

## Darkness and Light

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Belgium/Australia

A new audio-visual work exploring the dichotomy of day and night, vitality and destruction, happiness and terror



Photo: Darkness and Light

In an Australian exclusive, leading Belgian organist **Bernard Foccroulle** and groundbreaking Australian video artist **Lynette Wallworth** have joined forces to create the remarkable new audio-visual work, *Darkness and Light*, performed by Foccroulle on Sydney Town Hall's stunning nineteenth century Grand Organ.

Capturing the roll of light and darkness in music and nature, the breathtaking collaboration sees Foccroulle present compositions that re-interpret 350 years of organ music on the Grand Organ, against the backdrop of Wallworth's mesmerising projections of Australian landscapes and astronomical footage supplied by NASA.

Wallworth's video works explore the influence that darkness and light have on the human experience. Her contemporary visions, inspired by Lewis-Williams theories of Entopic Imagery and the repetition of trance-like, geometric imagery represented in cave and rock art link to ideas of ceremony and states of trance.

*"This intensity of darkness and the effects it can induce in the resulting imagery, is what I will explore in Darkness and Light. This seems to blend beautifully with the program of pieces selected by Bernard to be presented in churches, cathedrals and concert halls, where the notion of transcendence was/is at the heart of the structure,"* comments Wallworth.

Wallworth's imagery blends beautifully with Foccroulle's robust soundscapes and the vast space of Sydney's Town Hall. All elements generate a sense of transcendence, leading the audience to depart from their everyday selves and to connect with universal themes that include and describe their own existence. The duo's collaboration strikes all senses and communicates messages that warn the audience against the destruction of nature, which determines the rhythm of every life.

*Darkness and Light* takes its title from pieces by leading Russian composer **Sofia Gubaidulina**, ranging across the baroque compositions of **Bach** and **Buxtehude**, and **Messiaen's** ecstatic celebration of God and nature, to the evocative sound pictures of Toshio Hosokawa. Through music and sound, Foccroulle intensely injects both a sense of hope and despair into the space, provoking the audience to contemplate and question the imagery being presented.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

Bernard Foccroulle, well-known around the world as a composer and director of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, works with artists from a wide range of different fields. His discography as soloist includes more than forty CDs. Between 1982 and 1997, he recorded the complete organ works by **Johann Sebastian Bach** for the Ricercar label. While continuing his career as organist, he became director of the Brussels opera *La Monnaie* in 1992, holding this position until 2007. Since 2010, Bernard Foccroulle has been professor of Organ at Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Brussels.

Lynette Wallworth is an Australian artist whose practice spans video installation, photography and film. Often working in series or meditations on one theme, her measured pace gently insists that patient observation might lead to layers of understanding between ourselves, others and the natural environment. Wallworth's work has been shown in leading festivals and museums around the world. She has been commissioned to create installation works for Vienna Festival and the British Film Institute; BigPond Adelaide Film Festival; Experimenta, Melbourne; and Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne.

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| Where    | Sydney Town Hall   |
| When     | 9 & 10 January at 8pm  |
| Duration | 70minutes no interval  |
| Price    | Premium \$65<br>A Reserve \$55 /\$50                           |
| Bookings | Sydney Festival 1300 856 876<br>sydneyfestival.org.au/darkness |

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A co-production: KlaraFestival, BOZAR Brussels, Festival de Pâques d'Aix-en-Provence, Southbank Centre, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Laeiszhalle Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Sydney Festival, Concert- en congresgebouw de Doelen, and Karsten Witt Musik Management in association with Forma Arts