

**CITY  
RECITAL  
HALL**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020-21**

CITY RECITAL HALL LIMITED





# CONTENTS

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	3
ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS	4
CHAIR'S MESSAGE	5
CEO'S MESSAGE	6
APPEARING ON OUR STAGE	7
VISITOR EXPERIENCE	8
SUPPORT FOR THE SECTOR	9
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	10
CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS	11
KEY PRESENTERS	13
VENUE HIRERS	14
PARTNERS AND SPONSORS	15
GIVING	16
GOVERNANCE	17
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	18
STAFF	20

Cover image: Sarah Blasko,  
photo by Kurt Sneddon.  
This page Caitlin Harnett,  
*Summer Lunch Series*, photo  
by Four Minutes to Midnight

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



Schumann Piano Quartet,  
*A Little Lunch Music*,  
photo by Harry Erickson

## OUR PURPOSE

We create exceptional live music experiences for our audiences and artists that reflect the acoustics quality and intimacy of City Recital Hall.

We welcome everyone with respect, joy and care.

We strive to achieve our cultural, social and economic potential as a landmark Sydney cultural destination.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

### CONNECTION – Audience to Artist

**Audiences & Artists** Bring audiences and artists together for extraordinary experiences befitting the Hall's acoustic and intimacy.

**Accessibility, Diversity, Equity** Champion inclusion with an on-stage presence that reflects our community, with focus on First Nations people.

**Collaboration** Deepen our relationships to seek meaningful collaborations that positively contribute to the Australian musical ecology.

### IMAGINATION – Bold, Creative, Innovative

**Production** Deliver transformative aural and visual experiences that exceed expectation and grow anticipation.

**A 360° Visitor Experience** Reimagine the visitor experience at all touch points: digital, in-house, pre and post event.

**Our Team & Our Future** Foster thought-leaders who inspire collective creativity to deliver unique outcomes.

### EXCELLENCE – Consistently High Quality

**Trust** Our success is measured in the loyalty of our patronage resulting from our aspiration to host and produce concerts and events of the highest quality, depth and vibrancy.

**Cultural Leadership** We embody exceptional programming to create unmissable moments that inspire our peers.

**Service Delivery** Consistently deliver customer service to all stakeholders as befits City Recital Hall.

### SUSTAINABILITY – Artistic & Economic Balance

**Safety** The health and wellbeing of all who work in and visit City Recital Hall is our first priority and core responsibility.

**Custodianship** As caretakers of a premium Sydney performing arts venue, we continue to innovate and enhance the Hall for visitors and artists, today, tomorrow, and into the future.

**Governance** Best practice is the cornerstone of our management to provide a cultural legacy and opportunity.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City Recital Hall acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which City Recital Hall stands and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.



# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE  
**65,590**

TOTAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS  
**127**

TOTAL UTILISATION (DAYS)  
**174**

TOTAL RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS  
**41**

CRH PRESENTS PERFORMANCES & EVENTS  
**30**

TOTAL AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE FOR CRH PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS  
**8,965**

