

*Uniting Church in the City*

*Wesley at One*

*Friday 4 April 2025*

*1pm*

*The Flight of the Birrin Birrin*

*featuring*

*Alix Hamilton (viola)*

*Sam McSweeney (piano)*



Uniting Church in Australia  
Uniting Church in the City

*Feel free to eat your lunch whilst you enjoy the beautiful music.*

*Please contact [angela@ucic.org.au](mailto:angela@ucic.org.au) for further information  
on our music events.*

## Program

*Djeran* for Solo Viola and String Orchestra  
Inspired by Noongar Country (April – May)

Aaron Wyatt (b. 1982)

*The Flight of the Birrin Birrin*  
(World Premiere)

Sam McSweeney (b. 1983)

I. *The Great Southern*

II. *Shelley Beach*

III. *Joe-Djidi-djidi*

IV. *Currinup Forest*

V. *Kinjarling*

VI. *The Journey Home*

*Ode*

Lachlan Skipworth (b. 1982)

We are proud to present a program of exclusively West Australian compositions for viola and piano, each inspired by the natural beauty of our stunning state. The program features Sam McSweeney's new composition *The Flight of the Birrin Birrin*, a six movement suite inspired by the powerful landscape, flora, and fauna of the Great Southern region.

We begin with *Djeran*, a work by Noongar composer Aaron Wyatt, originally written for solo viola and string orchestra. This piece reflects a time of renewed life and activity as the oppressive heat subsides – the season of new beginnings. *Djeran* was commissioned in 2023 by Melbourne String Ensembles as part of their First Nations Season Project. A collection of season-inspired works for string orchestra, composed by First Nations composers. Premiere Performance by Stefanie Farrands, 2023.

Today's program concludes with the serene and meditative *Ode* by Lachlan Skipworth. With lush melodies and a deep connection to the land, this program offers a rich musical journey through the heart of WA's landscapes and culture.

## Biographies

*Alix Hamilton (viola)*

Alix is a Perth-based violist and teacher, known for her dynamic contributions to both chamber and orchestral music. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music

from WAAPA, she transitioned from violin to viola, becoming a leading figure in Perth's freelance music scene. She performs regularly with groups such as the Australian Baroque, Aquila, Perth Symphony Orchestra, Orenda, and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Passionate about chamber music, Alix loves bringing live performances to regional and local communities. She finds inspiration in the connections she shares with fellow musicians and audiences, as well as in the stunning natural beauty of Western Australia, which continues to fuel her creativity and sense of wonder.

### *Sam McSweeney (piano)*

Sam studied piano performance at Brigham Young University Idaho, but later pursued a career in astronomy. He is a full-time researcher and lecturer at Curtin University, and, apart from moonlighting as the accompanist for the Perth Pride Choir, generally only comes out of "music retirement" on the odd occasion for his friends. Luckily, he also likes making friends.

Discover our *Wesley at One* programs here



## *Wesley at One Recitals*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 1pm**

### **April**

18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday worship services  
at Wesley Church and Ross Memorial Church  
See details on the back page

### **May**

2<sup>nd</sup> Aimee Ryan (soprano), Gladys Chua (piano)  
16<sup>th</sup> Erin Haultain (saxophone), Adrian Soares (piano)

### **June**

6<sup>th</sup> Wesley Music Scholars 2025  
20<sup>th</sup> John Septimus Roe Anglican School Music

# Come and Celebrate Easter with the Uniting Church in the City

## Palm Sunday 13 April

**10am, Palm Sunday Worship Service at Ross Memorial Church**

**10am, Palm Sunday Worship Service at Wesley Church**

*featuring the Tranby Chorale directed by Angela Currie (Director of Music/Organist)*

## Good Friday 18 April

**10am, Good Friday Service at Ross Memorial Church**

**10am, Stations of the Cross at Wesley Church**

*featuring the Tranby Chorale directed by Angela Currie (Director of Music/Organist)*

**5pm, Reflections on the Cross at Wesley Church**

*featuring Lucinda Nicholls (soprano), Stephanie Nicholls (oboe)  
and Angela Currie (Director of Music/Organist)*

## Easter Sunday 20 April

**10am, Easter Celebration at Ross Memorial Church**

**10am, Easter Celebration at Wesley Church**

*featuring Tranby Chorale directed by Angela Currie (Director of Music/Organist), Wesley Brass  
and Artist-in-Residence Alessandro Pittorino (organ)*

**Ross Memorial Uniting Church  
cnr Hay & Colin Streets, West Perth**

**Wesley Uniting Church  
cnr William & Hay Streets, Perth**



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