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Maverick Cameron Carpenter's innovative International Touring Organ takes centre stage at the Opera House

Utzon Music Series, Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Stereotype-smashing 34-year-old organist Cameron Carpenter – famous for his flamboyant approach to both image and musical interpretation – is breaking out his custom-built International Touring Organ in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall on November 12, the final concert of the 2015 Utzon Music Series.

The performance marks the first time an organ other than the Concert Hall's own grand organ - the world's largest mechanical organ - has been played during a performance.

And what an instrument the International Touring Organ is. To build it, Massachusetts-based makers Marshall & Ogletree sampled sounds from traditional pipe organs, ranging from cathedrals to Wurlitzers. The entire organ travels in one big truck and assembles in less than three hours.

The Touring Organ was built in response to what Carpenter sees as a very real need to reinvent the instrument he first fell in love with at the age of four for contemporary audiences. As he says, "the pipe organ is slow to change, expensive to produce, resistant to genre crossing, and governed by traditions only now beginning to be questioned."

The first organist ever nominated for a Grammy Award for a solo album, the extravagantly talented Carpenter has courted worldwide acclaim and controversy in equal measure via a repertoire that ranges from the complete works of Bach to pop collaborations and original compositions.

As his [social media](#) followers already know, Carpenter is practicing Australian composer Percy Grainger's *Colonial Song* in preparation for the recital. "I tend to change the program at the last minute... that's part of the fun," he said, nominating Grainger as his "very favourite composer in the world".

Program

On the Grand Organ of the Sydney Opera House:

JS BACH - Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor

On the International Touring Organ:

RICHARD WAGNER / CARPENTER Overture to Die Meistersinger

MARCEL DUPRE Variations on a Noel

CAMERON CARPENTER Music for an Imaginary Film (Australia Premiere)

JS BACH / RACHMANINOFF / CARPENTER Violin Partita #3



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I. Preludio

II. Gavotte

III. Gigue

ARTUR SCRIABIN / CARPENTER Sonata No. 4 in F# Minor

**Program is subject to change*

The Sydney Opera House Concert Hall grand organ is the world's largest known mechanical organ. It was completed in May 1979, almost six years after the Concert Hall opened and 10 years after it was commissioned. Pipe organs in every concert hall and church around the world are built to order and immovable. Each organ is usually conceived with a specific repertory in mind, meaning touring organists must adjust to each instrument and location. The International Touring Organ innovates the relationship between organist and organ, making it possible to play the same music regardless of where the organist performs.

Carpenter's concert will bring to a close the 2015 Utzon Music Series, a year-long chamber music and recital program showcasing exciting premieres and return visits by some of the world's most renowned artists.

An image of Cameron Carpenter is available to download [here](#)

Ticket Information:

Cameron Carpenter | Thursday 12 November, 8pm (Concert Hall)

Single Tickets from \$45.90

Youth tickets (Under 30) available - \$30

Tickets can be purchased by calling 02 9250 7777 or online at:

http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/ums15_cameron_carpenter.aspx

For full a full listing of Utzon Music Series 2015 performances, visit the website.

Note: Cameron Carpenter will also appear at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Wednesday 18 November 7:30pm.

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