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Dear AMPAG,

High summer sees the performing arts explode with life around the country. We have traditional favourites as well as premieres and Australian debuts, and of course, being February, we herald the Chinese New Year.

There is a mind-blowing selection of free music on offer. West Australian Opera will broadcast Puccini's *La Boheme* live from the City of Perth's Opera in the Park to 11 regional communities across the state. Melbournians are spoilt for choice with a sparkling program to choose from in the Sidney Myer Free Concerts season, while if you happen to be in Hobart, plan your picnic for RACT *Symphony under the Stars*.

Milky Way: Ballet at the Quarry, another popular summer tradition in Perth, combines dining and contemporary dance under the stars. Tickets will sell out fast for this one.

Bangarra's *OUR Land People Stories* returns with a mammoth regional tour, visiting Newcastle, Dubbo, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay and Alice Springs.

As we enter the Year of the Dog, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras celebrate Chinese New Year with a feast of textured sounds, world-class musicians and spectacular music.

More excitement as Shostakovich's outrageous masterpiece, *The Nose*, debuts in Australia, performed by Opera Australia in Sydney, while Queensland Symphony Orchestra's fascinating *Piano Power* includes a concerto written for a pianist with one hand, and a piece that was not to be played in the composer's lifetime.

For popular appeal, look no further than the world premiere performance of WA's iconic indie rock band Eskimo Joe with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. If 80s and 90s pop is your thing, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra will perform George Michael's greatest works in full symphonic sound, in *George Michael: Listen to Your Heart*.

For nostalgia of a different kind, let the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra immerse you in *Thomas Tallis' England* with a program of English masterworks by Tallis and his contemporaries.

Theatre crackles with tension, violence, hilarity and heartbreak this month. Patricia Cornelius uses fact and fiction with searing effect to highlight sexual violence in the AFL in *In the Club*, presented by South Australia's State Theatre Company. Playwright Anna Barnes bases her tale of domestic violence, society and a woman's fight to survive, on real events and her own experiences. *Lethal Indifference* is presented by the Sydney Theatre Company. *Good Muslim Boy*, from Malthouse Theatre draws on Osamah Sami's award-winning novel and smash hit film, *Ali's Wedding*, to reveal his own hilarious and heartbreaking history. Malthouse Theatre's / Black Swan State Theatre Company's hugely successful *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, described by the *Scotsman* as 'So original that no-one who sees it is likely to forget it', opens at The Barbican in the UK this month.

Here's to the Year of the Dog.

Kind regards,

Bethwyn Serow

Executive Director

Australian Major Performing Arts Group

Image Credits: West Australian Ballet / *Milky Way - Ballet at the Quarry*

Chinese New Year 2018

Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Symphonies celebrate 2018 Chinese New Year with vivid works old and new.

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Summer, starlight and FREE music!

What better way to savour summer than with spine-tingling music under the stars? And what's more, it's free!

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Upcoming Performances

Bangarra Dance Theatre Newcastle

OUR land people stories - regional tour

2018-02-09

When OUR land people stories premiered in 2016, it was acclaimed as “imaginative and evocative” (The Age), “visually spectacular” (Dance Australia) and “strong, resonant and resilient” (ArtsHub). We're thrilled to be bringing it back in 2018 on a mammoth regional tour, visiting Newcastle, Dubbo, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay and Alice Springs.

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West Australian Ballet Perth

Milky Way: Ballet at the Quarry

2018-02-09

One of Perth's favourite summer traditions, enjoy the unique combination of contemporary dance and dining under a canopy of stars, surrounded by the magnificence of the City Beach Quarry Amphitheatre. Part of the Perth International Arts Festival, Ballet at the Quarry is the hottest ticket in town.

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Malthouse Theatre **Melbourne**

Good Muslim Boy

2018-02-09

Osamah Sami's father inspired him to believe that anything was possible, and he's been testing the limits his entire life.

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Adelaide Symphony Orchestra **Adelaide**

George Michael: Listen to your Heart

2018-02-15

Insanely catchy songs, tailored black leather, glittering gold earrings, immaculately groomed stubble, and those sunglasses...

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Queensland Symphony Orchestra **Brisbane**

Piano Power - Maestro series

2018-02-17

From a concerto written for a pianist with only one hand, to a piece that the composer refused to allow played in his lifetime, this performance is full of music that defies the norm.

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Opera Australia **Sydney**

The Nose

2018-02-21

Barrie Kosky directs Shostakovich's zany musical masterpiece in its Australian debut.

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Sydney Theatre Company **Sydney**

Lethal Indifference

2018-02-22

A young writer in Melbourne's inner suburbs quits her day job in a clothing store to find something new, something with a stronger sense of purpose. She lands a role in public relations for a family violence legal service. It's the kind of job that can completely change the way you see the world – and it will.

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West Australian Symphony Orchestra **Perth**

Eskimo Joe with WASO

2018-02-23



WA's iconic indie rock band in a world premiere performance with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

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State Theatre Company South Australia **Norwood**

In The Club

2018-02-23

Commissioned by the State Theatre Company South Australia especially for our Ensemble, Patricia's Cornelius' *In The Club* brings rough poetry, fury and heartbreak to the stage in a dangerous and hyper physical production.

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Australian Brandenburg Orchestra **Melbourne**

Thomas Tallis' England

2018-02-24

Fly with the Brandenburg and soar gently above the rolling, patchwork fields of England with Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. The monumental legacy of Tallis weaves a common thread through this program of English masterworks by his contemporaries Purcell, Byrd and Gibbons.

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Current Members



