

QSO Regional Program Impact Report

2025



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



A Message From the CEO



At Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO), we are proud to reflect on the success and lasting impact of the 2025 Regional Tours to Gladstone, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Charleville. Thanks to generous support, what began as a vision to bring orchestral music to regional Queensland has become a vibrant, transformative program that continues to inspire communities and young people across the state.

In 2025, we engaged with 150 schools, delivering more than 48 tailored workshops, and welcoming over 12, 973 attendees to our live regional performances. These achievements are more than just numbers; they represent real moments of joy, discovery, and connection through music for students, teachers, and families in communities that often lack access to such enriching cultural experiences.

The commitment and generosity of our supporters has been instrumental in making this possible. It is because of this support that QSO is able to break down geographic and socio-economic barriers and bring world-class orchestral music directly to the heart of regional Queensland.

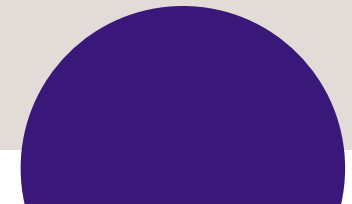
As we look ahead, we are energised by the possibilities. Together, we can continue to deepen our impact by reaching more schools, engaging more students, delivering unforgettable musical experiences across the region and sharing the stories of this impact.

From all of us at QSO, thank you for your ongoing generosity, belief in our mission, and dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of so many. We are truly grateful for your support and are excited for what we can achieve together in future.

Michael Sterzinger

Chief Executive Officer

Queensland Symphony Orchestra



*'So good to have the local
kids involved to spark their
interest in music.'*

*'It was wonderful,
thoroughly enjoyed it.'*

'Please come back soon. '

'Thank you.'





Audiences across Queensland experienced the might and majesty of classical music in their own backyards when Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) embarked on its impressive 2025 regional concert, engagement and education program.

The full symphony orchestra toured to Toowoomba, Gladstone, Townsville and Mackay. QSO also engaged with communities in Darling Downs and South West Queensland, including Charleville, Chinchilla, Roma and Tara.

2025 was the second in QSO's five-year regional touring program, developed to give thousands of regional and remote Queenslanders the chance to experience their state orchestra live. Each regional concert was expertly curated to engage audiences across Queensland and enrich these remote communities through music and education.

Gladstone – Symphony Under the Stars





Queensland Symphony Orchestra took to the outdoor stage once again to perform a free concert under the stars for the Gladstone community.

Hosted by Ed Le Brocq and led by QSO Chief Conductor Umberto Clerici, this concert's program included SidebySide students performing in the orchestra for Strauss' Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, and featured world-renowned cellist Benett Tsai.

'I am so thankful the QSO travels to Gladstone for performances and to mentor our young musicians. I always leave feeling inspired and uplifted.'



Townsville and Mackay

Northern Lights & Southern Stars

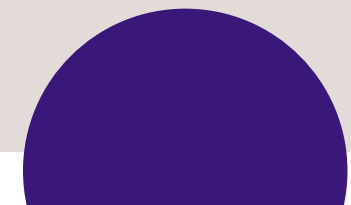
The orchestra returned to northern Queensland to perform at the Townsville Civic Theatre as part of the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA). The sold-out evening concert celebrated Australia's rich musical landscape and featured nine local SidebySide students.

Whilst in Townsville, QSO delivered a special quartet performance for over forty residents at a local aged-care facility, as part of the 'We're Sharing the Joy' program. In addition to the evening community concert, this year's NAFA program featured a QSO education concert which saw over nine hundred students from across Townsville attend a morning of listening, learning and musical adventures.

QSO performed for a sold-out audience at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), led by guest conductor Sam Weller. Returning to Mackay for the first time in over a decade, the orchestra performed modern Australian works and classical favourites, including Mozart's Non più andrai from The Marriage of Figaro, performed by soloist baritone Jake Lyle. Six SidebySide students joined QSO onstage during the concert to perform Grieg's Suite No.1 from Peer Gynt, Op.46.

As part of the Mackay tour program, the Orchestra performed a morning education concert attended by 1446 local school students at the MECC.

Multiple tailored workshops and lessons were also delivered to nineteen instrumental students over the course of the tour, as well as bespoke professional development sessions between QSO musicians and thirteen music teachers in Mackay.





'In Bowen, we don't get lots of opportunities like this. Our school band only has about 20 kids, so this is definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity for me.'

Eliza McNee
SidebySide student

Education Concerts

QSO's Education concerts are divided into two series; Discover and Explore. Each series is designed and programmed with specific learning levels in mind.

Each QSO concert includes a unique learning resource tailored to the concert experience and delivered prior to the schools visit.

Biloela SS and the students would like to thank you for the opportunity you provided for us to hear your wonderful sounds. By providing funds for the bus we were able to travel to Gladstone to hear amazing music, and learn more about music. It was an enrichment to the program and helped emphasise some of the work we have been doing in rehearsal.

Robert Quick, Biloela

3,470

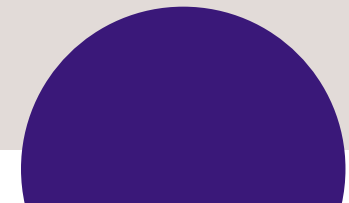
Regional Student
Attendees

5

Regional Education
Concerts

48%

increase in education concert
attendees, year on year.



Education Workshops

137 regional education workshops were delivered to 1405 students across Queensland. Primary and secondary students benefitted from specialist music education including concert band, string and wind ensembles.

Teachers also received tailored professional development sessions.



QSO

SidebySide

'Thank you so so much again for such an amazing night and wonderful opportunity! I had the best time and couldn't be more thankful that I got to be a part of the program again! Please pass on my thanks as well to Hayley and our conductor!'

Sarcha Webb, SidebySide

QSO's SidebySide Program provides successful applicants with personalised mentoring and 1:1 instruction from a QSO musician, leading to a performance with the Orchestra.

Previously known as the Prodigy Project, this program supports the Queensland Instrumental Music curriculum in providing opportunities for Queensland secondary school students to become musicians and reinforces the Australian Music Curriculum's aim of developing technical and expressive skills through making music.

QSO's community performances in Toowoomba, Gladstone, Townsville and Mackay all featured local students SidebySide in the orchestra.



We're Sharing the Joy

QSO's Health and Wellbeing Program brings the power and joy of music to those who need it most.

Through inclusive and accessible concerts to promote Healthy Ageing, performances for children living with disabilities, and QSO's We're Sharing the Joy ensembles, QSO creates inclusive experiences that foster connection, emotional resilience, and improved wellbeing across Queensland communities.

QSO's We're Sharing the Joy ensembles performed to 243 aged care residents across Queensland in 2025, including 193 in Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone and Charleville.



