

STUDIO SESSION



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



**CHAMBER
PLAYERS 2**

SEASON 2026

Welcome

Welcome to this afternoon's concert. Today, we welcome you into our home studio, where we spend most of our time rehearsing for our concerts. As musicians, it's always a special treat for us to work closely in small groups to curate meaningful programs and tell different stories than when the full orchestra is on stage.

Today's program is particularly special, as we are playing music by living composers. Usually, we have to use performance directions and historical clues to bring a composer's work to life in an authentic way, but playing music written by composers living and working today means that we can often work directly with them to inform our interpretation of their music.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon and we hope you enjoy the concert!

STUDIO SESSIONS: CHAMBER PLAYERS 2

QSO Studio

Sunday 21 June 2026, 3pm

IN THIS CONCERT

Rebecca Seymour	Violin
Natalie Low	Violin
Nicole Greentree	Viola
Bernard Hoey	Viola
Gregory McNamara	Viola
Isaac Davis	Associate Principal Cello
Phoebe Russell	Section Principal Double Bass
Emily Granger	Principal Harp
Alison Mitchell	Section Principal Flute

PROGRAM

ARVO PÄRT <i>Fratres</i>	10'
BERNARDO ALVIZ <i>Decisión y escarmiento</i>	5'
GEORGE BENJAMIN <i>Viola, Viola</i>	10'
BERNARDO ALVIZ <i>Danza de barro</i>	8'
ROUSSEL <i>Sérénade</i> for Flute, String Trio and Harp, Op.30 I. Allegro II. Andante III. Presto	15'

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Doors open at 2.30pm

This concert will end at approx. 4.25pm

Please note, there will be no interval in this concert.

Artistic Summary

Our Chamber Players series of concerts lie close to our musicians' hearts. In the intimate setting of our home studio, they program the repertoire for these concerts amongst themselves, forming chamber groups to work closely with colleagues from the other side of the stage.

All the pieces in this afternoon's program were composed within the past 101 years – a rare occurrence for QSO! The oldest piece in the program is the light and sprightly *Sérénade* by Roussel, a contemporary of Ravel and master of counterpoint who went on to teach Varèse and Satie. The *Allegro* and *Presto* are quick and rhythmic dances, with the *Andante* a languid, lyrical exploration of all the sonorous possibilities and instrumental combinations.

Music by living composers makes up the rest of the program: Estonian Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* (Latin for 'brothers'), in the composer's arrangement for violin and harp, was an early foray into the principal of tintinnabuli.

Pärt compared this compositional style to 'spiritual fasting', as it seeks to remove all extraneous musical parameters, down to the primordial elements of the language of sound.

Equally, George Benjamin sought to constrain himself in writing *Viola, Viola*, saying: "Imagine: you only have two bows, two violas, two human beings, eight strings. There is so little you can do with those things, and yet, actually, it is impossible to find a limit. My desire at times was to conjure an almost orchestral depth and variety of sound... The implied harmony is intended to be as sonorous as possible, the texture sometimes maintaining four or more parts for sustained periods."

As a double bassist himself, Bernardo Alvim excels at writing for the instrument. In these two intimately personal pieces performed by his wife, QSO Principal Double Bass Phoebe Russell, Alvim exploits the physicality needed to play the instrument, and draws from South American music from his childhood.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queensland Symphony Orchestra provides a spoken Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of each concert to encourage awareness and to demonstrate our respect for First Nations cultures and traditions, as well as signalling our commitment to a more inclusive and equitable society. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of Meanjin where we work, rehearse and perform: the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples, whose deep connection to this land reminds us to always protect and care for it.

Queensland Symphony Orchestra acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia. We acknowledge the cultural diversity of Elders, both past and present, and the significant contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to Queensland and Australia.





QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



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