock, exists to transform the culture of healthcare through the arts, through commissioning some of Australia's finest musicians to create bespoke works encouraging environments of calm in children's hospitals.

Inspired by stories of young cancer patients and other children, ARIA Award-winners singer-songwriter Lior and vocal quartet The Idea of North, along with renowned composer Elena Kats-Chernin, consulted Australian children for lyrical guidance. Questions posed about their lives spawned responses filled with humour, wonder, excitement and surprising wisdom. From these conversations grew a collection of music that conveys the children's feelings, hopes and dreams in a way that resonates equally with adult listeners.

The evening was a joyous celebration filled with inspirational stories and song intertwined with humour, bringing out the inner child within all of us.

## SYDNEY FLASH MOB CHOIR

Sydney Flash Mob Choir was conceived as an initiative to bring together residents, office workers and visitors from all walks of life to participate in a spontaneous mass gathering of music making. The project has received overwhelming interest, with over 6100 registrations, and strong attendance of around 600-750 at each of our flash mob sessions.

Richard Gill AO conducted our first session on 3 February 2017, leading 700+ strong voices in Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive*. This session also took off via social media, with the Facebook video resulting in nearly 14,000 views.

Flash Mob sessions have also been led by Lyn Williams OAM (Gondwana Choirs), George Ellis with guest artist Steve Kilbey (The Church), and Jonathan Welch (Choir of Hard Knocks).

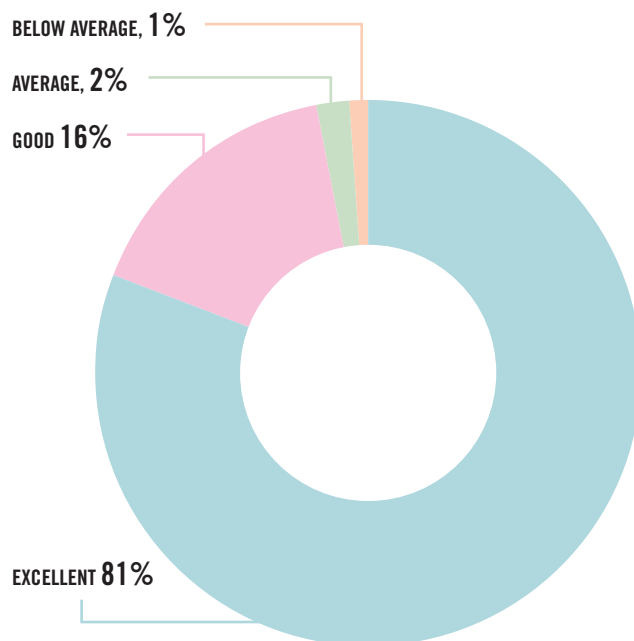
## SYDNEY OPEN

We participated in Sydney Open 2016, welcoming 1700 visitors to the venue for guided tours, talks and performances throughout the day.

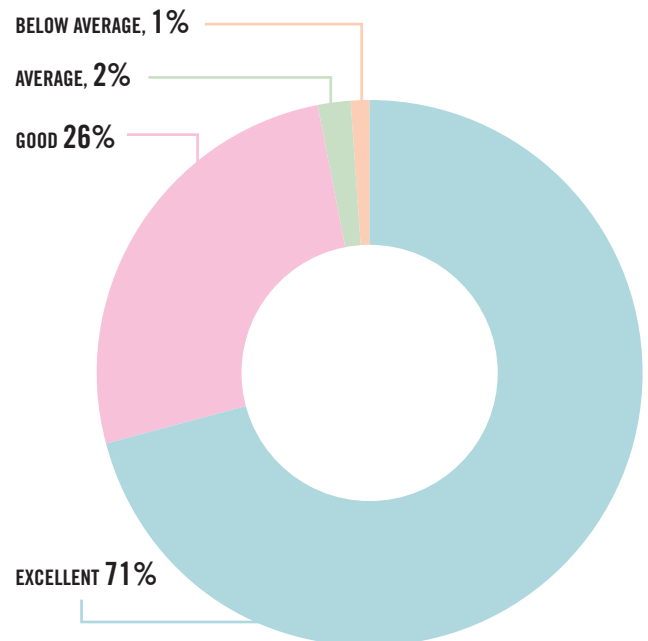
Our thanks to the team at Sydney Open including Sydney Open volunteers, and to Andrew Andersons, architect of City Recital Hall, Dr Paul Rickard-Ford and his piano students, and Robert Oetomo and his students from Chatswood High School for volunteering their time to present and perform throughout the day so that visitors could fully experience the fine acoustics of the Hall.