FACEBOOK REACH  
**1,371,325**

FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS  
**2,116,776**

FACEBOOK VIDEO VIEWS  
**18,539**

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS  
**12,532**

TWEET IMPRESSIONS  
**153,658**

TWITTER FOLLOWERS  
**2,843**

INSTAGRAM REACH  
**88,856**

INSTAGRAM VIDEO VIEWS  
**4,055**

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS  
**3,116**



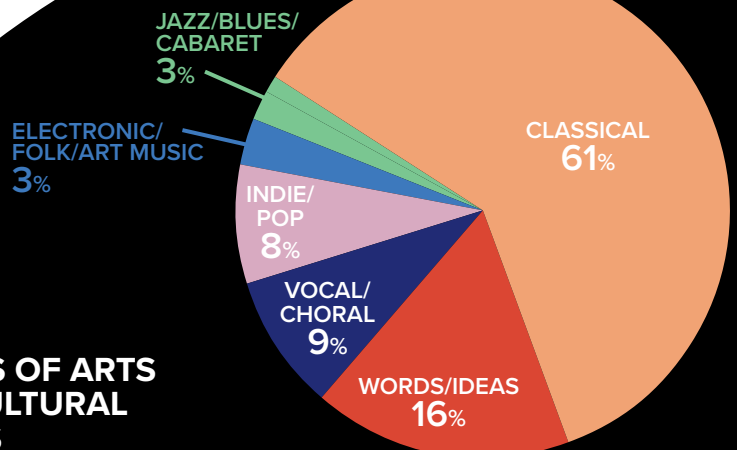
**CITYRECITALHALL.COM**

WEBSITE TOTAL USERS  
**172,932**

WEBSITE TOTAL IMPRESSIONS [PAGE VIEWS]  
**1,175,106**

Pictured above: Australian World Orchestra, photo by Ken Leonfore

GENRES OF ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS



# CHAIR'S MESSAGE



The vision for City Recital Hall is to create exceptional live music experiences for our audiences and artists that reflect the acoustic quality and intimacy of City Recital Hall. This year, COVID-19 challenged our ability to achieve our vision for live performances. While we proudly worked with our country's finest musicians and performers to bring music into our homes in novel ways over the start of this financial year, we were thrilled to welcome back our artists and audiences for performances from September 2020. We approach this second wave of lockdowns in Sydney, optimistic that vaccination is our path to returning to regular life, buoyed by the months of live performances we were able to present over the last year and looking forward to presenting a diverse array of live performances in the year ahead.

We farewelled outgoing Chair Renata Kaldor AO in March after five years of strong leadership as our inaugural Chair. The foundations Renata developed for the City Recital Hall are testament to her dedication and passion for live music performance in Australia. I was honoured to be entrusted with the role of Chair. The Board has welcomed Ronen Ghosh and Scott Phillips as new directors during the year. As a board we look forward to continuing to work with the CEO, Justin Boschetti, and his team to support our vision for City Recital Hall.

Our positive financial result was largely supported by the Federal Government's JobKeeper Subsidy and Create NSW Arts relief grant funding. Prudent financial stewardship by Management and the Board, together with a profitable second half of the year has allowed the business to maintain appropriate cash reserves. City Recital Hall is well placed to weather the second wave of COVID-19 lockdowns with continued support from government funding for the Arts.

Despite the interruptions over the year, we saw strong growth in programming activity with 127 concerts and events, achieving a total audience attendance of 65,590. After re-opening on 5 September 2020, we welcomed back all our Key Presenters – Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Musica Viva, Pinchgut Opera and Sydney Symphony Orchestra and embarked on new programming activity that will bear results in the years ahead. On behalf of the Board, I thank Justin Boschetti and the team who have worked tirelessly to adapt to the ever changing circumstances in the last year and we are extremely grateful for these efforts.

We are immensely grateful for the City of Sydney's ongoing support as our Principal Sponsor. This commitment allows us to continue providing Sydney audiences world-class performances in the very heart of our city. Our sincere

gratitude to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Cr. Clover Moore and Councillors for their encouragement and advocacy for our success in managing this key cultural asset.

We continue to reach new audiences through our valued media partner TimeOut and acknowledge our corporate partners AV1, JPJ Audio, Chalk Hill, Claymore Wines, Fisher Fine Wines and Young Henrys.

Our thoughts and well wishes go out to every single member of the Australian arts community who have been so significantly impacted by COVID-19. We look forward to welcoming you, and our valued audiences, back to the City Recital Hall as soon as possible.

**Rachel Launders**

# CEO'S MESSAGE



A year has passed since my appointment as CEO, and it has certainly been an interesting journey navigating the continually evolving world we now inhabit. During the past twelve months, despite the lockdowns, postponements, and capacity restrictions we have successfully supported the artists and presenters on our stage with the City Recital Hall's renowned sense of care and attention. We have also laid the foundations for our revitalised self-presents program and worked in partnership with our colleagues at the City of Sydney to develop the plans for our capital renewal program.

