

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Diversity and Accessibility



Image: *The Pizzicato Effect*

The MSO proactively engages with diverse communities throughout Victoria.

We believe that regardless of cultural background, gender, age or ability, and regardless of where they live or what they earn, all Victorians are entitled to engage with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and see themselves reflected in our cultural offerings and programming.

— RELAXED PERFORMANCES —

On 8 April 2017 MSO presented *Pixar in Concert* adapted to reduce the possibility of anxiety and discomfort:

- Brighter venue lighting
- Repertoire modified to keep unexpected and loud noises to a minimum
- Audiences welcome to move during the performance with breakout spaces offered for people to use at their discretion

— ACCESS INITIATIVES —

- **Movement workshops** with young dancers with Down Syndrome through e.motion21
- **Hands-on, tactile** post-concert experiences for vision-impaired children to connect with instruments of the orchestra
- **Large print** concert information sheets available for vision-impaired audience members
- **Companion Cards** – 575 complimentary tickets issued to carers of people with disabilities in 2017
- **32 Auslan-supported Jams for Juniors** workshops delivered in 2017
- **Arts Access Professional Development** MSO staff members with Arts Access Victoria

YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

MUSO: discount tickets and exclusive offers for young people between 18–35 years

- 5,239 MUSO members (increase of >35% in 2017)
- 1,681 tickets to 26 performances in 2017
- The program is free to join

Regular student offers and discounts

- Student membership program commencing in 2019

Free Concerts

- 68,523 people attended free MSO concerts in 2017 including our free Sidney Myer Music Bowl series

Secret Symphony

MSO's Secret Symphony program takes free classical music to unexpected locations in the CBD for pop up performances. Previous locations have included the Melbourne Aquarium, Platform One (under Flinders Street Station) and Melbourne City Baths, with concerts promoted exclusively through social media in the days before the event.

THE PIZZICATO EFFECT

MSO's flagship community music program with a strong focus on access and social inclusion.

- Free music tuition to 70 children (aged 8-16), representing 12 different cultures/14 different language groups
- 20 schools in the City of Hume (Victoria)
- Large migrant and linguistically diverse population
- Significant community of low socioeconomic status and low levels of recognised formal education

“The Pizzicato Effect is a proven pathway to enhanced academic performance and social-emotional wellbeing for participating children.” The University of Melbourne, 2015

— PizzIMMERSION 2018–2020 —

- Supported by the Department of Education and Training Victoria through the Strategic Partnerships Program
- Professional development for generalist classroom teachers to integrate *The Pizzicato Effect* strategies into the classroom
- Digital resources to support staff



Image: Sidney Myer Music Bowl Free Concert Series