

NICHOLAS BOCHNER

Conductor and Presenter Assistant Principal Cello, MSO

In his work as cellist, orchestral musician, conductor and presenter, communication is at the heart of everything that Nicholas Bochner does. 23 years at the front of a world class orchestra has given him a deep understanding of the growing importance of genuinely connecting and communicating with audiences in the rapidly changing landscape of the Australian arts scene. His presentations, whether a short welcome to a concert or a full-scale in-depth exploration of a symphony, have proven to engage and excite audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

After training in Adelaide at the Elder Conservatorium and London's Guildhall School of Music, Nicholas spent 3 years as Artist-in-Residence at the University of Queensland as part of the ensemble *Perihelion*, forging a strong reputation as an exponent of contemporary music.

In 1998 he joined the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) as Assistant Principal Cello. Since then he has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician and recitalist. He has also taught cello and improvisation at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

Nicholas has always had a strong commitment to music education and community engagement. This led him in 2010 to him being awarded the Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to spend 2 months looking in depth at the LSO's iconic *Discovery* program and at the use of improvisation in training classical musicians at the Guildhall School of Music.

In 2016, Nicholas' he undertook a fellowship at ANAM where he developed, conducted and presented educational concerts for primary school children. During the fellowship he was mentored by Paul Rissmann, Graham Abbott and the legendary Richard Gill AO.

Since then, he has presented educational concerts for children and adults for MSO, ANAM and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

In support of his work as an education presenter, Nicholas began studying conducting with Benjamin Northey in 2016 and in 2019 won a coveted place at the TSO's Australian Conducting Academy.

In 2020, he was appointed Cybec Assistant Conductor for Learning and Engagement at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In that role, despite the challenges and difficulties of 2020 and 2021, Nicholas has conducted and presented a range of concerts for adults and students of all ages.

He is also the conductor of the Melbourne University Biomedical Students' Orchestra.