City Recital Hall's programming responded to the shifting landscape of the past year. We presented Sarah Blasko (as seen on the cover of this report) and Tim Freedman in November as part of Destination NSW's *Great Southern Nights* initiative. In January, with support from the City of Sydney and in partnership with our neighbours at Ragazzi Wine and Pasta, we presented six performances in a *Summer Lunch Series* featuring a range of artists including Sweet Whirl, Andy Golledge, Caitlin Harnett, Duo Histoire and Fem Belling. Our long-time audience favourite *A Little Lunch Music* series continued to entertain and featured a memorable sellout with the James Morrison Quartet in June.

We also hosted world premieres by Australian composers Paul Stanhope with the Sydney Chamber Choir and Paul Dean with the Australian World Orchestra. As always, our Key Presenters worked hard to deliver outstanding programming to their subscribers and our team developed new ways of working to support our partners through live streaming, recording presentations and adaptive guidelines to safely host our audiences and artists.

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

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of the Board. My particular thanks go to Renata Kaldor AO, who completed her five-year tenure in March, and our incoming Chair, Rachel Lauanders. Both Renata and Rachel provided vital support and attention as we worked through the challenges and opportunities that coronavirus has presented.

As we have come to expect, the City Recital Hall team displayed remarkable resilience and commitment to our mission in creating exceptional live music experiences for our audiences and artists. 2021 has seen the arrival of a number of

new staff members and I look forward to working with our extraordinary people in the year ahead.

Finally, I would like to offer my personal thanks to the artists and audience members who have entrusted City Recital Hall to celebrate the joy of live music. As custodians of this magnificent venue, we exist for our artists and audiences. I look forward to welcoming you back.

**Justin Boschetti**

# APPEARING ON OUR STAGE IN 2020/21

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Australian Haydn Ensemble

Australian National Academy of Music,  
Nick Deutsch, Bethany Simons, Phil Lambert

Australian Poetry Slam

Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra

Australian World Orchestra

Daniel Belle and Bev Kennedy

Tamara-Anna Cislowska,  
Bernadette Harvey, Benita Collings

Casey Donovan

Ben Elton

Tim Freedman

Greek Festival of Sydney featuring  
Dimitris Basis

Guy Noble and Teddy Tahu Rhodes

Professor Angela Moles, Marcus Chun,  
Regina Buenaventura, Quang Hong Luu

Ian Moss

James Morrison Quartet

Middle Kids

Musica Viva

Pinchgut Opera

Sarah Blasko

Selby & Friends

Kathryn Selby AM, Susie Park, Nicholas Mooney

Kathryn Selby AM, Andrew Haveron,  
Tobias Breider, Teije Hylkema

Konstantin Shamray and Australian  
National Academy of Music

Sydney Chamber Choir

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Sydney Writers' Festival

Dr Mark Temple and Tegan Taylor

## CRH PRESENTS LIVESTREAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FANE

Graham Norton

Lady Glenconner

Margaret Atwood

Monty Don

Nigella Lawson

Dawn French

Matthew McConaughey

Sir Michael Parkinson

Armistead Maupin and Sir Ian McKellen

Stephen Fry

## LIVESTREAMS AND VIDEO RECORDS FEATURING:

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Kate Ceberano

Tamara-Anna Cislowska with Dan Golding

Peter Fitzsimmons

Tanya Hennessy

Jaguar Jonze

Melbourne Digital Concert Hall

Pinchgut Opera

Selby & Friends

Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Simon Tedeschi and Kevin Hunt

Australian  
Chamber Orchestra  
*Transfigured*, photo  
by Daniel Boud.

