Emily Tulloch, Artistic Director, Nexus Live.

Contemporary Australia is a richly diverse nation of cultures, backgrounds and experiences. Contemporary Australian music is just as diverse, and our 2019 Nexus Live series reflects this breadth and depth with a truly wide-ranging program.

From Japanese gagaku to West Papuan songs of freedom, Tatar fairytales to Persian kamancheh, join us in celebrating this country’s leading musicians through their unique and important stories. I look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Louise Dunn, Executive Director, Nexus Arts.

Nexus Arts is proud to present our flagship music program Nexus Live once again in 2019, thanks to the support of the Australia Council for the Arts and the Government of South Australia through Arts SA. In a country where 1 in 4 Australians were born overseas, and nearly 1 in 2 have a parent who was, a program focused on contemporary music by artists of culturally diverse backgrounds is not only relevant, it is truly representative.

Nexus strives to be a national leader in culturally diverse arts presentation, and Nexus Live 2019 furthers our commitment to fostering contemporary culturally diverse artistic excellence and innovation. I hope you will join us next year.

His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia, Nexus Arts Patron.

The Nexus Live series has been the cornerstone in presenting culturally and linguistically diverse music in South Australia for many years. The 2019 program is an outstanding representation of diverse music in Australia today. A program bursting with storytelling and collaboration promises to entertain, provoke and delight audiences throughout the year.

I was proud to become a patron of Nexus Arts in 2018, having long been a supporter of the fantastic work they produce. I encourage all South Australians to make Nexus their home for discovering new music in 2019. I hope to see you there!
1. ___UMI NO UZU
   AARON CHOULAI +
   THE AUSTRALIAN
   ART ORCHESTRA

2. ___BOOK OF SONGS
   SOPHIE KOH +
   TRACY CHEN

3. ___QUIET SONGS
   OF FREEDOM
   THE BLACK ORCHID
   STRINGBAND +
   DHUNGALA BAARKA

4. ___FOLK & FIRE
   STAV +
   COREY THEATRE

5. ___HARVEST
   GARDEN QUARTET +
   ZHAO LIANG, JARRAD
   PAYNE, BELINDA
   GEHLERT &
   DYLAN MARSHALL

6. ___FAIRYTALE NOIR
   ZULYA AND THE
   CHILDREN OF THE
   UNDERGROUND’S
   FAIRYTALE NOIR +
   GOLONKA

7. ___FUTURE/ANCIENT
   THE YELLOW PERIL
   SYMPHONY +
   CREATIVE COHESION
   ENSEMBLE

8. ___ALL THE STORIES
   THE LETTER STRING
   QUARTET’S
   ALL THE STORIES +
   FLEUR GREEN’S
   THE DESERT PLEA

9. ___SYMBIOSIS
   DOBBY &
   NAOMI KEYTE +
   DIDIER KUMALO
UMI NO UZU

AARON CHOULAI AND THE AUSTRALIAN ART ORCHESTRA

Mythical, innovative and deeply groovy, Umi no uzu (meaning 'stirring the oceans') is the latest work by Tokyo-based composer/pianist/beatmaker Aaron Choulai.

In this daring new work, Choulai brings together traditional Japanese court music known as Gagaku, with anime, jazz and hip hop. These diverse influences come together to tell the story of the Japanese creation myth.

Along with an outstanding line-up of musicians, Choulai will be joined by hip-hop icon Kojoe - famous for his work in both the Japan and New York hip-hop scenes. Their music will be set against a backdrop of Japanese anime projections by renowned artist / filmmaker Popy Oil.

With an emphasis on improvisation, The Australian Art Orchestra (AAO) explores the meeting points between disciplines and cultures, and imagines new musical forms to reflect the energy and diversity of 21st century Australia. Led by daring composer /trumpeter/sound artist Peter Knight, the AAO constantly seeks to stretch genres and break down the barriers separating disciplines, forms and cultures.
Sophie Koh’s Book of Songs is a splendour of pop songs where East meets West, influenced by Chinese poetry and Western classical music. An exploration of her Chinese heritage, her upbringing in New Zealand and Australia, identity and womanhood, Sophie describes it as “the album I always wanted to make”.