# VISITOR EXPERIENCES

## WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL OPINION OF THE CONCERT?



## HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF VISITING CITY RECITAL HALL?



\*2033 Respondents across City Recital Hall Presents concerts

THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME TO CITY RECITAL HALL **20%**  
FOR VIVID SYDNEY EVENTS **30.67%**

\*2861 respondents across City Recital Hall Presents concerts



# CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS

## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AND EVENTS

This year has seen 11 lunchtime concerts and events across four separate series, including a new talk series launched in 2017.

Attendance at lunchtime concerts and events was strong, with a total audience of 3868.

We were grateful to have Kathryn Selby AM continue as Artistic Director of *A Little Lunch Music*, and welcomed the Omega Ensemble with their series *A Taste of Omega* and Sydney Youth Orchestra with *The Engine Room of Excellence*.

We were especially delighted with the launch of our new partnership with Jackie Randles of Inspiring Australia (NSW) to co-curate a new series titled *This Sounds Like Science*, featuring leading Australia researchers presenting the science behind music, paired with performances by local musicians. The support of Inspiring Australia – the national strategy for community engagement with the sciences, enabled the series to be presented as free events.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*The Conductor* and *the Clown* was our first official foray in presenting performances specifically targeted to children and families.

First developed 15 years ago by George Ellis (the Conductor) and George Washingmachine (the Clown) this interactive performance presented classical music for littlies in a mini symphony concert combining laugh-out-loud physical comedy with works by classical greats including Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

## LATE NIGHT

In March 2017 we launched our new series of late night concerts titled *2x20*. The concept of *2x20* is to present two bite-sized, 20 minute sets of music featuring renowned artists across musical worlds; from cabaret and music theatre to opera, soul, jazz and beyond.

This series is held in our ground floor foyer which, with the establishment of a permanent bar, is transformed into an intimate performance space for 120, providing a new late night musical oasis in the heart of the city.

Our thanks to our co-presenter Andrew Bukenya and musical director Bev Kennedy for curating the series with performers Jay Laga'aia, Genevieve Lemon, Jeremy Brennan and Ayse Göknuur Sonal.



Image: Poppy Burnett

## MAINSTAGE CONCERTS

We presented 26 mainstage concerts covering a broad range of genres, and featuring performers from Australia and internationally.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### PUNCH BROTHERS

Punch Brothers returned to Sydney after four years for their first appearance at City Recital Hall on 12 August 2016. The bluegrass quintet performed in tight formation to a single condenser microphone to a packed house. *The Sydney Morning Herald* gave the performance 5-stars, with special mention on the suitability of the venue for this type of concert.

### VINCE JONES: VAN MORRISON'S MASTERPIECES

Widely considered Australia's leading jazz vocalist, Vince Jones came together with eight of Australia's finest jazz and rock musicians with special guest vocalist Justine Clarke in a performance on 10 October 2016 paying homage to two of Van Morrison's most cherished albums: *Astral Weeks*, a poetic, mercurial blend of jazz, folk and blues; and *Moondance*, Morrison's seminal soul-jazz classic.

### KATE CEBERANO AND PAUL GRABOWSKY: LOVE SONGS

Australia's most cherished and acclaimed performers Kate Ceberano and close musical partner Paul Grabowsky took the stage on 22 October 2016 for an evening of faithful reinterpretations of some of the great love songs from the past 50 years.

*Love Songs* was Kate Ceberano's first performance at City Recital Hall.

### TALLIS SCHOLARS

Co-presented with Orchestral Manoeuvres, world-renowned British early music vocal ensemble The Tallis Scholars, presented two concerts at City Recital Hall as part of their first national tour of Australia in November 2016.

### PARIS COMBO

Hot on the heels of their new album, Paris Combo returned to Sydney for only their second visit in 15 years to serve up their unique blend of gypsy jazz, French chanson and Latin rhythm, with a touch of Middle Eastern groove. The concert by the Paris-based quintet on 18 March 2017 drew an audience of 1013. We offered, for the first time, a dinner + concert ticketing package partnering with neighbouring French bistro Felix. This was a popular option with our patrons.

