2020 New Zealand Festival of the Arts Programme – LARGE PRINT

What if we invited 3 incredible artists to help curate the festival?

New Zealand Festival of Arts

21 Feb – 15 March 2020

Pōneke, Wellington

How do we heal our society?

Is there a more powerful human tool than the human imagination?

What is the most beautiful song a group of people could sing together?

How many different ways can you dance to one piece of music?

What makes music timeless?

How can artists lead in constructing a kinder, more caring, just and truthful world?

Has a place every beckoned you? Why?

If you could control the clouds, what shapes would you make?

What music does your dog want to listen to?

What is normal in a radically changing world?

If you could change the world, would you dance yourself to death?

Why is it we destroy the things we love?

3 guest curators

100+ arts experiences

1000’s of conversations sparked

If you could pick an artist to follow for your festival experience, which one of these would it be? This year three Guest Curators have helped curate a week of shows alongside the general programme. You can choose from the Guest Curators’ signature selections, the general programme or mix it up.

**Week One:**

**Lemi Ponifasio:** Director and Choreographer.

Lemi Ponifasio is a ground-breaking international artist whose work exists at the border between the political and the mystical, the ancient and the avant-garde. Join Lemi as we explore who we are and the future we want to create.

**Week Two:**

**Laurie Anderson:** Musician and Multimedia Artist

Grammy Award-winning New York artist Laurie Anderson performed at the very first New Zealand Festival of the Arts in 1986. She returns now, three decades later, this time with a “crazy array of things” to intrigue and inspire you.

**Week Three:**

**Bret McKenzie:** Comedian, Actor and Composer

Oscar-winning songwriter and half of Grammy Award-winning duo Flight of the Conchords, Bret McKenzie is one of Wellington’s most successful artistic exports. With events for families, comedy lovers and music buffs, Bret is bringing a buzz to his hometown in the Festival’s final week.

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ONE FESTIVAL, MANY WAYS IN

In addition to three weeks of extraordinary arts experiences, there are many other great ways to get into the Festival of the Arts.

**Artist Talks**

Come to a pre- or post-show artist talk and get closer to the many brave and bold voices at the Festival. Hear it for yourself. All free. See the event pages for further details or visit festival.nz/talks.

**SchoolFest**

SchoolFest is New Zealand Festival’s dynamic creative learning programme, giving students the chance to experience the best theatre, dance, music, literature, visual and cultural arts from Aotearoa and around the world. For more information, visit festival.nz/schoolfest.

**Culture Club**

Want first pick of the best seats at the best price, and more? Join The Culture Club, the Festival’s loyalty programme for people who love art, culture and creativity. This Festival we are bringing Culture Club supporters perks like discounted pre-sale access, insider tips and other deals for arts addicts. Learn more at festival.nz/join.

**More Action Online**

We’ll have so much more Festival for you on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, including updates, deals and ticket giveaways. Get @ us, give us a shout, and get into the Festival of the Arts: **@NZFestivaloftheArts #NZFestival #oftheArts #NZFOTA**

**Te Taurima o Aotearoa i te reo Māori**

Kimi mō ngā hōtaka me ngā whakamārama kei roto i te reo Māori kei te ipurangi **festival.nz/tereo**.

**Access for All**

The 2020 New Zealand Festival of the Arts includes Audio Described and New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances, accessible venues and more. For further information, see page 9.

Access and Inclusion Information

It’s your Festival and we’ll do our best to make sure access is never a problem for you.

Physical Access

For more details on accessibility at specific venues, please visit festival.nz/access. All venues have limited wheelchair seating. Designated wheelchair spaces (where available) are sold at the lowest non-restricted view price in the house for that performance. If you require assistance to attend, you can book an essential companion ticket for free. Companion tickets are limited and subject to availability.

Festival-goers who are hard of hearing

There are hearing loops available at the Michael Fowler Centre, Soundings Theatre and Circa Theatre. The Opera House and Shed 6 have Infrared Assistive Listening Systems. More information is available at festival.nz/access. Please inform ticketing staff when booking if you wish to sit in a certain area of the venue.

Transport Information

Information about accessible parking and public transport in Wellington is available at festival.nz/transport.

Bookings and Contact Information

If you have special seating requirements such as wheelchair access, hearing difficulties, or a companion seat, please contact Ticketmaster on 0800 120 071 or ticketing@festival.nz.

For the Access and Inclusion Programme, if you would like to book for an event, find out about companion seats or have any other questions, contact our Accessibility Manager, Emma Deakin, on 021 029 21959 or access@festival.co.nz

Access and Inclusion Programme

Audio Description

Audio description is auditory narration, through a small headset, for people who are Blind or with low vision. The audio provides a description of visual elements of the show, such as scenes, settings, actions and costumes.

**Touch Tours**

Touch Tours are for people who are Blind or with low vision. This pre-show opportunity is for those audience members to explore pieces of set, props and costumes of a show.

**Events for people who are blind or with low vision**

**Hōkioi me te Vwōhali**

**From spirit eagles land**

Audio Described performance

When: Sat 14 Mar 1.30pm. Touch Tour 12pm.

For more information see page 109.

**Secrets of Sea and Space**

Pre-show talk and Touch Tour

When: Tues 10 March 6pm

For more information see page 111.

**Urban Hut Club**

Audio description available online at festival.nz/access.

When: 21 Feb – 15 Mar. Free

For more information see page 99.

**Into the Open**

Audio description available online at festival.nz/access .

When: 22 Feb – 14 Mar. Free

For more information see page 36.

NZSL Interpretation

If interpreted into NZSL, one or two professional performance interpreters will translate the show live for Deaf audiences. Specific seating will be allocated to Deaf audiences to ensure a clear view of the show and interpretation.

**Events for or people who are Deaf or hard of hearing**

**The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil**

NZSL Interpreted performance, Sat 14 Mar, 4pm

More information see page 92.

**Dimanche**

The show is highly visual with no spoken text that is meant to be understood, so no NZSL interpretation is required.

NZSL Interpreted Artist talk, Fri 13 Mar.

More information see page 105.

**Urban Hut Club**

When: 21 Feb – 15 Mar. Free.

More information see page 99.

**Cloud Pink**

When: 1 Feb – 5 April. Free.

More information see page 122

**Into The Open**

When: 22 Feb – 14 Mar. Free.

More information see page 36

**To the Moon**

When: 2-8 Mar. Price $10

More information see page 60

**Lou Reed Drones**

When: 5-6 Mar. Free.

More information see page 62

**$20 Tickets**

All tickets in the Access and Inclusion Programme are $20 for people who are Deaf, Blind or with low vision.

**Free companion seats**

If you require assistance to attend an event, you could be entitled to a free companion seat. Get in touch to find out more about our companion tickets.

**Get more online**

Check out our website festival.nz/access for more Access and Inclusion curated events that don’t appear in this brochure.

Dates for Your Diary

**Culture Club Pre-Sale**

Thu 7 Nov – Sun 17 Nov

Join The Culture Club at festival.nz/join for the best seats at the best price.

**Early Bird Tickets Available**

Thu 7 Nov – Mon 16 Dec for Culture Club Supporters

Mon 18 Nov – Mon 16 Dec for General Public

**Public Sales**

Mon 18 Nov

**New Zealand Festival of the Arts**

Fri 21 Feb – Sun 15 Mar 2020

Ticket Deals

**Early Bird**

Book your Festival tickets by Monday 16 December and you can get special Early Bird prices on the best seats. See event pages or visit festival.nz for Early Bird prices. Early Bird tickets are limited, so get in quick. Find out more about how to book on page 133.

**Writers Take Five Pass**

Grab a Take Five discounted Writers multi-pass and save 20% on all $19 Writers sessions. Take Five Passes are strictly limited, and on sale now. Offer ends 21 Feb 2020.

**Book Big and Win a Wellington Arts Weekend**

Book two or more tickets to any Festival weekend shows by Monday 16 December and you’ll be in to win a Wellington arts weekend for two courtesy of Boulcott Suites, Wellington Airport and L’affare. Learn more and book fast at festival.nz.

**The Power of Three**

Buy three or more tickets to any Festival shows and be in to win. Each Wednesday we’ll reward one lucky ticket buyer with a $300 Festival voucher and we’ll pay it forward by gifting another three tickets to a charity via our Partner Wellington Community Trust. Subject to T&Cs.

**WELCOME**

In 2020 artists are taking over the New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Te Taurima o Aotearoa, to make your experience more special, memorable and exhilarating. As the largest celebration of cutting-edge culture in Aotearoa, our job is to push the boundaries. To do that we’re bringing more artistic voices into the conversation.

For each of the three weeks of the Festival, we’ve invited an internationally renowned artist to be Guest Curator – selecting a signature series of arts experiences just for you. Our 2020 Guest Curators are Lemi Ponifasio, Laurie Anderson and Bret McKenzie, giving each week a distinct feel and identity. Our Guest Curator selections will live alongside other extraordinary art works from Aotearoa and the world, programmed by our Creative Director Marnie Karmelita.

Another exciting development for 2020 is the full embrace of our ever popular Writers programme. We’re expanding it from one to three full weeks of events, creating a bespoke literary salon space in the Renouf Foyer of the Michael Fowler Centre.

Meet our Guest Curators and the many artists who will join them, for a Festival of the Arts that celebrates honesty, bravery and splendour. Our goal is to create arts experiences that get people talking. In times like these, talking matters. And great art inspires important conversations, helping us see the world in sharper focus, or in a whole new light.

Our Festival ends on 15 March, the one-year anniversary of the terror attacks at the Linwood and Al Noor mosques in Christchurch. We welcome all to join the Muslim community, mana whenua and your fellow citizens for a moment of remembrance and reflection as the Festival draws to a close (see page 121).

Ngā mihi maioha to every single person who is connected with this Festival and stands alongside us and our artists. Your passion for art and community and your commitment to Wellington and Aotearoa inspire us every day.

**This is your Festival. Come with an open heart and mind. Leave changed.**

Marnie Karmelita, Creative Director

Meg Williams, Executive Director

Geoff Dangerfield, Chair of Trustees

**Pōwhiri**

FREE

Join Te Ātiawa/Taranaki Whānui Iwi and the Festival team as we manāki our local and international artists into Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

When: Fri 21 Feb, 7.30am

Where: Te Raukura, Te Wharewaka o Pōneke,

2 Taranaki Street

**Guest Curator: Week One**

Lemi Ponifasio

**Director and Choreographer**

Guest Curator Lemi Ponifasio brings his radical approach to art to create a programme featuring artists with a connected vision to rouse your passion, challenge you and inspire new ways of looking at things.

Lemi is a sought-after theatre, opera, dance and visual artist, who has staged his ground-breaking works at prestigious arts festivals such as the Avignon Festival (2014, 2017), the Ruhr Triennale (2010, 2014) and the Venice Biennale (2003, 2007, 2015). For the 2020 Festival of the Arts he brings together a group of seminal artists and collaborators, some of whom are long-time friends, including the legendary American director Peter Sellars, dancer and choreographer Faustin Linyekula (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the soprano Racha Rizk (Syria).

The Festival opens with **Chosen and Beloved**, a remarkable live orchestral experience performed by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra joined by Lemi’s company MAU, who also bring the world premiere of his new major work, Jerusalem.

**Talanoa Mau** is a two-day gathering where delegations of artists and culture makers from around the world and Aotearoa will join you to give voice to new and unheard ideas, to awaken passion, and to look critically at what it means to be human in today’s world. Talanoa is the Sāmoan word meaning to talk openly and it is an important methodology for resolving conflicts in many Pacific cultures. In this spirit, Mau enacts a stance of openness in which truth can emerge.

A festival within the Festival, **Te Ata** will be held in Porirua – a city where nearly 45% of the population is under 25 years old. Te Ata invites young people to take the lead creatively, engaging in creative conversations with local communities and international artists.

“Arts festivals can stimulate a nation’s culture,” says Lemi. “Just as agriculture celebrates the planting and harvest, arts festivals enact the planting of new ideas and traditions, which, if tended, will grow into the cultures of the future”.

Join Lemi and sow the seeds to cultivate new cultural forms of life, and through this encounter with art take the chance to reimagine ourselves and our place together in the world.

Talanoa Mau – we need to talk

CONFERENCE

**Talanoa Mau** is the historic coming together of artists, policymakers, leaders, doers and thinkers from around the world and Aotearoa/New Zealand to examine and present their ideas and creative projects of global significance.

