

MEDIA RELEASE: 9 November, 2017

SIRENS CELEBRATE PERTH AS THE CITY OF LIGHT

Byron J Scullin/Supple Fox (Australia)

Siren Song

Imagine an entire city holding its collective breath as an intriguing, beautiful sound descends from the sky above.

The 2018 Perth Festival will begin on the evening of 9 February with an epic ritual of wonder and delight as the female voices of *Siren Song* encompass the City of Perth.

A Noongar cleansing and clearing smoking ceremony will reach its climax in St Georges Terrace and the canyon of commerce will soften as the ethereal voices of women will serenade the fading light.

Siren Song features Western Australia's most extraordinary female vocalists gently waking the city from its slumber and then farewelling the sun's departure for the first ten days of the Festival.



Part ritualised keening, part operatic aria and part call to prayer, *Siren Song* lasts around seven minutes – the time it takes for the sun to fully clear the horizon – and will be broadcast from loudspeakers atop city buildings for the people of Perth to share.

Sound artist **Byron J Scullin** and curatorial duo **Supple Fox** have created this unique soundscape using the multicultural voices of Perth, completely reimagining a work that premiered at Hobart's midwinter Dark Mofo festival. *Siren Song* was originally commissioned for Dark Mofo.

Perth Festival Artistic Director **Wendy Martin** says *Siren Song* will stop people in their tracks and bring a rich, new experience of the changing hues of our city governed by the rituals of sunrise and sunset.

'Our lives have been so disrupted that our bodies and our clocks are rarely ever in synch,' Martin says. 'Once upon a time you would rise with the sun and things would finish at sundown but that's not how we operate anymore. *Siren Song* is inviting people to go back to the natural rhythms and the time clock of the sun.'

'I love that the canyon of commerce that is St George's Terrace will be taken over by the voices of women who represent our diverse multicultural community. It is one of those unique Festival experiences that will disrupt the city.'

PERTH FESTIVAL

9 FEBRUARY –
4 MARCH 2018

Founder



Principal Partner



WHAT: SIREN SONG

WHERE: Central Perth

WHEN: Dawn and dusk, Fri 9 Feb (dusk only) – Sun 18 Feb

FREE

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 – perthfestival.com.au

Supported by



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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 64 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.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016–19.

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