Season Highlights

• Helpmann-award winning composer Iain Grandage curates a showcase of Australia's finest women of song, featuring collaborations with Missy Higgins, Kate Miller-Heidke, Ursula Yovich and Meow Meow in a new series made possible by the Klein Family Foundation.

• Quatuor Ébène, one of the finest string quartets in the world, appear exclusively at UKARIA Cultural Centre and the Melbourne Recital Centre on their first tour to Australia.

• The Australian Chamber Orchestra appear at UKARIA for the very first time, led by Richard Tognetti.

• Headlining the concert series *Sunday Afternoons* is British pianist Paul Lewis, who performs Beethoven's monumental *Diabelli Variations*.

• Russian pianist Denis Kozhukhin returns for a solo recital of miniatures that speak to intimacy and landscape, concluding with the solo piano version of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

• Further highlights include award-winning UK-based a capella ensemble VOCES8; violinists Noah Bendix-Balgley (Concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic), Nemanja Radulović and Anthony Marwood, Dame Emma Kirkby (soprano), and the acclaimed Parisian ensemble Trio Wanderer.

• In the new dusk series *The Magic Hour*, audience favourites Umberto Clerici (cello) and the Goldner String Quartet curate unique concert experiences that commune with the shifting, fugitive qualities of light in four evocative programs followed by dinner.

• Paul Grabowski curates *Jazz at UKARIA*, featuring collaborations with James Morrison, Kram (Spiderbait), Lloyd Swanton (The Necks), Dave Beck, Mirko Guerrini and Niko Schäuble.

• Diana Doherty, Australia’s finest oboist, curates UKARIA 24, our flagship weekend event, including tributes to Tim Winton and Nigel Westlake.
WOMEN OF SONG – CURATED BY IAIN GRANDAGE

In 2019, Helpmann award-winning composer Iain Grandage curates Women of Song, a new series showcasing Australia's finest female vocalists, made possible by the Klein Family Foundation.

As major contributors to the construction of the Cultural Centre itself, the Klein Family Foundation began as the legacy of Ulrike Klein AO, and was passed over to the next generation in July 2017. Now operating entirely independently of UKARIA, the Foundation's mission is to inspire and empower sustainable solutions for positive change, with a deep commitment to health, local arts and environmental stewardship.

‘UKARIA has stories within its walls – a rapidly accumulating record of humanity and beauty from the concerts held within,’ curator Iain Grandage said. ‘Ulrike and all those who have helped create this shrine to music recognise the rewards of investment not only in the bricks-and-mortar of the venue but also in the musicians and artists who enliven it.’

‘We are delighted to be in partnership with UKARIA to bring this beautiful new series to UKARIA audiences,’ Klein Family Foundation Director Thora Klein said. 'It creates a binary link between the old and new generations of the Foundation, between the past and the present, and imprints our shared philanthropic passion into the future.'

The series builds on the success of Paul Grabowsky's sell-out series Four Voices, which featured artists such as Paul Kelly, Archie Roach, Lior, Vince Jones and Megan Washington.

Grandage, who curated Compassion: Chamber Landscapes in the 2018 Adelaide Festival and hosted James Crabb's UKARIA 24 in 2017, will perform on cello and piano throughout the new series, as well as making arrangements specifically designed to complement UKARIA's intimate acoustic.

‘The exceptional artists Iain has chosen for this new series not only represents a snapshot of Australia's finest song writing talent, but also acknowledges the extraordinary contribution of Australian women in the arts,' Thora Klein said. 'In their own unique way, all of these artists have shaped our sense of national identity. Storytelling through voice is what makes us uniquely human – it takes us on journeys and to places beyond the physical. These are voices that resonate with us all, making them a powerful force to inspire positive economic and social change, which makes the series a perfect fit for the Klein Family Foundation's vision and strategic direction.'

Australian song writing icon Missy Higgins (known for hit singles such as ‘Where I Stood’, ‘Scar’, ‘The Special Two’ and ‘Steer’) opens the series in March, performing on piano and guitar and backed by a string quartet.
Grandage has made new arrangements of many of her most popular songs, allowing Missy's art to speak with unprecedented intimacy.

Kate Miller-Heidke is joined by Keir Nuttall (guitar) in May, with Grandage accompanying on piano and cello. Their collaboration at UKARIA continues to build on the success of their four-time Helpmann Award-winning opera *The Rabbits*.

UKARIA is also proud to present Ursula Yovich, one of the most compelling voices of Indigenous Australia. The Cultural Centre occupies a site of special significance, a place where the rituals and songs of the Peramangk people have been heard for many centuries.

‘Collaborations with Indigenous artists are at the core of my practice,’ Grandage said. ‘Through various opportunities, I have had the privilege of collaborating with many of Australia’s finest Indigenous artists, and they have welcomed me and my music to their campfire, and through them I feel more embedded in this country.’

Post-post-modern diva Meow Meow concludes the series, bringing her signature blend of performance art, cabaret and pop culture to UKARIA for the first time.