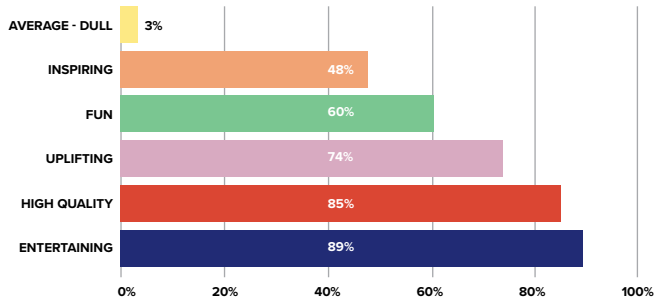




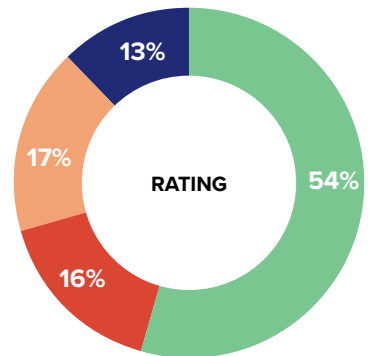
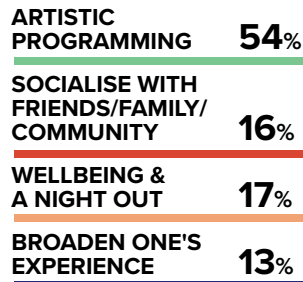
# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS – AUDIENCES

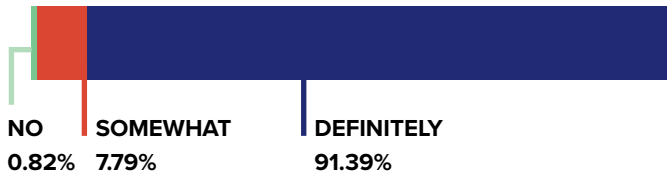
### HOW AUDIENCES DESCRIBED THEIR EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE RESPONSES RECORDED



### WHY AUDIENCES ATTENDED



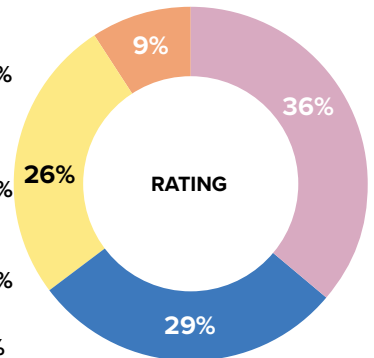
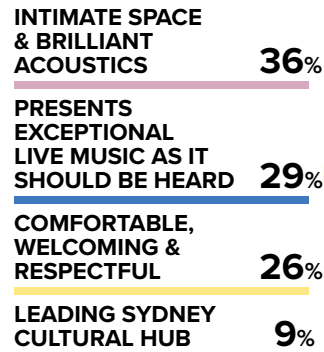
### DID CITY RECITAL HALL MEET AUDIENCES EXPECTATIONS?



98.6% of respondents are likely to recommend City Recital Hall to a friend or colleague

83% of respondents said our COVID-safe measures made them feel safe

### AUDIENCE PERCEPTION OF CITY RECITAL HALL



City Recital Hall,  
photo by Kurt Sneddon



# SUPPORT FOR THE SECTOR

Sweet Whirl (Esther Edquist), *Summer Lunch Series*, photo by Four Minutes to Midnight

## 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.

With the support of Training Services NSW, Apprenticeship Support Australia, ACFIPS (NSW Industry Training Advisory Board), and the Federal Government Employment Initiative Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, we continued our support of Morgan Higgin's development in the role of Production Assistant, extending her Traineeship under a Certificate IV in Arts Administration. Morgan has had the opportunity to gain experience in the many areas of a performing arts venue, including: technical production, stage management, event management and administration.

## EMERGING ARTISTS

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

In March 2021, the students of the Australian National Academy of Music appeared on our stage in *A Little Lunch Music: Figaro For Winds*. This performance transformed *The Marriage of Figaro* into a beguiling work for wind ensemble, led by ANAM Artistic Director Nick Deutsch, and narration of Figaro's many adventures by actor Bethany Simons.

Our *Summer Lunch Series* included a well-received solo performance in the Angel Place laneway by Melbourne singer-songwriter Sweet Whirl (Esther Edquist).

