

SOFIA CARBONARA APPOINTED PATHFINDER ASSOCIATE ARTIST 2023/24



Photo Credit: Matt Lima Films

The [Australian Art Orchestra](#) is thrilled to announce [Sofia Carbonara](#) as the fifth recipient of the [Pathfinders Music Leadership Program](#), generously supported by the [Ian Potter Foundation](#).

The [Pathfinders Music Leadership program](#) offers a one-year, part-time Associate Artist role at the Australian Art Orchestra for an exceptionally talented emerging musician and future music leader with a practice in contemporary art music and improvisation.

Naarm-based percussionist **Sofia Carbonara** is a performance-maker across mediums. Their debut EP for solo vibraphone, *On Names*, was released on Alien Passengers in July 2023. Sofia designs collaborative, interdisciplinary works with artists in their community, including their mixed-chamber ensemble *Virago*, which have been presented by the Detroit Institute of Art, Great Lakes Chambers Music Festival, and University Music Society (UMS). Sofia has served as Institutional Giving Associate for [ArtOps](#), where they worked with small to medium sized arts non-profits in South-eastern Michigan in grant-writing, reporting, and stewardship. With *Virago* they have co-facilitated free improvisation workshops for k-12 students. Sofia received their Bachelor of Music in percussion from the University of Michigan and is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

AAO's Artistic Director Aaron Choulai: *"Sofia is an immensely talented musician. Their depth of artistry and command of music, inspires in every musical gesture. Sofia's connection to and understanding of the diverse and individual artistic languages in Australian creative music, and their enthusiasm to join our community and culture, is demonstrated by their recent move to Melbourne from Detroit. In addition, Sofia has a wealth of experience and knowledge working in arts organisations and possesses creative administrative skills well beyond their years. I, our team and board are delighted and energised to welcome Sofia to the Australian Art Orchestra as this year's Associate Artist."*

AAO's Executive Director Jasmine Moseley: *"We are delighted at Sofia's appointment. Over the past five years, the AAO's Pathfinders Music Leadership Program has celebrated and nurtured a talented group of artists to enrich their practice and leadership potential. We look forward to working with Sofia and seeing them grow their multi-dimensional practice at the AAO, and are extremely proud of our program alumni who are testament to the pivotal nature of this opportunity."*

2023/24 Pathfinder Sofia Carbonara: *"I am grateful to have the opportunity to make and think alongside Aaron, Jasmine, Jem, Helen and Jo -- along with the wider AAO community in and outside of Melbourne. Learning from and with the AAO, I hope to build new bonds with music I love in celebrating improvisation as a transcultural practice, and the creative music community as a global one." ###*

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