



## VIVID LIVE 2015

AN EVENING WITH MORRISSEY | SUFJAN STEVENS | DANIEL JOHNS |  
 FCX – 10 YEARS OF FUTURE CLASSIC FEAT. FLUME, FLIGHT FACILITIES, SEEKAE, HAYDEN JAMES,  
 TOUCH SENSITIVE, GEORGE MAPLE & MORE |  
 TV ON THE RADIO | BILL CALLAHAN | SQUAREPUSHER |  
 THE DRONES – WAIT LONG BY THE RIVER... 10TH ANNIVERSARY + EXCLUSIVE ALBUM PREVIEW |  
 THE PREATURES | REPRESSED RECORDS PRESENTS ROYAL HEADACHE & MORE |  
 MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA | DRESS UP ATTACK! | LIGHTING THE SAILS – UNIVERSAL  
 EVERYTHING |  
 RED BULL MUSIC ACADEMY STUDIO PARTIES: RBMA FREE OPENING NIGHT FEAT. ONRA (LIVE) /  
 DREEMS (LIVE) / THE GOODS (LIVE) / SUI ET SUI (SUI ZHEN LIVE BAND) / PHYSIQUE I MAD  
 RACKET FEAT. MATTHEW HERBERT (LIVE) / ZOOTIE / JIMMI JAMES / KEN CLOUD / SIMON  
 CALDWELL | GOODGOD MINCETERIA! FEAT. HOUSE OF LADOSHA / ZANZIBAR CHANEL /  
 VICTORIA KIM / SLÉ FEAT. BHENJI RĀ | ASTRAL PEOPLE FEAT. ROBERT OWENS / AMIR  
 ALEXANDER / BEN FESTER/ PREACHA & MORE | ELEFANT TRAKS FEAT. JOYRIDE (LIVE) /  
 JAYTEEHAZARD / DJ MK-1 / ADIT / DGGZ & MORE

**Tickets on sale to the general public at 9am, Friday 27 March 2015.**

The Sydney Opera House today announced the full line-up of artists joining British iconoclast **Morrissey** at the seventh annual **Vivid LIVE** program of contemporary music - part of Vivid Sydney, the Southern Hemisphere's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Vivid LIVE programming will run for the duration of Vivid Sydney between 22 May and 8 June, which includes more than 30 international and Australian artists across every stage of the Opera House.

Vivid's centrepiece, *Lighting the Sails*, will this year be created by British multi-disciplinary design collective **Universal Everything**, known for their boldly coloured anthropomorphic designs for Radiohead's *PolyFauna* and work with Warp Records and the 2012 London Olympics.

**Destination NSW Chief Executive Officer Sandra Chipchase** said, "As the centrepiece of Vivid Sydney's amazing light program, the iconic sails of the Sydney Opera House will be reimagined as a living mural and we can't wait to share *Universal Everything's* awe-inspiring projections. This year's Vivid LIVE line-up is set to delight audiences and for the first time will move outdoors for a celebration of Sydney label Future Classic, in what's sure to be a highlight of Vivid Sydney's music program."

**Ben Marshall**, curator of Vivid LIVE and the Opera House's Head of Contemporary Music, says he is honoured to present his first festival and to play a part in expanding the reach, range and vitality of great music in his home city.

"This year is a celebration of unique individuals' voices: from **Morrissey** and **Daniel Johns**, to **Sufjan Stevens** and **Bill Callahan**, **Flume** and **Squarepusher**. These voices represent idiosyncratic and personalised views of life, often solitary, poetic and unexpected, but capable of providing an entire way of seeing the world and drawing their devoted audiences together, as do searing bands like **TV on the Radio** and **The Drones**.

