



ABC  
Classic FM

Media Release

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## ABC CLASSIC FM ANNOUNCES 2018 LINEUP

### ABC Classic FM adds more live broadcasts, new voices and new content

ABC Classic FM's 2018 lineup will introduce new on-air voices to audiences, offer weekly live broadcasts of major Australian concerts, bring audiences a weekday lunchtime concert, strengthen the station's digital offer and open up its afternoon programming to a host of new musical ideas.

**Russell Torrance** will present **Classic Breakfast** in 2018, in an extended slot that will air from 6am-10am.

"It's such a privilege and honour to be asked to present Classic Breakfast on ABC Classic FM. An honour in particular to follow in the footsteps of the great **Phillip Sametz** whose friendly voice has woken up music fans for two years." said Torrance. "I'm so excited about this opportunity and look forward to presenting some engaging radio that opens yet more ears to the joys of classical music."

Current **Classic Breakfast** presenter Phillip Sametz will not be part of the ABC Classic FM lineup in 2018. "We would like to thank Phillip for making such a contribution to Classic Breakfast" said ABC Classic FM Content Manager Richard Buckham. "But the time is right to take the Breakfast program in a new direction, and to further broaden its appeal."

**Vanessa Hughes**, heard on ABC Classic FM throughout 2017, will join permanently next year as the **Drive** presenter.

**Classic Drive** will also extend to four hours and will run from 4pm-8pm each weekday. Vanessa Hughes said "I can't wait to share my classical music obsession with ABC Classic FM listeners as they finish up the working day. I've had a blast on air this year and am incredibly excited about 2018." **Classic Drive's** current presenter **Christopher Lawrence** will stay with ABC Classic FM as he moves to present **Weekend Breakfast** in 2018.

**Greta Bradman** will continue as the presenter of **Weekend Mornings** on Saturday and Sunday throughout 2018.

"Our listeners have responded so positively to **Russell Torrance, Vanessa Hughes, Alice Keath** and **Greta Bradman** this year and we would like to build on that" said Buckham. "We're excited that these new Classic FM voices will be heard in some of our major shows."

An increased focus on live music will see ABC Classic FM present a major live broadcast by Australian performers every week. "As Australia's only national classical music network, bringing our listeners the highest quality live concerts featuring the best of Australian and international performers is what we do best," commented Buckham. "We know our listeners value the

opportunity to listen to a concert as it's performed, whether they're at home, or out and about via the ABC Listen app." The weekly live broadcasts will be presented by a group of respected ABC Classic FM presenters such as **Margaret Throsby, Tamara-Anna Cislovska, Damien Beaumont, Mairi Nicolson, Christopher Lawrence, Kristian Chong, Alice Keath** and **Gordon Hamilton**.

**Martin Buzacott** remains as **Classic Mornings** presenter, now on air from Monday-Friday from 10am-1pm.

Maintaining its commitment to bringing listeners the best concerts from Australia and around the world will also see the introduction of a weekday **Lunchtime Concert** slot, hosted by **Mairi Nicolson** from 1-3pm.

The weekly program **Keys to Music** will not return in 2018.

"Keys to Music began in 2003. It has done an incredible job over the past 15 years but the time has come to re-assess our educational offer and to make sure we're reaching audiences on new platforms and in new ways," said Richard Buckham. "Graham Abbott has been a valued and highly respected presenter - we would like to thank Graham and his producer Ngaire Duffield for their work on the program."

New digital education content next year will connect with music students and listeners who want to discover classical music, and will also be available as broadcast content during concert performances.

ABC Classic FM will further strengthen its digital content next year across the station's online, podcast and social media platforms.

A new website will launch before the end of 2017, where the network will showcase deeper and richer content including more articles, reviews and opinion pieces and educational content. From later this year, audiences will also be able to replay their favourite ABC Classic FM shows and concert broadcasts via the website whenever they want to hear them. ABC Classic FM will also build on the success of initiatives like the Classic Flow podcast by launching new podcasts next year based on music and musical ideas.

At **3pm** each weekday, ABC Classic FM will bring listeners a different topical, varied and appealing gateway program to classical music. Each day's music will frame a unique theme, based around listener interests.

**MONDAY: *Music in time* - with Gordon Hamilton:** What music would you hear in a Zeppelin, at dusk in 15<sup>th</sup> century Rome, or at Kate and Wills' big do? Audiences will get a glimpse of life behind the music and spend Monday afternoon in music from another time.