We hear from artists Peter Sellars (US), Faustin Linyekula (DRC), Neo Muyanga (SA), Chiké Frankie Edozien (NIG), Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal (NZ), Jahra ‘Rager’ Wasasala (NZ), Coco Solid aka Jessica Hansell (NZ), Alistair Fraser (NZ), Kara Jackson (US) and Chigozie Obioma (NIG); leaders and public thinkers His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Ta’isi Efi (SAM), Pania Newton (NZ), Golriz Ghahraman MP (NZ), Tāmati Kruger (NZ), Patrick Snedden (NZ), Te Kaurinui Parata (NZ), Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban (NZ), Dame Anne Salmond (NZ), Leali’ifano Dr Albert L Refiti (NZ) and Jade Kake (NZ); and more.

Make the pilgrimage to Pōneke, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, and be part of an historic meeting that places art at the centre of urgent public decision making, carving a path to our future.

When: Mon 24 – Tue 25 Feb, all day

Where: Soundings Theatre, Te Papa

Tickets:(Two days including lunch and refreshments)

Early Bird $489

$549

Buy 2+ and save. For groups of 2-10,the first ticket is $549with subsequent tickets at $499

Advance bookings only. Arts scholarships available, apply online. For further information and details on how to book please visit festival.nz/talanoa-mau.

Partnered by: Te Papa

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Te Ata

FESTIVAL IN THE FESTIVAL

**Te Ata,** a festival within the Festival, brings together artists from Aotearoa and around the world to exchange with young New Zealanders who wish to take a bold, brave and active role in shaping the culture of the place where they live. Two weeks of ground-breaking creative development will culminate in a week of public performances and events hosted by Porirua City, which has one of the youngest populations in New Zealand.

Created with the community of Porirua and artists who include South African protest musician Neo Muyanga, US Youth Poet Laureate Kara Jackson, Der Faust prize-winner for dance Aloali’i Tapu, 2019 New Zealand Arts Laureate Coco Solid aka Jessica Hansell, Grammy Award-winning opera singer Jonathan Lemalu, baritone Kawiti Waetford and the New Zealand Sinfonia for Hope Orchestra. More artists to be announced in January.

Visit festival.nz/teata for information on workshops, public performances and tickets.

When: Sat 22 - Sat 29 Feb

Where: Te Rauparaha Arena, Pātaka Art + Museum

Proudly partnered by Wellington Airport

Audio Visual Partner: Streamliner Productions

Thanks to Wellington Amenities Fund, Creative New Zealand, Wellington Community Trust, Porirua City Council

Chosen and Beloved:

Górecki’s Symphony No. 3 Symphony of Sorrowful Songs

MAU & New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Aotearoa/New Zealand, Estonia, United States, Syria

MUSIC / THEATRE

Created by: Lemi Ponifasio

Conducted by: Kristjan Järvi

The 2020 Festival opens with an unforgettable live orchestral art experience. Henryk Górecki’s phenomenally popular Symphony No. 3 has special reverence for Lemi Ponifasio – both as a piece of music that fuelled his early creation as a dancer and choreographer, and as a work that has taken on new meaning for him since 15 March 2019, when New Zealand changed forever.

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Syrian soprano Racha Rizk are conducted by Kristjan Järvi and joined by the MAU company for this evening of transcendent music, welcome, reflection and celebration – where we, the living, greet and embrace those who have gone before us and prepare to welcome those who are about to join us.

When: Fri 21 Feb, 7.30pm

Where: Michael Fowler Centre

Duration: 1hr 30mins

Tickets:

Early Bird P$93

P$99

A$79

B$59

C$49

Partnered by: Stuff

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Jerusalem

MAU | Aotearoa/New Zealand

THEATRE / DANCE

Created in turbulent and perplexing times, **Jerusalem** is Lemi Ponifasio’s major new work. Inspired by the epic **Concerto Al Quds** from the great poet Adonis (Ali Ahmad Said Esber), it will premiere here before touring internationally.

**Jerusalem** is not a documentary about a city, nor is it a political or religious commentary. It is a meditation on the universal tensions between idealism and reality, life and death, beauty and malice, freedom and control, love and hatred. It is the creation of a space to come together, seek recovery and new beginnings.

Expect impeccable artistry from the performers of the MAU company and exquisite, stark design. If defined in traditional terms, this could be opera, theatre and dance. But it’s better framed as ceremony: an intense, unforgettable evening for you to question, reflect and dream.

When: Sat 22 Feb, 8pm

Sun 23 Feb, 5pm

Where: Opera House

Duration: 1hr 15mins

Tickets:

Early Bird $73

$79

Artist Talk: Pre-show, Sun 23 Feb, 4pm, Opera House Foyer

Partnered by: Sputnik

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Kopernikus

Opéra – ritual d mort

France, United States

OPERA

Composed by: Claude Vivier

Directed by: Peter Sellars

Visionary director Peter Sellars resurrects the rarely staged opera of the Québécois composer Claude Vivier, **Kopernikus**. Sellars, renowned for his radical and creative productions, has described this intimate work as a “mind-blowing” mix of **The Magic Flute**, **Tristan and Isolde** and **Alice in Wonderland**.

Performed by the Grammy Award-winning Roomful of Teeth ensemble and instrumentalists Ensemble L’Instant Donné, this “unimaginably beautiful” opera (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) takes audiences on a journey of reconciliation and transcendence following loss and death, guided by the genius of Mozart, Wagner and Lewis Carroll. **Kopernikus** seeks to reorient the audience’s relationship to the process of dying through a vivid imagining of the beauty and glory of the afterlife.

When: Sun 1 – Mon 2 Mar, 7pm

Where: Opera House

**Duration:** 1hr 35mins

Tickets:

Early Bird P$129

P$139

A$119

B$89

C$59

Artist Talk:

Pre-show

Mon 2 Mar, 6pm

Opera House Foyer

Thanks to: Carolyn and Peter Diessl

Partnered by: New Zealand Festival Patrons

In Search of Dinozord

Studios Kabako | Democratic Republic of the Congo

DANCE / THEATRE

Created by: Faustin Linyekula

Can our dreams help us reshape a terrible reality?

If you haven’t yet heard about Faustin Linyekula, then “quite possibly the most important artist working on the African continent today” (Frieze), “breathtaking political art” (LA Times) and “live-wire intensity” (New York Times) give you a feel. From the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Linyekula left his country during the political upheaval upon which **Dinozord** is based. Invited by Peter Sellars to make a creation on the 250th anniversary of Mozart’s death, the composer's Requiem permeates this deeply personal and political work, as it recounts how the troubled history of Linyekula’s country has dramatically impacted personal stories of his friends in Kisangani, the city where he grew up. Central too is Kabako, a writer-friend who died of the plague, “a disease I thought only existed in books”. Jimi Hendrix’s **Voodoo Chile** soundtracks an astonishing finale.

About as visceral an 80 minutes in the theatre as you are likely to get, escape your comfort zone and experience what art can bring: truth, understanding, change.

“Breathtaking political art”— LA TIMES

“Ground-shaking”— THE GUARDIAN

In French with English surtitles

When: Thu 27 – Sat 29 Feb, 7.30pm

Where: Soundings Theatre, Te Papa

Duration: 1hr 20mins

Tickets:

Early Bird $53

$59

Artist Talk: Post-show, Fri 28 Feb, Soundings Theatre

MAU: House of Night and Day

MAU | Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / DANCE / FREE

Te Papa’s Toi Art **presents MAU: House of Night and Day**, a major installation by renowned director, choreographer and multidisciplinary artist Lemi Ponifasio. As founder of MAU, the international theatre and creative forum, Lemi creates large-scale productions and installations that have pioneered a radical approach to art crossing boundaries of ceremony, philosophy, culture, activism and performance.

In this new installation, Lemi transforms Te Papa’s Toi Art gallery into an immersive live stage that acknowledges more than 30 years of MAU projects. Central to **MAU: House of Night and Day** is a new ritual performance based on **Lagimoana**, which Lemi created for the 56th International Venice Art Biennale 2015 curated by the late Okwui Enwezor

When: 24 Feb – 7 Jun

Where: Toi Art, Level 4, Te Papa

Glass/Richter/Jarvi

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Aotearoa/New Zealand, Estonia, United States

MUSIC

Max Richter: Infra

Philip Glass: Águas da Amazônia

Conducted by Kristjan Järvi with members of Absolute Ensemble

Conductor Kristjan Järvi has earned a reputation as “one of the canniest, and most innovative, programmers on the classical scene” (Reuters) and here he leads the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for a one-night-only concert of works by two great contemporary composers.

The evening begins with Max Richter’s **Infra**, originally composed for the Royal Ballet’s 2008 production and described as “achingly gorgeous … an enveloping and moving work” (Pitchfork). Written as a reaction to the 7/7 bombings in London, Infra resonates with Richter’s characteristic musical voice; minimalism combined with sweeping melodies and harmonic complexity.

The dynamic programme continues with Philip Glass’ love song to one of the world’s mightiest rivers, **Águas da Amazônia**. Originally composed for a small ensemble, this new arrangement by Charles Coleman plumbs the potency and grandeur of a full symphony orchestra, augmented with members of Järvi’s Absolute Ensemble, to convey Glass’ exhilarating pursuit of adventure and awe.

When: Sun 23 Feb, 7.30pm

Where: Michael Fowler Centre

Duration: 1hr 30mins

Tickets:

Early Bird P$93

P$99

A$79

B$59

C$49

Artist Talk: Pre-show, 6.30pm, Renouf Foyer

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand.

Kate Tempest

United Kingdom

MUSIC

“This isn't a gig, it's a reckoning” — THE GUARDIAN

“Tempest rips your heart out, offers an assessment, and then returns it with the tools to determine what needs to be done with it” — NPR MUSIC

Is Kate Tempest a rapper, a poet, a spoken word artist or a lit fuse? Whatever she is, she’s undeniably intent on delivering urgent messages that cut through apathy like a honed knife.

Since starting out doing open mic gigs at 16, Tempest has released four albums, five poetry collections and one novel, performing to cult-like crowds around the world. Her shows are a barrage of profundity and dazzling rhythms with phrasing that sounds both Shakespearean and straight-up. Tempest’s work is, in part, a call to action capturing “the angry tension of being alive” in today’s precarious world (The Guardian). She wants us to learn from the past in order to confront an uncertain future. Lose yourself in a gig that reminds you all is not yet lost.

Want more Tempest? Join Kate for an hour of words on Sunday 23 February, 5pm (see page 47).

When: Mon 24 Feb, 8pm

Where: Michael Fowler Centre

Tickets:

Early Bird $53

$59

Partnered by: The Dominion Post

New Zealand Festival of the Arts and Te Papa present

Into the Open

VISUAL ARTS / FREE

After dark each night of the Festival, multiple sites along the Wellington waterfront will light up with an array of large-scale artworks.

Throughout history, public spaces have been the setting for both shared catharsis and collective imagination**. Into the Open** is a programme of moving-image artworks that will be projected along the waterfront throughout the Festival. Responding to the programmes curated by Lemi Ponifasio, Laurie Anderson and Bret McKenzie, this three-week series brings into the open artistic visions of what it means to be human, together.

Every Monday, the artworks will change to reflect the spirit of each Guest Curator’s vision, so come back each week to experience art in the open. Follow the pathway of artworks or linger with a moment painted large with light.

Online Audio Descriptions available. Suitable for Deaf audiences. See page 9 or festival.nz/access

Week One: Sat 22 Feb – Sun 1 Mar

Movement, rhythm and stillness govern the selection of artworks for the first week of the Festival. These artists understand gesture as a way of connecting with memory, artistic tradition and emotions that have travelled across generations.

Yuki Kihara (Sāmoa, Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Pilar Mata Dupont (Australia, Argentina)

Ahilapalapa Rands (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Shahzia Sikander (United States, Pakistan)

Ana Iti (Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi) (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Week Two: Mon 2 – Sun 8 Mar

The second week features expressions of sentience and empathy. These artists test our ability to connect across generations, species and with the non-human. Many also explore the potential for imaging technologies to capture and produce mauri.

Hye Rim Lee (South Korea, Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Nathan Pohio (Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Kai Tahu)

(Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Aliyah Winter (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Sasha Huber (Switzerland, Haiti, Finland)

Denise Batchelor (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Week Three: Mon 9 – Sat 14 Mar

The final week brings together energetic artworks that share in a sense of whanaungatanga, artistic and otherwise. For these artists, art and humour can be found in everyday settings – and imagination and a lo-fi spirit are all you need to connect with the world at large.