### GRIGORYAN BROTHERS: SONGS WITHOUT WORDS

We were delighted to welcome back Australia's most celebrated guitar duo, the Grigoryan Brothers in presenting the first major performance of their latest musical offering on 1 April 2017. The concert of Slava and Leonard Grigoryan's new album, *Songs Without Words*, was a wonderful evening of both songs and stories ahead of the official album release by ABC Classics on Mother's Day.

### SONGS OF THE BLACK ARM BAND

We were thrilled to present the Sydney premiere The Black Arm Band's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, *Songs of the Black Arm Band*, on 22 April 2017.

*Songs of the Black Arm Band*, premiered nationally to wide acclaim at Dark MOFO in 2016, brought together the group's most iconic songs across its full 10 year history. The concert traced the group's humble beginnings and the Fight for Freedom songs from *Murundak*: a story of Aboriginal history, resilience and identity; and continued into much-loved tracks from the more recent *dirtsong*, a theatrical journey through the communities and languages of Australia's heartland.

Artistic Director and soul singer Emma Donovan led an 8-strong ensemble of singers and musicians including didgeridoo player Mark Atkins, vocalist Deline Briscoe, and songwriter, guitarist and singer Yirmal Marika.



Image: Poppy Burnett  
Concert: 2x20



#### CELEBRATING MIKIS THEODORAKIS

We continued our annual partnership with the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW in co-presenting the gala concert of the 35<sup>th</sup> Greek Festival of Sydney on 28 April 2017. The concert celebrated the music of iconic Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, best known for his theme to *Zorba the Greek*. Conductor George Ellis brought together a symphony orchestra, the acclaimed Sydney Philharmonia Choir, mezzo-soprano Livia Brash and baritone Hayden Barrington for this spectacular event.

#### KATIE NOONAN AND KARIN SCHAUPP: SONGS OF THE LATIN SKIES

Vocalist Katie Noonan and guitarist Karin Schaupp brought their newest collaboration, *Songs of the Latin Skies* to City Recital Hall on 11 May as part of their national album launch and tour. Co-presented with Kin Music, the performance took the audience on a journey through the great South American songbook of bossa nova, samba, salsa and tango, interpreting work by Gilberto Gil, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Luis Bonfá, Antonio Carlos Jobim and more.

#### SEVEN STORIES

We were proud to work with Ensemble Offspring, Creative Music Fund and Destination NSW to co-present the world premiere of *Seven Stories* on 3 June 2017 as part of Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Combining music, storytelling and visuals, the multisensory work brought together a formidable line-up of leading homegrown female talent. *Seven Stories* is based on the concept that when we boil down the world's vast cauldron of myths, legends and literature, seven quintessential stories emerge – the quest, overcoming darkness, rags to riches, the fatal flaw, comedy of errors, the journey and transformation.

*Seven Stories* brings together seven genre-defying Australian composers to weave together a musical re-imagining of these stories – the indie scene's Amanda Brown (The Go-Betweens), Jodi Phillis (The Clouds) and Bree van Reyk (Holly Throsby's drummer), screen composers Kyla Burtland and Caitlin Yeo and the classical world's Sally Whitwell (solo pianist with ABC Classics) and Jane Sheldon (Wild Swans soprano).

Performed by Ensemble Offspring the work also included creative elements from acclaimed playwright and collaborative theatre maker Hilary Bell and video artist Sarah-Jane Woulahan to present a visually dramatic performance which seamlessly blended text, music and stunning visuals.

#### DAPPLED CITIES

Presented by City Recital Hall, Rare Finds and Select Music, with support from Destination NSW, Dappled Cities took the stage of City Recital Hall on 4 June 2017 to perform from their new album *IIII* in their most epic performance to date. Combining their trademark layered soundscape with an immersive lighting spectacle, the band re-imagined music from their highly acclaimed career with material from their stunning new album. Red Riders performed a set as the support act.

This was a wholly new activity for City Recital Hall and the bands. As David James Young said in his review,

"If you'd have casually mentioned to anyone crowded into the Annandale or the Hopetoun any given evening from the past five, ten years and told them that Dappled Cities and Red Riders would one day be performing in the fancy surrounds of the City Recital Hall, you'd have more than likely been laughed out of the room...By the time it's rolled around, the audience has been moved out of its seats and the celebration of everything this band has achieved comes full circle in the best possible way. Delightful."

#### DIANNE REEVES

We were thrilled to secure Dianne Reeves, considered the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world today to perform her only Sydney concert on 6 June 2017. Recipient of five Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album, Dianne Reeves and her brilliant band opened her Australian tour with this concert, presented as part of Vivid Sydney, and performed to a packed house.