And our new contemporary music series *Singular Voices*, which has been postponed due to border and lockdown restrictions is committed to including a range of emerging artists in both headline and support plays.

## EXTERNAL VENUES

City Recital Hall provided customer support and online services to events presented at several Sydney based not-for-profit venues including Sydney Town Hall and Verbrugghen Hall. Although many of the events prepared in 2021 were cancelled due to operating restrictions we look forward to continuing these supporting services in 2022.

## 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 Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)
- Live Performance Australia (LPA)
- Sydney Arts Management Group (SAMAG)
- Sydney Cultural Network
- The Arts Wellbeing Collective
- Venue Management Association (VMA)



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Greek Festival, photo by Nick Bourdaniotis



## ACCESSIBILITY

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

The auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop, accessible seating, designated parking spaces and lifts, and courtesy wheelchairs available for all performances. Our website incorporates accessibility features to facilitate access for our audiences.

Concession priced tickets totalled 11% of all tickets sold by City Recital Hall, and 28 Companion Card tickets were issued.

## NEW AUDIENCES

City Recital Hall is increasing our offering and engagement opportunities with new audiences. Our new CRH Presents program of contemporary popular music is increasing our appeal to younger audiences with Julia Jacklin's planned solo performance in the *Singular Voices* series, initially scheduled for 4 June 2021, attracting 65% first time ticket purchases and a significantly younger demographic. We are also developing partnerships with a number of not-for-profit organisations, including Playwave, to provide low-cost tickets to bring more young people into the Hall.

## FREE AND LOW-COST

This year, 3,778 people attended our free and low-cost performances across *This Sounds Like Science* and *A Little Lunch Music*.

*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 611 people attended the two free events we were able to bring to the stage this year: *The Sounds of Coronavirus* and *Music and the Climate Crisis*.

Our long-running lunchtime concert series, *A Little Lunch Music*, co-curated with Kathryn Selby AM, delighted a total audience of 3,167 attendees with diverse musical experiences. We were able to present six of the twelve planned concerts ranging from the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) wind quartet with actor Bethany Simons for *Figaro for Winds*, to the sold-out James Morrison Quartet.



# CITY RECITAL HALL PRESENTS

JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

Casey Donovan in Concert,  
Photo by Robert Catto.

We approached programming with positivity and optimism over the past year and like everyone across the arts community, we were repeatedly disappointed by cancelled plans to bring artists to our supportive and dedicated audiences. Undeterred, we continue to work towards delivering the many contemporary and classical artists whose planned performances were postponed. We came out of lockdown on 5 September 2020 and welcomed audiences at reduced capacity until March 2021. We enjoyed three months of full capacity from March, until we returned to lockdown on 26 June 2021.

## GREAT SOUTHERN NIGHTS

In November, we rekindled our in-house programming with two limited capacity performances supported by Destination NSW's *Great Southern Nights* initiative. Sarah Blasko performed a solo show that was the culmination of a series of developmental performances for her upcoming album together with the classics including the much-loved *As Day Follows Night*. Tim Freedman brought one of his rare solo tours to City Recital Hall to launch The Whitlams' new single *Ballad of Bertie Kidd*, together with reinvented classics like *Blow Up the Pokies* and *No Aphrodisiac*.

## SUMMER LUNCH SERIES

We presented a series of six lunchtime performances outside in Angel Place on both Saturday and Sunday across three weekends in January and February accompanied by exquisite dining by Ragazzi Wine & Pasta. These intimate 100-cap shows, with stage set design by Wollongong artist Eamonn McLoughlin, were musically focussed and featured emerging and established artists. Duo Histoire dazzled on saxophone and guitar; Andy Golledge and guest Caitlin Harnett, who performed the next day charmed and caroused representing Sydney's burgeoning new Country scene; Melbourne artist, Sweet Whirl (Esther Edquist) played an engaging set on bass and digital piano; and crowd favourite, Fem Belling performed an extra show to fill in for Emma Donovan who was locked down in Melbourne.

