

Adelaide Festival Centre presents

CONSONANCE

ELDER HALL ♦ SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER ♦ 4PM

Exchange and confluence between world-leading musicians, each of whom calls Adelaide home.

Hailed for his fluidity and finesse, Aleksandr Tsiboulski began his career in Adelaide and premieres a new suite for classical guitar by South Australian composer Anne Cawrse, based upon plainchant by 12th Century composer and philosopher Hildegard of Bingen. He is joined by violinist Dr Elizabeth Layton, Head of Classical Performance at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, for an intricate conversation between instruments.

Artistic Director Slava Grigoryan is joined by his key collaborator in life and music, cellist Sharon Grigoryan. Their synergy and enchanting capacity to connect shines through their repertoire spanning cultures, generations and genres.

Opening the concert is the 2025 Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra, led by the effervescent Dr Paul Svoboda, bringing their extraordinary energy and ensemble to a truly special festival event.

Musical Director Paul Svoboda

Featuring Aleksandr Tsiboulski, Elizabeth Layton, Slava Grigoryan and Sharon Grigoryan

Paul Svoboda

Australian guitarist Paul Svoboda graduated with First Class Honours from the School of Music, University of Queensland in 1989, receiving the University Medal for outstanding achievement as well as the prize for Most Outstanding Music Graduate for that year. In 1994 he received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the Sibelius Academy of Music in Helsinki, Finland. During the 1990s Paul was Lecturer in Classical Guitar at the Kuopio Conservatorium of Music and Dance, Finland. In the early 2000s he lectured in music subjects at the School of Music, University of Queensland.

Also in 1994 a Finnish TV programme was produced about his composition, *Finnish Suite*, for *Flute & Guitar*, performed by his flautist-wife Outi and himself. In 1998 American flute/guitar duo Sandra Seefeld & Richard Goering recorded a CD completely devoted to his compositions for that combination. Paul has performed solo and chamber music concerts in Finland, Czech Republic, Thailand, Switzerland, China, Germany and Australia.

Paul is highly active as a teacher, performer and composer. His list of compositions is extensive, and it is one of his goals to extend the performing and teaching repertoire for the classical guitar by composing appealing pieces with a modern touch.

In recent years Paul has become fascinated with the newly emerging genre of the classical guitar ensemble, constantly adding to its growing repertoire. His philosophy of composition is that every section of the group should have something interesting to play in each piece – this leads to greater enjoyment and better performance!

Paul's music is regularly broadcast on ABC Classic FM. He is based in Brisbane and teaches classical guitar full-time at Loreto College, directing several guitar ensembles. In 2006-2010 his advanced school groups took part in the West Australian International Classical Guitar Ensembles Festival, to great acclaim. In 2020 Paul was invited to adjudicate this festival.

Since 2014 Paul has directed the Classical Guitar Orchestral Stream of the Adelaide Guitar Winter School, in collaboration with Musical Director Slava Grigoryan. This annual event has become a real feature, working in conjunction with its parent event, the Adelaide Guitar Festival, and is a highlight of Paul's schedule. He has also been an adjudicator for the Australian Classical Guitar Competition.

From 2013-2018 Paul was the invited specialist at the Mulkadee Youth Arts Festival in Townsville. Mulkadee has been a massive arts education event, culminating in a final concert in the Townsville Entertainment Centre to audiences of 2,000 and more.

Paul is in demand as a classical guitar ensemble specialist and is regularly invited to give workshop/masterclasses.

Website: <https://www.paulsvoboda.com/>

Elizabeth Layton

Elizabeth studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School where, aged twelve, she was invited to join Hephzibah and Yehudi Menuhin in a chamber music concert to celebrate the latter's Golden Jubilee, broadcast by the BBC from the Royal Festival Hall, London. From here, Elizabeth was invited to continue her studies at the Juilliard School, New York with Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki.

As winner of the UK Concert Artists Trust Competition, Elizabeth made her UK concerto debut with the Philharmonia and appeared as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Bournemouth Symphony, English Sinfonia, Calgary Philharmonic, City of Barcelona Symphony, Lahti Symphony and many others. Festival appearances include Bath, Edinburgh, Harrogate, Cheltenham, Valencia, Gstaad and numerous music societies.