Following a standing ovation, the audience were encouraged to create their own light show by waving their smartphone torches to the encore of Ms Reeves' hit *Come In*, thus filling the Hall with moving stars.

#### SOUTHERN LIGHT, NORTHERN LIGHTS

In celebrating 20 years of bringing the best choral music to Australia, Gondwana Choirs performed *Southern Lights*, *Northern Lights* to a full house on 28 June 2017.

This concert was also the launching pad to the choir's major tour of Northern Europe and Iceland.

Led by Lyn Williams OAM and Guest Conductor Mark O'Leary, *Southern Lights*, *Northern Lights* included new Australian works and works from Northern Europe. Over 350 choristers performed, bringing likely the largest choral sound heard in the Hall for quite some time!



Image: Tim da-Rin  
Concert: Dappled Cities





Image: Keith Saunders  
Concert: Dianne Reeves

# KEY PRESENTERS

Our Key Presenters, Australia's major organisations, contribute significantly to the cultural vibrancy and ongoing success of City Recital Hall. This year, the Key Presenters together presented 105 performances at the Hall, to an audience of 96,812.

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Australian String Quartet

Musica Viva Australia

Pinchgut Opera

Sydney Festival

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

# VENUE HIRERS

Our hirers continued to play an important role in contributing to the venue's profile and reputation in being the venue of choice for a diverse range of activities.

Several hirers have held their concerts and events at the Hall for many years, including, Andrew McKinnon Presentations, APRA AMCOS, Omega Ensemble, Selby & Friends, Sydney Writers' Festival and The Ethics Centre.

This year, we welcomed the Australian Haydn Ensemble, Collective Artists, Destination NSW, Spooky Men's Chorale, Troubadour Music and Zaccaria Concerts & Touring, amongst others.

Our hirers presented 43 concerts and events, with a total attendance of over 28,000.