Mike Heynes (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Christopher Ulutupu (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

UuDam Tran Nguyen (Vietnam)

Elisabeth Pointon (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Steve Carr (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

**When:** Sat 22 Feb – Sat 14 Mar, from dusk to midnight

**Where:** Waterfront

Writers

Writers are artists who create worlds with words drawn from their experiences and imaginations.

They pull us through time and space, hold up revealing mirrors, refigure the way we live and question the DNA of our every day. For 2020, the Writers programme has been extended over three invigorating weeks to present even more extraordinary voices that will take us on journeys to Zambia, Chernobyl, America, Antarctica and back to talk sex, science, gender politics and Aotearoa. We ride into love, hug trees, peer at the future, question who we are, confront inequality and discover what keeps us awake at night. With three stimulating weeks to celebrate writers, take the time to listen, ask questions and connect to stories and ideas from writers the world over.

Renouf Foyer

The Renouf Foyer is the official home for the 2020 Writers events. We have pulled our long-time Festival space into a loving embrace and have filled it with botanical design, a bar and a variety of comfortable seating options. With Unity Books right there, a drink in hand and conversation for your mind, you’ll be in Festival heaven.

Take Five Pass

Grab a Take Five Pass now and save 20% on all $19 Writers sessions. That’s five hours of book lovers’ bliss for just $76. Take Five Passes are strictly limited and on sale now. Offer ends 21 Feb 2020. For more information see page 130.

University Partner: The University of Waikato

Thanks to: The Lion Foundation, Creative New Zealand

Official Bookseller: Unity Books

Writers: Week one

Elizabeth Knox: On Imagination

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Is there a more powerful tool than a single, human imagination? New Zealand novelist Elizabeth Knox is in possession of a mind that has delivered angels to a French vineyard, turned libraries into portals to other worlds, and wracked small-town Aotearoa with a lethal mass hysteria. To begin the 2020 Writers programme, this extraordinary author delivers an opening address on the very essence of us all: the imagination.

“Knox demonstrates an imagination that is both vast and relentless in its pursuit of the truth.” — THE GUARDIAN

**When:** Sat 22 Feb, 10am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Kara Jackson: Bloodstone Cowboy

United States

Touching on ideas of intergenerational communication, the ideal female, love of self and love of place, 2019 US National Youth Poet Laureate Kara Jackson speaks courageously about her life’s work to date with poet Courtney Sina Meredith. Is there a more powerful tool than a single, human imagination? New Zealand novelist Elizabeth Knox is in possession of a mind that has delivered angels to a French vineyard, turned libraries into portals to other worlds, and wracked small-town Aotearoa with a lethal mass hysteria. To begin the 2020 Writers programme, this extraordinary author delivers an opening address on the very essence of us all: the imagination.

When: Sat 22 Feb, 11.30am

Where: Renouf Foyer

Tickets: $19

Duration: 1hr

Partnered by: Phantom Billstickers

Thanks to: The Embassy of the United States of America

Namwali Serpell: The Old Drift

Zambia

Beginning in a colonial settlement and ending with a social-technological revolution in a Zambia of the near future, Namwali Serpell’s debut novel **The Old Drift** weaves ideas and experiences of colonialism, the HIV crisis, the Zambian Space Programme and political revolution.

Following three generations of three families, her fierce and beautiful writing is resonant of writers such as Gabriel García Márquez. Namwali, who is a Professor of English at UC Berkley, speaks with Whiti Hereaka about the decade of work behind her much-acclaimed novel.

**When:** Sat 22 Feb, 1pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Witi Ihimaera: Native Son

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Witi Ihimaera speaks with novelist Kate Duignan about **Native Son**, the sequel to his Ockham Award winning memoir, **Māori Boy**. Beginning with the relief of passing his School C exams, Witi takes us to the family farm where he worked, to the myths that inhabited his internal world, and to his discovery that none of the books in Wellington’s bookshops were by Māori writers. Join one of our greatest storytellers for the tale of how he picked up his pen and challenged the dominant literature of New Zealand and the world.

**When:** Sat 22 Feb, 4pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Justin Paton: McCahon Country

Aotearoa/New Zealand

What is the experience of really seeing a painting? Art writer Justin Paton guides us through the landscapes of Colin McCahon’s New Zealand. Justin’s skill is to urge the reader to truly see, and with writing so warm and absorbing, this book will move you to discover your own Aotearoa anew.

**When:** Sat 22 Feb, 2.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Real Imaginary Lives

Aotearoa/New Zealand

The characters in the novels of Tina Makereti (The Imaginary Lives of James Pōneke) and Namwali Serpell (The Old Drift) call to us, with extraordinarily vivid voices, from histories of colonisation and British Imperialism. Their stories reflect the influence and impact of the past upon our lives today and tomorrow. The authors talk to Gemma Browne about what it takes to craft fictional lives that show us the very real and connected narratives of culture, class and race.

**When:** Sun 23 Feb, 9.30am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Art in the Afterlife

Aotearoa/New Zealand

If you had to choose one piece of art to take to your room in the afterlife, what would it be? Art writer and curator Justin Paton, historian Dame Anne Salmond, curator and writer Matariki Williams and author Witi Ihimaera show us the works that would furnish their celestial homes and tell us why that work transcends the rest. Hosted by Elizabeth Knox.

When: Sun 23 Feb, 11am

Where: Renouf Foyer

Tickets: $19

Duration: 1hr

An Indigenous Future

Aotearoa/New Zealand

If an indigenous worldview was intrinsic to the structures that govern the way we live, what might our lives be like? In the face of social and environmental catastrophes such as the climate crisis, housing crisis and an ever-increasing divide between rich and poor, how might a Te Ao Māori framework provide solutions for us all? Join the discussion with Associate Professor Maria Bargh (Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa), architectural designer Jade Kake (Ngāti Hau/Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa, Te Whakatōhea) and Dr Rebecca Kiddle (Ngāti Porou and Ngāpuhi).

**When:** Sun 23 Feb, 12.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Chigozie Obioma: An Orchestra of Minorities

Nigeria

Chigozie Obioma’s 2019 Booker Prize shortlisted novel **An Orchestra of Minorities** is an epic tale driven by love and marred by hostility and racism. Nigerian chicken farmer Chinonso embarks on a Homerian journey to attain the respect of the family of the woman he wishes to marry. Entirely narrated by Chinonso’s Chi (or guardian spirit), Chigozie’s masterful storytelling asks us to relate to an individual’s spiritual life against the pitiful hostility of human prejudice. He speaks with writer Brannavan Gnanalingam.

**When:** Sun 23 Feb, 2pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Partnered by: The Listener

Serhii Plokhy: Chernobyl

Ukraine, United States

"A masterful account of how the USSR's bureaucratic dysfunction, censorship, and impossible economic targets produced the disaster and hindered the response."

— NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

Chernobyl, Serhii Plokhy argues, was a disaster waiting to happen. The tense hours in the lead up to the 1986 catastrophe and the political fallout that occurred after it are recounted in Serhii’s acclaimed history of the tragedy. Today the largest peacetime nuclear disaster is a magnet for tourists and inspires TV dramatisations. Toby Manhire talks with the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction winner about what the history of Chernobyl reveals to us about the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**When:** Sunday 23 Feb, 3.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:**1hr

Partnered by The Listener

An Evening with Kate Tempest

United Kingdom

Kate Tempest’s innovative, award-winning writing across music, plays, novels and poetry is well-known for giving voice to everyday life in a world harangued by capitalism, environmental crises, inequality, misogyny and celebrity culture. Join Kate for an hour of words to move, stir and surprise.

**When:** Sunday 23 Feb, 5pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr

Chiké Frankie Edozien: The Lives of Great Men

Nigeria

“One of the most triumphant and joy-inducing books of the year” — HUFFINGTON POST

What does it mean to be gay in West Africa? This question is at the heart of journalist Chiké Frankie Edozien’s compelling memoir **The Lives of Great Men.** Join Chiké for the story behind his astonishing call to live a great life.

**When:** Thu 27 Feb, 7.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Writing Survivors

Malaysia, United States

Tash Aw (We, the Survivors) and Tommy Orange (There, There) are authors of widely acclaimed novels that describe the effects of intergenerational inequality upon the lives of individuals and upon whole communities and histories of people. Tash and Tommy speak with Aotearoa writer Paula Morris about the role of fiction in evoking empathy and on the challenge of creating characters who speak truths for so many living today, in our past and in our futures.

**When:** Sat 29 Feb, 10am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Tash Aw: We, The Survivors

Malaysia

In **We, The Survivors** the reader gathers a picture of society marred by extreme poverty, corporate greed and exploitation of migrants. Described as one of the most masterful novelists writing today, Tash Aw speaks with writer and curator Emma Ng about his latest novel and what it means to him.

**When:** Thu 27 Feb, 6pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Tommy Orange: There, There

United States

“They tore unborn babies out of bellies, took what we were intended to be, our children before they were children, babies before they were babies.” Tommy Orange’s beautiful, devastating debut novel follows the lives of Indigenous Americans in the lead up to a powwow. The energy created through the cast of characters builds until the book explodes the question of how to tell the history of an entire people. **There, There** asks one of the most complex questions of our time: what does it mean to be indigenous? Tommy speaks about the impact of his acclaimed first novel on himself and his community.

**When:** Fri 28 Feb, 6pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Jung Chang: Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister

China

**Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister: Three Women at the Heart of Twentieth Century China** is the new biography from the internationally bestselling author of **Wild Swans**. The Soong Sisters from Shanghai were Ching-ling, Mao’s vice chair; May-ling, the first lady of pre-Communist Nationalist China; and Ei-ling, one of China’s richest women. What were their lives really like? Jung Chang speaks about the personal stories that intertwined with global politics: intrigue, love affairs, war, betrayal, glamour and despair.

**When:** Fri 28 Feb, 8pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

**Rajorshi Chakraborti: Shakti**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Rajorshi Chakraborti’s **Shakti** is a story of standing up for what is right in a world going very wrong. RNZ’s Lynn Freeman talks to Rajorshi about writing fiction that challenges, entertains and takes readers into places they might never think to go.

**When:** Sat 29 Feb, 11.30am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Sophie Cunningham: City of Trees

Australia

A powerful collection of travel and nature writing, memoir and research, Sophie Cunningham’s **City of Trees**, is an exploration of how the lives of trees mark the making and passing of our own lives. Sophie talks with Ingrid Horrocks about the stories behind her moving and important book.

**When:** Sat 29 Feb, 1pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Lucy-Anne Holmes: Don’t Hold My Head Down**

United Kingdom

“A memoir of female sexuality which is cheery and amazing and truthful” — Caitlin Moran

Lucy-Anne Holmes embarked on a personal sexual revolution that began with disappointment and ended with day-long orgasms and taking on one of the biggest newspapers in the world. **Don’t Hold My Head Down** is the story of finding feminism through sex. Funny, frank and inspiring, the activist and author talks with RNZ’s BANG! podcast creator, Melody Thomas.

**When:** Sat 29 Feb, 4pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Rebecca Priestley: Fifteen Million Years in Antarctica**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

**Fifteen Million Years in Antarctica** tells a personal and poignant story of time spent on Earth’s most mysterious and precious frontier. Author Rebecca Priestley discusses a life influenced by the frozen white continent with the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard.

**When:** Sat 29 Feb, 2.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Do We Deserve Earth?**

Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Australian writer Sophie Cunningham and Aotearoa writer Rebecca Priestley have both published books that explore relationships between ourselves and our environment. Why is it that we destroy the things we love? The places we rely on to keep us alive, inspired and safe? Sophie and Rebecca discuss the writing of this conundrum.

**When:** Sun 1 Mar, 10am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**We Are Here: An Atlas for Our Aotearoa**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

**We Are Here** is the extraordinary product of years of work that offers an in-depth view of Aotearoa as a place and as a people. It asks you to step back from your Google Maps and take a look at the Aotearoa around you: our people, our places, our whenua. Race Relations Commissioner Meng Foon talks with creator Chris McDowall and contributors Nadine Anne Hura and Veronika Meduna about this beautiful collision of data, design and heartfelt analysis of what an atlas allows us to see.

**When:** Sun 1 Mar, 11.30am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Alan Duff: Conversations with My Country**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

The latest book by the author of **Once Were Warriors**, Alan Duff, is a reflective and honest story of hardship, success and taking a position on the essential issues facing both Māori and Pākehā. Join the author for a frank conversation about writing the truth as you see it.

