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MUSIC STARS SET TO IGNITE PERTH NIGHTS



Image credit: Imraan Christian

Program highlights an array of unforgettable soundscapes

Some of the hottest contemporary music stars from near and far are bringing the beats to Noongar Boodjar to see out summer with a bang for **Perth Festival 2024**.

We welcome queen of world music **Angélique Kidjo** (Benin) into **Perth Concert Hall** on 29 February. Over the last three decades, this five-time Grammy winner has cemented her status as one of the most singular and extraordinary voices in international music, inspiring countless artists with her ingenuity, eclecticism and boundless creative spirit.

Also at **Perth Concert Hall**, Australia's favourite troubadour **Paul Kelly** takes audiences on a live journey through his 2022 compilation *Time*. The album sees him draw from his vast catalogue and treasure trove of unreleased recordings digging deep into Australia – how it feels, looks, tastes and sounds.

Charismatic Zambian performer **Sampa The Great** and her powerhouse band will get the Friday night crowd jumping with her anthemic dance mix of rap, hip hop and R&B at **Supreme Court Gardens** on 1 March. In support, Papua New Guinea-born, Naarm/Melbourne-based **Kaiit** brings her old soul voice, fierce, contemporary rhymes and shimmery feel-good vibes to this must-see show under a summer night sky.

To close the Festival two nights later on 3 March, Mercury Prize-winning British singer-songwriter and producer **Sampha** hits the stage in the gardens with his intoxicating blend of pop, R&B, soul, jazz and west African music. After working with the likes of Jessie Ware, Drake, Kanye West and Kendrick Lamar, Sampha is now a major star in his own right and seeing him perform live will be an unforgettable experience.

We take over **The Rechabite** in Northbridge again in 2024 for an 18-night sonic voyage to join household names and discover future faves.

Featuring artists from across the globe and around the corner, we are bringing you contemporary sounds from the USA, UK, Europe, Africa and of course great First Nations and Australian artists. Crafted with discovery and exploration in mind, there is a wide array of musical influences – think hip hop, folk, indie, funk, psych, R&B, ambient, cosmic jazz and so much more. There is plenty to love for everyone.

Rolling through The Rechabite will be **Courtney Barnett**, **Cymande** (UK), **DOMi and JD Beck** (France/USA), **Greentea Peng** (UK), **Kings of Convenience** (Norway), **Lonnie Holley**, **Moor Mother & Irreversible Entanglements** (USA), **Michael Rother & Friends** (Germany), **Mogwai** (Scotland), to name a few.

Three of the most audacious MCs in the country kick off the opening weekend with a genre bending collaboration. Perth's **Pookie**, known for her ferocious bars, authentic afro-jazz with hip hop melodies, is joined by Sydney's **Vv Pete** with her unique fusion of sharp rap hooks, heavy club beats and global dance music, and proud Queer Pasifika artist **JULAI** who sits at the forefront of Australia's contemporary club rap scene.

Next up, indie rock sensation **Courtney Barnett** is joined by collaborator **Stella Mozgawa** (Warpaint) to perform instrumental songs and improvisations from the recent release *End of the Day*, an album of elegant ambient soundscapes. In the second set of this must-see show hear old faves from Courtney's back catalogue given a new pared-back spin.

Known for their future-shock blend of progressive jazz instrumental keyboard and drum duo **DOMi & JD BECK** perform music that finds both humour and greatness in harmonic complexity, rhythmic shiftiness and speed. Think music that evokes the colourful blips of 2000s Pokémon soundtracks with percussion that channels IDM and boom bap in one frenetic live show.

Scottish post-rock monarchs **Mogwai** are bringing their epic live show back to Australia for the first time in six years. Unleashing their colossal sound in all its beauty and fury, this Rechabite show will feature Mogwai's UK 2021 number one record *As The Love Continues*, as well as classic tracks from the innovative career of one of the best loved and most ground-breaking post-rock bands of the past three decades.

UK artist **Greentea Peng**'s musical inspirations are as encompassing as her unique ragamuffin style and shake up a psychedelic cocktail of R&B, while influences from the soul, dub and reggae she grew up with are laced in reverb-soaked electronics. Her intoxicating voice, warm and woozy, soulful and sultry, has been likened to Erykah Badu and Amy Winehouse, but if there's one thing to know about Peng, she runs things her own way.

Cult heroes **Calexico** have been mixing musical styles and cultural perspectives since the mid '90s, creating their very own brand of Tex-mex, Americana, indie rock with broad Latin influences. They celebrate 20 years of their much-loved release *Feast of Wire* with a live show featuring the album played in its entirety alongside a selection of fan faves.

Three of America's most visionary artists join forces for one incandescent collaboration on Thursday 22 February. Mystic performer and visual artist **Lonnie Holley**, prophetic jazz poet **Moor Mother** and revolutionary free-jazz ensemble **Irreversible Entanglements** come together to create a life-affirming brew of cosmic jazz, Afrofuturist poetry, folk, blues and uplifting anthems of resistance and triumph.

From his first musical genesis as a member of **Kraftwerk** and his work as Harmonia with **Hans-Joachim Roedelius** and **Dieter Moebius**, **Michael Rother** has etched out an entirely personal sound world. This innovative music pioneer is joined by some of his influential friends to revisit the legendary NEU! canon for a new audience (and old fans).

We are thrilled to welcome back local MC **Flewnt's Boorloo Block Party** featuring a deadly line up of First Nations hip hop stars from across the country in a New York block party style event. **Flewnt** will take to the mic alongside the star of last year's show, **INKABEE**, and a guest list of rap royalty. Do not miss jaw-dropping triple j Unearthed Artist of the Year **JK-47** and NT rapper **J-MILLA** who will amp the party and fill it with good times.