‘These are creative artists at the peak of their powers, able to compose songs that distil complex ideas into radiant truths, and able to deliver them with immense heart and effortless brilliance,’ Grandage said.

‘The Women of Song series presented an excellent opportunity to deepen our relationship with UKARIA by offering a new and unique contribution to their cultural program,’ Thora Klein said. ‘Our mission is to leave a sustainable world for future generations, and to inspire and build healthy communities by supporting education and the arts.’

**WOMEN OF SONG**

**Missy Higgins with Iain Grandage**
Saturday 30 March | 7.30pm

**Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall with Iain Grandage**
Saturday 25 May | 7.30pm

**Ursula Yovich with Iain Grandage**
Saturday 15 June | 7.30pm

**Meow Meow with Iain Grandage**
Saturday 26 October | 7.30pm
SPECIAL EVENT
AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

In 2014 New York’s Carnegie Hall secured Quatuor Ébène six years in advance to perform the complete Beethoven String Quartet cycle in 2020, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth. It sparked the idea of playing Beethoven around the world across five continents and eighteen countries – arguably one of the most ambitious concert tours ever undertaken.

‘Quatuor Ébène are one of the world’s great quartets, but they’ve never travelled to Australia – until now,’ UKARIA’s Founder and Director Ulrike Klein said. ‘To have them at UKARIA has been a dream since I first heard them live in Europe some years ago.’ They perform Beethoven’s String Quartet in G major, Op.18 No.2, followed by the Serioso and Harp quartets at UKARIA and the Melbourne Recital Centre.

SPECIAL EVENT
QUATUOR ÉBÈNE

The Australian Chamber Orchestra will make their debut performance at UKARIA in a program of lively dances and ethereal reveries. On the program is Richard Meale’s Cantilena Pacifica, Respighi’s Ancient Airs and Dances, the Australian premiere of Viatore by leading Latvian composer Peteris Vasks, and Benjamin Britten’s Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge.

‘I have been a loyal follower of the ACO for years, so it’s with a deep sense of pride that we present them at UKARIA for the first time,’ Ulrike Klein said.

Sunday 2 June | 2.30pm

Monday 28 October | 7.30pm
The 2019 Season includes eighteen concerts in the popular series Sunday Afternoons. British pianist Paul Lewis, one of the world’s greatest living interpreters of the Viennese classical repertoire, makes his debut at UKARIA in September, performing what his mentor Alfred Brendel described as ‘the greatest of all piano works’: Beethoven’s 33 Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli, Op.120.

‘It’s amazing how quickly word is spreading within the artistic community, both nationally and internationally,’ CEO Alison Beare said. ‘Stephen Hough performed at UKARIA for Recitals Australia earlier this year, who then spoke to Paul Lewis, so we were able to secure him for 2019.’

Russian pianist Denis Kozhukhin returns to UKARIA to play Schubert’s Four Impromptus, Op.142, Mendelssohn’s Songs without Words, Grieg’s enchanting Lyric Pieces, and the solo piano version of George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue. One of only seven pianists accepted annually to study at the prestigious Lake Como Piano Academy in Italy, Kozhukhin is a regular name at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, and has recently been mentored by Daniel Barenboim.

‘Denis is quickly becoming known as one of the finest young pianists of his generation,’ Ulrike Klein said. ‘When we heard him at Nicolas Altstaedt’s UKARIA 24 this year, it was a no-brainer: we had to invite him back for a solo recital.’

Known for their acclaimed discography on the Decca Classics label, UK-based a capella ensemble VOCES8 present ‘Sing Joyfully’, a tapestry of the history of vocal music encompassing everything from Bach to Simon & Garfunkel.

‘VOCES8 have such a distinctive sound – every time I hear them on the radio, I recognise them instantly,’ Ulrike Klein said. ‘To hear them in an acoustic like UKARIA will be a match made in heaven.’

Other highlights include Dame Emma Kirkby – one of the greatest sopranos of our age – with world-renowned lutenist Jakob Lindberg; and acclaimed Parisian ensemble Trio Wanderer, who perform Dvořák’s Dumky and Rachmaninov’s Trio élégiaque in D minor, Op.9.

Noah Bendix-Balgley, the First Concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, will lead students from the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) in Schubert’s Octet in F major, D.803. In October, Serbian superstar Nemanja Radulović joins Ensemble Liaison, while British violinist Anthony Marwood teams up with Scottish classical accordion virtuoso James Crabb for a tribute to Ástor Piazzolla.

‘Musicians from across Australia and around the world have established UKARIA as a South Australian cultural icon,’ CEO Alison Beare said. The 2019 Season continues to build on a year of unprecedented growth for the Centre, in which over 80 per cent of all concerts presented by the organisation sold out. ‘It is one of the joys of my life to see UKARIA developing a reputation for world-class chamber music,’ Ulrike Klein said.
TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets go on sale from Saturday 3 November 2018 and are available at ukaria.com/events/

Full details of the program can be found in the UKARIA 2019 Season brochure or online from Saturday 3 November at ukaria.com/events/

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

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