

EMBARGOED UNTIL Monday 8 December 2025

AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
ACADEMY
OF MUSIC

Ian Potter Emerging Performers Fellowships 2026-2027 Recipients Announced



Images: (L) Matt Laing (photo by Sharon Gertner) | (R) Simone Slattery (photo by Keith Saunders)

The **Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM)** is excited to announce alumni **Matt Laing** (viola 2013) and **Simone Slattery** (violin 2011) as the two latest recipients of **ANAM's Ian Potter Emerging Performers Fellowship**, made possible with support of **The Ian Potter Cultural Trust**.

The Fellows are each awarded AU\$50,000 per year for two years (total value AU\$100,000 for each recipient). The Fellowships, which include industry mentorship, are awarded to ANAM alumni who display a demonstrated commitment to establishing an independent performance practice.

ANAM Managing Director **Nick Bailey** said "The strength of the applications from our ANAM alumni for this opportunity has demonstrated their continuing leadership of the sector, and the vibrancy of classical and contemporary art music in Australia. Our alumni are to be commended for their contribution to music-making and education and to their communities across the country, and internationally as Australia's cultural ambassadors.

"The panel was impressed with the body of work that both Simone and Matt have created in the years since their time at ANAM. The Fellowship will support Simone's career as an independent artist, in particular as co-Artistic Director and founder of the award-winning Bowerbird Collective, to continue to produce new work and performances throughout regional Australia, and to advocate for conservation of our environment and endangered species. Matt's Fellowship will enable him to publish his composition folio, release recordings of his works and boost his career profile both within Australia and internationally. We are deeply appreciative of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust for their support of these musicians by way of this visionary Fellowship."

Matt Laing said “The ANAM Ian Potter Emerging Performer Fellowship will be transformative to my practice, giving me the breathing space to create new work, build resources and plan confidently into the future. Whilst this is personally an extraordinary honour, it also comes with a responsibility to lead and advocate for the practices of other independent Australian artists, and I’m really excited by the opportunity to explore what that looks like over the coming years. I am so grateful to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and to ANAM to be selected for this remarkable opportunity.”

“I am honoured to be a recipient of an Ian Potter Emerging Performers Fellowship,” said **Simone Slattery**. “Forging a non-traditional path in the music industry is a thrilling but at times precarious task, and while I wouldn't have it any other way, it is an immeasurable gift to be given such support along the way. Through my independent practice as performer and curator, as well as my work with my arts company, The Bowerbird Collective, this Fellowship will allow me to expand my capacity as an emerging leader of creative and collaborative projects that combine art and science. This is a life-changing opportunity, and I feel immense gratitude to the Ian Potter Cultural Trust and the Australian National Academy of Music for their vision in nurturing those who choose to work outside of the box.”

CEO of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, **Paul Conroy**, said “On behalf of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, I’d like to congratulate Matt Laing and Simone Slattery on their Fellowships. The Trust is proud to continue its collaboration with ANAM in supporting the next generation of Australian music leaders through this unique program. We look forward to seeing how Matt and Simone shape their fellowships to unlock new opportunities, access new networks, and take their careers to new heights.”

Previous recipients include inaugural Fellows for 2024-2025 **Mee Na Lojewski** (cello 2014) and **Katie Yap** (viola 2014), who completed their Fellowship at the end of 2025, and Fellows for 2025-2026 **Kaylie Melville** (percussion 2015) and **Eliza Shephard** (flute 2018), who are mid-way through the Fellowship. The Fellowship has enabled these ANAM alumni to expand upon their independent performance careers, with Mee Na’s ensemble Affinity Quartet and Kaylie’s Rubiks Collective pursuing increased performance opportunities both within Australia and abroad. Tailored mentorship and financial support of the Fellowship has also allowed solo and chamber artists Katie and Eliza to create, develop and share new work, through commissions, recordings, and performance outreach.

Thanks to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, two Fellowships will be awarded each year between 2024 and 2028 to two ANAM alumni. Selected Fellows will have achieved an outstanding level of musical and technical proficiency in their chosen instrument, demonstrated artistic vision and resilience along with a desire to further grow and contribute to Australia's cultural life. The Fellowships are not attached to specific activities, budgets or outcomes and are essentially untied funds to allow recipients to 'go and be an artist – we trust you to undertake meaningful work’.