“It’s a bit of a homecoming for me, I’m going back to my classical piano training, marrying it with my love of pop, with a sprinkling of my ethnicity for the first time.”

A work of delicate beauty, with hypnotic and haunting melodies and words that are playful and poignant, Sophie will perform Book of Songs live for Nexus audiences with her collaborators Caerwen Martin (cello) and Biddy Connor (viola).

Tracy Chen is a solo artist from Melbourne via Adelaide. Combining simple pop-influenced progressions, soft vocals, and found sounds at her desk, Tracy’s focus is on emotion, making space, and the warmth of low-quality recording.

With only a few tracks released online, she has already composed for a dance piece featured in the Adelaide Fringe Festival, worked with Imogen Heap on a Brighter Sound residency, performed at OzAsia Festival 2017, and received attention from a range of local and online music communities.
THE BLACK ORCHID STRINGBAND

The Black Orchid Stringband brings together Melbourne-based Free West Papua advocates, who use music as a cultural and political expression. Featuring traditional bass, ukulele, tifa and beautiful three part vocal harmonies and with songs performed in West Papuan dialects as well as Tok Pisin (a PNG language), they sing of the struggle for freedom alongside traditional folklore and creation myths.

Band member Amos Wainggai, along with 42 other Papuans, crossed the sea on a Melanesian outrigger canoe in 2006 to seek asylum in Australia. He says, “our songs have deep meaning and conjure imagery of our precious West Papua, the morning star flag, our Melanesian culture, family, community, the rolling green mountains and rich soils of our homeland and the courage of our freedom fighters.”

DHUNGALA

Nancy Bates and Allara Briggs Pattison are the collaborative duo ‘Dhungala Baarka – Two Rivers, One Song’. Having met in 2016 while performing as band members for Archie Roach, they have fostered a unique musical relationship. Dhungala Baarka presents some of the most exquisite and emotionally charged original songs in Australia today. Guitar, double bass, soulful vocals and gifted story-telling personifies this unique new duo. Through the development of contemporary music by Australia’s ‘First Women’, Bates and Briggs Pattison are the continuation of ancient Songlines, connecting Yorta Yorta and Barkindji.

Dhungala Baarka will present their "Quiet Songs of Freedom", honouring the contemporary voices of Australia’s First Peoples. Celebrating milestones of freedom, whilst acknowledging the struggles of today, is part of a journey towards truth, and unity.
FOLK AND FIRE

STAV

Soulful and honest, STAV (Stav Shaul) writes thoughtful, uplifting songs in English, French and Hebrew with bursts of rhythmic fire. Contemporary folk and a hint of something else, she has a compelling ability to tell a story in song. Tears and laughter are the main ingredients in her songwriting process. An expressive voice and a natural affinity for guitar, live performance brings this songwriter’s introspection, playfulness and raw passion to life.

Corey Theatre is an Indigenous singer-songwriter who calls Adelaide home. Hailing from Western Victoria, the Gunditjmara-Belgian artist’s music conveys a sense of country and place. Drawing on community knowledge and historical documents, Corey is using his music as medium to revive the Gunditjmara language, a tongue that has not been spoken fluently for close to a hundred years. His music is timely and profound, curious and playful: it keeps love at the core of its message and always advocates the merits of taking a laidback approach to life.

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STAV and Corey will perform individually and then join each other on stage for a shared song or two exploring their cultural and artistic experiences in contemporary Australia.
HARVEST

SATURDAY 06 JULY 2019
DOORS @7:30PM
$30 (W) / $20 (U)

GARDEN

Garden Quartet blends contemporary Persian and Western motifs, creating Iranian-Australian world music in a way not heard before. Emotive and delicate pieces, entwined with subtle pop sensibilities, lift into vibrant and triumphant movements, guaranteed to sway the heart and persuade the feet to tap.

Led by the Iranian born Persian Kamancheh and Qeychak Alto player, singer and song writer Gelareh Pour, Garden Quartet will lift your spirits with innovative melodic experimentation and, above all else, beauty.