## TEDDY TAHU RHODES & GUY NOBLE

Acclaimed baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes joined popular pianist and conductor Guy Noble for a concert of powerful and rapturous songs and delicate classical arias. Rhodes mesmerised audiences with his renowned vocal colour and nuance and displayed the breadth of his vocal skills with works from *The Barber of Seville*, *South Pacific*, Schubert's Lieder to the swagger of *Clancy of The Overflow*.

## SYDNEY CHAMBER CHOIR: PAUL STANHOPE – A NEW REQUIEM

We were thrilled to present the world premiere of award-winning composer and former Sydney Chamber Choir Music Director Paul Stanhope's *Requiem*, a major new work of transcendent beauty and healing that brought together the Latin Mass for the Dead with poetry by Emily Dickinson, Mary Elizabeth Frye and Oodgeroo Noonuccal. This formed the centrepiece of a program exploring themes of mortality, hope, ritual and commemoration featuring works by Tomás Luis de Victoria, Mary Finsterer, James MacMillan, and Indigenous composer Brenda Gifford.

## CASEY DONOVAN IN CONCERT

Casey Donovan brought her powerhouse vocals to the stage in a show of iconic hits arranged by Musical Director Daniel Edmonds. Woven with stories and her unmistakable wit and charm, *Casey Donovan in Concert* featured the music of Eva Cassidy, Bette Midler, Adele, Ed Sheeran, and Beyoncé.



## GREEK FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY: TSITSANIS, HATZIDAKIS, XARCHAKOS, THEODORAKIS: 200 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΗ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

The fifth annual Greek Orthodox Community of NSW co-production featured international soloist Dimitris Basis, together with a Greek band, a symphony orchestra and a choir, under the direction of conductor George Ellis. The show marked the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence, and featured songs of revolution, liberation and empowerment created over several decades by four great composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: Vassilis Tsitsanis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Xarchakos and Mikis Theodorakis.

## SINGULAR VOICES

This new CRH Presents series announced its first season in March, inviting contemporary artists of the highest calibre to step forth on one of the most visually and sonically beautiful stages in Australia, dissolving the boundary between listener and song with only the barest embellishment to their exceptional voices. They will present innovative shows perfectly suited to the Hall; contemporary music without overpowering its acoustics. *Singular Voices* offers artists the unique opportunity to further explore their music in a way that transcends their usual touring projects. The first announcement included rare solo turns by Marlon Williams, Julia Jacklin, Robert Forster, Kee'ahn with Babitha, featuring opening acts including Maple Glider and The Apartments' Peter Milton Walsh.

## A LITTLE LUNCH MUSIC

This popular and long-running series, programmed in conjunction with Kathryn Selby AM, reached new heights in 2021 with a sellout performance featuring the legendary James Morrison Quartet. A broad program of genres and periods is represented with highlights including the Australian National Music Academy's exploration of *The Marriage of Figaro*, the rarely performed Brahms Horn Trio and the dual piano version of Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* with a new narration by Hilary Bell performed by Benita Collings.

## LIVESTREAMING

As the world moved to digital delivery during lockdown City Recital Hall was proud to host a series of live streams produced by Fane. These events presented live conversations with authors, actors and personalities ranging from Armistead Maupin and Sir Ian McKellen to Graham Norton, Nigella Lawson and Matthew McConaughey. Continuing a multi-year partnership, we also hosted a virtual heat of the Australian Poetry Slam.

## THIS SOUNDS LIKE SCIENCE

This enlightening, free, lecture series presented ground-breaking scientific research and invited audiences to listen to sound and music from a new perspective. Dr Mark Temple, a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology and formerly the drummer of The Hummingbirds, performed his *Coronacode Music* and Professor Angela Moles, a plant ecologist at UNSW, amazed the audience with stories of how adaptable our ecosystems are in a warming world.





# 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 71 performances to an audience of 43,491

- AUSTRALIAN BRANDENBURG ORCHESTRA
- AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
- MUSICA VIVA
- PINCHGUT OPERA
- SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Pinchgut, The Loves of Apollo & Dafne*, photo by Brett Boardman.