For all media enquiries please contact:

Evan Lawson

e.lawson@anam.com.au | 03 9645 7911

ABOUT MATT LAING

Matt Laing is an Australian composer and viola player. He studied viola and economics at the University of Melbourne, and viola at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

He has received commissions from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, the Australian String Quartet, the Australian Wind Quintet, Affinity Quartet, the Australian National Academy of Music, and Musica Viva Australia, amongst many others.

Matt has been artist- and composer-in-residence at the Bermagui Four Winds Festival, All that we are in Hobart, awarded the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Composer House Trust residency in the Barossa Valley in 2021, and was 2021 Young Composer in Residence with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. His

work has been performed in Australia and the UK, and was featured at the International Double Reed Society Conference in 2023.

As a collaborator, he has worked with choreographer Lilian Steiner and trumpet player Callum G'Froerer, and as a performer has freelanced as a viola player since graduating from ANAM in 2013. His composition mentors have included Brett Dean and Elliot Gyger.

As a viola player, Matt is in demand as a freelancer, playing regularly with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria, and in 2025 held a contract position with OV as Acting Associate Principal Viola. Performance career highlights include appearing in the premiere season of the Australian World Orchestra, and performing in the Australian Octet, with the Australian String Quartet, and in Melbourne-based ensembles Quartz, Affinity Quartet, Rubiks and Arcko, as well as a variety of musicals, and commercial television and film recordings.

Festival engagements as a performer have included the Perth and Melbourne International Arts Festivals, at the Australian String Quartet's Dunkeld Festival, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra's Daylesford Festival, Orchestra Victoria's Hamilton Festival, and on multiple occasions at the Bermagui Four Winds Festival as violist and with electronics.

<https://www.mattlaing.com>

ABOUT SIMONE SLATTERY

Simone Slattery is one of the most versatile and engaging artists of her generation. Using her diverse toolkit of performance, composition, curation, sound and visual design, she makes art to move, inspire, and connect us to what it is to be human.

A 2019 Churchill Fellow, PhD graduate, and Arts SA Fellowship recipient, Simone's performances nationally and internationally, on both modern and baroque violin, have received critical acclaim, and her compositions described as "stunning". She has appeared as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician internationally, and performs regularly in festivals ranging from the Adelaide Festival, to the BBC Proms, to Woodford Folk Festival.

Simone graduated from the University of Adelaide Elder Conservatorium of Music in 2009 with first class Honours, before completing two years at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM). She has attended summer schools and mentorships in Australia, Canada, America and Europe. She is the recipient of awards and scholarships from the Winston Churchill Foundation, the Kevin Taylor Legacy, Arts South Australia, the Ian Potter Cultural Trust, the Elder Conservatorium of Music, and Creative Australia. In 2018, Simone was awarded her PhD in Music Performance with a Dean's Commendation from the University of Adelaide.

In 2017 Simone co-founded the award-winning Bowerbird Collective, an arts organisation that seeks to explore links between art and science. The Collective's works to date include *Where Song Began*, winner of a Ruby Award and performed over 100 times; *Life on Land's Edge*, winner of an Independent Arts Foundation Award for Innovation; *Kaurna Yarta - The Seasons*, the Moonbird and Lyrebird Festivals, and *Songs of Disappearance Birds/Frogs/Mammals* which reached the top of the ARIA charts ahead of pop stars including Taylor Swift and Adele.

Simone's compositions have featured in live performance, radio, film, exhibitions and installations, including the Art Gallery of South Australia's 'Clarice Beckett: the present moment' retrospective, and Tourism Australia's immersive nature experience 'Australian Geographic: Our Country'. Her creations have been described as "a delicate and beautiful fusion" and "like being sung to by the country".

<https://www.simoneslattery.com>

ABOUT ANAM

The Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) is an international, dynamic and outward-facing cultural institution, training and performance company, with a demonstrated commitment to engaging with its communities. Founded in 1996, and celebrating 30 years in 2026, ANAM is internationally

renowned as the only purely classical music performance training academy in Australia, and one of the few in the world.

ANAM's intensive schedule brings together a global network of artists and performers, alongside an esteemed Faculty, who provide invaluable mentorship and guidance for emerging young musicians through public performances, masterclasses and other programmes. ANAM alumni are found in many of the world's leading orchestras and ensembles, perform as soloists and contribute to educating the next generation of musicians.

ANAM is a member of the Australian Government-funded Arts8 group of performing arts training organisations who are committed to providing the high level and intense studio-based training necessary to ensuring that the performing arts sector has a pipeline of creative talent that will enable it to continue telling stories for generations.

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