Elizabeth has appeared as guest concertmaster with the symphony orchestras in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, Tasmania, Auckland and Wellington and in chamber music with Selby & Friends, the Australian and Flinders String Quartets, and the Australia Piano Quartet.

Broadcasts for the ABC, including recitals for *Sunday Live* and a performance of Raymond Hanson's Violin Concerto with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

She has toured chamber music worldwide with the Nash Ensemble and Trio Zingara, and CD recordings include the complete Beethoven piano trios (nominated for a Gramophone Award) and violin and piano works by Schubert (Daily Telegraph CD Choice). Other recordings include chamber music by Ravel, Schubert, Brahms, Fauré and Shostakovich for DG, Hyperion, Naxos, BIS and Chandos.

Elizabeth was Associate Leader of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and Concertmaster of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (1997-2010). She has broadcast regularly for the BBC as soloist and director and appeared as guest director of the Scottish Ensemble, Manchester Camerata and Ambache Ensemble. Numerous performances of contemporary solo violin music include a critically acclaimed CD of Jonathan Harvey's 'Scena' with the BBC SSO under Ilan Volkov.

Other recent concerts include George Town Festival, Penang, Coriole Festival, Coramba Festival, Music by the Springs, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Series and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville. She performs regularly in the University of Adelaide Concert Series at Elder Hall. Elizabeth performs regularly for the University of Adelaide Concert Series at Elder Hall.

Website: <https://elizabethlayton.net/>

Slava Grigoryan

Regarded as a wizard of the guitar, Slava has forged a prolific reputation as a classical guitar virtuoso. Collaborations have played a huge part in Grigoryan's career, most notable of these are in the trio with legendary USA guitarist Ralph Towner and Austrian guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel and the duo with brother Leonard Grigoryan.

He has received 4 ARIA awards and an incredible 24 ARIA Award nominations. He has been touring internationally since 2003, regularly performing throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and the USA, as well as more exotic performances in Brazil, South Africa, India and the Middle East. Slava is the Artistic Director of the Adelaide Guitar Festival, a position he has held since 2009.

Sharon Grigoryan

Based in Adelaide, Sharon Grigoryan was the cellist with the Australian String Quartet from 2013-2020.

Born in Melbourne, Sharon studied at the University of Melbourne and the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) under David Berlin, Philip Green, and Howard Penny. From 2008-2012 Sharon held a position with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and in 2011 Sharon was a recipient of the MSO Friends' Travel Scholarship which took her to Berlin to study with Professor Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt and Nicolas Alsteadt. Whilst there she performed and toured with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Spira Mirabilis Chamber Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Sharon has enjoyed performing with artists such as Vilde Frang, Lawrence Power, Torlief Thedéen, Tipi Valve, Satu Vänkä, Richard Tognetti, Pieter Wispelweij, Elizabeth Layton, Andrea Lam, Joseph Tawadros, and many others.

Sharon has performed as a guest with the Australia Ensemble and has been a regular with the Australian World Orchestra since 2015 and has been invited to be guest principal cellist with most of the Australian Symphony Orchestras. Sharon was the founding Artistic Director of the *Barossa, Baroque and Beyond* music festival from 2013-2021. In 2019 Sharon curated a chamber music series, *Live at the Quartet Bar* as part of the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Apart from teaching cello privately as well as having taught at the University of Adelaide, Sharon has tutored ensembles such as the Melbourne Youth Orchestra, the Australian Youth Orchestra, and been a guest chamber music tutor at ANAM and the University of Melbourne.

Sharon formed the cello/guitar duo with husband Slava Grigoryan in 2014, and this has been a particularly joyful musical and personal collaboration for her. A recent musical highlight for Sharon was premiering Nigel Westlake's suite for cello and orchestra *Beneath the Waves* in 2023 with the Australian Youth Orchestra - a composer and orchestra that she both holds very dear to her heart.

Sharon is currently Associate Principal Cello of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

MEDIA CONTACT

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