**When:** Sun 1 Mar, 1pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Many Hearts: A Journey Through Love**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Four writers take us through the game of love. What is it about the joy, the pain, the downright agony that continues to fuel novels, poetry and short stories? Learn how love has influenced our writers’ literary lives and what stories from the heart have kept them going through it all. With Dame Fiona Kidman, Tracey Slaughter and Freya Daly Sadgrove, hosted by Catherine Robertson.

**When:** Sun 1 Mar, 2.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**A Feminist Romance**

United Kingdom, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Chick-Lit: Love the genre, hate the name? Romance writers Lucy-Anne Holmes (Just a Girl Standing in Front of a Boy), Nicky Pellegrino (A Dream of Italy), Bronwyn Sell (Lovestruck) and Catherine Robertson (The Not So Perfect Life of Mo Lawrence) are bestselling authors in the genre often described as chick lit. They discuss books that focus on women’s emotional and domestic lives and why that’s a powerfully feminist occupation.

**When:** Sun 1 Mar, 5.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Guest Curator: Week Two

Laurie Anderson

Musician and Multimedia Artist

Laurie Anderson has been described by The New Yorker as “America’s premier conceptual art/pop-music philosopher-monologuist”, with collaboration also at the heart of her eclectic and boundary-pushing artistic practice. Laurie has created work with the likes of Kronos Quartet, Philip Glass and most famously her partner in art and life, the late Lou Reed.

The 21 years in which the famous pair tangled minds and hearts are evident in **Here Comes the Ocean**, a concert where Lou Reed's and Laurie Anderson’s words and music are interpreted by an ensemble of musicians. Reed’s presence will also be apparent in the installation **Lou Reed Drones**, which features his guitars arranged into a sonically awesome feedback loop.

Laurie has a poignant personal connection to Aotearoa, where her niece lost her life in a traffic accident after relocating here. Returning to New Zealand will mark a kind of reconnection, and Laurie dedicates her improvisational and incantatory work **The Calling** to Thea Anderson.

Known as a relentless innovator and experimenter, **To The Moon** is Laurie’s new free-flying VR experience, which will take the adventurous on a lunar expedition where the frontiers of art, technology and imagination intersect.

The free, joyous **Concert for Dogs** seeks a new form of communication, even communion, with our canine companions. “Like every concert, like every music event, it’s a collaborative thing with the audience,” she says. “Doing things for other species is really fun.”

Laurie sees every work of live art as a creation made as much by the audience as the artist – so be there to play your role in this extraordinary series with one of the most celebrated contemporary artists in the world today.

Here Comes the Ocean

United States, Canada, Albania, Pakistan, Aotearoa/New Zealand

MUSIC

Here comes the ocean and the waves

Down by the sea

Here comes the ocean and the waves

Crashing in

– The Velvet Underground

Violinist Laurie Anderson and her string ensemble – bassist Greg Cohen, violist Eyvind Kang, cellist Rubin Kodheli and percussionist Shahzad Ismaily – present a concert featuring the songs and texts of Laurie and her late husband and collaborator Lou Reed.

Joining the international ensemble is taonga pūoro composer and musician Horomona Horo. Backed by the drones – the majestic and strangely harmonic guitar feedback soundscape performed by Stewart Hurwood – let the music wash over you. Both Laurie and Lou wrote many songs about the ocean and these are interpreted, arranged and merged by the musicians into an entirely new symphonic work.

Experience Stewart Hurwood’s guitar feedback installation Lou Reed Drones up-close at the Lower Hutt Events Centre. See page 62.

**When:** Fri 6 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $93

$99

Partnered by Minter Ellison Rudd Watts

Thanks to Creative New Zealand

To The Moon

United States, Taiwan

VISUAL ARTS / INTERACTIVE

Created by Laurie Anderson and Hsin-Chien Huang

Fifty years after man first landed on the Moon, art pioneer and icon Laurie Anderson is flying us all there with captivating virtual reality artwork **To The Moon**.

Developed with fellow artist Hsin-Chien Huang, this immersive experience takes you on a cutting-edge voyage of sight, sound and imagination to our nearest cosmic neighbour.

Escapism and future-forward art intersect as the sensation of flight intermingles with the delight of navigating a fantastic alternative lunar landscape as envisaged by Laurie, who was the first artist-in-residence at NASA. Prepare for lift off with an accompanying installation featuring film, images and music.

Conceived as pure artwork, **To The Moon** takes us closer to the lunar surface than many have ever gone before – and the journey is just as important as the destination. “The moon has a very inspiring, dreamlike existence,” says Laurie. “Secretly, all I want to do is to let people fly.”

**When:**

15 Feb – 7 Jun, 10am – 5pm

Wed 4 & Thu 5 Mar open until 10pm

VR sessions are ticketed and have limited capacity, bookings recommended.

VR sessions start every 30 minutes.

Last session is 30 minutes before gallery closes.

**Where:** The Dowse Art Museum

**VR Duration:** 20mins

**Tickets:** $10

To The Moon VR experience commissioned by The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; The National Culture and Arts Foundation, Taipei, Taiwan; and National Taiwan Normal University. To The Moon AV experience originally commissioned by The Manchester International Festival.

Thanks to: Hutt City Council, Wellington Amenities Fund

Lou Reed Drones

United States

MUSIC / FREE

Created by Stewart Hurwood

Expect to be mesmerised by this “visceral, emotional and spiritual installation” (New York Live Arts) in a provocative sound experience featuring electric guitars belonging to the late guitarist and frontman of legendary The Velvet Underground, Lou Reed.

The sonic range produced by the feedback loop installation has been described as both a “beautiful siren-song and ... ugly, as the guitars scream and growl” (The Argus UK).

Presented by Reed’s partner and fellow artist Laurie Anderson and performed by his guitar technician Stewart Hurwood, **Lou Reed Drones** is both a tribute to Reed’s exploratory genius and an invitation to audiences to commune with the unique sounds in whatever way that works best for them. Hurwood says: “Sit, lay, listen, meditate, sleep, cry, dance, chant, perform Tai Chi – whatever they get emotionally from the sounds they can react to.”

Lou Reed Drones will also feature as part of Laurie Anderson’s Here Comes the Ocean. See page 58.

**When:** Wed 4 Mar, 8-10pm

Thu 5 Mar, 6-10pm, Drop-in

**Where:** Lower Hutt Events Centre

Suitable for Deaf audiences. See page 9 or festival.nz/access

People attending this installation will be exposed to loud noise and are advised to use ear protection.

Thanks to Wellington Amenities Fund, The Dowse Art Museum, Hutt City Council

The Calling

United States, Canada, Albania,

Pakistan, Aotearoa/New Zealand

MUSIC

Improvisational and incantatory, this immersive performance will feature Laurie Anderson and her string ensemble, Greg Cohen, Eyvind Kang and Rubin Kodheli, and percussionist Shahzad Ismaily, alongside New Zealand musicians, including Horomona Horo.

As well as Laurie’s own writing, **The Calling** takes text from **Rebel in the Soul: An Ancient Egyptian Dialogue Between a Man and His Destiny** – a translation of a 4000-year-old discourse between a person and their soul, which speaks to us with intriguing relevance for today.

**The Calling** is dedicated to the spirit of Laurie’s niece Thea Anderson, who taught dance in New Zealand and lost her life here in a car accident on her 25th birthday.

When: Wed 4 Mar, 6.30pm

Where: Lower Hutt Events Centre

Tickets:

Early Bird $53

$59

Thanks to: Wellington Amenities Fund

Close Listening: A Conversation with Laurie Anderson

United States, Pakistan, Aotearoa/New Zealand

MUSIC / WRITERS

For artist Laurie Anderson, listening is an art. The pioneering musician’s extraordinary career, renowned for a ground-breaking collaborative approach to process and performance, can be seen as an expedition into the complexities of sound and the ways that a conscious mind can both create and experience it. Laurie’s signature programme for the 2020 New Zealand Festival of the Arts is an invitation to close listening. Laurie joins musicians Shahzad Ismaily and Horomona Horo to discuss the nature of music and mind. Hear it for yourself.

**When:** Thu 5 Mar, 7pm

**Where:** Opera House

**Tickets:** $39

**Duration:** 1hr

Concert for Dogs

United States

MUSIC / FILM / FAMILY / INTERACTIVE / FREE

Finally, a concert where the dogs will have their day. Bring your whole whānau along to hear Laurie Anderson perform a series of melodies, frequencies and riffs at this outdoor concert crafted especially for our canine friends. **Concert for Dogs** celebrates the fact that dogs have way better hearing than the rest of us, so you can bet there will also be a few high-pitched electronic sounds that are undetectable to our human ears. You’ll just have to take our word for it.

All dogs are welcome, as long as they’re on a leash and play well with others. Barking and wagging tails encouraged! The performance will be followed by a screening of Laurie’s documentary **Heart of a Dog**, her remembrances of her late beloved piano-playing and finger-painting dog, Lolabelle.

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 12.30pm

**Where:** Odlins Plaza

**Duration:**

**Concert:** 20mins

**Film:** 1hr 15mins

MÁM

Teaċ Daṁsa | Ireland

DANCE / MUSIC

Directed and choreographed by Michael Keegan-Dolan

“With such imagination, such thrilling, thunderous physicality, such beauty and evocative power, what more could anyone want?” — IRISH EXAMINER

“A choreographer at the top of his game" — THE ARTS REVIEW

**Mám 1:** Mountain pass. **Mám 2:** Yoke. Faoi mhám an pheaca, under the yoke of sin. 2. Lit: Obligation, duty, function. **Mám 3:** Handful. ~ mhilseán, of sweets. Scaipeann sé ina mhámanna é, he throws it away in handfuls.

Surrender yourself to “90 minutes of ritualised ecstasy” (The Irish Times) as Michael Keegan-Dolan and Teaċ Daṁsa return to the Festival with a stunning new work. “Alternately playful and provocative, funny and frightening, **MÁM** is a stirring, sensuous showcase of the emotional power of the physical form” (The Irish Times). Bringing together virtuoso Irish traditional concertina player Cormac Begley, the European classical, contemporary collective, s t a r g a z e and 12 international dancers from the Teaċ Daṁsa company, **MÁM** “overflows with depth and soul ... a heavenly, glorious, wildly whirling dervish” (The Arts Review). Michael has a strong connection with this Festival, starting in 2008 with his productions of **Giselle, Rian** (2014) and **Swan Lake/Loch na hEala** (2018).

In 2019 he got closer, with a six-week residency, Made in Wellington (see page 90), where Michael and his artistic collaborators began the creation of MÁM.

There was not a single seat left unsold at the recent World Premiere season at Dublin Theatre Festival, so get your tickets quick for this strictly limited run.

**When:**

Thu 5 – Sat 7 Mar, 6.30pm

Sun 8 Mar, 4pm

**Where:** TSB Arena

**Duration:** 1hr 25mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird P$119

P$129

A$99

B$79

C$49

**Artist Talk:** Post-show, Sat 7 Mar TSB Arena

Co-produced by Teaċ Daṁsa, New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Dublin Theatre Festival and Sadler’s Wells London with support from NOMAD and NASC touring network. This production is funded by an Arts Council Open Call Award.

Partnered by: Todd Corperation

Thanks to: Culture Ireland, Cultúre Éireann

Netherlands Chamber Choir

MUSIC

Chief Conductor **Peter Dijkstra**

With 80 years of exploring the wondrous possibilities of choral music, the Netherlands Chamber Choir (Nederlands Kamerkoor) is among the best in the world. Founded to perform Bach cantatas, the choir has built its reputation on its innovative approach to the canon, commissioning new works and embracing adventurous collaborations. Performing for the very first time in New Zealand, the Netherlands Chamber Choir demonstrates the sublime heights of the collective voice with two very different programmes.

**Tickets:** (per programme)

Early Bird P$99

P$109

A$89

B$59

C$49

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Duration:** (per programme) 1hr 30mins (incl. interval)

**Programme 1:** Bach, Brahms, Poulenc and Martin

Traverse the centuries from Bach and Brahms to Poulenc and Martin and experience the Netherlands Chamber Choir’s “fearless” (The Times) skill in conveying the poignancy and beauty of choral music, led by chief conductor Peter Dijkstra, one of the world’s most sought-after choral conductors.

J. Brahms – Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen?

J. Brahms – Drei Gesänge für sechsstimmigen Chor

J.S. Bach – Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied (BWV 225)

F.J.M. Poulenc – Un soir de neige

F. Martin – Mass for double choir

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 7.30pm

**Programme 2:** Best of 150 Psalms

In 2017, the Netherlands Chamber Choir initiated the 150 Psalms project, with four choirs performing 150 psalms from the Old Testament written by 150 composers. Now, specially chosen for the 2020 Festival, the choir presents a selection of these psalms. They sing of justice, humanity, compassion, consolation and liberation.

