

MEDIA RELEASE  
Friday 20 May 2016

## HIATUS KAIYOTE

with

**SAMPA THE GREAT**

**(visuals by Timeboy)**

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE DEBUT

TUESDAY 31 MAY 2016, 8.00pm, CONCERT HALL

*"Energetic, elastic, experimental."*  
**SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**

\*\*\*\* *"A psychedelic adventure land"*  
**THE GUARDIAN**

Fresh from their European tour, Melbourne's two-time Grammy nominees **Hiatus Kaiyote** will make their Sydney Opera House debut, supported by poet-rapper **Sampa the Great**, in this year's stellar **Vivid LIVE** program, part of **Vivid Sydney**, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

The internationally acclaimed soul/R&B quartet will transform the Concert Hall into a psychedelic wonderland on Tuesday 31 May, with visuals by Los Angeles artist **Timeboy**, and unpack their art in a live public session with podcast **Song Exploder** on 30 May.

In a short but brilliant career, Kaiyote's future soul sound has united rap and jazz purists alike and been acclaimed by the likes of **Erykah Badu**, **Questlove** and the late, great **Prince**.

Melding electric-jazz virtuosity with the rap-beat dexterity of **Flying Lotus** and **Madlib**, **Hiatus Kaiyote** perform self-described *"multi-dimensional, polyrhythmic, gangster sh\*t"*. It's soul, hip-hop, harmony and beats from a band born for the stage.

The accompanying visual track comes from the man whose cosmic imagery has defined the visual identity of the West Coast of late, from **Flying Lotus** and his kaleidoscopic 2015 *Layer 3* Concert Hall extravaganza, to shows by **Erykah Badu** and **Prince**. For Vivid LIVE, **Timeboy** will deliver a whole new show from his galaxy to the Concert Hall stage.

Sydney poet **Sampa the Great** opens for **Hiatus Kaiyote** as she did for five-time Grammy-winning **Kendrick Lamar** on his recent Australian tour. Sampa reimagines rap, flowing over funk-flecked rhythms with precise lyricism and melody. She made her Opera House debut earlier this year at **All About Women's** 2016 'Women of Letters' session.

In their live shows, Hiatus Kaiyote - led by singer-guitarist Nai Palm, with **Paul Bender** on bass, **Simon Mavin** (keyboards) and drummer **Perrin Mos** -- let their chart-ready melodies off the leash with improvised flourishes and licks, backed by three vocalists.

BBC Radio veteran Gilles Peterson named Hiatus Kaiyote Breakthrough Artist of 2013, the year they released their debut *Tawk Tomahawk*. The record earned **Hiatus Kaiyote** an Australian first: a Grammy nomination for R&B.

Since first performing in 2011 amid sword-swallowers, fire-twirlers and a gypsy deathcore band, Hiatus Kaiyote have deepened their singular, soul-flecked vision; last year's opus, *Choose Your Weapon*, dips into Latin dance patterns and West African funk. A local rarity that conquered the USA while remaining underground at home, the group will make their largest homecoming statement yet in Sydney within the grandeur of the Concert Hall.

### EVENT DETAILS

**WHAT:** Hiatus Kaiyote with Sampa The Great (visuals by Timeboy)  
**WHEN:** Tuesday 31 May, 8.00pm  
**WHERE:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**TICKETS:** From \$49 + booking fee

**WHAT:** Song Exploder in conversation with Hiatus Kaiyote  
**WHEN:** Monday 30 May, 6.00pm  
**WHERE:** Playhouse, Sydney Opera House  
**TICKETS:** Free

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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).