



## WASO announces 2016 season and a renewed contract for Principal Conductor

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor Asher Fisch are proud to announce their 2016 season and the continuation of this musical partnership, with Maestro Fisch signing on for another three years at the helm of WASO.

Maestro Fisch, who began his tenure as Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of WASO at the start of 2014, will continue to lead the Orchestra until the end of 2019.

In announcing the contract extension, WASO Chairman Janet Holmes à Court said, "WASO is extremely excited and very fortunate to have Maestro Fisch commit to the Orchestra for an additional three years".

"Under Asher's leadership, the Orchestra have been delivering some truly remarkable and thrilling performances, and it is clear that there is a very special connection between them. I look forward to many more years of extraordinary music-making as this relationship continues to evolve."

In October 2016 Asher Fisch, will lead the Orchestra on its first international tour in 10 years. WASO has been invited to perform at the Beijing Music Festival, one of the most prestigious cultural festivals in the Asia-Pacific region. Following performances in Beijing, the Orchestra will travel to Shanghai where they will perform at the invitation of the Shanghai Symphony Hall. Prior to the tour, WASO will perform three farewell concerts in Perth featuring the repertoire from the China Tour.

The 2016 season includes a new Baroque Series, featuring two choral masterpieces. Asher Fisch will direct an exceptional cast of Australian soloists and the St Georges' Cathedral Consort for Bach's *St John Passion* in March, with distinguished English conductor Stephen Layton, leading the Orchestra, the WASO Chorus and a cast of acclaimed international soloists for Handel's *Messiah* in December.

WASO's newly appointed Concertmaster, Laurence Jackson, who begins his tenure in 2016, will feature as soloist in the 2016 season. Laurence, who joined the Orchestra after ten years as Concertmaster of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, will perform Mendelssohn's much loved Violin Concerto.

Asher Fisch will open the MACA Limited Classics Series in March in a concert featuring Richard Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*, made famous by Stanley Kubrick's film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. In April he will lead the Orchestra through Mahler's epic *Resurrection Symphony*, and in September he will be joined by a cast of world class soloists for Mozart's Requiem. Acclaimed Australian conductor, Simone Young, will return to WASO for two weeks to conduct masterpieces including Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Holst's *The Planets*.

WASO will again be joined by an impressive line-up of international soloists, including pianists Behzod Abduraimov and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, cellist Alban Gerhardt and violinists Ning Feng, Baiba Skride and Simone Lamsma. One of the world's finest Wagnerian tenors, Stuart Skelton, will return to WASO in November to perform a selection of hand-picked Wagner arias with Asher Fisch.

In June, WASO will hold its first Movie Week, featuring two iconic films live in concert. Action blockbuster *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* is followed by the heart-warming family classic *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* for four special concerts over three days at Riverside Theatre. WASO's Pops Series will feature the action packed Cirque de la Symphonie, presented by EY, which combines classical music favourites with breathtaking circus artistry as well as From Broadway to Hollywood featuring timeless hits from stage and screen classics.

WASO's Family Series will again deliver the magic of a live symphony with two specially designed concerts for families. In June, Platypus Theatre returns to deliver a fresh take on the well-loved classic *Peter and the Wolf*. In October, *The Gruffalo* and the *Gruffalo's Child* come to life on the big screen with magical scores performed live by the Orchestra.

"I am delighted to have extended my contract with WASO and to be continuing my musical journey with the orchestra and, of course, our wonderful audience", said Principal Conductor Asher Fisch.

"2016 is my third season as Principal Conductor, and it promises to be a very exciting one. We have programmed some of my favourite repertory, including music by composers such as Bach and Bruckner that I have not conducted in Perth before. I think we have a wonderful balance of well-known masterpieces, music that is not so often heard in Perth and some lesser-known works that I think our audience will love."

"I am looking forward to 2016, to planning the seasons that follow and to what the Orchestra and I will be able to achieve together in the years ahead".

WASO 2016 subscriptions on sale now.

2016 single tickets on sale 9am, 25 November 2015.

For bookings phone WASO on 9326 0000 or visit [www.waso.com.au](http://www.waso.com.au)

*Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Principal Partner, Wesfarmers Arts.*

*Alban Gerhardt appears courtesy of Singapore Airlines.*

*Baiba Skride appears courtesy of Japan Australia LNG (MIMI) Pty Ltd.*

**Photo opportunities, images and interviews available.**

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