

MEDIA RELEASE  
THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2016

## ESPERANZA SPALDING

PRESENTS *EMILY'S D+EVOLUTION*

AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2016, 9.00pm, JOAN SUTHERLAND THEATRE

*"The best thing to happen to jazz since Wynton Marsalis."*

VILLAGE VOICE

*"Thrilling, virtuosic, baffling and fitfully exasperating."*

THE GUARDIAN

**Vivid LIVE** celebrates influential, genre-shaping figures in the history of jazz, from living legend Wayne Shorter on Monday 13 June to his Grammy-winning protégé, bassist and vocalist **Esperanza Spalding**, who will make her Australian debut in the Sydney Opera House's Joan Sutherland Theatre on Saturday 4 June as part of **Vivid Sydney**, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

The four-time Grammy Award winner will present her wild personas in a new project *Emily's D+Evolution*, a series of live musical vignettes conceived in collaboration with director **Will Weigler** (Arcade Fire, Spike Jonze). Fusing pop melodies, funk-rock grooves and jazz improvisation, each song builds its own world via characters, video and physical movement.

With four charted albums already under her belt – *Junjo* (2006), *Esperanza* (2008), *Chamber Music Society* (2010) and *Radio Music Society* (2012) – the 32-year old Spalding's illustrious career belies her youth. With each new work she has chartered new melodic and visual territory, most recently moving from upright to electric bass and trading in her natural afro for rope-like twists.

Each turn has brought new accolades, from her stunning 2012 Academy Awards appearance to three performances for US President Barack Obama (including the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Concert to celebrate his win). In 2011, Spalding became the first jazz musician to claim 'Best New Artist' at the 2011 Grammy Awards, edging out the likes of Florence + the Machine, Mumford & Sons, Drake and Justin Bieber.

Esperanza Spalding finally arrives in electric form to bookend a generation-spanning Vivid LIVE with the psychedelic fifth album *Emily D+Evolution* joined by her band: **Matthew Stevens** (guitar), **Corey King** (trombone, keyboard), **Nadia Washington** (guitar) and **Justin Tyson** (percussion).

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

### EVENT DETAILS

**WHAT:** Esperanza Spalding presents: *Emily's D+Evolution*  
**WHEN:** Saturday 4 June, 9.00pm  
**WHERE:** Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House  
**TICKETS:** From \$39 + bf

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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**ABOUT VIVID LIVE AT VIVID SYDNEY**

From 27 May – 13 June, Sydney Opera House will welcome some of the most ambitious and innovative local and international artists for Vivid LIVE - a celebration of music on the nation's most famous stages – held as part of Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Vivid LIVE invites the world's leading music artists and performers to raise the roof of the Sydney Opera House's theatres, rehearsal spaces, recording studios and most famously, its iconic sails, which are transformed into a unique lighting canvas each year for Vivid Sydney.

Now in its eighth year, 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), celebrating Sydney as the creative hub of the Asia-Pacific.

Vivid Sydney is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency and will run from 27 May to 18 June 2016. For more information visit [www.vividsydney.com](http://www.vividsydney.com)