



REVOLUTION A MUSIC ADVENTURE FROM THE BARRICADES OF TIME

27 APRIL – 7 MAY 2017

cimf.org.au

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PRESS RELEASE

Capture the spirit of Revolution with the Canberra International Music Festival

For immediate release

A vibrant fusion of thought-provoking conversation, culinary adventures and exceptional music making that pays tribute to the spirit of revolution: that's the Canberra International Music Festival, an annual treat for Australia's culture lovers. From 27 April to 7 May, the Festival gathers some of the world's most creative artists together to create a joyous explosion of music that, for eleven exhilarating days, will resonate throughout the city.

With Revolution forming the backdrop to the 2017 season, the great milestones in our history become the context for over twenty expertly curated concerts. The Festival explores these momentous events, not only the October Revolution and its red blood-soaked line in the sand (Rachmaninov on one end and Shostakovich on the other), but also the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a milestone in Western history that uncannily coincides with the undisputed highpoint of Mozart's creative powers, and Mao's Long March that laid the basis for a new Chinese society, Cultural Revolution and all. Finally, the arrival of the British fleet in Botany Bay in the year 1788, arguably the most fundamental upheaval in the history of Australia, urges a musical investigation of our own democratic system as well as a renewed connection with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

"In these cynical times of post-truth politics, music is beyond cynicism. It brings joy and something which words rarely can express. Far above the likes and dislikes, the tweets and tweets of this new reality we find ourselves in, it reminds us of our humanity, bringing heart and mind back in sync. The extraordinary musicians in this year's festival ARE in sync! Two fantastic string quartets, the world's most iconic brass quintet, a great vocal ensemble, Chinese orchestras, the Bach Akademie of Australia and much more. They are in sync." (Roland Peelman, Artistic Director)

From amidst Canberra's most iconic buildings, indeed musical worlds collide in this year's edition: Mozart and Shostakovich both receive special attention, but also Bach, Handel, Indigenous artists and composers such as Robert Davidson, Elena Kats-Chernin, Andrew Ford, and this year's Composer-in-Residence, Chinese-American composer Chen Yi. The Festival welcomes performances by the renown Canadian Brass quintet, Israeli clarinetist Orit Oribach, two dynamic string quartets from France and Venezuela both making their first appearance in Australia, Singapore's Ding Yi Ensemble, Topology, Ensemble Offspring, accompanied by musicians from China, America, Australia, and much more.

The Festival returns to its beloved home in the Fitters' Workshop on the Kingston Foreshore for many of its events, however the 2017 season will also resonate throughout Australia's most distinguished National institutions. The National Museum of Australia plays host to a poignant performance that celebrates Chinese immigration to Australia. The koala revolution

will take over the National Library in Blinky Bill, for little possums aged 3-8. Enjoy two daring works by Robert Davidson, including a never before seen world premiere, at the National Gallery of Australia. Be moved by Ensemble Offspring and their all-female composer extravaganza at the National Portrait Gallery. With performances in over a dozen locations, including a special outdoor event in the Chinese Gardens of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the 2017 Festival will infuse the city with a sense of adventure with musical surprises around every corner.

“Rarely such an extraordinary range of artists have been assembled for our festival. Where in the world will you hear Canadian Brass alongside the Simón Bolívar String Quartet from Venezuela? And where else in the world will you hear our most famous didgeridoo player William Barton play along with both? Be prepared for the unexpected, and be ready to be transported for an eleven day feast of music making in glorious surroundings and in the best of company!” (Roland Peelman, Artistic Director)

Tickets for all Festival events are available on our website www.cimf.org.au, including allocated seating at the Fitters' Workshop.

For more information about the 2017 Canberra International Music Festival, including interviews and high resolution images, please contact Krista Vincent, the Festival's Marketing Coordinator, on 02 6182 0023 or krista.vincent@cimf.org.au

Revolution: A Music Adventure from the Barricades of Time **27 April – 7 May 2017**

Tickets now available - book online @

www.cimf.org.au

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