"As part of a suite of firsts this year, we will present 10 nights of Sydney-only performances, a large-scale outdoor celebration of Sydney's label of the moment, **Future Classic**, internal projections, talks with Vivid LIVE artists in conjunction with *Vivid Ideas*, and an afternoon with Sydney's only music and arts festival for children and adults, **Dress Up Attack!**"

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**VIVID LIVE**

In another first, the Vivid Light Walk will this year extend inside the Opera House itself, via a free Vivid LIVE exhibition featuring works selected by Universal Everything from 11 years of collaborations with bands, brands and record labels. Vivid LIVE will also feature its first bespoke indoor harbour-view bar, situated in the Concert Hall Northern Foyer, helmed by a local favourite.

This year American indie music favourite **Sufjan Stevens** makes his second Vivid LIVE appearance and third at the Opera House, opening the program with a four-night residency in the Concert Hall in his only Australian performances. Former Silverchair frontman **Daniel Johns**, the winner of 21 ARIA Awards, is another Vivid LIVE exclusive and will also appear in the Concert Hall to premiere his highly anticipated solo album. Daniel said, *"I've spent years working on this new album so what better way to send it out into the world than by playing all those songs live for the first time at the Sydney Opera House. I'm both really looking forward to it and totally scared to death."*

The Opera House's Northern Peninsula on Sydney Harbour will be transformed into a concert space for the first time this year by acclaimed Australian label **Future Classic**, celebrating its 10th anniversary. Four-time ARIA Award-winner **Flume**, in his only Australian performances for 2015, and **Flight Facilities** will be joined by **Seekae**, **Hayden James**, **Touch Sensitive**, **Wave Racer**, **George Maple** and **Charles Murdoch** over two big nights.

New York art-rock royalty **TV on the Radio** return revitalised with their monumental catalogue from *Staring at the Sun* to last year's *Seeds*. **Bill Callahan**, the masterful observer of truth, humanity and absurdity, is joined by his *Dream River* band for two rare evenings and, in a Vivid LIVE tradition of electronic forerunners premiering new works, bass maximalist and tech overlord **Squarepusher** stages his first headlining Sydney performance in 14 years, debuting *Damogen Furies*.

Sydney group **The Preatures**, garage legends **Royal Headache** and **Melbourne Ska Orchestra** also feature in this year's program, alongside **The Drones**, who are celebrating 10 years since their Australian Music Prize winning *Wait Long By The River...*

Nurturing the future of electronic music whilst reinventing the past, **Red Bull Music Academy** returns to the Opera House for a five-day Studio takeover featuring some of Sydney's finest.

Labelled a *"hot pint-sized festival"* by *Rolling Stone*, the hugely successful **Dress Up Attack! For Children and Grown Ups** is programmed for children aged 2-8, together with their parents and carers (dressing up on the day is encouraged).

Throughout Vivid LIVE the Opera House precinct will be home to Vivid-inspired menus and live music at Opera Bar, Opera Kitchen and The House Eatery. Special guided tours will go behind the scenes of Vivid LIVE, taking you on stage, inside the artists' dressing rooms and past the state-of-the-art recording studios, finishing with dinner and a drink.

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[sydneyoperahouse.com/vividLIVE](http://sydneyoperahouse.com/vividLIVE) +61 2 9250 7777

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**Vivid LIVE**

From 22 May to 8 June, 2015, Sydney Opera House will welcome some of the most ambitious and innovative local and international artists for Vivid LIVE, a celebration of music that is part of Vivid Sydney. Vivid LIVE invites the world's leading artists, creative collectives, promoters and digital animators to raise the roof of the Opera House's theatres, rehearsal spaces, recording studios and most famously, its sails, which are transformed into a unique canvas each year for Vivid Sydney.

