

VIBRANT, PASSIONATE, INTERESTING STUDENT CHAMBER MUSICIANS



For this concert, Australian National Academy of Music students were joined by Israeli violinist Gregory Ahss, Concertmaster of Camerata Salzburg and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.

Melanie Walters, *The Advertiser*
August 13, 2019 | Subscriber only

The Australian National Academy of Music has produced many of Australia's most vibrant, passionate, and interesting chamber musicians over the past three decades, and judging by their performance at UKARIA this weekend, the current cohort of students will be no exception.

For this concert, the ANAM students were joined by Israeli violinist Gregory Ahss, Concertmaster of Camerata Salzburg and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.

The program comprised two substantial Romantic chamber works - Brahms' *String Sextet No. 2 in G major* and Schubert's *Octet in F major*.

The Brahms featured warm, blended sounds throughout, and Ahss brought a lyrical quality to the Violin 1 lines in the opening movement.

The *Allegro non Troppo* section of the second movement was tinged with melancholy in this performance, with delicately articulate playing from all six musicians.

The subsequent *Presto giocoso* was suitably rambunctious, and the ensemble leaned into the ominous descending lines and dynamic swells of the Adagio to great effect.

Schubert's Octet for winds and strings was commissioned by clarinetist Ferdinand Troyer, and, not surprisingly, heavily features the clarinet throughout the work.

Clarinetist Cameron Smith performed with beautiful control and understated phrasing, particularly in the Adagio second movement.

The ensemble's dynamic extremes were admirable in this work, and the excitement of the final *Allegro molto* section provided a thrilling end to an enjoyable concert.

Gregory Ahss and ANAM
UKARIA Cultural Centre
August 4