Wednesday are one of indie rock's hottest bands right now. They're bring their sense of humour, exhilarating sonics and candid, piercing storytelling to Australia for the first time in a double bill with alt-country act (and Wednesday guitarist) MJ Lenderman. This is music that will make you sit up and take notice.

Norwegian indie-folk duo **Kings of Convenience**'s gentle, harmony-rich songs recall the bittersweet comfort of forerunners like Simon & Garfunkel and Belle and Sebastian. Known for their delicate, sunny tunes, calming voices and intricately subtle guitar melodies infused with the elegance of bossa nova, these two old friends are like a soft breeze on a summer evening. They certainly know how to keep an audience silent and listening with great attention to their folk pop magic.

Cymande (pronounced sih-MAHN-day) were innovators of black-British music with their distinctive blend of funk, soul, jazz, rock, Caribbean calypso and African rhythms that doesn't sound quite like anything else. They may have broken up in 1975, but their breaks kept returning to the charts in hits by De La Soul, Wu Tang Clan, the Fugees and others. Now with a new documentary telling their

remarkable story, the band is back together and touring the world, their influential groove as danceable as ever.

The story of **WITCH** (We Intend To Cause Havoc) is a legend that was almost lost in time until only a few years ago. The biggest rock band in Zambia in the 1970s, they spearheaded a new genre dubbed Zamrock, fusing psych rock, blues and garage influences that ranged from the Rolling Stones to Black Sabbath and James Brown and mixing them with traditional African rhythms and bush village songs. After 40 years they're back with a new album and Zamrock lives again!

As the sun sets on Perth Festival 2024, we invite you to Supreme Court Gardens for ***Under the Same Sun***, a free **Lotterywest Closing Concert** featuring songs of nature and nurture, mothers and the sun. Some of the finest voices on the planet bring their artistry and creativity to this collaborative celebration, as a series of Aboriginal musicians share the stage with artists from around the country and the world. Angélique Kidjo, Flewnt, Maatakitj, Paul Kelly and Sampa The Great are amongst the league of collaborating artists. Backed by extraordinary musicians, including the West Australian Symphony Orchestra conducted by Festival Artistic Director Iain Grandage, this promises to be a joyous musical experience for all the family.

Contemporary Music Programmer Tom Supple said: 'Once again, we've got some of the world's leading talent coming to Perth to celebrate our annual festival. They'll feature alongside heroes of the local scene and some up and coming artists you'll be glad you were one of the first to discover.'

We're excited to return to The Rechabite in 2024 with a line-up that hits a range of styles and genres, featuring artists that will appeal to the breath of Perth's amazing music community.

Topped off by two of my personal favourites, Sampa The Great and Sampha headlining two huge outdoor shows at Supreme Court Gardens. I'd encourage audiences to come and see not only their favourite artists but take a chance on someone they've never heard of – we're super excited about every artist in this tightly curated line up and think there is some gold in there for local fans to discover.'

Perth Festival runs 9 February to 3 March 2024.

Festival Club members priority access booking period is open from 25 – 29 October 2023.

General Public ticket sales open at 12pm WST on 30 October.

Click [here](#) for media resources and images.

For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Perth Festival 2024 contemporary music program:

WHAT: Pookie, Vv Pete + JULAI

WHEN: Fri 9 Feb, Doors 8pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Courtney Barnett

WHEN: Sat 10 & Sun 11 Feb, Doors 8pm (Sat) and 6.30pm (Sun)

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: DOMi and JD Beck

WHEN: Mon 12 Feb, Doors 7pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Mogwai

WHEN: Thu 15 Feb, Doors 7pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Greentea Peng

WHEN: Sat 17 & Sun 18 Feb, Doors 8pm (Sat) and 7pm (Sun)

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Calexico

WHEN: Wed 21 Feb, Doors 7pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Lonnie Holley, Moor Mother, Irreversible Entanglements

WHEN: Thu 22 Feb, Doors 7pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Michael Rother & Friends Play the Music of NEU!

WHEN: Fri 23 Feb, Doors 8pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: *Flewnt's Boorloo Block Party*

WHEN: Sat 24 Feb, Doors 7pm

WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Paul Kelly

WHEN: Tue 27 Feb, Doors 7.30pm

WHERE: Perth Concert Hall / Dyeedyallalup / Perth CBD

WHAT: Wednesday & MJ Lenderman
WHEN: Tue 27 Feb, Doors 7pm
WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Kings of Convenience
WHEN: Wed 28 Feb, Doors 7pm
WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Cymande
WHEN: Thu 29 Feb, Doors 7pm
WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Angélique Kidjo
WHEN: Thu 29 Feb, Doors 7.30pm
WHERE: Perth Concert Hall / Dyeedyallalup / Perth CBD

WHAT: Sampa The Great (+ support by Kaiit)
WHEN: Fri 1 Mar, Gates 6pm
WHERE: Supreme Court Gardens / Gumap / Perth CBD

WHAT: Lotterywest Closing Concert - Under the Same Sun
WHEN: Sat 2 Mar, Gates 5pm
WHERE: Supreme Court Gardens / Gumap / Perth CBD

WHAT: WITCH
WHEN: Sat 2 Mar, Doors 7pm
WHERE: The Rechabite / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHAT: Sampha
WHEN: Sun 3 Mar, Gates 6pm
WHERE: Supreme Court Gardens / Gumap / Perth CBD

Lotterywest Closing Concert – Under the Same Sun supported by



Sampha The Great & Sampha supported by

**PERTH
FESTIVAL**
9 February – 3 March

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City of Light

The Rechabite program supported by



Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs, and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 70 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 24.