ZHARO LIANG, JARRAD PAYNE, BELINDA GEHLERT AND DYLAN MARSHALL

In a Nexus Live commission, guzheng player Zhao Liang and drummer/composer Jarrad Payne will work together to compose new work exploring the original sonic possibilities reached by exploring and blending their contrasting musical backgrounds. Zhao’s skilful mastery of the idiosyncrasies of the guzheng will be framed by diverse percussive and electronic sounds, using automated looping and live treatment to enhance the acoustic properties of this compelling instrument. Joined by Belinda Gehlert on violin and Dylan Marshall on guitar, this world premiere new work will be intriguing, exploratory, and a true expression of intercultural artistic experimentation.
FAIRYTALE NOIR

◊ ZULYA AND THE CHILDREN OF THE UNDERGROUND’S FAIRYTALE NOIR ◊

In Fairytale Noir, internationally acclaimed, ARIA award-winners Zulya & The Children of the Underground perform exquisitely arranged original music inspired by Zulya’s unique Tatar, Russian and Australian identity. Drawn from lead singer Zulya’s heritage and her interest in the fairy-tale world of storytelling and riddles, this is intriguing contemporary music with a twist. This unique selection of fairy tales and stories set to music ranges from the poignant and beautiful to the mysterious and macabre.

Zulya’s smoldering vocals are superbly supported by accordion, clarinet/bass clarinet, guitar, double bass, percussion and visual projections in a transformative performance that is nuanced and haunting.

◊ GOLONKA ◊

Making beautiful music with a wild gypsy heart, Golonka breathes fresh life into the folk music of Eastern Europe. Their songs speak of the stars and the moon, of pussycats and preachers, of love and death - and their live shows are sweet, menacing and danceable in equal doses!

Their instrumentals include gorgeous melodies on bowed double bass, feisty and fiery fiddle, pumping accordion and quirky clarinet. Golonka features Belinda Gehlert (violin), Dylan Woolcock (vocals, guitar and mandolin), Quincy Grant (clarinet and guitar), Gareth Chin (accordion), and Harley Gray (double bass).

Saturday 03 August 2019
Doors @7:30pm
$30 (W) / $20 (U)
FUTURE / ANCIENT

◊ THE YELLOW PERIL SYMPHONY ◊

The Yellow Peril Symphony is a collaborative project between Francesca Mountfort (cello), Mindy Wang (guzheng – Chinese harp) and Joel Ma (synthesizers, samplers and drum machines). TYPS paint a slow-moving, hypnotic audio portrait of stillness and chaos. Described by critics as a ‘future/ancient soundtrack of multicultural Australia’, TYPS incorporates ambient textures, hiphop beats, music concrète, experimental improvisation and traditional Chinese music.

TYPS bridge the worlds of contemporary electronic musical styles, traditional acoustic instrumentation, carefully composed melodies, freeform improvisation and textural impressionistic narrative elements.

◊ CREATIVE COHESION ENSEMBLE ◊

A supergroup of international artists from Nexus Arts’ Creative Cohesion development program, this performance is sure to stir, delight, energise and inspire. Now all based in Adelaide, the ensemble features Pakistani singer Farhan Shah, Cuban trumpet player Lazaro Numa, Indian vocalist Sabika Jasmine, Singaporean guzheng player Zhao Liang, Ghanaian molo player and vocalist Manadi Lopa, Syrian violinist Abdul Nanou, flamenco guitarist Alain Vălodze and members of the Persian ensemble Kashkul. Expect truly worldly sounds from this remarkable group of artists representing a culturally diverse Australia.
All The Stories is a song cycle by The Letter String Quartet’s artistic director, Biddy Connor, for solo voice, strings and voices. Featuring the poetry of Maria Zajkowski, the work is inspired by stories of the history of Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne, and those who have spent time on the site - from a meeting point for the Wurundjeri and Kulin Nation peoples, to the establishment of the Convent Of The Good Shepherd, which at its peak in 1900 was the largest charitable institution operating in the southern hemisphere, with over 1,000 women and children living behind its enclosed walls. The work is performed by singer Marita Dyson (The Orbweavers) and The Letter String Quartet, whose members all play and sing.

"In these songs, you will find the themes of escape, devotion, compulsion, trust, weariness, choice(lessness), beauty, nature and god in all things." - Maria Zajkowski

Fleur Green’s The Desert Plea

Declared by peers as a polymath, Fleur Green lives to produce art. Poet, performer, songwriter, musician (who plays many instruments very well) and equipped sailor, Green is a natural in the sea of story and imagination. Her life and art is interesting, intelligent, intense, creative and coloured by calm as well as chaos.