# 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 contributes to the musical richness of City Recital Hall's program and productively draws new audiences to the Hall.

Our hirers presented 23 concerts and events with a total ticketed audience of 13,134.

## Hirers included:

Andrew McKinnon Presents

Australian Haydn Ensemble

Australian National Academy of Music

Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra

Australian World Orchestra

Handsome Tours

Live Nation

Moore College

Netflix

NSW Ambulance Association

Pedestrian Group

RUSSH Magazine

Selby & Friends

Sydney Writers' Festival

The Harbour Agency

Trinity Grammar School

University of Tasmania

Australian World Orchestra,  
photo by Ken Leonfore





# PARTNERS & SPONSORS

## PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

CITY OF SYDNEY 

## MEDIA PARTNER

TimeOut

## PRODUCTION PARTNER



## COMMUNITY PARTNER



## PARTNERS

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LIVE PERFORMANCE AUSTRALIA

## SERIES PARTNERS



*This Sounds Like Science* is supported by and co-curated with Inspiring Australia, the national strategy for public engagement with the sciences.



*Singular Voices* is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW



Summer Lunch Series

Summer Lunch Series,  
photo by Four Minutes  
to Midnight

# GIVING

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

## FOUNDING DONORS

Janie and Michael Austin  
Helen Bauer and Helen Lynch AM  
Anita Belgioro-Nettis  
Bentleys NSW  
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Marion Dixon  
Justice Elizabeth Fullerton  
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Carol and Victor Grynberg  
Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO  
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Lisa and Egil Paulsen  
Dianne Riedl  
David and Daniela Shannon  
Mary-Lynne Taylor and the Estate of the late Ted Taylor  
Wilson Asset Management

## DONORS \$2,000+

Andrew and Renata Kaldor Family Foundation  
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David Albert  
Ronen Ghosh

Iphygenia Kallinikos  
Mrs W.G. Keighley  
Rachel Launders and Paul Clark  
Suzanne and Michael Lynch  
Marcus McArdle  
Fiona McDonald  
Jean McPherson  
Anne Smith  
Belinda Storr  
Anonymous

## SUPPORTERS \$100+

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Robyn Smith  
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Prof Prue Vines  
Andrew and Masako Walker  
Alex Wardrop  
S. Zantos  
Anonymous (x2)

We also thank every single one of our donors who chose to add a donation to their ticket purchases during the year.  
Thank you



# GOVERNANCE

The City Recital Hall Limited Board saw several changes during the 2020/21 financial year: Rachel Launders was appointed Chair with Ronen Ghosh and Scott Phillips joining the Board in April 2021. This year also saw the departure of Founding Chair Renata Kaldor AO, Timothy Cox AO, and Louise Walsh who have each made an invaluable contribution to the Board.

The Board consists of eight directors who guide the direction of the company through their experience in music, performing arts, business strategy, finance, legal, governance, marketing and media, programming and community engagement.

The Board met on eight 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
- Endorsing a new programming direction for CRH Presents
- Approving an organisation change process introducing an executive team.



Teddy Tahu Rhodes  
and Guy Noble,  
photo by Four  
Minutes to Midnight

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

DIRECTOR	BOARD	AUDIT & RISK	NOMINATIONS	ARTISTIC	DEVELOPMENT
<b>Rachel Launders</b> From 1 April 2021	Chair	✓	✓		
<b>Renata Kaldor AO</b> Resigned 31 March 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>David Albert</b>	✓	✓		✓	
<b>Timothy Cox AO</b> Resigned 22 October 2020	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Ronen Ghosh</b> Joined 9 April 2021	✓	✓			
<b>Paul Mason</b>	✓			✓	
<b>Marcus McArdle</b>	✓	✓			
<b>Carol Mills</b>	✓			✓	
<b>Scott Phillips</b> Joined 7 April 2021	✓	✓			
<b>Jennie Sager</b>	✓		✓	✓	
<b>Louise Walsh</b> Resigned 2 February 2021	✓				✓

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**RACHEL LAUNDERS**  
**CHAIR**

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.