\*results from survey of hirers conducted in November 2016

## HIRER EXPERIENCE\*

Hirer satisfaction

**100%**

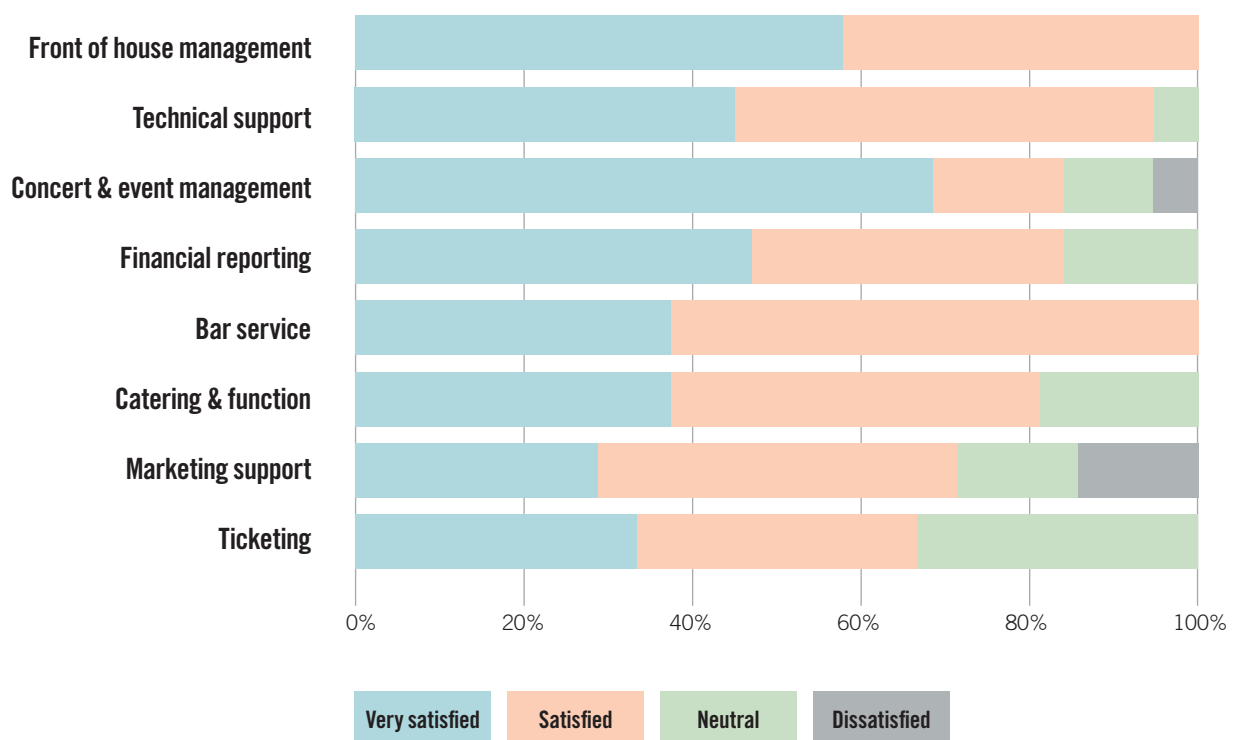
Likely to recommend

**95%**

Likely to rehire

**95%**

## SATISFACTION WITH CITY RECITAL HALL SERVICES





# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Image: Robert Catto  
Concert: Songs of the Black Arm Band

Development income for the year was \$1.088m, as the company gained Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO), and we welcomed a number of new partners and supporters.

We were thrilled to accept a significant gift of two artworks from renowned Australian artist Andrew Rogers. The two bronzes, *Double Bass Man* and *Harmony* are significant historical works from the formative years of Rogers' sculpting career, and are prominently displayed on Levels 1 and 2 at the venue.

The company continued to benefit from the strong support provided by Principal Sponsor, the City of Sydney. The City's support has enabled us to build strong foundations, and to take on limited programming risk to deliver our diverse artistic program, as well as continuing to maintain and upgrade building assets.

Leading Sydney audio-visual production house AV1 joined as our Technology Partner, providing in-kind support for use of the Barco 14K projector to enable the company to realise multi-artform and multi-media concerts and events. We also welcomed SBS Subscription TV as Media Partner.

We were thrilled to partner with Destination NSW to deliver a program of six events during Vivid 2017, bringing 9,352 visitors to the venue over 11 days of activities.

Our new collaboration with Inspiring Australia (NSW) was forged in 2016, and continued in 2017, resulting in our new talk series, *This Sounds Like Science*, to be presented as a free event.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Our supporters play a vital role in enabling the development of City Recital Hall and its artistic program. It is with grateful thanks that City Recital Hall would like to acknowledge our partners.

### PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



### MEDIA PARTNER



### TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



### PARTNER



### SERIES PARTNER



Special thanks to Andelain Consulting and Shand and Associates for their support.

City Recital Hall is grateful for the generosity of our philanthropic supporters:

Helen Bauer and Helen Lynch AM, Lisa Chung and Philip Howard, Tim Cox AO and Bryony Cox, Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO, and Andrew Rogers.



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The City Recital Hall Limited Board, consisting of nine Directors, was unchanged for the 2016-17 year. The Board brings expertise across arts management, business administration, finance, law and not-for-profit organisations.

The Board met on eight occasions including one strategy session, and implemented a number of key actions including:

- leading the strategic direction, and setting strategic priorities for the company
- approving the annual budget and monthly financial reports
- ensuring compliance and effective risk management (also through the Audit & Risk Committee)

**THERE ARE FIVE SUB-COMMITTEES: AUDIT & RISK, NOMINATIONS, ARTISTIC, DEVELOPMENT AND PRECINCT.**

The members of the Sub-Committees are:

DIRECTOR	AUDIT & RISK	NOMINATIONS	ARTISTIC	DEVELOPMENT	PRECINCT
Renata Kaldor AO	✓	✓	✓	Chair	✓
Tim Cox AO	Chair	✓		✓	
Helen Bauer	✓	Chair			
Jo Dyer		✓	✓		
Elizabeth Fullerton	✓				✓
Kerri Glasscock			✓		Chair
Marcus McArdle	✓				
Clive Paget			Chair		
Maria Sykes					✓

# BOARD



## **RENATA KALDOR AO CHAIR**

Renata has been involved in business, education and community affairs. She is a Director of Sydney Children's Hospital Network and Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW. She is on the Advisory Council of Head Over Heels, a group that supports entrepreneurial Women. In the past Renata has been a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House, a Board Member of Sydney Symphony Orchestra 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 2000 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 is 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.



## **HELEN BAUER**

Helen served in chief executive roles in the NSW Public Service, then established an independent consulting practice specialising in workplace management. In 1998 Helen was invited to membership of Chief Executive Women Inc, and in 2000 was appointed a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in recognition of her outstanding contribution to public administration. Helen was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 for service to business and the community. She is a Trustee of The Bundanon Trust, and a supporter of performing arts.