**Vivid Sydney**

Vivid Sydney is the Southern Hemisphere's largest festival of light, music and ideas, which for 18 days, from 22 May to 8 June 2015, transforms the Harbour City. Now in its seventh year, and owned and managed by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Vivid Sydney features large-scale light installations and projections (Vivid Light); music performances and collaborations (Vivid Music including Vivid LIVE at the Sydney Opera House); and creative ideas, discussion and debate (Vivid Ideas), all celebrating Sydney as the creative hub of the Asia-Pacific. For more information visit [www.vividsydney.com](http://www.vividsydney.com)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Since Brian Eno's inaugural Vivid LIVE designs in 2009, as part of the first Vivid Sydney, the dramatic visual transformation of the Opera House sails has become the centrepiece of Vivid Sydney. Sheffield, England-based **Universal Everything** will be Lighting the Sails in 2015, reimagining the architecture of the Opera House as a living mural. A diverse series of vibrant hand-drawn sequences will explore and respond to the bold forms of the building.

A free exhibition celebrating the design collective's 11-year career will take place in the Western Foyer, extending the Vivid Light Walk inside the Opera House for the first time.

Described as an irrefutably bleak or gloriously funny songwriter at any given moment, **Morrissey** is one of the most singular figures in popular music, continuing to speak to his multitude of fans and gathering new ones with the publication of his *Autobiography* (Penguin Classics, 2013) and with his critically acclaimed 10<sup>th</sup> album, *World Peace Is None of Your Business*.

A decade after the classic *Illinois*, **Sufjan Stevens** returns with his seventh album *Carrie & Lowell*. Having first performed at the Opera House with his neon-infused *The Age of Adz*, the 39-year-old has become a familiar face to Vivid LIVE, debuting the solar song cycle *Planetarium* in 2012 with long-term collaborators **Bryce Dessner** and **Nico Muhly**. Opening the event with an Australian exclusive four-night stand, the 39-year-old artist will draw from one of the most successful modern songbooks to encompass Christmas classics, regional history, freeways, the rodeo and the profound intimacies of everyday life.

Returning to the Opera House after 2011's *The Ship Song Project*, his Australian Chamber Orchestra collaboration *Atlas*, and TEDxSydney, one of the true giants of Australian music, **Daniel Johns**, will premiere his new album alongside rare re-works in two Australian exclusive performances in the Concert Hall. Affectionately nicknamed "Young Modern" by celebrated arranger Van Dyke Parks, the Silverchair and Dissociatives frontman will deliver his long-awaited solo album at Vivid LIVE, an eight-years-in-the-waiting turn previewed by the soulful electronics of lead single *Aerial Love*.

In a first for Vivid LIVE, the Opera House's outdoor northern peninsula becomes the setting for a unique party with **Future Classic** as they celebrate their 10th anniversary over two special evenings. Headlined by **Flume** – in his only 2015 Australian performances – this intimate winter celebration under the sails features **Flight Facilities**, **Seekae**, **Touch Sensitive**, **Wave Racer**, **George Maple**, **Hayden James** and **Charles Murdoch**. Initially conceived as a vinyl-only imprint for cutting edge electronic music, the Sydney label redefined "the Australian sound" – evolving from

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an after-hours passion project to guiding the likes of Flume and **Chet Faker** to international acclaim, collecting more than a handful of ARIAs along the way.

Emerging from New York's millennial shift that forged the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Interpol and The Strokes into indie-rock heavyweights, **TV on the Radio** return in a celebration of their 14-year career and their fifth album, 2014's *Seeds*, to bring a close to Vivid LIVE. Drawing on post-punk's vitality and the emotional core of gospel, the Brooklyn four-piece created an instant classic with *Return to Cookie Mountain* (2006). Taking on their largest standalone Sydney appearance yet, **TV on the Radio** will mark their return with a set drawing on one of the past decade's most inventive rock catalogues.

Travelling from Austin Texas with 14 albums, 25 years of music, and a mystique rivalling that of Leonard Cohen, **Bill Callahan** and his *Dream River* band will celebrate their first Sydney performance in six years with two performances in the Joan Sutherland Theatre. This astute observer of truth, humanity and absurdity will unfurl his brand of laconic, penetrating songwriting in this intimate setting and prove his mettle as the "cartographer of broken roads".