**When:** Sun 8 Mar, 6pm

**Artist Talk:** Pre-show, 5.10pm, Harbourview Lounge, Michael Fowler Centre

BLACK TIES

Te Rēhia Theatre Company | Aotearoa/New Zealand

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company | Australia

THEATRE / COMEDY / MUSIC

Written by John Harvey and Tainui Tukiwaho

Directed by Rachael Maza and Tainui Tukiwaho

When Māori corporate hotshot Hera and Aboriginal consultancy entrepreneur Kane locked eyes at a Cultural Awareness session, it was love at first sight. Ambitious and career focused, Kane and Hera now have their perfect future all mapped out. But there is one thing they can’t control … their families!

As the biggest mob of Aunties, Uncles and cousins from both sides of the ditch get worked up for the biggest, brownest wedding ever, reality is sinking in. Fast. Will this international love story bring two strong cultures together? Or will it blow Hera and Kane’s world apart?

Created by a bold and brilliant team of Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, **BLACK TIES** is a hilarious and heart-warming immersive theatre experience where you’re the guest of honour on the big day. With a live band pumping out all your party favourites and wedding classics, you’ll leave sure that the power of love can unite all people – for better or worse. Nau mai, piki mai, grab your bow tie!

“Feel good fun with a great message” — BROADWAY WORLD on Te Rēhia Theatre’s Astroman

“A warmly affirming window on Indigenous family life” — SYDNEY MORNING HERALD on ILBIJERRI Theatre Company’s WHICH WAY HOME

**When:**

Wed 4 - Sat 7 Mar, 8pm

Sat 7 Mar, 1.30pm

**Where:** Shed 6

**Duration:** 2hrs 30mins (incl. interval)

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $53

$59

**Artist Talk:** Pre-show, Thu 5 Mar, 7pm Shed 6

Partnered by: QMS

Thanks to: Creative New Zealaqnd, Australian High Commission

BLACK TIES was commissioned by AsiaTOPA, a joint initiative of the Sidney Myer Fund and Arts Centre Melbourne; and has been assisted by the Australian Government’s Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., Sydney Festival, Perth Festival, New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Auckland Festival, AsiaTOPA Festival and Brisbane Festival. BLACK TIES is also supported by Creative New Zealand. ILBIJERRI Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by Creative Victoria and City of Melbourne.

The New Pornographers

Canada

MUSIC

For the past two decades, The New Pornographers have been delivering infectious hooks, sweet harmonies and a pile of power-pop riffs every time they take the stage. The critically acclaimed supergroup – A.C. Newman, Neko Case, Kathryn Calder, Todd Fancey, Blaine Thurier, John Collins, Joe Seiders and Simi Stone – storms into the Festival as part of a whirlwind tour in support of its brand new record **In The Morse Code Of Brake Lights**. The album is more of what the Pornographers do best: “pure, blissfully irresistible power-pop” (NPR MUSIC).

“Euphoric powerpop pile-up”

— THE GUARDIAN

“A blistering, steamrollering set”

— THE INDEPENDENT (UK)

**When:** Tue 3 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $83

$89

Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

United States, Italy

MUSIC

With her soul-stirring voice and a mastery of the banjo and fiddle, Rhiannon Giddens has bridged musical genres and time, bringing a warmth and show-stopping intensity to the music of Americana past and future.

Since stepping out from her Grammy Award-winning band Carolina Chocolate Drops, she’s captivated global audiences with protest songs, opera arias, film soundtracks and covers of greats from Dolly Parton to Nina Simone. Giddens can take a tune from deep in the dark heart of America’s country-blues tradition and shine a light on it in such a way as to make it feel brand new. Her original songs haunt you like familiar country ballads from a century ago.

This special event features songs from her latest album **there is no Other**, a collaboration with Italian multi-instrumentalist and jazz musician Francesco Turrisi that is a stunning hybrid style of gospel, opera, bluegrass, early baroque and Mediterranean music. Experience the spine-tingling sound of new Americana that takes us back to music’s earliest heartbeats.

“She can write brand-new originals…that sound decades, if not centuries, old” — ROLLING STONE on there is no Other

“A folk landmark” — THE GUARDIAN on there is no Other

**When:** Wed 4 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $93

$99

Partnered by: OCTAVE

New Zealand Opera presents Eight Songs for a Mad King

Aotearoa/New Zealand

OPERA

Composed by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

Directed by Thomas de Mallet Burgess

Designed by Robin Rawstorne

Get outside the box of opera as you know it with this innovative indoor/outdoor staging of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies’ “astonishing work” (Classical Source) **Eight Songs for a Mad King.**

This new production by New Zealand Opera sees the ‘mad’ King George III transformed into a modern corporate everyman, as a disarming device to explore our complicated relationship with mental health and power. As an added twist, you can experience the action up close, and at a creepy surveillance-like distance, through the window.

Maxwell Davies’ iconic score derives from the songs King George III played on his mechanical organ and attempted to train his bullfinches to sing. The music requires a baritone of extraordinary technique to sing over five octaves, with New Zealander Robert Tucker fit for the challenge. Partnering with the groundbreaking contemporary music ensemble Stroma, this modern take on opera promises to be a bold and immersive experience.

**When:**

Mon 2, Wed 4, Thu 5,

Sat 7 Mar, 8.30pm

**Where:** RNZB Dance Centre

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $73

$79

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Funded by Creative New Zealand, Auckland Council, Wellington City Council and Christchurch City Council. Supported by New Zealand Festival of the Arts and Auckland Arts Festival.

**Mr Red Light**

Nightsong | Aotearoa/New Zealand

THEATRE / COMEDY

Written by Carl Bland

Directed by Ben Crowder and Carl Bland

Mr Red Light is a man who attracts bad luck. So naturally, when he tries to rob a bank he fails miserably and ends up in a pie shop dealing with three very uncooperative hostages and the world’s worst police negotiator.

As time ticks by, Mr Red Light and his captives play a game of getting to know you. And mysteriously, Mr Red Light seems to know more about his hostages’ lives than is possible.

Created by the award-winning Nightsong team (Te Pō, 360) who “make the impossible work” (Stuff). Joyfully inventive, absurdly funny and full of surprises, Mr Red Light could be a fool or a prophet. Either way, he will remind you how wonderful life can be.

“A joyride of non-stop, tragicomic thrills” — NEW ZEALAND HERALD

**When:**

Wed 4 – Sat 7 Mar, 7pm

Sat 7 Mar, 1pm

Sun 8 Mar, 2pm

**Where:** Circa Theatre

**Duration:** 1hr 30mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $53

$59

**Artist Talk:** Post-show, Thu 5 Mar, Circa Theatre

Commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts and developed with the support of Auckland Live

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Writers: Week Two

Jokha Alharthi: Celestial Bodies

Oman

Booker International Prize winner 2019, Jokha Alharthi is the first Omani woman to have had her work translated into English. **Celestial Bodies** givesa richly woven insight into Oman’s history through the story of three sisters growing up at a pivotal timeof change. Jokha sits down with Noelle McCarthy to talk about her literary world and what winning the Booker has meant for Arabic literature and for the author herself.

The chair of judges for the prize, historian Bettany Hughes, said: “Through the different tentacles of people’s lives and loves and losses we come to learn about this society – all its degrees, from the very poorest of the slave families working there to those making money through the advent of a new wealth in Oman and Muscat. It starts in a room and ends in a world.”

“We felt we were getting access to ideas and thoughts and experiences you aren’t normally given in English. It avoids every stereotype you might expect in its analysis of gender and race and social distinction and slavery. There are surprises throughout. We fell in love with it.”

— Booker International judges chair Bettany Hughes

When: Sat 7 Mar, 11.30am

Where: Renouf Foyer

Tickets: $19

Duration: 1hr

Damian Barr: You Will Be Safe Here

United Kingdom

How does the past connect with the present? Damian Barr’s novel **You Will Be Safe** Here traces the lives of Sarah and Fred, forced into a camp during the second Boer War, alongside the story of 16-year-old Willem who in 2011 is sent to the New Dawn Safari Training Camp, which promises to “make men out of boys”. Damian deftly illustrates how the cruelty of Empires and individuals plays across time. The literary salon host and acclaimed author of the memoir **Maggie & Me** discusses South African history, hope, homophobia and the true story that inspired this extraordinary first novel.

“This is a book that tilts the world” — STYLIST (UK)

When: Wed 4 Mar, 6pm

Where: Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Long Litt Woon:The Way Through the Woods

Norway

How did mushrooming help a grieving woman rebuild her identity after immense loss? Author Long Litt Woon (The Way Through the Woods) talks to rongoā practitioner and writer Arihia Latham on the encounters that kept her going and the hobby that healed.

**When:** Fri 6 Mar, 5pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Andrea Lawlor: All About Paul

United States

Set against the backdrop of 90s San Francisco, Andrea Lawlor’s **Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl** is a shapeshifting ode to pleasure and freedom. Andrea sits down with Pip Adam to unpack the gender-shifting world of Paul.

**When:** Fri 6 Mar, 6.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Lisa Feldman Barrett: How Emotions are Made

Canada

Lisa Feldman Barrett is one of the world’s most respected scientists in the field of human emotion. **How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain** radically changed our understanding of the way we feel. In a rare Australasian appearance, Lisa discusses the way that culture, environment and personal history create emotion. Her research has vast implications for almost every aspect of our lives: from legal systems and parenting to the way we experience an arts festival.

“How Emotions Are Made did what all great books do. It took a subject I thought I understood and turned my understanding upside down” — MALCOLM GLADWELL, Best-selling author of David and Goliath and Outliers

**When:** Fri 6 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Coming to Our Senses

Aotearoa/New Zealand, Norway

In Laurence Fearnley’s novel Scented, the protagonist rebuilds her sense of self through the art of perfumery. Long Litt Woon’s memoir **The Way Through the Woods** is a journey through the vastly tactile and sensory world of mushrooming. Both stories explore ways to navigate loss through actions of care, curiosity and pleasure made possible through an intimate relationship with the environments and ecosystems around us. The authors discuss how we come to our senses with Jessie Bray-Sharpin.

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 10am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Bart van Es: The Cut Out Girl

Netherlands, United Kingdom

Costa Award-winning novel **The Cut Out Girl** is a moving and hugely resonant story of hidden children, trauma and displacement relevant in the retelling today. Professor of English at Oxford Bart van Es speaks with museums specialist Miri Young-Moir.

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 1pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

Tickets: $19

Duration: 1hr

An Evening with Joy Harjo

United States

Joy Harjo, the first Native American to be appointed US Poet Laureate, is a musician and author of nine books of poetry, including **An American Sunrise**, **Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings** **and She Had Some Horses.**

Joy uses her poems as a bridge to open discussions around indigeneity while reminding people that “poetry belongs to everyone”. She describes her work as “confronting the kind of society that would diminish Native people, disappear us from the story of this country”.

Her memoir **Crazy Brave** won the PEN USA Literary Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the American Book Award. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America and the United States Artist Fellowship.

Join Joy and Aotearoa poet Selina Tusitala Marsh for an evening of poetry, politics and what it means to be the voice of American verse today.

“One of our finest – and most complicated – poets” — LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 5.30pm

**Tickets:** $29

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Thanks to Embassy of The United States of America

**The Joy of Queer Lit Salon**

Aotearoa/New Zealand, United States

Queer authors Victor Rodger, Janis Freegard, Emily Writes, Jackson Nieuwland, Alison Glenny and Andrea Lawlor look at the history and canon of queer texts and reveal the books that set their hearts aflutter. Hosted by Chris Tse.

**When:** Sat 7 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

**Paula Green’s Poetry Shelf Live**

Aotearoa/New Zealand, United States

An hour of poetry hosted by Aotearoa’s patron saint of verse, Paula Green, with Jane Arthur, Lynn Jenner, Simone Kaho, Gregory Kan, Karlo Mila, Tayi Tibble and special guest US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo.

**When:** Sun 8 Mar, 12.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Writing Women’s Lives**

Oman, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Jokha Alharthi’s Booker International Prizewinning novel **Celestial Bodies** brings the lives of women in a rapidly changing Oman into sharp focus. Rijula Das’ debut novel **A Death in Shonagachhi** was recently released by Picador India and tells the story of sex workers in Calcutta. They speak with Kiran Dass about their relationship to their fictional creations and why we need more stories about women, written by women.

