

AUSTRALIAN  
WORLD  
ORCHESTRA  
AUDACIOUS. EXHILARATING. LIMITLESS.



## AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO AUSTRALIAN CONCERT HALLS IN 2021 WITH THE PREMIERE OF A MAJOR NEW AUSTRALIAN WORK

The Australian World Orchestra (AWO) is delighted to announce the World Premiere of *Symphony*, a new commissioned work by acclaimed Australian composer **Paul Dean** as the centrepiece of three unmissable concerts taking place in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne in June this year.

Under the baton of AWO Artistic Director and internationally acclaimed conductor **Alexander Briger**, fifty-two AWO players (forty-eight from across Australia and four from overseas\*) will come together to celebrate the joy of performing great works of music together and the resilience of Australian music making. The 2021 season will be the first iteration of AWO for over eighteen months and the celebration of its tenth anniversary.

Also on the program is Schumann’s 2nd Symphony – one of the greatest expressive, and deeply emotional works of the romantic era – arguably Schumann’s greatest symphonic work, and Beethoven’s dramatic and sensitive Coriolan Overture, to be performed in the year following the great composer’s 250th birthday.

**Alexander Briger AO** said: *“There are always challenges bringing AWO musicians together but in 2021 those challenges are multiplied fivefold. Following 2020’s silencing of live music making, it will be more precious than ever to see musicians from across the country unite together in these performances. A number have returned to Australia by choice or necessity and for audiences and musicians alike, the thrill and joy of live music performances will be incredibly poignant. It is especially fitting that AWO performs a new work by one of the country’s finest composers, a work that speaks directly to the times we are living in, commissioned for AWO’s tenth anniversary.”*

Written during 2020 as Australia faced bushfires and then the world faced Covid, Paul Dean’s new piece is Australian by birth, and undeniably global in nature.

*“The first movement describes daybreak at our local park where we walk the dogs every day. Daybreak is of course a special time everywhere but by the river in winter here at this park, it is beguiling. The birds wake slowly but in full voice (played by five of the wind players scattered throughout the hall). Such beauty I have never experienced anywhere despite travelling the world to find it. And there it was a 5-minute drive from where I live. What is remarkable are the storms that hit Brisbane periodically. Daybreak descends into a storm, an allegory for the plight of where we are... The storm comes and shatters the peace but what happens after the storms is always gentler and more beautiful than before... The movement ends in peace as it started.”*

**Paul Dean**, description of the First Movement of *Symphony*

\*Correct at time of writing. Please check website for updated details of musicians.

Read Paul Dean biography [here](#)

For more information regarding this Media Release please contact  
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## AUSTRALIAN WORLD ORCHESTRA – 2021 SEASON

### REPERTOIRE

Beethoven *Coriolan* Overture, Op.62, 1807

Paul Dean *Symphony*, 2021

Schumann *Symphony No.2*, Op.61 in C major, 1847

### PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

#### Premiere Performance

Wednesday 2 June 7:30pm, Llewellyn Hall, Canberra

Thursday 3 June, 7.30pm City Recital Hall, Sydney

Friday 4 June 7.30pm, The Recital Centre, Melbourne

#### Bookings and more information:

[www.australianworldorchestra.com.au](http://www.australianworldorchestra.com.au)

#AWO2021

### About the Australian World Orchestra

Audacious, exhilarating and with limitless vision, the Australian World Orchestra (AWO) is recognised as one of the most exciting initiatives in Australia’s cultural history. Founded in 2010 by Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Alexander Briger AO, AWO’s mission is to bring together Australia’s finest classical musicians – from ensembles at home as well as all around the world – to create something uniquely electrifying. Touring within Australia and overseas has won the Orchestra an enviable reputation and reached out to new audiences for classical music, while its education program has helped foster the next generation of Australian musicians.

Totalling 250 players drawn from over 50 of the world’s finest orchestras and ensembles, the AWO can call on leading musicians from Australia’s state orchestras as well as their ex-pat colleagues from prestigious ensembles such as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra. The sheer array of talent, coupled with the orchestra’s plush, award-winning sound, has seen many of the world’s greatest living conductors lining up to lead the orchestra both in Australia and overseas.

Hailed by audiences and critics alike as charismatic, inspiring and one of a kind; in the words of Sir Simon Rattle: “...the AWO is not just a national treasure but an international treasure.”

### Awards for Australian World Orchestra

Helpmann Award: Best Symphony Orchestra Concert 2016

Limelight Magazine Award: Best Orchestral Concert 2011

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