

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 April 2016

MAX RICHTER *SLEEP*

SYDNEY ONLY, AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Performed by Max Richter, American Contemporary Music Ensemble featuring Grace Davidson
Executive producer Yulia Mahr

FRIDAY 3 & SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2016, 11.30pm – 7.30am
JOAN SUTHERLAND THEATRE NORTHERN FOYER, CAVES & UTZON ROOM

"A modern composer par excellence, without fear and seemingly at the peak of his powers."
THE QUIETUS

"Haunting and beautiful."
THE INDEPENDENT

The Sydney Opera House will push the boundaries of live performance in June when polymath, pianist and composer **Max Richter**'s eight-hour magnum opus *Sleep* has its exclusive Australian premiere during this year's **Vivid LIVE** program as part of **Vivid Sydney**, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas.

Featuring the six-piece **American Contemporary Music Ensemble** and starring soprano **Grace Davidson**, the overnight performance in full of Richter's daring eight-hour, 31-track album *Sleep* will be staged in the Joan Sutherland Theatre Northern Foyer and surrounds for two nights only.

Influenced by composers as disparate as Gustav Mahler, Arvo Pärt and Vivid LIVE godfather Brian Eno, *Sleep* is a collaboration with neurologist **David Eagleman**, based in science as much as the arts. Richter encourages his audience to be a part of his "*personal lullaby for a frenetic world*"; to meditate, listen, wander into his nightlife of sound and discover the relationship between music and consciousness.

From his childhood spent playing the piano and synthesiser to his studies under the influential **Luciano Berio** and the decade Richter spent with neo-classical quintet **Piano Circus**, the prolific 50-year-old composer has developed a signature style of cinematic arrangements with emotional power.

He collaborated with actor Tilda Swinton on the spoken-word, full-length composition *The Blue Notebooks* (2004), and added his elegiac balladry to the screen for dozens of films including Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island* and Ari Folman's Golden Globe-winning *Waltz With Bashir*.

Sleep promises to be an extraordinary moment in 2016's ambitious Vivid LIVE program.

Tickets on sale now

sydneyoperahouse.com/vividLIVE +61 2 9250 7777

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EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Max Richter '*Sleep*' (AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, SYDNEY ONLY)
WHEN: Friday 3 & Saturday 4 June, 11.00pm – 7.00am (overnight)
WHERE: Joan Sutherland Theatre Northern Foyer & Caves / Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

