

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, 27 May 2019

**SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS PRESENTS  
THE 18<sup>TH</sup> BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019**

The **18<sup>th</sup> Bangalow Music Festival 2019** (BMF), proudly owned, operated and presented by **Southern Cross Soloists** (SXS), one of Australia's most formidable and long-running chamber music ensembles, today unveiled its stellar 18th BMF program under the theme of *Conversations through Chamber Music*. This year's thematic is woven into a fascinating program that explores the intangible language of music; the oldest language form.

The 18<sup>th</sup> BMF 2019 program was officially launched this morning at the stunning Manor House in Bangalow, by Southern Cross Soloists' Chair Greg Thompson and Artistic Director Tania Frazer, with guest dignitaries, local government and business, media, musicians, and cultural/arts leaders in attendance.

Over three days, peerless musicians will explore musical heritage across nine curated concerts in beautiful Bangalow's A&I Hall from Friday August 9 to Sunday August 11. This year's festival celebrates and explores through its program, the true essence of chamber music: communication, collaboration and conversation. It was first published 110 years ago that chamber music *is the music of friends*. A truly democratic form of collaborative music without hierarchy and, without conductor, inclusively equal.

Announcing the program, Artistic Director Tania Frazer said, "*Music magically tells a story and begins a conversation between the performers and the listeners, capturing hidden emotions and atmospheres that belie words or descriptions and connects us to something larger than ourselves. The joy in performing chamber music is that it is a continuous conversation where each musician must listen, react, adjust and communicate on an almost constant basis. As a musical form, all performers are equal and share leading the ensemble.*"

Tickets for this vibrant, populace chamber music festival, along with its very popular pre-festival events with local flavour – the Festival Prelude Event - *Celebrating Bangalow: Emerging Stars of the Region* (Thursday August 8, 7:30pm), the *School's Concert* (Friday August 9, 11:00am) and *Zentveld's Coffee Plantation and Roastery Concert* at Newrybar are on sale now. Last year's 17th BMF had seven sell-out performances. Tickets can be purchased through SXS's website [www.southernxsoloists.com](http://www.southernxsoloists.com)



Southern Cross Soloists is funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland



Company in Residence



**SOUTHERN CROSS  
SOLOISTS**

**ZENTVELDS ROASTERY**  
*specialist coffee roasters in the hills behind Byron Bay*

**Morgan**  
SUITES

**RUMBLE**  
CREATIVE & MEDIA®

**QUEENSLAND  
THEATRE**

4MBS *Classic FM*  
103.7

NINBELLA

**ADEAS** AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETIES

**STEPHEN  
HENRY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Northern Rivers is synonymous with music events of international standing, exceptional educational facilities and extraordinary local talent and is a fitting place to host the annual BMF. Proudly supported by local government, business and community for 18 years, the BMF, dubbed by the late Peter Sculthorpe as '*the finest music festival outside of a capital city*', working alongside tremendous local support and the vibrant Northern Rivers arts community, bring to the township of Bangalow in August, a unique three-day effervescent chamber music festival – a cornucopia of avantgarde and classical works.

The 18th BMF (9-11 August) will play host to over 30 internationally regarded and young up and coming artists, with 15 featured artists across nine curated concerts. This is accompanied by three very popular, often sold-out, Pre-Festival events (7-8 August). Amongst the headline artists for the 18th BMF are renowned Australian classical guitarist Karin Schaupp and Resident Conductor of the Colorado Symphony, Chris Dragon both making their returns to BMF.

Violin supremo, New Zealand's Amalia Hall is thrilled to be returning to Bangalow, bringing with her the vibrant New Zealand Chamber Soloists for their BMF debut, "*I'm over the moon to return to the Bangalow Music Festival and to again work with the brilliant Southern Cross Soloists. Three days of the most fantastic variety of repertoire, played by outstanding, vibrant musicians, in the most beautiful surroundings - what more could one want! The air is filled with music all weekend at Bangalow, and it's no surprise that the festival has become a yearly favourite with Australian audiences. I had such an incredible time there last year and I cannot wait to share music again in the refreshing, peaceful atmosphere of Bangalow.*"

The Festival line-up of acclaimed chamber musicians and international soloists also includes the Orava String Quartet (violin, cello, viola), radio presenter and author Eddie Ayres, mezzo soprano Xenia Puskarz-Thomas, UK violinist Victoria Sayles, violist James Wannan, bassoonist Adam Mikulicz and, of course, Southern Cross Soloists with new members Blair Harris (cello) and Alex Miller (French horn). The program will feature chamber music collaborations between all these outstanding artists as well as ensembles and the popular *Intriguing Journeys* interview-style concert hosted by Eddie Ayres.

