



ANAM QUARTETTHAUS TO HOST SEASON OF AUSTRALIAN MUSIC IN LONDON

ANAM Quartetthaus represents the biggest leap in immediacy and potency for the string quartet as an art form since microphones and speakers arrived.

David Harrington KRONOS Quartet

The Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) is pleased to announce a partnership with London's the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music to present a season of the *ANAM Quartetthaus designed by bluebottle* in London as part of the UK/Australia Season 2021-22, in September this year.

The initial concept for a specialised listening space was proposed by Ben Cobham, co-director of bluebottle, in 2010 igniting a rich collaboration between ANAM and bluebottle, whereby ANAM Quartetthaus was born. A temporary structure especially designed for listeners to experience the theatrical and visceral art of the string quartet at close proximity, the ANAM Quartetthaus seats just 52 patrons in two circles around a slowly rotating central stage.

Situated in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall, one of the world's largest, most famous *circular* concert venues, the beautiful timber cube will house and celebrate Australian and British string quartet composition. A first appearance outside of Australia, the ANAM Quartetthaus season comprises the largest celebration of Australian string quartet composition to be ever heard outside the country, and includes two world premieres by Jack Symonds (Sydney) and Matt Laing (Melbourne), an ANAM alumnus. The season will also include music by Australian composers Darrin Archer, Joe Chindamo, Brett Dean, Ross Edwards, Jack Frerer, Percy Grainger, Alfred Hill, Miriam Hyde, Elena Kats-Chernin, Liza Lim, Richard Meale, Peter Sculthorpe, Paul Stanhope, and Nigel Westlake.

The London program builds upon the recent [ANAM Set](#) and cements ANAM's reputation as champions of Australian composition.

This repertoire will be performed alongside music by leading British composers past and present, including the world premiere of a new work commissioned by ANAM from UK composer **Hannah Kendall** for the season.

Six performances each day for ten days will feature Australian and British String Quartets performing works from both countries. Australian ensembles travelling to London for the season are the **Artamidae Quartet** (comprised of four current ANAM musicians), **Affinity Quartet** (one current ANAM musician and three alumni) and the **Australian String Quartet** (which includes three ANAM alumni). British quartets sharing the circular stage with these ensembles include the acclaimed **Marmen Quartet** and, from ANAM's partner institution London's Royal College of Music, the **Fiora Quartet** and **Oriole String Quartet**.

Joining the ANAM musicians and alumni on tour will be a group of filmmakers, graduates of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), who will document this historic undertaking.

The London season of ANAM Quartetthaus is made possible with support from the Australian Commonwealth Government (through DFAT and the International Cultural Diplomacy Arts Fund), Victorian Government (through Creative Victoria), the South Australian Government (through Arts SA), and a consortium of leading Australian and British philanthropists.

ANAM Quartetthaus

Royal Albert Hall, London

Sun 18 – Wed 28 September

12PM, 1:30PM, 3PM, 4:30PM, 6PM, 8PM, and 9:30PM (Fri 23 – Sat 24 only)

QUOTES:

David Harrington (Kronos Quartet) said after attending the inaugural season of ANAM Quartetthaus in Melbourne: "ANAM Quartetthaus represents the biggest leap in immediacy and potency for the string quartet as an art form since microphones and speakers arrived. ANAM Quartetthaus is like having a portable 54-seat Esterhazy Palace. I want one in my back yard! When people begin to realize how visceral the experience can be of hearing the flesh of fingers and rosined horse hair attack the strings, when the life-altering experience of being able to be so close together with the inner voice of music becomes known, then the reason the string quartet is so alive and thriving will be clear: because it sounds so intensely and wondrously human."

ANAM Artistic Director Paavali Jumppanen said: "ANAM Quartetthaus grew from a simple idea: to create a space shaped at every turn by the music to be performed within it. A venue released from the expansive rhetoric of traditional concert presentation, just as the intimate musical form of the string quartet is stripped of the heavier rhetoric of larger scale genres. Bringing together six string quartets, 24 musicians, 12 from Australia and the UK each to perform music composed by past and present Australian and British composers in the ANAM Quartetthaus, provides an up-to-date vehicle to examine the question "Where Are We Now?"

Michael Naphthali, UK/Australia Season Director, said: "When confronting the provocation — "Who Are We Now?" — posed by the UK/Australia Season, a colossal creative response is heard literally and figurative in the shape of ANAM Quartetthaus. The UK/Australia Season is excited to support this unique endeavour bringing together the most comprehensive celebration of Australian and British quartet writing ever performed, resting in the shadow of the iconic Royal Albert Hall."

Lucy Noble, Artistic Director of the Royal Albert Hall, said: "We're delighted to be taking part in the UK/Australia season and to host such an innovative performance concept for the first time outside Australia – as well as opening up new performance spaces around our site. The design of the ANAM Quartetthaus creates a completely new way of experiencing live music and we can't wait to get inside."

ABOUT ANAM

ANAM is regarded as one of the world's leading performance training academies. It takes in the most brilliant musicians from Australia and New Zealand and sends them out into the world as artists with the skill, courage and imagination to be the next music leaders. ANAM musicians may find themselves sitting on the floor making music with a class of local third graders one day, and performing alongside the world's finest artists on stages across the country the next. Its musicians regularly perform with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Melbourne, West Australian and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, and present over 180 performances each year. ANAM alumni work in orchestras and chamber ensembles around the world, perform as soloists, contribute to educating the next generation of musicians, and are the recipients of major national and international awards. ANAM's partners increasingly include the world's great academies and music organisations.

ABOUT BB

Ben Cobham and Andrew Livingston, co-direct the accomplished, versatile, and expert team who together formulate the multi award-winning Australian company bluebottle (established 1991). Drawing upon more than 30 years of experience, originally steeped in theatrical and commercial lighting and design, bluebottle continues to evolve and incorporate new skills and technologies across multiple domains. Today bluebottle is an integrated solutions provider, specialising in lighting and controls, project delivery and sales across commercial and entertainment sectors to support designers and deliver excellent outcomes within numerous diverse and high calibre projects.

At the pinnacle of their design phase bluebottle designed ANAM Quartetthaus to facilitate a most unique sensory, quality experience which celebrates the beauty of listening to live stringed instruments.

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