

MEDIA RELEASE
FRIDAY 24 JULY 2015

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS
FLORENCE + THE MACHINE - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE FORECOURT PERFORMANCES

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2015, 6.00pm
SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2015, 6.00pm
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE FORECOURT

"She's among her generation's most deserving superstars."
CONSEQUENCE OF SOUND

The UK's **Florence + The Machine** will top off a career-defining year – which has seen the release of the eight-times #1 album *How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful* and the headlining finale performance at Glastonbury – with a triumphant return to the Sydney Opera House. The weekend of powerhouse art rock, with two outdoor performances on the Forecourt, will take place on Friday 13 November and Saturday 14 November.

Ben Marshall, Head of Contemporary Music at Sydney Opera House, said, "Florence + The Machine's titanic performance in the Concert Hall with the Ceremonial Orchestra for 2012's Vivid Live is seared into my mind and I wasn't sure if we'd ever get the chance to go one better and present her on the steps. So I'm genuinely honoured that this immense talent is returning for two monumental moments on the Opera House Forecourt. Florence + The Machine's powerful, skyscraping tower of song will sound glorious across two late-spring evenings on the harbour this November."

Proving a true British iconoclast in the footsteps of **Kate Bush** and **PJ Harvey**, **Florence Welch's** undeniable rise has seen the two-time Brit Award-winner and Grammy nominee veer between choral majesty and a soul-driven bombast across her debut breakthrough *Lungs* (2009) and the darker romance of *Ceremonials* (2011). In this third studio album the 29-year-old has embraced crunching guitars and a newfound lyrical intimacy for a timeless opus only hinted at by early singles 'Ship to Wreck' and 'What Kind of Man', with DIY Magazine exclaiming *"How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful could well be Florence's finest hour of all."*

With a truly cinematic range that can mix with **Jamie xx** and **Dizzee Rascal** alike, Florence's romantic swagger has drawn fans from the high echelon of pop including **Beyoncé**, **Fatboy Slim** and **David Byrne**. Seizing the world stage with a rare delicacy and vulnerability, this year's memorable appearances have included headline spots at Coachella, Roskilde and Austin City Limits. Now one of Britain's biggest voices, described as *"A true force"* by The Telegraph UK and *"Overwhelming"* by Timeout, will once again shake the House with a catalogue built for thousands-strong sing-alongs ever since her infectious breakthrough, 'Dog Days Are Over'.

Set beneath the Opera House's famous white sails and framed by the dramatic Monumental Steps, the Forecourt is one of the world's most spectacular outdoor performance venues which played host to **The National's** now legendary February 2014 sold-out shows. Florence + The Machine's weekend of Forecourt dates follow Chet Faker's nearly sold-out performances on November 6 and 7, for what will be a blistering run of outdoor music moments, with one of the world's most famous harbours as the backdrop.

Watch the official video for Florence + the Machine's 'What Kind Of Man' [here](#).



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



This performance is part of the contemporary music program presented by Sydney Opera House that includes **Death Cab for Cutie** and **Chet Faker**, and its annual centerpiece festival **Vivid LIVE**, featuring performances by **Morrissey**, **Sufjan Stevens**, **Bill Callahan**, **TV on the Radio** and more. Previous performances include Ryan Adams, **Damon Albarn**, **Caribou**, **Flying Lotus**, **Gipsy Kings**, **James Blake**, **Little Dragon**, **Max Richter**, **Neneh Cherry**, **Neko Case**, **Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds**, **Nils Frahm**, **Rodrigo Y Gabriela**, and more. Visit sydneyoperahouse.com/music for further information.

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Florence + the Machine
WHEN: Friday 13 November 2015 and Saturday 14 November, 6.00pm
WHERE: Sydney Opera House Forecourt
TICKETS: All Ages, General Admission, \$130 + booking fee
BOOKINGS: Tickets on sale to the general public Monday 3 August, 10am
sydneyoperahouse.com/music or 02 9250 7777

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Natasha Bowron
Communications Strategist
Sydney Opera House
nbowron@sydneyoperahouse.com / 02 9250 7822