An amalgam of science genius and virtuosic ability, British electronic producer **Squarepusher** extends the limits of music, both on record and with his ground-breaking live shows. With a career spanning 21 years and 14 full-length releases including his latest, *Ufabulum*, he is celebrated for his forward-thinking approach to electronic music. The critically acclaimed Warp Records signee is considered a pioneer in the genre alongside Aphex Twin and Chris Cunningham. Another Sydney-only exclusive at Vivid LIVE.

One of the most celebrated Australian bands, **The Drones** are celebrating 10 years since their breakthrough second album *Wait Long By The River and the Bodies of Your Enemies Will Float By*. *Wait Long's* sprawling sense of humour, nihilism and fried Crazy Horse sonics entered the canon of raw Australian classics. Now welcoming the album's drummer Christian Strybosch back into the fold with the album's reissue, **The Drones** will revisit *Wait Long...* and unveil their new album in the intimate surrounds of the Joan Sutherland Theatre in an Australian exclusive engagement.

Perfecting a prismatic take on rock 'n' roll history that takes in INXS, Fleetwood Mac and Australia's burgeoning electronic movement, **The Preatures'** apparent meteoric rise belies their five-year legacy of explosive live shows and on-stage chemistry. Fronted by Isabella "Izzi" Manfredi on vocals and keys, alongside Gideon Bensen on vocals and guitar, lead guitarist Jack Moffitt, Thomas Champion on bass and Luke Davison on drums, the Sydney natives will turn the Joan Sutherland Theatre into a rock 'n' roll sweatbox fit for Vivid LIVE.

Led by Shogun's soul-piercing voice, Sydney's **Royal Headache** have become a rare live entity since their arena-sized success supporting The Black Keys and unanimous acclaim for their self-titled 2011 debut. Retreating to record their long-awaited second record with few appearances since, the garage legends re-emerge for a night of noise and melody in full rock 'n' roll glory in the Joan Sutherland Theatre presented by **Repressed Records**, with special guests to be announced.

Conducted by Nicky Bomba (Bustamento, ex-John Butler Trio), the 20-piece **Melbourne Ska Orchestra** have dominated the local and international club and festival circuits for the past 10 years, with marathon sets spanning the golden ska period of 1963 through to contemporary classics. Joined by Sydney's own young Project Collective Ska, they will raise the roof in a skanking Saturday night party takeover of Vivid LIVE.

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This year, Vivid LIVE partners with **Red Bull Music Academy** to present **The Studio**. With a free opening night party featuring **Onra**, **Dreems**, **The Goods**, **Sui Et Sui** (with the Sui Zhen live band) and **Physique** these five studio events from Sydney's favourite underground music collectives will be another late-night favourite.

Goodgod Small Club and House of Mince come together for **Goodgod Minceteria!** turning the Vivid LIVE Studio into a ballroom haven fronted by New York's rhyme-bending **House of Ladasha**, Melbourne-based funky junk duo **Zanzibar Chanel**, **Victoria Kim**, and **Slé** feat. **Bhenji Rā**.

For their third year running amok in the Studio, **Astral People** make their bass-heavy return with the golden voice of classic Chicago House – your friend – **Robert Owens**, alongside Vanguard Sound founder, **Amir Alexander**, **Ben Fester**, **Preacha** and more.

Finally, returning to the Vivid LIVE Studio after a three-year break, the dance institution **Mad Racket** will raise a toast by going back to the beginning with their first international guest, the ever-idiosyncratic **Matthew Herbert** in inspiring classic-house form, with **Zootie**, **Jimmi James**, **Ken Cloud** and **Simon Caldwell**.

Returning to the Opera House after their 2012 debut, **Elefant Traks** take on Vivid LIVE for a hip-hop and electronic invasion featuring The Drop don **Joyride** alongside Deadly Awards-winner and Hilltop Hoods collaborator **Jayteehazard**, launching The Red Shift EP, and **DJ MK-1** (Universal Zulu Nation), **Adit** (Horrorshow), **Dggz** (The Herd) and more.

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