

## **Maria Schneider, Jef Neve and the Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Australia/USA/Belgium



Photo: The Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra © Natasha Blankfield

*"...A set that was as exhilarating as it was uplifting."* **Sydney Morning Herald (on Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra)**

*"Any opportunity to hear Sydney's Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra is to be valued... JMO is a sensitive, expressive beast."* **AusJazz**

*"From the lustrous opening chords of a Maria Schneider concert, you can feel you are swept off your feet and falling through space - but with the certainty that someone with a lot of emotional intelligence is there to catch you."* **The Guardian**

In a monumental musical event for Sydney Festival, the **Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra** joins forces with Grammy Award-winning American arranger and bandleader **Maria Schneider**, and Belgian jazz prodigy **Jef Neve** in a sensational double header. Together, these exceptional artists bust out the fiercest and freshest in new ensemble music.

Gathering at the City Recital Hall, the 17 member big band will merge the majestic compositions of Grammy Award-winning Schneider, with Neve's adventurous and experimental musical spirit, to create an explosive sound storm, merging jazz with rock and classical.

The **Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra** is Australia's leading contemporary jazz orchestra and has gained a reputation as one of the world's most respected independent jazz orchestras since its inception in 2003. The ensemble presents many of the finest young musicians Australia has to offer, all focussed on fostering, re-defining and re-inventing the original flavour of jazz. Nominated as Australian Jazz Ensemble of the Year in 2006, 2007 and 2009, the orchestra has recorded and premiered works by a number of Australian musicians such as vocalist-songwriter **Kristin Berardi** and composers **Steve Newcomb**, **Sean Wayland**, **David Panichi** and **Mace Francis**.

**Maria Schneider** and her orchestra were recognised in 1994 when they released their first recording, *Evanescence*. As a result of that recording, Schneider developed a personal and genre-blurring composition formula for her 17-member collective. Schneider's inventive ability received numerous commissions and invitations to conduct with over 85 groups from over 30 countries spanning Europe, South America, Australia, Asia and North America. Schneider's latest fan-funded recording with **Dawn Upshaw** (*Winter Morning Walks*) earned three 2014 GRAMMY Awards: Best Contemporary Classical Composition (*Winter Morning Walks*), Best Classical Vocal Performance (Dawn Upshaw), and Best Engineered Recording/Classical (**David Frost**, **Brian Losch**, **Tim Martyn**).

Schneider's long list of commissions include the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra, Peter Sellars' New Crowned Hope Festival (Vienna's Mozart Festival), Jazz at Lincoln Center, Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, The American Dance Festival, Kronos Quartet, The Metropole Orchestra, The Danish Radio Orchestra, The Saint

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

Paul Chamber Orchestra and most recently, The Ojai Festival, Australian Chamber Orchestra and Cal Performances.

**Jef Neve** is widely regarded as one of Europe's most talented young jazz composers and pianists. Classically trained at Leuven's Lemmensinstituut, the Belgian pianist has showcased his skills in everything from orchestras to funk-pop bands, but achieved his breakthrough when he teamed up with bassist **Piet Verbist** and drummer **Teun Verbruggen** to form the **Jef Neve Trio**. After releasing four critically acclaimed albums and a soundtrack for **Felix Van Groeningen's** *Dagen Zonder Lief*, he recorded 2010's *For All We Know* with U.S. jazz/hip-hop vocalist **José James**. Neve has recently recorded a new solo album at Abbey Road Studios in London.

Where            City Recital Hall, Angel Place

When            22 January at 8pm

Price            Premium \$75  
                  A Reserve \$65 /\$59  
                  B Reserve \$55/\$50

Duration        2hrs 10mins including interval

Bookings       Sydney Festival 1300 856 876  
                  City Recital Hall 02 8256 2222  
                  sydneyfestival.org.au/jazzgroove

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