**When:** Sun 8 Mar, 11am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**Three Short Lectures: What Keeps Me Up at Night?**

Aotearoa/New Zealand, Netherlands, United Kingdom

What makes you wake up at 2am? What thoughts prompt a restless tossing and turning? Poet Karlo Mila (So Many Islands), essayist Rose Lu (All Who Live On Islands) and historian Bart van Es (The Cut Out Girl) reveal what keeps them awake in the small hours with a short lecture commissioned for this event by the 2020 Festival.

**When:** Sun 8 Mar, 2pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

**The Author’s Table**

Aotearoa/New Zealand, United States, Oman

Sit yourself down at the author’s table and take part in a conversation about their latest book, which you will receive with your ticket. This is an intimate event on a large scale. Read, think, ask your questions. Authors include: Craig Cliff, Elspeth Sandys, Benjamin Kingsbury, Andrea Lawlor, Laurence Fearnley, Jokha Alharthi, Vincent O’Malley, Rajorshi Chakraborti, Linda Burgess and Lawrence Patchett.

When you book your ticket, you will be asked to select a preference between fiction and non-fiction. We will allocate you to an author’s table based on this preference, though cannot make guarantees. Your ticket includes a copy of your allocated author’s book. Following booking, we will be in touch to arrange collection/distribution.

**When:** Sun 8 Mar, 5.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $59-includes book

**Duration:** 1hr 30mins

Guest Curator | Week Three

Bret McKenzie

Comedian, actor and composer

As you’d expect, music and comedy influence Bret McKenzie’s programme, with hearty laughs, stinging satire and soaring melodies. Headlining the week is a theatrical coup he has scored for Wellington: a work in progress production of a new National Theatre (UK) musical adaptation of George Saunders’ darkly funny **The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil**. You’ll see Phil before the rest of the world and can say “I was there when…”

Bret wants families to come out in force for the Festival. He’ll be taking his kids for an arts adventure on the Kāpiti Coast and around Wellington’s green spaces in search of the enchanting miniature huts created by artists Kemi Niko & Co. Free for three weeks, this is a must-do whānau activity – take the train, the bus or walk for a great day out in our beautiful region.

From the Netherlands comes the virtuosic musical comedy group Släpstick, with a show perfect for all ages. They were a hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and their hilarious five-star show, raved about the world over, comes to New Zealand for the first time.

Music is central to Bret’s work and his concert series celebrates fellow New Zealand musicians that influence and excite him today as well as some unique international collaborations. Don’t miss the trio of late night gigs in Shed 6 on the Wellington waterfront. In the 2020 Festival’s final week, lovers and dreamers of all ages will see their city transformed by a touch of McKenzie magic.

The Weta Digital Season of

The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil

National Theatre | United Kingdom, Aotearoa/New Zealand

THEATRE / MUSIC / COMEDY / WRITERS

A ‘work in progress’ showing of a new musical based on the novella by George Saunders

Book by Tim Price

Music and lyrics by Bret McKenzie

Directed by Lyndsey Turner

Welcome to Outer Horner, home of Phil: an embittered nobody with a chip on his shoulder, an external mounting-rack that houses his brain, and an opinion for every occasion. When neighbouring Inner Horner suddenly shrinks, forcing its inhabitants to spill over the border, it is Phil who steps into the breach. This is the tragic and hilarious story of the brief and frightening reign of Phil.

A new musical version of George Saunders’ cult story is in the early stages of development at the National Theatre in London. Now, for the first time, its creators Bret McKenzie, Tim Price and Lyndsey Turner offer up a work in progress showing of their first draft to a live audience.

With script in hand, actors, musicians, singers and technicians will test out their new material, rewriting each day in response to the audience and turning the Festival into a living, breathing development lab for Saunders’ brilliant and timely satire on nationalism and power.

Continue the conversation with Booker Prize winner George Saunders as part of the Writers programme. See page 113.

**When:**

Tue 10 – Wed 11 Mar, 7.30pm

Thu 12 – Fri 13 Mar, 6.30pm

Sat 14 Mar, 4pm

**Where:** Shed 6

**Duration:** To be announced

**Tickets:** $59

**Artist Talk:** Post-show, Wed 11 Mar, Shed 6

NZSL interpreted performance Sat 14 Mar, 4pm. See page 9 or festival.nz/access

The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil is under commission to the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Partnered by: Weta Digital

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

The Weta Digital Season of

The Late Night Gigs

MUSIC

Partnered by Weta Digital

Thanks to Creative New Zealand

Nadia Reid

With her new album

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Following her return from the UK, be the first to hear new music from singer-songwriter and guitarist, Nadia Reid, at this album launch concert. Described by The Guardian as “an understated, wise guide through uncertain territory”, what brings Reid’s lyrics to life are her unique voice and accompanying soundscapes, which conjure the rugged beaches and mountains of Aotearoa, the Port Chalmers harbour of her home, and the roaming, open territory of the road. She is joined for this full-sound experience by her band Sam Taylor, Richard Pickard, Joe McCallum and Anita Clark.

“When I hear a young artist making an album as soulful and rich and self-possessed [as this] I feel so thrilled not only for the existence of that record but for all the music they will make over all the years to come.”

— THE GUARDIAN

**When:** Thu 12 Mar, 9.30pm

**Where:** Shed 6

**Tickets:** $49 General Admission, standing

Shades of Shakti

Aotearoa/New Zealand, India

The dynamic fusion of classical Indian music and jazz made popular by John McLaughlin and L. Shankar of Shakti are celebrated Friday night in the Shed. The music of **Shades of Shakti** combines intricate fast melodies, virtuosic rhythms of the tabla and percussion, and the hypnotic tones of the sārangī, a highly resonant, ancient bowed instrument of India. This unique concert brings together some of Wellington’s finest musicians, Justin Firefly Clarke (guitar), Tristan Carter (violin), Chetan Ramlu (tabla), Thomas Friggens (percussion), joined by special guest sārangī maestro Sangeet Mishra direct from India’s holiest city, Varanasi. A rich collaboration bringing communities together and celebrating human diversity through music.

**When:** Fri 13 Mar, 9.30pm

**Where:** Shed 6

**Tickets:** $39 allocated Seating

Estère

Into the Belly of Capricorn

Aotearoa/New Zealand

“Everything the music world is lauding and lusting after right now” (NZ Herald), Estère is a hugely inventive songwriter and producer with a singular sound and flair for live performance. Estère’s music is dubbed ’Electric Blue Witch-Hop’ and weaves together elements of R&B, Folk and electronic music. In 2018, following the release of her second album **My Design, On Others’ Lives** described as an “exceptional record, rich and rewarding on every level” (RNZ), Estère embarked on a 40 date tour around the world.

Now Estère invites people to experience a specially curated live music event shaped by songs from her soon-to-be-released third album, co-produced by Stew Jackson (Massive Attack). **Into the Belly of Capricorn** braids together music, theatre, design, lighting and costume, and has been created in collaboration with opera/theatre director Sara Brodie, lighting designer Jo Kilgour and audio-visual artist Kaysha Bowler.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 9.30pm

**Where:** Shed 6

**Tickets:** $39 General Admission, standing

The Parkin Season of

Släpstick

Släpstick | Netherlands

THEATRE / COMEDY / FAMILY / MUSIC

Flying violins! Speed skating ballerinos! **Släpstick** is an ode to the timeless comedy of Charlie Chaplin, the Marx Brothers, Spike Jones, and Laurel and Hardy. Described as “clowning glory in [a] mix of music and comedy” (Daily Mail), this production promises you and the kids an evening of laughs rooted in the slapstick tradition but with a very modern twist.

Based in the Netherlands, this company of five world-class performers have mastered more than 100 instruments between them to present “a feast for the eyes as well as the ears” (Fest Magazine). Zinging with energy and mischief, **Släpstick** is “a cavalcade of daftness that is superbly orchestrated and never misses a trick” (The Herald Scotland).

“Buy a ticket while you still can” — DAILY MAIL

“Unexpected, genuine poignancy” — THE SCOTSMAN

**When:** Fri 13 – Sat 14 Mar, 7pm

Sat 14 – Sun 15 Mar, 2pm

**Where:** Opera House

**Duration:** 1hr 10mins

**Tickets:**

Adult A$79

B$59

C$39

Child A$39

B$29

C$19

Partnered by Southbase Construction

Thanks to Chris and Kathy Parkin

Urban Hut Club

Kemi Niko & Co. | Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FAMILY / FREE / INTERACTIVE / WRITERS

Gather the whānau and head outdoors for an artful expedition in search of bespoke little huts full of stories and imagination. Inspired by iconic huts of rural and alpine Aotearoa, this collection of handcrafted structures await discovery along the Kāpiti Coast, from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki. Roaming around Wellington and the Hutt Valley you may also be surprised by a pop-up hut enticing you further afield to find its regional siblings. Playing with architectural forms typically found in the backcountry, artists Kemi Niko & Co. have co-designed and built five enchanting mini- huts with Kāpiti Coast communities, using salvaged materials that tell stories rich with history. Housed within each unique hut are logbooks where you can share your thoughts with other explorers. Writers Mandy Hager, Apirana Taylor, Chris Maclean and Renée have gifted each hut with its own short story.

Grab a map and lose yourself in the adventure of discovering hidden wild spaces and creations right on your doorstep.

“If art should be accessible, participatory and fun, then Kemi and Niko have succeeded spectacularly” – WILDERNESS MAG on Miniature Hikes

**When:** 21 Feb – 15 Mar

**Where:** Kāpiti Coast, Hutt City and Wellington. Visit festival.nz/urbanhutclub for hut locations and clue navigation.

Kāpiti Coast huts are located a short walk from carparking and railway stations and are in natural environments such as beaches and bush trails. Locating the huts may require navigating uneven terrain off track. Within the collection there are journeys suited to most moods and abilities, however wheelchair access cannot be guaranteed for all huts. Visit festival.nz/access for more information on hut accessibility.

Online Audio Descriptions available. Suitable for Deaf audiences. See page 9 or festival.nz/access.

Commissioned by: New Zealand Festival of Arts.

Partnered by: Springload

Thanks to: NZCT, Creative New Zealand, Kapiti Coast District Council

Aldous Harding

Weyes Blood

Purple Pilgrims

Aotearoa/New Zealand, United States

MUSIC

“Baffling, brilliant, and totally original” (Stuff), Aldous Harding live is all three. The entrancing singer, performer and 2019 Silver Scroll winner is in great company here delivering a night of sublime and offbeat indie folk to sweep you into the weekend.

Pennsylvanian Natalie Mering – aka Weyes Blood – creates beautifully crafted folk with a subtly psychedelic edge. Her voice has “a potent, old-school beauty” (The Guardian), recalling Karen Carpenter and Carole King. Hear tracks from her “gorgeously smart” fourth album, **Titanic Rising**, her most sumptuous and assured.

Sisters Clementine and Valentine Nixon are Aotearoa dreamscape duo Purple Pilgrims. Expect entwined voices that soar, seduce and slow dive, in a “suite of dream pop, folk and cosmic jazz” (Pitchfork).

“A high-wire act tense with vulnerability”

— THE GUARDIAN on Aldous Harding

“Her work floats through space with a glistening, emotionally rich shimmer”

— LA TIMES on Weyes Blood

“Lush melodies, strands that wind and splay like a carpet of vines”

— PITCHFORK on Purple Pilgrims

**When:** Fri 13 Mar, 8pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets**:

Early Bird $83

$89

Partnered by: Newstalk ZB

Thanks to: Creative New Zealand

Trois Grandes Fugues

Lyon Opera Ballet | France

DANCE

Choreographed by: Lucinda Childs, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker and Maguy Marin

One massive piece of music. Three choreographers’ remarkable interpretations. In “one of the most exhilarating, uncompromising evenings of dance” (The Guardian), three of the world’s most esteemed choreographers, Lucinda Childs (US), Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker (Belgium) and Maguy Marin (France), present their own visions of Beethoven’s passionate masterpiece Die Grosse Fugue.

Performed by the world-renowned Lyon Opera Ballet, a company known for taking on a vast range of ambitious work, this “monumental, stark and uncompromising” (New York Times) triple bill takes you deep inside Beethoven’s score, in ways so different and gripping it reveals how strongly music can move you.

