

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, 9 August 2019

**Emerging Stars of the Region honoured and Bangalow Art Prize
announced as Festival begins.**

THE 18TH BANGALOW MUSIC FESTIVAL 9-11 August, 2019

The **18th 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, last night held its *Festival Prelude: Celebrating Bangalow: Emerging Stars of the Region* at the A&I hall, Bangalow.

Emerging stars and virtuoso soloists merged to create a magical night of celebration of the region's talents. The concert included young guest local pianist Francis Atkins, and SXS Next Gen artist and 2019 ADFAS Byron Young Musician Award Recipient Jemima Drews (flute). Together, with fellow SXS Next Gen artists (Undine Quartet, Sunrise Quartet and Islay Trio), they performed *Faure's Fantasy for Flute*, a piece composed by Faure and arranged by local composer, Nicholas Routley. Last night's headline artists also included performances by Karin Schaupp (guitar) and James Wannan (viola), and SXS's Tania Frazer (oboe), Alan Smith (violin), Blair Harris (cello) and Alex Miller (French horn).

Ninbella Gallery beautified the historic 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.

The evening included the announcement of the winner of the 2019 Bangalow Art Prize supported by SXS and the BMF, Ninbella Gallery, MHL Legal & Notary and the Bangalow Business Community Sponsors. The Bangalow Art Prize is 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 prizewinner's work along with the two runners up are on display in the foyer of the A&I Hall for the duration of the Festival and will be exhibited at a later stage at Ninbella.



Southern Cross Soloists is
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SOLOISTS**



Specialist coffee roasters in the hills behind Byron Bay



NINBELLA



The competition drew 37 entries across multiple mediums with three nominees selected. The nominees and resultant winner were determined by two celebrated art figures. Australian, local artist Lindy Lee, with a practice spanning over three decades, has a well-established reputation in Australia and widespread international recognition, exhibiting in Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore. Alison Kubler has over 20 years' experience working as a curator in museums and galleries in Australia and is a Member of the Council of the National Gallery of Australia, a Board Director of the Museum of Brisbane, an Ambassador for the Institute of Modern Art, and the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art. The judges were impressed by the range of this year's entries.

The nominees for the 2019 Bangalow Art Prize are:

- Rune Rune Al-ith for her woven sculpture *9 Cocoons* (Inflorescence of the Bangalow Palm)
- Wayne Brown for *Shanti Bangalow Cowboy*
- Caitlin Reilly for *Not far to go to Bangalow* (Old Bangalow Road)

Grant Rasheed, gallerist of Ninbella announced the winner, Rune Al-ith for her woven sculpture *9 Cocoons* (Inflorescence of the Bangalow Palm). Rune was present to accept the cheque prize of AU\$1000.

Speaking of her piece Rune said, "*Cocoons represent a sense of hope, an opportunity for transformation and full metamorphosis ... The three-dimensional work communicates a reminder that as communities we can grow together and promise a better future for generations to come as long as we take the time to hibernate and consider ideas, consequences and solutions. Our landscape is precious. It gives to us generously. We are its caretakers and we must take responsibility for the longevity of it.*"

The stellar 18th BMF (9-11 August) program under the theme of *Conversations through Chamber Music* is set to officially open tonight and will play host to over 30 internationally regarded and young up and coming artists, with 15 featured artists across nine curated concerts and two side-bar events. This year's thematic is woven into a fascinating program that explores the intangible language of music; the oldest language form. This year's festival celebrates and explores, 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.

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.

The Bangalow Art Prize

Supported by Southern Cross Soloists and the Bangalow Music Festival, Ninbella Gallery, MHL Legal & Notary and the Bangalow Art Prize Business Community Sponsors:

The Rug Shop, Island Luxe Tribe, Town Cafe, Queen Mabs, Bangalow Real Estate, Butcher Baker, Wax-Jambu, Red Ginger, Belle and Ford, Bangalow Pharmacy, Pantry29, Little Peach, Scott Rogers Design, Bangalow Newsagency, Zentvelds Coffee, Millar and More, Pack Gallery, ADFAS, Bangalow Hotel, DeJaVu, Our Corner Store, The Corner Kitchen, The CWA, Nouk, Assembly, Woods Café, Bangalow Holistic Dentist, Hello Bangalow, Bangalow Koalas, Heart of Home, The Italian Diner, Bangalow Cellars, Elders Real Estate, Velvet Star, David Collins Jewellery, The Flower Bar, BKA Architecture, Petals, Don't Tell Mama, Johansen, Bangalow Post Office, Bangalow Medical Centre, Bisque, Scout & Arrow, Sparrow, Zacalu, Tobes & Crete, Bangalow Hairdressing.

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.

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What, When, Where

Friday 9 August 2019

11:00am	Schools Concert	A&I Hall	
11:00am	Zentveld's Coffee Concert	Zentveld's Coffee Plantation & Roastery	
7:00pm	Concert 1	Festival Welcome	A&I Hall
8:30pm	Concert 2	Orava Quartet and Friends	A&I Hall

Saturday 10 August 2019

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

Sunday 11 August 2019

10:30am	Concert 7	Sinfonia Concertante	A&I Hall
1:00pm	Concert 8	Intriguing Journeys	A&I Hall
3:00pm	Concert 9	Scheherazade	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 radio personality, presenter, producer Phillip Sametz 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*.

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