

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE LAUNCH OF THE  
TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMISSIONING CIRCLE  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 11 MAY 2026**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the launch of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's commissioning circle for law professionals.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

As we all know, our TSO is recognised across Australia and around the world for its excellence. Each year, it entertains audiences around our State with a superb concert programme.

The TSO also has a long history of commissioning new works and supporting Australian and Tasmanian composers, including Matthew Hindson, Holly Harrison and Maria Grenfell – who is here with us this evening.<sup>1</sup>

For over a decade, our TSO has run the national training program, the Australian Composers School, giving opportunities for emerging composers to work with a full symphony orchestra.<sup>2</sup> And as audiences, we are fortunate to enjoy their new works.

Our TSO also frequently commissions new pieces for school concerts, helping to introduce tomorrow's audiences to classical music.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information supplied by Susie Harrison to DOS/SMCA, 30 April 2026

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Information supplied by Susie Harrison to DOS/SMCA, 30 April 2026

Thanks to this new commissioning circle, we shall enjoy even more original music, new voices and new perspectives.<sup>4</sup>

The circle will create opportunities for composers to take risks, explore new ideas, and contribute to Tasmania's musical life.<sup>5</sup>

May I acknowledge all at the TSO for working to provide an opportunity for members of the legal profession to support the arts in Tasmania.

May I wish the commissioning circle every success.

Now, it is my great pleasure to invite TSO Principal Cellist, Jonathan Békés, to present the talent of our symphony orchestra.

Please enjoy your reception.

David ... *[OS introduces cello performance]*

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.