

## Festival Village Music

Early Evening at The Aurora Spiegeltent

**Christine Salem / Wye Oak / Ross McHenry Future Ensemble / Archie Roach / Zammuto / Xylouris White / Tiny Ruins / Perry Keyes / The Clean / Firekites / Body/Head / Cornelius presents salyu x salyu / Roger Knox**



Photo: Wye Oak © Shervin Lainez

Two Spiegeltents - The Famous Spiegeltent and the Aurora Spiegeltent - will turn up the volume in Hyde Park this summer, showcasing the biggest line up of musical talent Sydney Festival has ever seen. For three weeks, the Festival Village will play host to back-to-back nights of exclusive and unique one-night-only international and Australian performances, spanning diverse cultures and genres.

Doubling in diversity this year, the contemporary music program invites the audience to experience exciting new and established talent bringing world-class performances to this uniquely intimate setting. Experience everything from South American hip hop and cumbia to some of the most hypnotic female voices in the music scene.

Early evenings to late balmy nights, the Festival Village opens its doors to bathe you in the rhythms of summer. An irresistible opportunity to create your own musical experience.

Ease into your evenings and chill out after work, listening to the early-evening Festival sounds in The Aurora Spiegeltent, including:

### **Christine Salem (Reunion)**

**The Aurora, 8 Jan – 7.30pm, \$39 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*“Exceptionally rich voice and fiery stage presence easily transcends any and all cultural barriers.” NPR*

Kicking off Sydney Festival 2015, Christine Salem is considered one of the greatest living practitioners of maloya, a musical tradition that rouses the spirits and induces trance. Her powerful, percussion-driven music is grounded in the work songs and chants of slavery, and is now a vehicle for the delivery of politically aware lyrics in Creole, Malagasy, Comorian and Swahili. Flanked by two percussionists and playing her signature kayamb, Salem is hypnotic on stage as call-and-response vocals and ceremonial rhythms dare you to follow her to another time and place.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/salem](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/salem)

**Wye Oak (USA) – Australian premiere**

**FBI Radio Night**

**The Aurora, 9 Jan – 5.15pm, \$39 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*“This is nervy, charged music, buzzing like a brain on heat.” **Pitchfork***

Baltimore-based duo Wye Oak’s newest work sees a departure from their distorted, guitar-based brand of modern folk, towards a stunning synthdrenched sound full of intricate melodies and soaring vocals. Live, the band takes its fervent following on a rollercoaster of all-encompassing sound and emotion. Jenn Wasner – who SPIN calls “one of the premier voices in indie rock” – fronts on vocals and bass with Andy Stack playing drums and keyboards simultaneously, creating a sound much greater than the sum of its parts.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/wyeoak](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/wyeoak)

**Ross McHenry Future Ensemble (AUS/NZ) – Australian exclusive**

**The Aurora, 9 Jan – 7.30pm, \$39 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*“What happens when Afro-Jazz meets LA beats and NZ Soul and hip-hop.” **Radio National***

Taking cues from future jazz and LA beat, composer, bass player and producer Ross McHenry teams up with six of the world’s foremost musical innovators to push jazz in new directions. Known for his work as the leader of Afro-jazz ensemble Shaolin Afronauts, McHenry’s Future Ensemble collaborators include producer and keyboardist Mark de Clive-Lowe and virtuoso drummer Myele Manzanza. Influenced by hip-hop and electronic music, the Ensemble builds on the organic jazz band set-up by adding live samples, loops and beats to a largely improvised performance.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/mchenry](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/mchenry)

**Archie Roach (AUS)**

**The Aurora, 10 & 11 Jan – 7.30pm, \$49 General Admission.**

*“His quiet humour, well-travelled soul and musical honesty have carved a special place in our collective conscience.” **The Advertiser***

Revered singer, songwriter and storyteller, Archie Roach breathes new life into the songs that established him as one of Australia’s most important artists. Accompanied by Craig Pilkington, Steve Hadley, Jen Anderson, and vocalists Nancy Bates and Mindy Kwanten, Roach revisits his first four albums, *Charcoal Lane*, *Jamu Dreaming*, *Looking for Butter Boy* and *Sensual Being*. Last at Sydney Festival with the incredibly powerful *Into the Bloodstream*, Roach returns to perform two intimate shows in The Aurora.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/archie](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/archie)

**Zammuto (USA) - Australian premiere**

**The Aurora, 14 Jan – 5.15pm, \$39 General Admission.**

*“Joyous and entertaining.” **NPR***

Nick Zammuto, formerly of the collage pop duo The Books, embraces the DIY ethic and creates rarefied art with his eponymous band. Zammuto’s progressive approach to both life and music is centred around self-sufficiency. Deep in the mountains of Vermont, he writes, records and mixes records in a converted woodshed studio he designed and built himself. Breaking from the conceptual, sample-based work of The Books, Zammuto’s output is a more human collection of catchy, energetic songs driven by dexterous musicianship and time-shifting electronic rhythms. Fanboy Gotye released the band’s album locally on his Spirit Level label.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/zammuto](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/zammuto)

**Xylouris White (AUS/Greece)**

**The Aurora, 15 Jan – 5.15pm, \$39 General Admission.**

*"A new kind of Byzantine folk music combining all the ancient elements – Fire, storms, air and earthiness."*  
**MOJO**

Through the unlikely marriage of post-punk drumming and traditional Greek lute, Xylouris White have created a revelatory new sound built on old world craft. Lutenist George Xylouris is a member of a legendary musical family in his native Crete, while Jim White, also a member of the Dirty Three, is an internationally renowned rock drummer known for his virtuosic playing style. The interplay between these two unparalleled musicians makes for an exhilarating, barrier-smashing live show unlike anything you've ever seen.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/xylouriswhite](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/xylouriswhite)

