

Queensland Ballet Presents

Strings - A Triple Bill

Three Australian premieres by Christian Spuck, Goyo Montero, Edward Clug



Chamber Minds



The Seventh Blue



Chacona

Brisbane 16th October, 2025: Queensland Ballet presents *Strings*, a triple bill featuring three Australian premieres at the Playhouse Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, with ten performances from 22–30 May 2026 featuring renowned choreographers Edward Clug, Christian Spuck and Goyo Montero. Blending striking contemporary movement with emotional depth, *Strings* showcases the bold, international vision shaping Queensland Ballet's new era.

With their dramatically contrasting styles, **Edward Clug's**, *Chamber Minds*, **Christian Spuck's** *The Seventh Blue* and **Goyo Montero's** *Chacona*, the *Strings* triple bill showcases the versatility of Queensland Ballet dancers and the continuing evolution of dance.

Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Ivan Gil-Ortega said that welcoming three world-leading choreographers to the company not only challenges and inspires our dancers but also places Queensland Ballet firmly on the international ballet map.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for our audiences. They are not only witnessing the very latest creations from some of today's most influential voices, but they are experiencing works that are shaping today's conversations about where ballet is headed."

"Presenting these premieres in Brisbane signals that Queensland Ballet is part of the world stage. We are offering our local audiences access to international works seldom seen here in Australia," Gil-Ortega said.

CHAMBER MINDS – Edward Clug

Originally created for Ballett Zürich in 2015, *Chamber Minds* showcases Edward Clug's distinctive talent to reveal the unexpected beauty and humour in human movement. Set to Slovenian Miklo Lazar's *Ballet Suite for Violin and Cembalo*, the dancers navigate a spectrum of motion: from robotic, mechanical sequences to casual strolls and startled jumps, highlighting their agility, responsiveness, and interdependence.

Clug, now one of the world's most sought-after choreographers and head of the Slovenian National Ballet, and Artist in Residence / Choreographer at Dortmund Ballet blends minimalist gestures with intricate interlocking of limbs, exploring both precision and playful imbalance.

The striking set by stage designer Marko Japelj, uses suspended cables to transform the stage into shifting geometries - metaphorical “strings” that echo human connection and the way dancers depend on one another.

THE SEVENTH BLUE – Christian Spuck

Making its Australian premiere, *The Seventh Blue* showcases Christian Spuck’s distinctive choreographic style, blending beauty and fragility in motion. Taking inspiration from Franz Schubert’s string quartet, *Death and the Maiden*, Spuck uses simple movement to evoke the essential emotions in Schubert’s score, anguish, yearning and release.

With movements that reflect both beauty and fragility, Spuck has the dancers move and glide across the stage as one in breathtaking speed and flawless synchronicity. *The Seventh Blue* offers audiences a poignant reflection on the transience of life.

CHACONA – Goyo Montero

Concluding the Strings Triple Bill, is the Australian premiere of Spanish choreographer, Goyo Montero’s *Chacona*. An ensemble ballet that brings the dancers and musicians together on stage dynamically interacting with each other’s energy.

Inspired by French author, Andre Breton’s modernist book, *Communicating Vessels*, and set to J.S. Bach’s haunting *Partita No.2* in D minor, the ballet features strong neo-classical choreography with tightly weaved canon and unison groupings.

Danced to the well-known violin score alongside piano and guitar arrangements of the original score, the choreography is fast-paced and deliberately off-balance, built around weight and tension. Yet, despite its intensity, the work radiates positivity. In a time marked by isolation, fear, and uncertainty, *Chacona* delivers pure energy and joy.

ENDS

Performance Dates: 22 – 30 May, 2026

Venue, Playhouse Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Duration 1 hours and 40 minutes including one 20-minute interval

Editors Note;

Photos, video, biographies [here](#).

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[About Queensland Ballet](#)

Queensland Ballet's mission is to contribute to Australia's cultural landscape by being an integral part of the national and international ballet ecology - striving for artistic excellence, pathways for emerging artists, and impact through our community outreach, education, and dance health programs. We aim to enrich lives and contribute to wellness across society through the magic of ballet.

Fast Facts.

- **Goyo Montero** trained in Spain with the celebrated teacher, Carmen Roche, and at the Royal Conservatory of Professional Dance in Madrid – the same schools where Artistic Director, Ivan Gil-Ortega trained.
 - Goyo's father was also a choreographer, who was well known for folk and flamenco, and danced classical ballet, jazz and musicals. He was also an amateur painter which influenced Goyo's interest in art, architecture, light design and cinema.
 - Romanian born, **Edward Clug**, decided to enrol in dance purely to escape the repressive communist regime under Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceauşescu.
 - Clug completed his ballet studies at the National ballet school in Cluj-Napoca, and immediately was offered a contract as a soloist at the Slovene National Theatre in Maribor where he made his first choreography.
 - Franz Schubert composed *Quartet No. 14* in 1822, and added, *Death and the Maiden*, into the second movement when he contracted syphilis, as he was in a very gloomy place.
 - The movement is based on the two-part German poem of the same name, by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)
 - Schubert was fighting the realities of his illness which was treated by drinking mercury. He intimately understood that death was coming for him, not just the maiden. He would die either from mercury poisoning or syphilis.
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