

MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 31 October 2019, 7pm WST (10pm AEDT)

## A WORLD OF DELIGHTS AT THE CITY OF LIGHTS

### Festival's new hub welcomes all at Perth Concert Hall (7 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH)



We're lighting up **Perth Festival** with a brand-new precinct. Welcome to the **City of Lights**, powered by human energy.

Inspired by the moment in 1962 when Perth residents left on their lights and shone torches into the sky to light up the night for US astronaut John Glenn as he orbited Earth, City of Lights will be a welcoming beacon for visitors and locals throughout the Festival.

Our City of Lights takes in the whole of **Perth Concert Hall**, but not as you know it. Experience this iconic venue as an Indigenous ceremonial dance ground and an international *Kabarett Haus*, as well as in its traditional role as the home of fine music.

The pulsing heart of this new Festival hub is **Chevron Lighthouse** – your ultimate destination for good times. Move to the sounds of summer as the ticketed Main Stage becomes the place to see the biggest and best names in contemporary music.

Don't have a ticket to the Main Stage? That's cool. Chevron Lighthouse takes care of your food and drink needs while you kick back and enjoy the Festival vibe and top local talent at our Free Stage which is accessible to all. The full line-up to be announced in early 2020.

With our entire first week dedicated to First Nations performances, City of Lights will open with the world-premiere season of **Bungul** in the Perth Concert Hall, inviting us into the culture that inspired Gurrumul's final album, *Djarrimirri (Child of the Rainbow)* in an extraordinary live audio-visual spectacular by Yolŋu dancers, songmen, and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

The hip-hop heroics of **Briggs** kicks off the action in the Chevron Lighthouse as he brings together guest Indigenous artists for the **Bad Apples House Party**.

The celebrations of talent continues throughout the weekend with **Spinifex Gum** featuring **Marliya** – an ensemble of Aboriginal and Torres Strait teenage singers with The Cat Empire's Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill; as well as two stunning divas – New Guinea-born **Ngaiire** and Gumbaynggirr/Yamtji singer **Emma Donovan** coming together for an evening of euphoric soul.



The extraordinary music continues in week two as Australian music legend **Paul Kelly**, left, composer **James Ledger**, **Alice Keath** and **Seraphim Trio** set our spirits soaring with the song cycle ***Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds***, which won Best Classical Album in the 2019 ARIA Awards. And in association with Musica Viva, revered American pianist **Garrick Ohlsson** brings us great works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Chopin in an intimate solo recital.

Festivities in Chevron Lighthouse include New Orleans marching outfit **Treme Brass Band** performing jazz-tinged classics with boisterous brassy flair, and Melbourne's **Rolling Blackouts Coastal Fever** bringing their propulsive rhythm section and explosive triple guitars. Expect a hurricane of truth from UK performance poet **Kate Tempest** – the spoken word artist of our times will punch you in the gut with her raw, unsentimental observations.

In week three, international megastar **Meow Meow** invites us into her decadent place of cabaret dreams, **Kabarett Haus**. The siren kicks off the Kabarett Haus season with ***Pandemonium*** – her uproarious night of musical mayhem accompanied by **Pink Martini's Thomas M. Lauderdale** and **WASO** conducted by our very own **Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage**.

On following nights, she welcomes musical greats **Rufus Wainwright** with his intimate new show created especially for Perth Festival, and the triumphant return of punk cabaret queen **Amanda Palmer**.

In Chevron Lighthouse, the smorgasbord of musical treats continues with Brooklyn quirk-pop trio **Yeasayer** bringing sweeping harmonies, hints of psychedelia and tribal beats for some danceable art-rock stylings; and the ferociously tender **Weyes Blood**, right, will spin a web of blissful vintage pop to leave you breathless.



For an epic festival finale, we celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday with his only opera ***Fidelio*** in the Perth Concert Hall - a Perth Festival co-commission with West Australian Symphony Orchestra and presented in association with West Australian Opera.

Beethoven's only opera is reframed with text written by award-winning Australian writer **Alison Croggon** and narrated by actor **Eryn Jean Norvill**. Acclaimed German soprano **Christiane Libor** plays the heroic Leonore, and under the direction of **Asher Fisch** the radiant score blazes with soul-stirring emotion in a timely meditation on the triumph of human will and freedom over injustice and tyranny.

Chevron Lighthouse's hot nights and sonic delights culminates in four electrifying concerts beginning with a retro R'n'B party-to-remember from the disco diva with a giant voice, **Evelyn**

**'Champagne' King + Mondo Freaks.** New Zealand gothic-folk phenomenon **Aldous Harding** will cast musical spells beneath a starry night; and there'll be gospel grooves and ol' razzle dazzle from multiple Grammy winners, **Blind Boys of Alabama** for a jubilant experience.

The fiery, fearless and funky tunes of gospel legend **Mavis Staples** will ignite the Lighthouse for a most triumphant Festival finale, this living legend a powerhouse of soul, truth and inspiration.

CITY OF LIGHTS 2020		
FEB/MAR 20	PERTH CONCERT HALL	CHEVRON LIGHTHOUSE
FRI 7 FEB	Bungul (AUS)	Briggs' Bad Apples House Party (AUS)
SAT 8 FEB	Bungul (AUS)	Spinifex Gum (AUS)
SUN 9 FEB	Bungul (AUS)	Ngaiire + Emma Donovan & The Putbacks (PNG / AUS)
THU 13 FEB		Treme Brass Band (USA)
FRI 14 FEB		Rolling Blackouts Coastal Fever (AUS)
SAT 15 FEB	Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds (AUS)	Moon Duo (USA)
SUN 16 FEB	Garrick Ohlsson (USA)	Kate Tempest (UK)
THU 20 FEB	<i>Kabarett Haus: Meow Meow</i>	[to be announced]
FRI 21 FEB	<i>Kabarett Haus: Rufus Wainwright</i>	[to be announced]
SAT 22 FEB	<i>Kabarett Haus: Amanda Palmer</i>	Yeasayer (USA)
SUN 23 FEB		Weyes Blood (USA)
THU 27 FEB		Evelyn 'Champagne' King & Mondo Freaks (USA)
FRI 28 FEB	Fidelio (AUS)	Aldous Harding (NZ)
SAT 29 FEB		Blind Boys of Alabama (USA)
SUN 1 MAR	Fidelio (AUS)	Mavis Staples (USA)

**WHAT:** City of Lights

**WHEN:** Fri 7 Feb – Sun 1 Mar

**WHERE:** Perth Concert Hall

**HOW MUCH:** \$0 - \$112

**BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO:** [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)

[Download images here](#)

**For further information, interviews or images please contact:**

**Stephen Bevis**

**+61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281**

[sbevis@perthfestival.com.au](mailto:sbevis@perthfestival.com.au)

**Rachel Davison**

**0412 564 062**

[rdavison@perthfestival.com.au](mailto:rdavison@perthfestival.com.au)

*Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.*

*They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.*

### Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–23.

The contemporary music program is supported by Community Partner Chevron.