## BOARD



### JO DYER

Jo has extensive experience in both the Australian performing arts and film industries. She is CEO of Sydney Writers' Festival, after more than a decade at Sydney Theatre Company where she worked as Executive Producer. In that role she led the development of the Roslyn Packer Theatre, working closely with the Artistic Directors to program the company's diverse theatre seasons, including developing and realising national and international co-productions and touring opportunities. Jo's films have screened at Festivals around the world, most recently at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival. Jo is also the Chair of Force Majeure.



### THE HON JUSTICE ELIZABETH FULLERTON

Elizabeth was appointed to the Supreme Court of NSW in February 2007. She has served on various Boards of a number of charities and public organisations and has advised on legal and governance issues. These include Performance Space, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and the Australian Centre for Photography Boards. As a practising barrister between 1983 and 2007, she was a member of the Bar Association Professional Conduct Committee and served on the Association's Criminal Law and Legal Aid committees. Throughout her legal career she has been a mentor and supporter of women coming to the Bar.



### KERRI GLASSCOCK

Kerri Glasscock is the founding co-director of artist run company 505 which own the legendary live music club Venue 505 in Surry Hills, and the Old 505 Theatre in Newtown. Kerri has also worked in various roles in the Sydney arts scene as performer, director and theatre practitioner, and is the current Festival Director/CEO of the Sydney Fringe Festival. A vocal advocate for the Independent sector she has contributed to a number of key action plans and resulting policy reforms including the *Lord Mayor of Sydney's Live Music and Performance task force*. She was included in the Sydney Morning Herald Sydney Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential and Inspiring People List in 2011.



### MARCUS MCARDLE

Marcus is a Partner in the Audit Division of KPMG. He leads the United States' desk in KPMG Australia's National Technical Group (Department of Professional Practice). Marcus has over 20 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.



### CLIVE PAGET

Clive is Editor at Limelight magazine – Australia's classical music and arts monthly. As Sir Nicholas Hytner's music theatre consultant for five years at London's National Theatre, he worked on many new projects including *Caroline, or Change* and *London Road*. As a theatre, musical theatre and opera director and dramaturge, he has worked with Stephen Sondheim, premiering his first musical, *Saturday Night*, in 1997. He also worked with Cy Coleman and important new American composers such as Adam Guettel, Michael John LaChiusa and Jason Robert Brown. Clive writes features and reviews on a wide range of musical topics, but is especially enthusiastic about opera and early music. Recent favourite interviews have included Christoph von Dohnányi, Jessye Norman and Dame Julie Andrews.



### MARIA SYKES

Maria is the Chief Operating Officer of Rugby League World Cup 2017, where she leads the development and delivery of the pinnacle event in international rugby league to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. Previously, Maria was Director of Strategy for Hornall Anderson Design Works, a leading American design agency focused on the commercial and creative strategies for global marquee sites including One World Trade Centre, the Empire State Building and Madison Square Gardens, as well as major hotel groups and numerous Fortune 500 clients. She also spent a decade as a senior executive at Sydney Opera House responsible for commercial strategy, tourism, world heritage listing and every aspect of the visitor experience.





Image: artof2  
Concert: Ignite!

# STAFF

CEO  
**Elaine Chia**

Producer  
**Linly Goh**

Administration Trainee  
**Olivia Turner**

## BUILDING SERVICES

Building Services Manager  
**Graham Parsons**

## BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Business Operations Manager  
**Anthony Yeo**

Concert And Event Managers  
**Annette Alderson**  
**Keith Foote**  
**Jayden Spillane**

Front Of House Manager  
**Antoinette Kulis**

Assistant Front Of House Manager  
**Anthony Rich**

Administration Coordinator  
**Hugo Scales**

## DEVELOPMENT

Development Manager  
**Helen Johnstone**

## FINANCE

Financial Administrator  
**Nadine Wheeler**

## MARKETING

Marketing Manager  
**Cynthia Crespo**

Senior Marketing Coordinator  
**Joan Shortt-Smith**

Marketing Coordinator  
**Poppy Burnett**

## TECHNICAL

Technical Services Manager  
**Andrew Hudson**

Technical Services Coordinator  
**Timothy Cramsie**

Venue Technician  
**Chris Mathers**

## TICKETING AND BOX OFFICE

Ticketing Services Manager  
**Vanessa Knox**

Box Office Manager  
**Amy Vitucci**

# CITY RECITAL HALL

**City Recital Hall Limited**

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The City of Sydney is a Principal Sponsor of City Recital Hall