

SYDNEY SYMPHONY
PRESENTS

MEG RAYA WASHINGTON

WITH THE
SYDNEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

3 February 2024
Sydney Town Hall

SYDNEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Principal Partner



MEG WASHINGTON

WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MEG WASHINGTON vocalist/piano

BEN EDGAR guitar

VANESSA SCAMMELL conductor

Catherine Wheel arr. Paul Hankinson

Saint Lo arr. Joe Twist

Sunday Best arr. Ross Irwin

Achilles Heart arr. Iain Grandage

Skeleton Key arr. Joe Twist

How To Tame Lions arr. Ross Irwin

INTERVAL

Solo

Duo

Lobster arr. Paul Hankinson

Cement arr. Ed Fairlie

Honeysuckle Island arr. Paul Hankinson

Kiss Me Like We're Gonna Die arr. Iain Grandage

Batflowers arr. Jess Wells

ESTIMATED DURATION

40 minutes

Interval – 20 minutes

35 minutes

The concert will conclude at
approximately 8.45pm

COVER IMAGE

Photo by Zac Bayly

Art by Adam Dal Pozzo

AUDIO

Ian Cooper

LIGHTING

Matthew Tunchon,

Silver Bullet Productions

ABOUT THE MUSIC

With this show I wanted to present the most shining gems from across my catalogue: the songs that were singles, and others that are my favourites. But you might not immediately recognise them from my records.

I love treating my repertoire like standards and being able to do them this way or that way. Here with a Latin groove, here a bossa nova feel; to swing them, or play them with a big band – or with a symphony orchestra. I love that if a song is written well enough, it can be robust enough to handle that much interrogation, and still sound good and feel good.

And I also love the idea of singing the same song differently over a lifetime, of a song finding new access points into your life, and it changing over time just as you yourself change.

I hope that these versions of these songs find you where you are.

Meg Washington, January 2024

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MEG WASHINGTON vocalist/piano

Born in Port Moresby, Meg completed her schooling in Brisbane, Australia. In 2006 she received a BA in Jazz/Composition from the Queensland Conservatorium, after which she relocated to Melbourne, where she began working with frequent collaborator Paul Grabowsky.

She quickly moved to exploring pop songwriting, and in 2010 released her debut album *I Believe You Liar*, which debuted at number 3, and went on to be certified platinum, winning two ARIA awards. Her follow up, *Insomnia* followed shortly in 2011. She performed the songs from this album to a sell-out performance at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Sydney Music Festival.

In 2014, Meg delivered a TEDx talk where she revealed her lifelong stutter, a speech which was picked up globally by TED and is still featured on its website. She also delivered her third album, *There There* - which was written and produced with Grammy Award-winning musician Sam Dixon. *The Guardian* gave the album 5 out of 5, calling it “a masterpiece from beginning to end.”

Liberated by her TEDx talk, in 2018, Meg began her voice-acting role as the schoolteacher Calypso in *Bluey*, and in 2020 delivered her critically acclaimed fourth record, *Batflowers*, which won her another ARIA Award, and was nominated for the Australian Music Prize. Of it, *Rolling Stone* observed: “There’s truly nothing that Megan Washington can’t do”.

In addition to her musical career, Meg has been working deeply in the film and TV industry. Meg wrote all the songs in the upcoming musical feature film, *The Deb* - produced and directed by Rebel Wilson. With her partner, Nick Waterman, Meg is also the co-writer and producer of a feature film adaptation of Paul Kelly’s classic song *How to Make Gravy*. Their company, Speech and Drama Pictures, is co-producing the film alongside Academy-award nominated producer Schuyler Weiss (*Elvis*), and Warner Bros International TV Productions for Bing.

Meg released an exquisite take on the seminal album from The Killers, *Hot Fuss* in late 2022, some new music in 2023 and her forthcoming fifth album is expected in 2024.



Meg Washington
Photo by Zac Bayly

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

VANESSA SCAMMELL conductor

Vanessa Scammell's most recent engagements include a double bill (*The Dream/Marguerite and Armand*) for The Australian Ballet, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* for the Melbourne Symphony and a concert version of *Singin' in the Rain*. In 2021/2022, she conducted the Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and West Australian Symphony Orchestras in programs such as *Vera Blue*, *The Bamboos*, *Birds of Tokyo*, *An Evening with Anthony Warlow*, *Love Actually*, *To Barbra With Love*, *Opera in the Outback* (for Opera Queensland) and *An American in Paris* for The Australian Ballet.

Previously, she conducted *Sweeney Todd* and *Jekyll & Hyde* (both starring Anthony Warlow), an encore national tour of *From Broadway to La Scala*, *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia and a new production of *The Merry Widow* for West Australian Opera; she led seasons of Lehár's masterpiece for Opera Australia and Opera Queensland in 2018 as well as conducting *Eskimo Joe* for the Brisbane Festival.

For Opera Australia, she has conducted *South Pacific*, the national tour of *La traviata* and was Musical Director for their acclaimed 2015 television opera, *The Divorce*. For the Australian Ballet, her credits include *Body Torque*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and *The Dream*.

For the Really Useful Company, Vanessa was Musical Director for *The Phantom of the Opera* in Beijing, Taipei, Athens, South Korea, South Africa and Australia; *West Side Story* Australian Tour for Farrelly Productions; *Chicago* Australasian Tour for Gordon Frost Organisation and the Australian premiere of *The Light in the Piazza*.



Vanessa Scammell

THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities.

Their concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres. They also celebrate the role of the symphony orchestra in movies, television and video games.

sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com

THE MUSICIANS

FIRST VIOLINS

Alexandra Osborne
Associate
Concertmaster
Jennifer Booth
Sophie Cole
Georges Lentz
Emily Long
Alexandra Mitchell
Anna Skálová
Léone Ziegler
Benjamin Tjoa^o

SECOND VIOLINS

Marina Marsden
Principal
Alice Bartsch
Rebecca Gill
Emma Hayes
Monique Irik
Benjamin Li
Maja Verunica

VIOLAS

Justin Williams
Assistant Principal
Sandro Costantino
Jane Hazelwood
Graham Hennings
Stuart Johnson
Justine Marsden
Felicity Tsai
Leonid Volovelsky

CELLOS

Catherine Hewgill
Principal
Kristy Conrau
Fenella Gill
Timothy Nankervis
Elizabeth Neville
Christopher Pidcock

DOUBLE BASSES

Kees Boersma
Principal
Steven Larson
Richard Lynn
Benjamin Ward

FLUTES

Emma Sholl
Associate Principal
Carolyn Harris

OBOES

Shefali Pryor
Associate Principal
Callum Hogan

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata
Associate Principal
Alexander Morris
Principal Bass Clarinet

BASSOONS

Matthew Wilkie
Principal Emeritus
Noriko Shimada
Principal
Contrabassoon

HORNS

Euan Harvey
Acting Principal
Emily Newham^o
Acting Principal 3rd Horn
Rachel Silver
Stefan Grant[†]

TRUMPETS

David Elton
Principal
Cécile Glémot
Anthony Heinrichs

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont
Associate Principal
Nick Byrne
Christopher Harris
Principal Bass
Trombone

TUBA

Edwin Diefes^{*}
Guest Principal

TIMPANI

Mark Robinson
Acting Principal

PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos
Principal
Timothy Constable

HARP

Kate Moloney^{*}
Guest Principal

^{*} = Guest Musician
^o = Contract Musician
[†] = Sydney Symphony Fellow