“Dance that rewards close viewing and illuminates its music”

— FINANCIAL TIMES

“The experience is riveting”

— NEW YORK TIMES

**When:**

Wed 11 – Thu 12 Mar, 7.30pm

Thu 12 Mar, 1.30pm

**Where:** Opera House

**Duration:** 1hr 30mins (incl. interval)

**Tickets:**

Adult Early Bird P$139

P$149

A$109

B$99

C$79

Child A$39

B$29

**Matinee Tickets:**

Adult Early Bird $109

P$119

A$99/$39

B$79/$29

C$69

Child A$39

B$29

Thanks to: The Van der Boyes Family Trust

Supported by La France en Nouvelle-Zélande, Ambassade de France

Dimanche

Focus & Chaliwaté | Belgium

THEATRE

Written and directed by Julie Tenret, Sicaire Durieux and Sandrine Heyraud

It’s a typical Sunday. A family is about to spend the day together. But the walls are shaking, strong winds and torrential rain rage outside and the storm has only just begun. Meanwhile, three travelling wildlife reporters are doing their best to document the apocalypse. They film, with what little equipment they have, Earth’s last living species: three wild animals on the brink of extinction.

What is normal in a radically changing world? **Dimanche** paints a witty and tender portrait of humanity caught out by the uncontrollable forces of nature. “Meticulously made using a skilful mix of mime, video, object and puppet theatre to enchanting effect” (Edinburgh Guide), Belgian creatives Focus & Chaliwaté’s almost wordless performance observes the ingenuity and stubbornness of humans as they go to absurd extremes to keep up a sense of normalcy despite the chaos of an ecological collapse.

“[They] make us laugh with their ingenuity and then break our hearts in two with their profound message” — THE SCOTSMAN

“A charming blend of fact and fiction with a vintage aesthetic and very current message” — EDINBURGH GUIDE

**When**:

Thu 12 – Fri 13 Mar, 7pm

Sat 14 – Sun 15 Mar, 5pm

**Where:** TSB Arena

**Duration:** 1hr 20mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $63

$69

**Artist Talk:** Post-show, Fri 13 Mar, TSB Arena

Suitable for Deaf audiences. Artist talk Fri 13 Mar in NZSL. See page 9 or festival.nz/access.

Partnered by Nielsen

Strasbourg 1518

Borderline Arts Ensemble | Aoteoroa/New Zealand

DANCE / THEATRE / MUSIC

Directed and choreographed by Lucy Marinkovich

Written and composed by Lucien Johnson

Strasbourg, 1518. A city on the brink. The triple threat of escalating inequality, rampant misogyny and a devastating drought threaten to break the town in two. When a lone woman steps out of her house and begins to dance, everyone is bewildered. But within days, hundreds more have followed her lead. As the authorities invent ever more bizarre ways to resolve this new crisis, the city falls one by one into a delirious hypnosis of a real-life dance with death. Directed and choreographed by Lucy Marinkovich and written and composed by Lucien Johnson, Borderline Arts Ensemble’s world premiere explores the unsolved and enigmatic true history of the 1518 Strasbourg dance epidemic. With live music and an outstanding company of dancers including the legendary Michael Parmenter, this production is a visceral, explosive exploration of the limits of rationality, the power of the subconscious and the pivotal need for dance in human lives.

“A bold and often-exhilarating piece of dance; a deeply humane, life-giving piece of storytelling”

— PANTOGRAPH PUNCH on Lobsters

**When:**

Thu 12 - Sat 14 Mar, 6.30pm

Sun 15 Mar, 4pm

**Where:** Circa Theatre

**Duration:** 1hr 10mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $53

$59

**Artist Talk:** Post-show, Sat 14 Mar, Circa Theatre

Commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts. Supported by Creative New Zealand, Wellington City Council, Wallace Arts Trust and the Australian High Commission.

Contains nudity

Hōkioi me te Vwōhali From spirit eagles land

Ōkāreka Dance Company | Aotearoa/New Zealand

in collaboration with Exhale Dance Tribe | United States

DANCE

Choreographed by Taiaroa Royal, Missy Hubbard and Andrew Hubbard

Enter a world of sacred eagles that blends the ancient

with the modern.

**From spirit eagles land** explores parallels between the Hōkioi (Haast) Eagle and the Vwōhali (American Golden) Eagle, embodying the majesty and mana of those two sacred birds and their shared whakapapa. Swooping and soaring, the dancers’ movement is enhanced by a cinematic surround-sound experience that cleverly transports you between Aotearoa, Duyuktv (Cherokee) land and the spiritual realm.

For Ōkāreka choreographer Taiaroa Royal (Te Arawa, Kai Tahu, Ngāti Raukawa, Ūenukukōpako), this is the climax of his 11-year journey of cultural discovery that began with a chance meeting with Cincinnati-based choreographers Missy and Andrew Hubbard of Exhale Dance Tribe and the revelation that both Māori and the Duyuktv people share a special connection through reverence of the eagle. Be there for this, the world premiere season.

“Truly memorable and inspired” — OTAGO DAILY TIMES on Mana Wahine

**When:**

Thu 12 - Sat 14 Mar, 8pm

Sat 14 Mar, 1.30pm

**Where:** Soundings Theatre,Te Papa

**Duration:** 1hr 10mins

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $53

$59

**Artist Talk:** Pre-show, Sat 14 Mar, 12.30pm, Soundings Theatre

Audio Described performance Sat 14 Mar 1.30pm. Touch Tour 12pm. See page 9 or festival.nz/access

Commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts.

Supported by Creative New Zealand and Foundation North.

Partnered by Studio Pacific Architecture

Thanks to Creative New Zealand

Secrets of Sea and Space

New Zealand String Quartet

Aotearoa/New Zealand

MUSIC

With guest soprano Jenny Wollerman

“Stunning … Superb … Magical” — NEW ZEALAND HERALD on **Quintessence: The Mozart and Brahms Quintet Experience**

The New Zealand String Quartet, who recently celebrated their 32nd season, regularly tour to the UK, Europe and North America where they are renowned for their versatility and passionate communication through music. They are also enthusiastic champions of New Zealand composers and supporters of emerging musicians.

In their new programme, **Secrets of Sea and Space**, the Quartet, joined by soprano Jenny Wollerman, transport you with Arnold Schoenberg’s String Quartet No. 2. The Schoenberg is handsomely paired with a quartet by one of his most celebrated students, Alban Berg, who furthered his mentor’s twelve-tone technique with **Lyric Suite**.

The programme concludes with Ross Harris’ ode to the unforgiving oceans, **The Abiding Tides**. Originally commissioned for Wollerman and the New Zealand String Quartet, the piece uses poems by Vincent O’Sullivan, whose premise, “the sea has no favourites”, concedes to an ocean as vast as it uncompromising. Adventurous spirits will be rewarded by this exquisite programme.

**When:** Tue 10 Mar, 6pm

**Where:** St Mary of the Angels

**Duration:** 1hr 40mins (incl. interval)

**Tickets:**

Early Bird $53

$59

Touch Tour and pre-show talk 5pm. See page 9 or festival.nz/access.

Thanks to Creative New Zealand

Writers: Week Three

Samer Nashef: The Angina Monologues

United Kingdom

Cardiac surgeon Samer Nashef’s memoir, **The Angina Monologues**, describes life inside the operating theatre: from emergency surgeries to operating in the Palestinian West Bank. He speaks with the Aotearoa author of **A Mistake**, Carl Shuker, about what you draw upon when faced with life and death situations.

Partnered by: Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

**When:** Wed 11 Mar, 6pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

George Saunders: Live from New York

United States

Published in 2005, George Saunders’ **The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil** is astoundingly resonant of contemporary American politics. Aotearoa artist Jo Randerson speaks with Booker Prize winner George in this digital event about the place of darkness and kindness in stories today.

Curated by Bret McKenzie

**When:** Thu 12 Mar, 12pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Kinley Salmon: My Future, My Robot?

Aotearoa/New Zealand

Kinley Salmon, New Zealand economist and author of **Jobs, Robots & Us**, presents a view into the future of work in Aotearoa. Should we be worried or excited? And what can we do to build a positive future for work in New Zealand?

Partnered by Berl

**When:** Thu 12 Mar, 7.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Lindy West: The Witches Are Coming

United States

Nobody critiques US politics and culture like Lindy West: incisive, funny, smart. Lindy takes a long look at the misogyny riddled through the media and joins journalist and broadcaster Charlotte Graham-McLay to explore how we have arrived at Trump’s America.

**When:** Wed 11 Mar, 7.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Kristen Ghodsee: Socialism vs Capitalism

United States

Is capitalism bad for women? Dr Kristen Ghodsee asserted as such in her viral New York Times opinion piece leading to her book **Why Women Have Better Sex Under Socialism: And Other Arguments for Economic Independence.** The author and professor joins RNZ’s Kim Hill to discuss.

**When:** Thu 12 Mar, 6pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Dr Hannah Critchlow: Sex, Politics and Gender The Science of Fate

United Kingdom

**The Science of Fate** is a ride through the mechanics of the way the brain shapes our decisions told in Dr Hannah Critchlow’s characteristically clear and compelling voice. Hannah helps demystify the brain with science communicator, Damian Christie.

**When:** Fri 13 Mar, 5pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Scarlett Thomas: Oligarchy

United Kingdom

Scarlett Thomas is loved for her ingenious storytelling that crackles with originality. Once described as like “Muriel Spark’s disreputable niece”, Scarlett discusses her life of writing, where the inspiration for **Oligarchy** originated, and where she is heading next.

**When:** Fri 13 Mar, 6.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Alison Whittaker: Blakwork

Australia

Mesmerising performer, poet and legal scholar Alison Whittaker’s work is to interrogate feminism, class, social justice and the erasure of Aboriginal people. Her second book **Blakwork** is a stunning mix of memoir, reportage, fiction, satire and critique.

Shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary

Awards and Australian Book Industry Awards.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 10am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Sex, Politics and Gender

United States, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Kristen Ghodsee (Women Have Better Sex Under Socialism), Marilyn Waring (Marilyn Waring: The Political Years) and Ngahuia te Awekotuku (Tahuri, Mana Wāhine Māori Mau) discuss with RNZ’s Kathryn Ryan the ongoing fight for gender equality. Drawing from their formidable experiences across cultural, political and academic landscapes, the authors reveal where they think the future is headed for women.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 1pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Young Minds Take the Library

Aotearoa/New Zealand

FAMILY / FREE

Bring the whānau along to see author interviews led by young readers, make your own mini book, and more at this day-long writers festival for children and young adults. Authors include Scarlett Thomas, Sacha Cotter, Josh Morgan, Whiti Hereaka and Vincent O’Malley.

Curated by Bret McKenzie

**When:** Sat 14 Mar,10am-3pm

**Where:** National Library

Partnered by Moore Wilsons

Proudly Supported by National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa.

Three Short Lectures: What Does My Future Look Like?

Aotearoa/New Zealand, United Kingdom

What happens when a climate scientist, a neuroscientist and an economist offer a portal into the future as they see it? Professor James Renwick (weather and climate researcher), Dr Hannah Critchlow (The Science of Fate) and Kinley Salmon (Jobs, Robots & Us) deliver the second in our series of Three Short Lectures commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts. Hosted by futurist Melissa Clarke-Reynolds.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 11.30am

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr

Dear Me: Letters to Menton

Aotearoa/New Zealand

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellowship, three former recipients of the prestigious residency write letters ... to themselves. Mandy Hager, Lloyd Jones and Jenny Bornholdt read aloud to us letters to themselves as residents in the room where Mansfield wrote. What did that time and place mean for them? What was written while there? What does the writer of today feel now about the writer of then? After, join us for a glass of wine, canapés and conversation with other residents.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 2.30pm

**Where:** Renouf Foyer

**Tickets:** $29

**Duration:** 1hr 30mins

Who are we now?

Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia

On the eve of the anniversary of the Christchurch Massacre, writers from Aotearoa and Australia discuss their experiences of everyday racism. Guled Mire (Aotearoa), Alison Whittaker (Gomeroi, Australia), Nyadol Nyuon (Australia), Anahera Gildea (Ngāti Tokorehe) and Jack McDonald (Te Whakatōhea, Te Pakakohi, Te Ātiawa) offer poetry, conversation and an assessment of where we are now and what needs to happen next.

**When:** Sat 14 Mar, 5pm

**Where:** Michael Fowler Centre

**Tickets:** $19

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Christchurch Remembrance

As dusk falls on 15 March, the one-year anniversary of the Christchurch shootings at the Linwood and Al Noor mosques in Christchurch where 51 people lost their lives and 49 were injured, the 2020 New Zealand Festival of the Arts closes with a moment of remembrance and reflection hosted by members of the Wellington Muslim community in partnership with mana whenua, Wellington City and our fellow citizens and visitors. We welcome all.

