



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS**

## **D'ANGELO**

**MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016**  
CONCERT HALL, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

*"A spellbinding return."*  
**SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**

Grammy-winning soul legend **D'Angelo** will finally make his Sydney Opera House debut in early 2016 with his powerhouse band, marking the release of his universally acclaimed and long-awaited album, *Black Messiah*.

**Ben Marshall, Head of Contemporary Music at Sydney Opera House**, said: *"A modern figure of immense and mercurial talent, the musical world waited 14 years with bated breath to see if "R&B Jesus" D'Angelo would return after his seminal Voodoo opus was released in 2000. A year ago we found out with the release of Black Messiah – a socially conscious, defiant, technically dazzling and spiritually aware soul, funk, R&B masterpiece. We've been on tenterhooks for a number of years to see if we could welcome this powerful and uncompromising artist to the Concert Hall stage so it's a rare and genuine honour to finally host the live brilliance and charismatic presence of D'Angelo to the Sydney Opera House."*

*"Black Messiah hit like an earthquake,"* as *The New York Times* put it. With a flood of perfect reviews, hitting every Top Ten list and debuting at number one on *Billboard's* R&B/Hip-Hop charts, *Black Messiah* proves itself the masterpiece worth the long wait. After perfecting a blend of hip-hop and buttery R&B vocals on *Voodoo*, the singer *Rolling Stone* hails as *"the most singular, visionary star to emerge from – and then transcend – R&B since Prince"* went into exile at the peak of his fame. A decade followed with only rumours, MP3 leaks on Australian radio, and a trickle of European comeback shows.

Then, as racial unrest in his native America reached a boiling point at the end of 2014, D'Angelo acted swiftly and released *Black Messiah* in powerful protest. With a comeback as striking as **Brian Wilson's Smile** and **Dr. Dre's Compton** ode, *Black Messiah* sees D'Angelo leap from silken falsetto to pure funk growl – a timely soundtrack for racial injustice, marked by healing, spirited grooves from this preacher's son. *Pitchfork* calls D'Angelo *"the rare classicist [with] a sound distinctly his own"*.

The legendary D'Angelo takes to the Concert Hall in full form. Witness a rare, joyous display of musical redemption – 20 years on from the legendary figure's breakthrough debut.

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This performance is part of the contemporary music program presented by Sydney Opera House, which includes **Brian Wilson, Four Tet, Kurt Vile & the Violators, José González, Hot Chip, Beach House, Sleater-Kinney** and the annual **Vivid LIVE** festival, which has featured **Morrissey, Sufjan Stevens, Bill Callahan, TV on the Radio** and more.

Visit [sydneyoperahouse.com/music](http://sydneyoperahouse.com/music) for further information.

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### **EVENT DETAILS**

**WHAT:** D'Angelo  
**WHEN:** Monday 21 March 2016, 8.00pm  
**WHERE:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**TICKETS:** Tickets from \$99 + bf (A booking fee of \$5.00 - \$8.50 applies per transaction)  
**BOOKINGS:** Tickets on sale to the general public 9am AEDT, Friday 11 December 2015  
[sydneyoperahouse.com/music](http://sydneyoperahouse.com/music) or 02 9250 7777

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