**DAVID ALBERT**

David Albert is the Chief Executive Officer of Alberts, a company specialising in impact capital that has been operating in Australia since 1885. David is part of the fifth generation to work in the Albert family business. He joined Alberts in 2004 after a career working across the globe in marketing roles with companies including Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak and Kelloggs and back home with telecommunications companies Optus and Telstra. In 2016 David oversaw the sale of the music business J. Albert & Son to BMG and has been instrumental in not only consolidating and growing the Alberts business but helping to expand its philanthropic focus.



**RONEN GHOSH**

Ronen Ghosh is a corporate executive with more than 25 years' experience in blue chip organisations operating globally in the fields of software, intellectual property, entertainment and media rights management, and investment management. Ronen is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Simble Solutions Limited, an ASX-listed software-as-a-service company. Ronen joined Simble as the Chief Financial Officer to oversee the financial and operational functions of the group and was appointed CEO in November 2019. Ronen was formerly the Finance Director at BMG Australia, a subsidiary of media company Bertelsmann. Prior to that he spent 12 years as Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of Alberts. Ronen is a Chartered Accountant and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.





### MARCUS MCARDLE

Marcus McArdle has been a Board Member since 2015 and is chair of the City Recital Hall Audit and Risk Committee.



### 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 Mills 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.



### SCOTT PHILLIPS

Scott Phillips is an experienced corporate executive, investment professional and financial adviser, having spent the last decade evaluating businesses and advising and educating clients and the general public. Before that, he spent a decade and a half in sales, strategy and management finance roles for many large FMCG companies, including Heinz, Diageo, 20th Century Fox and Blackmores, where his expertise has delivered profitable growth, and more effective sales and marketing results. He is currently Chief Investment Officer of financial services firm The Motley Fool, working to help clients become better investors and to spread financial literacy and independence to as many people as possible.



### JENNIE SAGER

Jennie Sager is a Media Executive with more than 20 years' experience creating and delivering global first campaigns for top tier companies. Throughout her career, Jennie has produced award-winning programs for top television networks, including MTV, Discovery, NBC, ABC, CBS, The Nine Network, and HGTV. She has worked all over the world at the biggest events, including Superbowl XLVIII, The Academy Awards, and The Grammys. As the Director of Content Partnerships for Asia Pacific at Twitter, Jennie oversaw the teams in Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, India, Singapore, and Australia. She also created Twitter's global VIP space, the BlueRoom, a Twitter based TV show "Tweet the Beat", and

spearheaded the world's first Twitter artist tour. As the Country Manager for global app, Nextdoor, her mission is to strengthen communities across Australia while combatting the nation's loneliness problem. Jennie also sits on the Board of Directors of MediaRING, an organisation that fosters career opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the media sector.

# STAFF



Pinchgut Opera,  
*Vespers*, photo by  
Lando Rossi

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Justin Boschetti

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Renée Bryant

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING**

Stuart Rogers

**HEAD OF OPERATIONS**

Lisa Taylor

**PARTNER RELATIONS**

Jayne Hughes

**ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT**

James Breen

**TICKETING SERVICES MANAGER**

Vanessa Knox

**CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER**

Keith Foote

**CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER**

Tom Riordan

**CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER/  
BUSINESS SYSTEMS**

Jayden Spillane

**MARKETING MANAGER**

Cynthia Crespo

**MARKETING SPECIALIST**

Krista Tanuwibawa

**MARKETING COORDINATOR**

Harry Erickson

**BUILDING SERVICES MANAGER**

Graham Parsons

**FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER**

Brett Reynolds

**STAGE MANAGER**

Sophie Mackay

**TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER**

Andrew Hudson

**TECHNICAL AND TRAINING  
COORDINATOR**

Timothy Cramsie

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Morgan Higgin

Staff list as at 30/6/2021





# CITY RECITAL HALL

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