



# FUTUREMAKERS

## Musica Viva announces 2018-19 FutureMakers Aura Go and Matthias Schack-Arnott chosen for acclaimed leadership initiative



Aura Go and Matthias Schack-Arnott

(Photographs taken by Keith Saunders at the UKARIA Cultural Centre, Mount Barker SA)

**Musica Viva Australia** is proud to announce that pianist **Aura Go** and percussive artist **Matthias Schack-Arnott** will be the next beneficiaries of its two-year **FutureMakers** initiative.

Launched in 2015, FutureMakers is designed to shape Australia’s musical leaders of tomorrow, offering brilliant early career chamber musicians a tailored program of mentoring and strategic development, an array of performance opportunities and the scope to create a major new work.

The program is guided by Artistic Director Genevieve Lacey, who consulted extensively with industry peers before selecting Schack-Arnott and Go for the second iteration of FutureMakers. In her eyes, both stood out for their compelling performance qualities and creative aptitude, as well as their innate charisma and intellectual curiosity – an impression backed up by their subsequent selection to represent Australia at the 2018 Classical:NEXT conference in Rotterdam.

"We're so excited to be working with Aura and Matthias, alongside our team of brilliant, generous mentors and partners," she says. "Aura and Matthias are exceptionally courageous and talented artists. Over the next two years, they will each create a career-defining new performance work, and in doing so, make a future for themselves, for audiences, and for our art form."

**Pianist Aura Go** is fast earning international acclaim as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor. "For the last nine years, I've been living overseas, first in the USA, and currently in Finland," she says. "FutureMakers offers me an extraordinary chance to build a professional life in my home country, while maintaining an active performance schedule in Europe. I'm passionate about education, about contemporary music, about becoming an advocate for an artform I love, both with my work, and as a writer and spokesperson."

**Matthias Schack-Arnott** is an outstanding young Melbourne percussive artist working in contemporary classical and experimental music. "FutureMakers offers the precious commodities of resources, time and space to spend two years creating an ambitious new work," he says. "It will also give me access to extraordinary people: artists, thinkers, entrepreneurs, brilliant minds of all types, giving me the opportunity to create something career defining that will set the tone and scale of my work for the next chapter of my professional life."

## MEDIA RELEASE

That ambitious new work is at the heart of the 2018-19 FutureMakers program. Over two years, Schack-Arnott and Go will each develop a bold music-centred project, ready for premiere and touring in the season after they leave the program. A network of national and international presenters will host these works as part of a touring circuit.

This will be underpinned by a tailored professional development curriculum focussed on artistic leadership, entrepreneurial capabilities and shaping the sector's future. Throughout the program, Schack-Arnott and Go will receive strategic mentoring with leading consultants from PwC, Leadership Victoria, The University of Queensland, Patch Theatre, Sharpen Creative Industries Consulting and many others.

There will also be opportunities to see the FutureMakers perform within Musica Viva's broader concert activities, as well as through regional touring and artistic partnerships.

Excitingly, **Monash University** has joined FutureMakers as Education Partner for the 2018-19 program. Through the **FutureMakers at Monash** partnership with the **Monash Academy of Performing Arts** and the **Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music**, the artists and mentors will be in residence in the School of Music, sharing their knowledge with students in a series of concerts, masterclasses and FutureMakers Lectures. The performance projects will be workshopped and showcased at Monash University.

A University of Queensland research project has identified FutureMakers as the world's most comprehensive artist development program tailored to independent chamber musicians. Because Australian musicians rely less on artist management than those in Europe, the UK or USA, the program's entrepreneurial emphasis, ongoing mentoring and focus on sector development are especially valuable.

Arcadia Winds were the inaugural Musica Viva FutureMakers from 2015-17. FutureMakers 2015-17 saw 120 mentors, presenters and collaborators involved, 12 new music works and performance projects created, over 16,000 Australian and international audience members reached and many new partnerships developed, for instance with Abbotsford Convent, Circus Oz and UKARIA. The group also commissioned, recorded and released an EP in partnership with ABC Classics and Musica Viva, including works written especially for them.

Lead funding for FutureMakers is provided by the Berg Family Foundation. The program is also generously supported by Monash University, The Russell Mills Foundation, Residency Partner UKARIA, and performance project supporters Monica Lim and Konfir Kabo.

**Pianist Aura Go** is fast earning international acclaim as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor. Trained at the Victorian College of the Arts and the Australian National Academy of Music, she holds a Master of Music from Yale and is a doctoral candidate at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. Not only has she performed as a soloist with most major Australian orchestras, but she has also directed them as part of Symphony Australia's Conductor Development Program.

A keen advocate of new music, Go has presented world premieres in the USA, Australia and Finland. As a member of the KIAZMA Piano Duo with Japanese pianist Tomoe Kawabata, she recently released her first CD, *Five Rocks in a Japanese Garden*, featuring music by contemporary Japanese composers. Her work as conductor/pianist for the premiere of Kate Neal's multidisciplinary work *Semaphore* was awarded Best Instrumental Performance at the 2016 Australian Art Music Awards. For a full biography, please visit [futuremakers.net.au/about/2018-19-artists/aura-go](http://futuremakers.net.au/about/2018-19-artists/aura-go).

**Matthias Schack-Arnott** is a Melbourne percussive artist working in contemporary classical and experimental music. Described in *The Guardian* as 'sonically and visually exquisite', his solo work explores unique approaches to performance, often involving the development of intriguing new instrumental set-ups built in collaboration with architects, engineers and technicians.

At the age of 21, Matthias was invited to be the Artistic Associate of Speak Percussion, Australia's leading percussive arts organisation. His many accolades include the 2016 Melbourne Prize for Music 'Development', the 2014 Green Room Awards 'Outstanding Work by an Emerging Artist' and multiple Australian Art Music Awards for his work with Speak Percussion. For a full biography, please visit [futuremakers.net.au/about/2018-19-artists/matthias-schack-arnott](http://futuremakers.net.au/about/2018-19-artists/matthias-schack-arnott).

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