

**MEDIA RELEASE**

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS

BILLY BRAGG & JOE HENRYWEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017, 8.30pm
CONCERT HALL, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

"The two don't miss a tick bringing sepia-tinged majesty and tragedy back to life."

Q MAGAZINE

TROUBADOUR LEGENDS TOGETHER AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Legendary political balladeer **Billy Bragg** reunites with Grammy winner **Joe Henry** in the Concert Hall to celebrate their journey on the great American railroad, the tales it inspired, and hits from their own songbooks.

Three years ago, the troubadour and the jazz-bent songwriter met on the record *Tooth & Nail*. In 2016, Joe Henry – the producer behind Elvis Costello and Bonnie Raitt – joined Bragg on a road trip that followed the train tracks, pit-stops and people that join Chicago's Union Station to Los Angeles. The journey inspired them to record their own takes on the railroad songs, and *Shine a Light* was born – a musical love letter to the stories, songs and people of the route that stirred Leadbelly, Hank Williams and Robert Johnson.

"The railroad is one of those phrases like 'the west'," says Bragg. *"An immediate and evocative sense of space and light, distance and hope, and fear."* These are the songs of the workers that not only forged an industrial revolution, but a musical thread across the Transatlantic. *"The voices from Essex and North Carolina...song steeped in Americana: all weary hobos, Lonesome Whistles and Midnight Specials."* (*The Guardian*)

"Every now and then we get to welcome absolute masters of the form to the Opera House and today it's a genuine joy to announce the incomparable double bill of Billy Bragg and Joe Henry," says **Ben Marshall, Head of Contemporary Music at Sydney Opera House**. *"Billy Bragg's Transatlantic love letter to Americana in the Mermaid Avenue albums floored the world – the new Shine a Light release with the enormous talent of Joe Henry promises another deep-dive into profound, joyous and reflective folk revelations. If you love good music, do not miss these giants of their fields on the Concert Hall stage."*

The duo will play the Sydney Opera House's Concert Hall stage with their refreshing ode to American folk, as well as selections from their own rousing catalogues.



This performance is part of the contemporary music program presented by Sydney Opera House, which includes **The Stone Roses, Amanda Palmer, Angel Olsen, The Lumineers, Andrew Bird, The Tallest Man on Earth, Brian Wilson, Four Tet, D'Angelo, Tame Impala, Hot Chip** and the annual **Vivid LIVE** festival, which has featured **Bon Iver presents 'Cercle', New Order + ACO, Anohni, Max Richter's 'Sleep'** and more. Visit sydneyoperahouse.com/music for further information.

SHOW DETAILS

WHAT: Billy Bragg & Joe Henry
WHEN: Wednesday 19 April 2017, 8.30pm
WHERE: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
TICKETS: From \$69 + booking fee
BOOKINGS: Tickets on sale to the general public Monday 31 October, 9am
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Sydney Opera House

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. It is the country's number one tourist destination and its busiest performing arts centre, welcoming more than 8.2 million visitors a year on site and hosting more than 2000 performances attended by more than 1.5 million people. Deloitte has estimated the total cultural and iconic value of the Sydney Opera House to Australia at \$4.6 billion. On its 40th Anniversary in 2013, the Opera House embarked upon a Decade of Renewal to prepare it for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors.