

Brian Finlayson

Originally from Melbourne Brian began studies with Brian Blake and Dorothy Gleadall. He undertook further studies with Valery Klimov, a student of and successor to David Oistrach as Professor at the Moscow Conservatoire.

From 1980 to 1983 he studied in Cologne with the renowned Slovenian violinist Igor Ozim. He also studied chamber music with the equally famous Amadeus Quartet and Günter Kehr and performed concerts touring throughout USA, Canada, France and Germany as soloist and member of the Heidelberger Kammerorchester.

In 1990 he was appointed to a teaching position as Professor in Violin at the State Conservatorium in Carinthia, Klagenfurt.

Prior to this post in Europe, Brian was appointed as Lecturer for Violin and Viola in 1982 at the Victorian College of the Arts during which time he was assigned with overlooking the national requirements for Strings with the Australian Examinations Board and was tasked with re-writing the syllabus for examinations for Violin and Viola.

Brian founded the Junior Strings of Melbourne, the Australian String Ensemble, held the position as leader of the Australian Philharmonic Orchestra and in 1989 was awarded an 'Advance Australia Award' for achievements in music.

From 1999 – 2002 Brian collaborated with celebrated American violinist Issac Stern with his annual Encounter Chamber Music Series, which was run in Cologne, Jerusalem and New York.

In 2008 Brian was appointed the position of Head of Strings at the State Conservatorium. He founded and was Artistic Director of the 'Orchester Academia Ars Musicae' which gave concerts in Austria, Italy and Slovenia.

In 2016 Brian was invited to Perth by AUSTA WA for the first time since his European tenure, to conduct masterclasses, workshops and school string groups. He worked with strings players of all ages and levels of ability, and his visit generated an unprecedented level of interest from string communities across the Perth Metropolitan area. Brian made several subsequent visits conducting further workshops in Perth and regionally wide and accepted invitation as a Keynote Speaker for the AUSTA National Conference held in Perth 2018.

Brian Finalyson ended his tenure on retirement as Head of Strings in 2019. At a final concert and in recognition of outstanding service, he was awarded a Grosse Ehrenzeichen des Land Kaernten, a rare Carinthian State Order award.

Brian's outstanding legacy as a teacher continues to be seen with many former students who hold leading positions in Orchestras across Europe, including in the Berlin, Munich and Vienna Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra in the US, as well as in established quartets, including the Acies, Adamas and Fegus Quartets and in teaching positions at multiple universities across Europe.

Since his retirement from the KONSE, Brian has continued to teach violin courses at Summer Schools, has been a regular jury member for many International Violin and Chamber music Competitions and taught in private practice.

Currently in Perth, Brian is establishing a private teaching studio and is looking forward to spending a considerable time here for this coming year.