The Desert Plea is an original cabaret/rock song cycle that follows the journey of Alice, a young city musician who travels to Coober Pedy to offer its residents an alternate escape through creative outlet. Concept and music by Fleur Green, co-produced by David Chapple.
DOBBY & NAOMI KEYTE

DOBBY is a rapper, drummer, and speaker. He proudly identifies as a Filipino and Aboriginal musician, whose family is from Brewarrina on Ngemba land, and is a member of the Murrawarri Republic in Weilmoringle, NSW. He has performed at festivals including BIGSOUND, The Plot Festival, and Yabun Festival. He is also a skilled composer, and is the 2017 recipient for the bi-annual Peter Sculthorpe Fellowship. DOBBY also performs as a rapper and drummer for Sydney band Jackie Brown Jr and co-hosts the Hip Hop show “Sunsets with DOBBY and DIOLA” on FBi Radio.

Naomi Keyte is a folk artist exploring the world of pop. She brings with her beautiful melodies and image-rich lyrics. There is an intimacy in Keyte’s vocal delivery that is simultaneously vulnerable and powerful. After the release of her debut album ‘Melaleuca’ in 2017, she has played shows and festivals including Here’s to Now and WOMADelaide (2018). Keyte and her band have been working with producers Anna Laverty and Nick Huggins and are set to release new music in early 2019.

Together, Naomi and DOBBY will explore the territory where explosive hiphop meets heartfelt harmony in this new collaboration commissioned by Nexus Arts.

DIDIER KUMALO

A founding member of Adelaide’s own Shaolin Afronauts, guitarist Dylan Marshall’s five-piece side project takes the rhythms and harmonies of Guinea and classic African Jazz into a vast array of new sonic territories. This is modal music for dancing, and it will bring you to your feet.

SATURDAY 02 NOVEMBER 2019
DOORS @7:30PM
$30 (W) / $20 (U)
During October/November, Nexus will be host to a variety of dance, theatre and music performances as part of OzAsia Festival. Showcasing some of the best underground and experimental works from the cutting edge of contemporary performance, the best of Asia sits alongside local talent from Adelaide and Australia.

OZASIAFESTIVAL.COM.AU

Stay tuned to the OzAsia Festival website for full program details as they are announced.
TICKETS

ALL FEATURED PERFORMANCES

$30 WAGED / $20 UNWAGED

◊ A NEXUS ARTS 2019 SOLIDARITY MEMBERSHIP PRICED AT $35 ENTITLES YOU TO $20 TICKETS FOR ALL NEXUS LIVE PERFORMANCES, AS WELL AS OTHER BENEFITS AND THE REWARD OF HELPING THIS DEDICATED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION. SEE NEXUSARTS.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.

GRAPHIC DESIGN - SAMMY KRUCKEMEYER - (BIGMOUTH DESIGNS)
NEXUS ARTS IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE ADELAIDE’S DESIGNATION AS A UNESCO CITY OF MUSIC. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL, ITS ARTS FUNDING AND ADVISORY BODY.
LIKE WHAT YOU’VE SEEN SO FAR?

◊ Nexus will be presenting even more performances throughout the year, including:

◊ Summer Twilight Shows (17, 24 and 31 January) featuring Lazaro Numa Ensemble, Farhan Shah and Brothers, and Sarv Ensemble.

◊ ‘A Trip To The Moon’, featuring live soundtracks to short films by Georges Méliès as part of the AFC’s Adelaide French Festival (13 January).

◊ A special series of performances by artists from our Creative Cohesion program in April and May.

◊ WANT TO KNOW MORE?....................

Nexus also runs two development programs for culturally and linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contemporary musicians which include performances throughout the year.

We also present engaging and challenging contemporary visual art by culturally and linguistically diverse artists in our Gallery space, all year round.

Information about all this and more is available on our website, and keep an eye on our Facebook page for the most up-to-date news.

NEXUSARTS.ORG.AU | FACEBOOK.COM/NEXUSARTS