

MEDIA KIT

THIRTEEN WAYS TO LOOK AT BIRDS

PAUL KELLY, JAMES LEDGER, ALICE KEATH, SERAPHIM TRIO
PERTH FESTIVAL COMMISSION
PERTH CONCERT HALL, SAT 15 FEB
TICKETS: \$39 - \$79

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THIRTEEN WAYS TO LOOK AT BIRDS

A tribute to our feathered friends in words and music. Australian music legend Paul Kelly and leading Australian composer James Ledger bring together a host of collaborators for an evocative song cycle inspired by birds. Birds have fascinated poets for centuries, not just for their song and flight but as symbols of hope, freedom, love, communication, peace, luck and migration. Using the words of John Keats, Thomas Hardy, Emily Dickinson, Judith Wright, Gerard Manley Hopkins and others, each of these 13 new songs and soundscapes are their own masterpieces.

Birds have fascinated poets for centuries, not just for their song and flight but as symbols: of hope, freedom, love, communication, peace, luck good and bad, and migration.

Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds brings six musicians from broad-ranging backgrounds together to interpret bird inspired poems, written by John Keats, Thomas Hardy, Emily Dickinson, Judith Wright, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Gwen Harwood, A.D. Hope and others. It features the Paul Kelly and Alice Keath with composer James Ledger, with composer James Ledger along with the Seraphim Trio featuring Anna Goldsworthy on piano, Helen Ayres on violin and Tim Nankervis on cello.

Paul says "This is the second time I've worked with James setting a group of poems to music. Writing with him, I've learned to expect the unexpected. He surprises and challenges me in the best possible way. And it's been an honour working with such a talented gang on stage and in the studio. I'm excited to be sending our fledglings out into the air!"

Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds is a unique marriage of electronics, acoustic instruments and the human voice, celebrating winged creatures from the barn owl to the nightingale, from the thornbill to the falcon, from the magpie to the swan.

Composer James Ledger says "Working with Paul always seems to uncover fascinating new musical worlds that neither of us would have found on our own. Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds lies somewhere in between our own usual languages. Alice, Tim, Helen, Anna and producer Bob have brought so much to this. I'm thrilled to be a part of something so unique."

Composed by James Ledger & Paul Kelly
Piano Anna Goldsworthy
Violin Helen Ayres
Cello Tim Nankervis



Vocals & acoustic guitar Paul Kelly
Electric guitar, synthesizer & percussion James Ledger
Vocals, banjo, autoharp, glockenspiel, percussion & synthesizer Alice Keath
Lighting Designer & Operator Christopher Petridis
Sound Design & Operator Bob Scott

GWB Entertainment

Associate Producer Zac Tyler
Production Manager Paige Goodwin
Assistant Producer Paul Harvey
Directors Torben Brookman, Richelle Brookman, Paul Warwick Griffin, Gareth Hewitt William

Originally commissioned by Adelaide Festival and Perth Festival

PAUL KELLY | COMPOSER & MUSICIAN

Paul Kelly has recorded over 25 albums, several film soundtracks and published a self-described 'mongrel memoir', *How To Make Gravy*, in an influential career spanning four decades. He was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 1997 and in 2017 was appointed as an officer of the Order of Australia. In 2019 he released the albums *Thirteen Ways To Look At Birds* and *Paul Kelly's Greatest Hits - Songs From The South 1985-2019*. He also released *Love is Strong as Death*, a book of poems that he curated.

JAMES LEDGER | COMPOSER & MUSICIAN

James Ledger is a composer with a body of work that spans from solo to orchestral music. He has been composer-in-residence and commissioned by many ensembles, arts organisations and festivals. His orchestral music has been performed internationally and his music has won APRA and ARIA awards. Ledger conducts and lectures in composition at the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Western Australia.

ALICE KEATH | MUSICIAN

Alice Keath is a songwriter, composer, performer and broadcaster. As one half of duo Sweet Jean, she has released two albums and toured throughout Australia and internationally. She has worked as a composer and sound designer for theatre and dance, and received several scholarships relating to music and broadcasting. She currently presents Afternoons on ABC Classic FM.

SERAPHIM TRIO

Over the last two decades Helen Ayres, Anna Goldsworthy and Tim Nankervis have remained steadfastly committed to chamber music – from building the contemporary repertoire, to developing new audiences and teaching the next generation of performers. Alongside *Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds*, other highlights for 2019 included the release of a CD set celebrating the history of the piano trio for ABC Classics *The Trio Through Time* and a tour for the Australian National Academy of Music with violist Martin Alexander. In January 2020 Seraphim take up their fifth residency at Epsom House, Tasmania, for a weekend feast of chamber music with Sydney Symphony Concertmaster Andrew Haveron. In Perth Seraphim are also delighted to be performing a new piano trio by Australia's own Richard Mills, alongside Beethoven's beloved Archduke Trio.

JAMES LEDGER

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