It was further announced today at the 18th BMF launch, that local Lismore/Goonellabah artist, Jemima Drews is the recipient of the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) Byron Bay inaugural: *2019 BMF Young Musician Award*. This new award will be presented annually to an outstanding young musician from Northern NSW. The 18<sup>th</sup> BMF program proudly includes Jemima who is currently in her third year of study at the University of Queensland (UQ), and is the Principal Piccolo for Queensland Youth Symphony and Principal Flute for the UQ Symphony Orchestra. Jemima studied in Lismore at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium and is a SXS NextGen Artist.

Since 2002, SXS has professionally delivered 17 curated BMFs. SXS are excited to again this year, deliver the 18<sup>th</sup> BMF to introduce Patrons, Festival Subscribers and interstate guests to the beautiful and bustling Bangalow township and the natural surrounds of the Northern Rivers communities. The BMF has for 17 years proudly injected into the local region; economic support, artist and community engagement and destination tourism, all-the-while adding to the rich artistic tapestry and legacy of the region. The SXS will also star this year as the centrepiece performance at the 18<sup>th</sup> BMF, bringing their outstanding full line-up of artists, all renowned soloists, to audiences on Saturday evening in Concert 6.

Long-time local BMF supporter Rebecca Zentveld of Zentveld's Coffee Plantation and Roastery has been involved with the Festival since its inception and will again host the Coffee 'Conversation' Concert with ABC Classic FM presenter Eddie Ayres on Friday August 9. A pop-up store of local products for purchase will be available in the A&I Hall across the Festival dates. Ninbella Gallery will beautify the A&I Hall with tapestry artworks from their two-decade support of the *Better World Arts Project*. The Project works with traditional artisans from remote regions in India, Peru and exiled Tibetans of Nepal and also works with Australian Aboriginal artists from remote communities across Australia, from Arnhem Land to Central and the Western Desert regions, from rural locations and from cities.

It was further announced today that Ninbella gallerist Grant Rasheed, along with Bangalow's local business community, have joined forces with the BMF to re-launch *The Bangalow Art Prize*, a fine art competition with a cash bursary prize of AU\$1000 awarded to the winning artist's impression of the Bangalow region that "portrays the vibrant and/or diverse makeup of the Bangalow landscape and community". The prize-winner's art piece will also be displayed in the foyer of the A&I Hall for the duration of the Festival and exhibited at Ninbella.

The prize-winning artwork will be announced on Thursday 8 August, 2019 during the 18th BMF's *Festival Prelude* Concert. The competition was officially opened today and closes 4pm Monday July 29, 2019. Gallerist Grant Rasheed said: *"It is a privilege to work with the talented BMF team to expand the artistry focus on the superb chamber music on offer to include artisan global tapestries and revive the annual local 'Bangalow Art Prize'. This August weekend, Bangalow will be abuzz with locals and guests immersing themselves in rich cultural traditions both old and new. I can't wait."*

#### Southern Cross Soloists

SXS is a not for profit organisation, operating successfully for 24 years. It proudly prepares for its Silver Jubilee in 2020. SXS is one of Australia's most formidable chamber music ensembles and is a Company-in- Residence at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). In addition to presenting fine chamber music nationally and internationally with world-renowned, virtuosic artists, the SXS run educational programs across Queensland, and present the regional festival, Bangalow Music Festival each year in New South Wales.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Southern Cross Soloists respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, and their Elders both past and present.