**Tiny Ruins (NZ) - Australian exclusive**

**The Aurora, 16 Jan – 5.15pm, \$29 General Admission.**

*"Impressive, beautifully poised stuff."* **MOJO**

The haunting country soul of New Zealand's Tiny Ruins fills The Aurora with the airy, affecting vocals of songwriter Hollie Fullbrook. The trio employs deftly picked guitar melodies, surges of bright brass and in-the-pocket percussion to tell hyper literate tales shot through with understated emotion. Their sublime live performances have earned them international acclaim, as well as high-profile champions like Neil Finn, who made a video for the band, while PopMatters dubbed their recent release, *Brightly Painted One*, "an album of quiet, devastating beauty".

[sydneyfestival.org.au/ruins](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/ruins)

**Perry Keyes (AUS) – World Premiere**

**The Aurora, 18 Jan – 5.15pm, \$29 General Admission.**

*"Perry Keyes is a Sydney romantic who can see the battered beauty beneath the gloss."* **The Sydney Morning Herald**

Perry Keyes crafts portraits of city life. Capturing the essence of Sydney's once working-class suburbs – through the experiences of family and neighbours – the acclaimed musician presents the premiere of his *Sunnyholt* project. Sharing tales of Sydney's western suburbs from the late 60s to the present day – from the perspective of his extended family, who were moved there by the Housing Commission – Keyes utilises a full band, visuals and personal stories to trace the journey of generations disintegrating under the social and economic pressures of life on the city's fringe.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/keyes](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/keyes)

**The Clean (NZ)**

**The Aurora, 20 Jan – 5.15pm, \$49 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*"The Halley's comet of indie-rock."* **Pitchfork**

Widely considered one of New Zealand's all-time greatest musical exports, indie-rock godfathers The Clean bring their hooky brand of jangle punk to The Aurora for one night only. Formed in 1978 and an early addition to the legendary Flying Nun Records roster, the trio's influence extended to the likes of Pavement, Cat Power and MGMT. This rare appearance finds the group on one of their sporadic reunions, giving Sydney Festival audiences the chance to experience the shimmering guitars, ramshackle rhythms and gentle psych drone that continues to inspire bands around the world.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/clean](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/clean)

**Firekites (AUS) – Australian Premiere and Exclusive**  
**The Aurora, 21 Jan – 5.15pm, \$29 General Admission.**

*"Firekites play something that you need to hear."* **Sydney Morning Herald**

Lose yourself in the dreamy soundscapes of Newcastle collective Firekites. With a six-year gap between their debut album and latest release *Closing Forever Sky*, the four-piece's unhurried approach manifests in atmospheric songs that build and surge. Layering guitars, synths and strings over assured drum beats, Firekites create beautiful, textured music awash with both melancholy and warmth. This captivating band has drawn five star reviews for its new album, and now brings these songs to life with a rare performance in The Aurora.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/firekites](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/firekites)

**Body/Head (USA) - Australian premiere**  
**The Aurora, 22 Jan – 5.15pm, \$49 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*"There are no wrong notes."* **The New York Times**

Sonic Youth co-founder Kim Gordon and experimental guitarist Bill Nace come together as the blistering Body/Head. The avant-noise duo have forsaken a percussion section, delivering squalling, mostly improvised guitar pieces that crackle with layered feedback as they are guided by Gordon's signature primal vocals. Live, the band is backed with projections that lend a mesmerising visual component to the band's dark, almost ritualistic performance.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/bodyhead](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/bodyhead)

**Cornelius presents salyu x salyu (Japan)**  
**The Aurora, 23 Jan – 5.15pm, \$49 General Admission. Standing tickets only.**

*"A subliminal musical odyssey."* **Clash Magazine**

Known as the Koori King of Country, honey-voiced Roger Knox revisits songs from his career along with rare gems written by Aboriginal artists. After connecting with the stories of Slim Dusty and Aboriginal country singers Col Hardy, Jimmy Little and Harry Williams in his teens, Knox established himself in the 80s with the Euraba Band, singing uplifting songs of struggle, heartbreak and hope. On his glowingly reviewed 2013 album, *Stranger in My Land*, Knox gives new life to a collection of largely overlooked songs written by his peers and predecessors that trace the history of Aboriginal country music. Guest contributors include the likes of Bonnie "Prince" Billy and the late Charlie Louvin. For his Sydney Festival debut, Knox is accompanied by his family of musicians and Jon Langford (mekons and Waco Brothers) who produced *Stranger in My Land* for Bloodshot Records.

[sydneyfestival.org.au/salyu](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/salyu)

**Roger Knox (AUS)**  
**The Aurora, 25 Jan - 5.15pm, \$39 General Admission.**

*"The Johnny Cash of Australian country would have to be Roger Knox."* **AllMusic**

Known as Koori King of Country, Australian music legend Roger Knox established himself as a key musician in the 80s with the Aboriginal band Euraba. Knox shares rare country gems written by Aboriginal singer-songwriters highlighting the struggles and political emergence of his era. His new 2013 album *Stranger in My*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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[sydneyfestival.org.au/knox](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/knox)

Where                    The Aurora Spiegeltent, Festival Village in Hyde Park  
Hyde Park North, Entry near Archibald Fountain

**Multipacks** are available for all Sydney Festival events except *Disco Dome*. Book 3 or more events and save. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.

### For interviews and further information contact:

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