**TUESDAY: *Legends* - with Mairi Nicolson:** Mairi will do some serious name-dropping on a Tuesday afternoon, taking legends like Glen Gould, Mstislav Rostropovich and Jacqueline du Pré, and sharing their iconic recordings and the music that shaped their lives.

**WEDNESDAY: *Passenger* – with Christopher Lawrence:** Escape for an hour with seasoned traveller Christopher Lawrence. Travel the English Channel with Debussy, roam the Appalachians with Copland and explore the west coast of Scotland with Mendelssohn.

**THURSDAY: *Duet* – Tamara-Anna Cislowska and guest:** They perform on the world-stage and sleep in a different city each night, but Tamara-Anna has snagged a star to share an hour of music and conversation at the keyboard. **Duet** will be a chance to meet the person behind the name.

**FRIDAY: *Game Show* – with Meena Shamaly:** Tackle the school run or a trip to the shops with a little help from Skyrim and Fallout to Zelda and Final Fantasy. Composer, multi-instrumentalist and performance poet **Meena Shamaly** joins ABC Classic FM to bring audiences iconic soundtracks and lush scores from the latest and greatest titles in digital gaming.

**Genevieve Lang**, who has spent 2017 with her young family, will return to her role as presenter of **Sunday Recital**, which will now air from 4pm-7pm each week. Its current presenter, acclaimed concert pianist **Kristian Chong** will remain with ABC Classic FM as a presenter.

**Weekend Afternoons** presenter **Alice Keath** will be on leave from that slot in 2018 as she welcomes her new baby. Audiences will still hear Alice on air next year as a presenter. **Weekend Afternoons** will be presented by a range of popular current ABC Classic FM presenters.

**Evenings**, presented by **Damien Beaumont**, will start at the later time of 8pm and will move to six nights a week, Monday-Saturday.

Respected film journalist **Jason di Rosso** will join ABC Classic FM as the host of **Screen Sounds**, the weekly Saturday show looking at music in the movies. di Rosso, who will remain as an ABC RN presenter in addition to his new role, said "I'm excited that film coverage at the ABC is expanding, and can't wait to share the diverse and rich world of film soundtracks with ABC Classic FM's passionate audience." Current Screen Sounds presenter, the composer and conductor **Gordon Hamilton**, will remain with the network as a live broadcast presenter and as the host of the new **Music in Time**.

2018 will also see major broadcast events on ABC Classic FM such as the **Young Performers Awards**, the **Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition**, the long weekend of **Easter Programming**, **The Australian Singing Competition**, and Australia's biggest classical music event, **The Classic 100**.

It will also mark significant milestones such as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the death of **Claude Debussy** in March, and of the birth of **Leonard Bernstein** in August.

"This is a really inspiring array of new content and voices which we know will appeal to listeners in 2018, however they like to connect with ABC Classic FM" said Richard Buckham. "More live broadcasts, more weekday concerts, a new range of eclectic and appealing programming based on audience interests, and a growing digital offer to support it all – we're looking forward to a terrific year."

### **ABC Classic FM 2018 lineup**

#### **Monday-Friday**

**06:00-10:00:** Classic Breakfast with Russell Torrance

**10:00-13:00:** Mornings with Martin Buzacott

**13:00-15:00:** Lunchtime Concert with Mairi Nicolson

**15:00-16:00:** Music in Time / Legends / Passenger / Duet / The Game Show (various presenters)

**16:00-20:00:** Classic Drive with Vanessa Hughes

**20:00-00:00:** Evenings with Damien Beaumont  
**00:00-06:00:** Night Music (various presenters)

**Saturday**

**06:00-09:00:** Weekend Breakfast with Christopher Lawrence  
**09:00-12:00:** Saturday Mornings with Greta Bradman  
**12:00-16:00:** Weekend Afternoons (various presenters)  
**16:00-17:00:** The Opera Show, with Mairi Nicolson  
**17:00-19:00:** Screen Sounds, with Jason di Rosso  
**19:00-20:00:** Music in Time (rpt)  
**20:00-00:00:** Evenings, with Damien Beaumont  
**00:00-06:00:** Night Music (various presenters)

**Sunday**

**06:00-09:00:** Weekend Breakfast with Christopher Lawrence  
**09:00-12:00:** Sunday Mornings with Greta Bradman  
**12:00-16:00:** Weekend Afternoons (various presenters)  
**16:00-19:00:** Sunday Recital with Genevieve Lang  
**19:00-23:00:** Sunday Opera with Deborah Cheetham  
**23:00-01:00:** For the God Who Sings, with Stephen Watkins  
**01:00-06:00:** Night Music (various presenters)

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