



[QMF.ORG.AU](http://QMF.ORG.AU)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED 6PM TUESDAY 30 MAY, 2017**

Queensland Music Festival honours founding father of state's youth orchestra with world-first concerto featuring international star percussionist

On Saturday 29 July, internationally acclaimed Austrian hang soloist and percussionist for Björk, Manu Delago, will feature in a world premiere concerto written by emerging Queensland composer Dr Thomas Green to honour the founding father of Australia's youth orchestra movement, John Curro AM MBE, in *Hang with QYO*.

Commissioned by Queensland Music Festival (QMF), Green's orchestral composition has been written for the hang – an instrument invented only a decade ago – to be performed by Delago alongside the Queensland Youth Symphony (QYS) under the baton of Curro at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) Concert Hall.

The special tribute concert will also stage the Australian premiere of Delago's *Concertino Grosso*, led by the Australian String Quartet's acclaimed first violinist and proud Queensland Youth Orchestra (QYO) alumnus, Dale Bartrop. The Curro Quartet – featuring family members Monica, Dan, David and Sarah Curro – QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan, and a number of prominent QYO alumni from Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Camerata, will also perform as part of the program.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said John Curro's legacy has transformed the lives of thousands of musicians.

"I feel it is important to honour John's contribution to the Queensland and Australian music industries. He has been a vital figure in fostering a world-class youth orchestra organisation over the past 50 years. John's dedication and passion has been the catalyst for a successful career for many of our country's most revered musicians," Ms Noonan said.

With a reputation as a versatile composer whose focus is finding a musical home between many genres and musical structures, Green's new composition will celebrate youth by representing the sonic landscape of the unique trials and tribulations faced by young people.

"Both in Australia and abroad, a perception exists that classical music is for an ageing audience. I believe the combination of the QYO performers, who represent one of Australia's longest-serving institutions for young musicians, and one of the world's most intriguing modern instruments will capture the imagination of both young and old," Ms Noonan said.

Referred to as a 'virtuoso' by *The Times*, Delago is an Austrian genre-crossing hang player, composer and percussionist who has entertained crowds the world over, including a stellar collaboration with Icelandic popstar Björk as part of her 2011 album *Biophilia* tour. He has also become an internet sensation with more than 5 million views of his hang solo piece [Mono Desire](#).

While Green's composition, *Concerto for Hang*, will be written to exhibit the distinctive percussive and ringing sounds of this rare instrument, the hang solo will also be transcribed for vibraphone, a similarly melodic percussive instrument, to allow future performances by other soloists and ensure it's part of QYO's repertoire for years to come.

John Curro is both the founder and Director of Music for QYO, conducting the QYS since its beginning in 1966. Under his baton, the QYS is regarded as one of Australia's top youth orchestras, regularly touring country-wide and overseas. The organisation's continued success is largely due to Curro's artistic leadership, musicianship and his personal dedication and commitment to teaching and mentoring young artists.

He has conducted orchestras around the world and received many prestigious accolades including Member of the Order of Australia, Member of the Order of the British Empire and the Queensland Premier's Millennium Award for Excellence in the Arts. Last year, QYO celebrated both its 50-year anniversary and the invaluable service of Curro, and he was fittingly the recipient of a 2016 Queensland Greats Award.

*Hang with QYO* is presented by Queensland Music Festival and QPAC in association with Brisbane City Council, and supported by Philip Bacon Galleries.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through the generous support of donors Jocelyn and Bruce Wolfe, and John and Denise Atkin.

For more information and to book tickets visit [qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au).

Click [here](#) to watch Manu Delago playing the hang with Björk.

#### **EVENT DETAILS**

EVENT: *Hang with QYO*

DATE: Saturday 29 July 2017

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Concert Hall, QPAC

TICKETS: A Reserve Adult \$40, A Reserve Concession \$33, B Reserve Adult \$33, B Reserve Concession \$18

**ENDS**

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

**Follow QMF on:**

Facebook: /qldmusicfest  
Twitter: @qldmusicfest  
Instagram: @qldmusicfest  
YouTube: /qldmusicfest  
Hashtag: #qmf17

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**For further information and interviews please contact:**

Jean Smith  
Agency North  
0474 385 109

[jsmith@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:jsmith@agencynorth.com.au)

Jack Doonar  
Agency North  
0450 735 779

[jdoonar@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:jdoonar@agencynorth.com.au)

Click [here](#) to access images and additional media content.