BMF PUBLICIST: Maxine Williamson  
EMAIL: [maxineyearofdragon@gmail.com](mailto:maxineyearofdragon@gmail.com)  
Mobile: +61 439 706 785

## Key Announcements at a Glance

1. 18th Bangalow Music Festival (BMF) announces program of Festival including *Festival Prelude: Celebrating Bangalow: Emerging Stars of the Region*.
2. New annual award announced for locals - *The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Byron Bay BMF Young Musician Award* to be presented to an outstanding young musician from Northern NSW each year.
3. Local Lismore/Goonellabah artist (piccolo, flute) Jemima Drews announced as recipient of The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Byron Bay inaugural: *2019 BMF Young Musician Award*.
4. Supported by Ninbella gallerist Grant Rasheed, along with Bangalow's local business community, have joined forces with the BMF to re-launch *The Bangalow Art Prize*, an annual fine art competition with a cash prize of AU\$1000 and exhibit opportunities awarded to the winning artist's impression of the Bangalow region that "portrays the vibrant and/or diverse makeup of the Bangalow landscape and community".
5. *The Bangalow Art Prize* officially opens today Monday May 27 and closes 4pm Monday July 29, 2019.

## What, When, Where

### Thursday 8 August 2019

7:30pm	<b>Festival Prelude</b> <b>Celebrating Bangalow: Emerging Stars of the Region</b>	A&I Hall
--------	--	----------

### Friday 9 August 2019

11:00am	<b>Schools Concert</b>	A&I Hall
11:00am	<b>Zentveld's Coffee Concert</b>	Zentveld's Coffee Plantation & Roastery

7:00pm	Concert 1	<b>Festival Welcome</b>	A&I Hall
8:30pm	Concert 2	<b>Orava Quartet and Friends</b>	A&I Hall

### Saturday 10 August 2019

10:00am	Concert 3	<b>Karin meets Dragon</b>	A&I Hall
11:30am	Concert 4	<b>Winds of the Southern Cross</b>	A&I Hall
3:00pm	Concert 5	<b>NZ Chamber Soloists</b>	A&I Hall
7:30pm	Concert 6	<b>Southern Cross Soloists</b>	A&I Hall

### Sunday 11 August 2019

10:30am	Concert 7	<b>Sinfonia Concertante</b>	A&I Hall
1:00pm	Concert 8	<b>Intriguing Journeys</b>	A&I Hall
3:00pm	Concert 9	<b>Scheherazade</b>	A&I Hall

## FESTIVAL CONCERT OVERVIEWS

### **Concert 1: Friday 7:00pm: Festival Welcome**

The opening concert features all the artists of the Festival and a smorgasbord of music.

### **Concert 2: Friday 8:30pm**

Explores Eastern European folk music and Jewish mysticism with Mahler's vocal masterpiece and Golijov's epic composition about the great mystical Kabbalist rabbi from 800 years ago, known as *Isaac the Blind*.

### **Concert 3: Saturday 10:00am**

Renowned Australian classical guitarist Karin Schaupp and Resident Conductor of the Colorado Symphony, Chris Dragon discuss the history of the noble guitar- an instrument embraced by cultures around the world.

### **Concert 4: Saturday 11:30am**

Showcases the virtuoso woodwind soloists of Southern Cross Soloists

### **Concert 5: Saturday 3:00pm**

Showcases the NZ Chamber Soloists including violin supremo Amalia Hall.

### **Concert 6: Saturday 7:30pm**

Shines a spotlight on the virtuosity and artistry of Southern Cross Soloists, finishing with the remarkable Rachmaninov Variations on a theme of Paganini as well as the double concerto *Sanctuary* by Australian composer and jazz pianist Joe Chindamo.

### **Concert 7: Sunday 10:30am**

Continuing with the double concerto concept, Sinfonia Concertante highlights Mozart's use of multiple soloists in this fascinating program of Sinfonia Concertantes. The highlight of this concert will be the iconic and seductive Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola, K. 364, which is arguably one of Mozart's greatest works, featuring violinist, NZ's Amalia Hall and the Orava Quartet's Thomas Chawner (viola).

### **Concert 8: Sunday 1:00pm**

Returning to the Festival by popular demand after 2018, we welcome back radio personality, Eddie Ayres for *Intriguing Journeys* as he chats to acclaimed classical guitar soloist Karin Schaupp and the mesmerising Orava String Quartet about their lives and musical journeys.

### **Concert 9: Sunday 3:00pm**

Keeping with exploring the conversational element of multi-instrument concertos, this concert sees Southern Cross Soloist cellist Blair Harris team up with leading US/NZ cello soloist James Tennant in Vivaldi's stunning double cello concerto. The festival finishes on an absolute highlight- Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* in a chamber version of this exotic tale of love, intrigue and adventure as we relive the story of *One Thousand and One Nights from the Arabian Nights*.

**ENDS**