Details announced in early 2020.

VISUAL ARTS

Cloud Pink

Everyware | South Korea

VISUAL ARTS / FAMILY / INTERACTIVE / FREE

Created by Hyunwoo Bang and Yunsil Heo

You are lying on a hill, your eyes filled with the endless blue sky. Your perception suddenly gets distorted and clouds drift by the tip of your nose. You stretch your arms up to touch the clouds … but you can’t reach them. What if you could?

**Cloud Pink** is an immersive piece by Seoul-based creatives Everyware that invites you to manipulate the sky from below, your touch causing a visual reaction in the projected simulation of wafting pink clouds

Join us to explore a sense of childlike wonder and playfulness. Interact with the world above but just within reach.

**When:** 1 Feb – 5 Apr

**Where:** Expressions Whirinaki Arts and Entertainment Centre, Upper Hutt

Suitable for Deaf audiences. See page 9 or festival.nz/access

**Fired Up: Festival of Ceramics**

Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FREE / FESTIVAL WITHIN THE FESTIVAL

This festival within the Festival is for makers, collectors and anyone keen to learn more about ceramics. Choose from exhibitions at more than a dozen dealer and public art galleries, take a late-night ‘crawl’ between venues, or attend a firing workshop. With a range of opportunities to appreciate and even acquire your own piece, **Fired Up** is a fantastic way to explore and celebrate New Zealand’s lively and diverse contemporary ceramics-making.

**When:** 21 Feb – 15 Mar

**Galleries:** Avid Gallery, Bartley and Company Art, Bowen Galleries, Hamish McKay, Millers O'Brien, McLeavey Gallery, Mossman, Page Gallery, {Suite} Art Gallery, The Dowse Art Museum, Pātaka Art + Museum, Te Auaha Gallery, Te Papa Tongarewa, Toi Māori Gallery

A Short Run: A Selection of

New Zealand Lathe-Cut Records

Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FREE

At the foothills of the Southern Alps in the late 1980s, Peter King re-engineered a then-outdated technology, developing a new way of “cutting” audio into transparent polycarbonate plastic. Now, researched and curated by Luke Wood, these lathe-cut records and more recent developments in lathe-cutting record technology come together to explore the intersection between music and design in the radical margins of New Zealand culture.

Co-commissioned by The Dowse Art Museum and Objectspace.

**When:** 15 Feb – 7 Jun

**Where:** The Dowse Art Museum

Anthems of Belonging

Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FREE

In **Anthems of Belonging**, artist, musician and vocalist Olivia Webb has worked with five families to write songs that reflect on their feelings about place and belonging in Aotearoa. Filmed in their living rooms and emphasising the political aspect of using one’s voice, the songs form a collective expression of our community, acknowledging the constantly changing nature and diversity of New Zealand’s population.

**When:** 29 Nov – 22 Mar

**Where:** The Dowse

Strands

Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FREE

Highlighting the role of whakawhanaungatanga, **Strands** brings together the work of Arapeta Ashton (Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Porou, Muriwhenua), Ayesha Green (Kai Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu), Chevron Hassett (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu) and Ana Iti (Te Rarawa). Each of these artists has recently reconnected with the whenua they are from, using these experiences to inform their art making.

**When:** 29 Nov – 22 Mar

**Where:** The Dowse Art Museum

Toi Art at Te Papa

VISUAL ARTS / FREE

Tamatea: Legacies of Encounter

Aotearoa/New Zealand

**Tamatea: Legacies of Encounter** presents **Waterfall in Dusky Sound with Māori canoe**, painted by William Hodges in 1776, in conversation with Ngāi Tahu taonga and works by New Zealand artists Mark Adams and Colin McCahon. Explore the legacies – artistic, scientific, and cultural – generated by the first meetings of southern Māori and Pākehā in 1773 at Te Papa.

**When:** 9 Nov – 7 Jun

**Where:** Toi Art, Level 4, Te Papa

Tatau: Sāmoan Tattooing and Photography

Aotearoa/New Zealand

**Tatau: Sāmoan Tattooing and Photography** presents the work of four photographers who have documented Sāmoan tattooing over the past 40 years. More than 50 works by Mark Adams, Greg Semu, John Agcaoili and Angela Tiatia reveal the practice of tatau in intimate domestic scenes from suburban garages to street photography, and in relation to themes of religious iconography and female sexuality. Delve into the diverse perspectives on the unique cultural practice of Sāmoan tattooing.

**When:** 9 Nov – 7 Jun

**Where:** Toi Art, Level 4, Te Papa

Kaihaukai Art Collective

Simon Kaan and Ron Bull jr., and musician Mara TK at Te Papa for an evening of music and food inspired by Tamatea (Dusky Sound), Ngāi Tahu mahinga kai practices and Toi Art exhibition **Tamatea: Legacies of Encounter**. Projects by the Kaihaukai Art Collective are centred on foodrelated cultural practice and exchange.

Limited numbers. Registration essential via tepapa.nz

**When:** Tue 3 Mar, 7-10pm

**Where:** Toi Art, Level 4, Te Papa

Photobook New Zealand 2020

Aotearoa/New Zealand

VISUAL ARTS / FESTIVAL IN THE FESTIVAL / FREE

Take in an exciting array of events featuring leading international and Aotearoa photobook makers and publishers at the third Photobook New Zealand Festival, including an exhibition of Chinese photobooks, a bookfair, masterclass and lectures delivered by award-winning Spanish photographer Cristina de Middel and other special guests. With its friendly social atmosphere, this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in photography, design and bookmaking to sample innovative publications from New Zealand and abroad, and to learn from leading practitioners. All events (apart from the masterclass) are free. More information at photobooknz.com

**When:** Wed 4 Mar – Sun 8 Mar

**Where:** Te Papa & Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa

Choose Your Weekend Arts Adventure!

Lemi Ponifasio: Epic,Orchestrated and Ceremonial

Fri 21 – Sun 23 Feb

Kick off an epic opening weekend with the powerful event **Chosen and Beloved** (page 24) featuring the NZSO and MAU, follow it with Lemi’s radical theatrical prayer for hope **Jerusalem** (page 26) and wrap your weekend up with the heart-stirring music of Philip Glass and Max Richter performed by the NZSO (page 32).

Laurie Anderson: Arts Lovers’ Adventure

Fri 6 – Sun 8 Mar

Be inspired by Laurie Anderson’s adventurous spirit with the mesmerising concert **Here Comes the Ocean** (page 58). Go **To The Moon** (page 61) with a virtual reality experience and bring the whole family along to a specially composed **Concert for Dogs** (page 66). Each night head **Into the Open** (page 36) for projected artworks at multiple sites along the Wellington waterfront.

Bret McKenzie: Music, Imagination and Sharp Wit

Fri 13 – Sun 15 Mar

Witness the virtuosic shenanigans of **Släpstick** (page 97) before searching for the charming little huts of the Urban Hut Club (page 99). Become part of the creation of the National Theatre’s new musical **The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil** (page 92). Explore the tender and tough absurdities of a rapidly changing climate in **Dimanche** (page 105).

Wellington Writers Weekend

Fri 28 Feb – Sun 1 Mar

Whether it’s a Friday night with **Jung Chang** (Wild Swans/Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister), a Saturday afternoon with **Lucy-Anne Holmes** (Don’t Hold My Head Down), or **A Journey Through Love** on Sunday afternoon (pages 54), come down to the Michael Fowler Centre’s Renouf Foyer to listen, learn and join the conversation. Grab a Take Five Pass to get 20% discount to all $19 Writers sessions.

The Big Festival Weekend

Fri 6 – Sun 8 Mar

A weekend of top national and international offerings starts with **Teaċ Daṁsa’s** joyous and raucous **MÁM** straight out of Dublin (page 67). Be a guest at the hilarious wedding of two cultures in **BLACK TIES** (page 71) then take in the magnificent music of one of the world’s preeminent choirs, **Netherlands Chamber Choir** (page 79). Finish your weekend with a pie shop hold-up in **Mr Red Light** (page 79).

Made in Wellington

New Zealand Festival’s inaugural artist in residency programme Made in Wellington was launched in 2019 to harness the capital’s creative energy and as an opportunity for new works to be significantly impacted by the people, land, artists, sounds, history and atmosphere of Aotearoa. Irish choreographer and theatre-maker Michael Keegan- Dolan and his company Teaċ Daṁsa (Swan Lake/Loch na hEala (2018), **Rian** (2014) and **Giselle** (2008), who are deeply committed to the reclamation of indigenous Irish culture through language, story and music, were our first contributors. In the first six-week Made in Wellington residency, Michael and his company developed an exciting new work that comes full circle in 2020, to be presented as Teaċ Daṁsa’s **MÁM**, 5-8 March at the TSB Arena (see page 67).

“Collaborating with the Tāwhiri team has been a high point of my working life” — Michael Keegan-Dolan

Booking Tickets

How to book

**Online:** festival.nz or ticketmaster.co.nz

**Phone Ticketmaster:** 0800 120 071

**In person:** At Ticketmaster outlets nationwide

**Door sales:** Tickets may be purchased at the venue one hour prior to the show – provided there are still tickets available!

**Talanoa Mau:** Tickets for this event are available from iTICKET. Booking fees apply. Visit festival.nz/talanoa-mau.

Booking Periods and Offers

**The Culture Club supporters:** Preferential booking from Thursday 7 November to Sunday 17 November 2019. Learn more about The Culture Club at festival.nz/join.

**Public sales:** From Monday 18 November 2019.

**Early Bird sales:** Book early and save! An Early Bird price is available for most shows, giving you a discount on top of the ticket price. But only until Monday 16 December 2019.

**Take Five Pass:** A discounted Writers multi-pass is available for purchase from Friday 8 November (for The Culture Club) and Monday 18 November (General Public). Offer ends Friday 21 February 2020.

**Ticketmaster Booking Fees**

Ticketmaster booking fees apply to all ticket purchases, including door sales.

**Phone, email and postal bookings:** $11.00 per transaction.

**Internet bookings:** Tickets posted, picked up at venue or printed at home: $5.00 per transaction.

**Tickets couriered:** $9.00 per transaction.

**Door sales and Ticketmaster outlets:** $2.00 per ticket.

**Credit cards:** A payment processing fee of no more than 2.3% applies to purchases by credit card, debit card or gift card.

**Booking Information**

**Booking online?** Get your tickets posted or download them through your Ticketmaster account to print at home or show on your smartphone.

**Booking for more than ten people?** For groups of 10+, customers can email: groups@ticketmaster.co.nz or call the dedicated group line: 09 970 9745.

**Tickets didn’t arrive?** If you haven’t received your tickets within ten days of booking, please contact Ticketmaster on 0800 120 071.

**Child pricing:** Selected shows have special prices for children aged 15 years and under. All children must have a ticket, regardless of age.

**Seating/Pricing**

**Premium seating (P):** Available for selected shows. Premium seats are the very best seats in which to see the show. Premium seats are limited and sell quickly.

**A Reserve (A):** These are the best seats in the venue (after Premium, if Premium seating applies). A Reserve seats are not sight obstructed and offer the best vantage point for seeing the show.

**B Reserve (B):** These are the second-best seats in the venue. B Reserve seats may have slight sightline obstructions that do not affect your view of the action.

**C Reserve (C):** A limited number of seats are available in this price category. These seats are not the best seats in the venue, and are often at the back or to the very sides of the venue. They may have some sight or sound restrictions.

**Restricted View (RV):** These are the lowest priced seats in the venue and will have restricted sightlines and/or sound issues.

**Wheelchair seating:** It is essential you advise Ticketmaster at the time of booking if you have any special seating requirements, including wheelchair and/or companion seating. All venues have an allocated wheelchair area, but availability is limited. All wheelchair seating is sold at the lowest non-restricted view price, even if located in a higher reserve area. If you require a free companion seat, please contact Ticketmaster on 0800 120 071 to book.

**Seating requests:** If you have a particular seating request we advise you to phone through your booking and discuss your requirements with a Ticketmaster customer service representative.

**Disclaimer/Important Information**

Information in this programme is correct at the time of printing. The Festival reserves the right to alter without notice any events, programmes and artists. All ticket purchases are subject to availability, and the best available seats (in each price category) at the time of purchase will be sold.

Latecomers may be excluded from a show or admitted only at a suitable point in the performance. Latecomers will not be entitled to a transfer or a refund.

The use of cameras or recording devices is prohibited. All mobile phones and other devices that emit a sound must be either turned off or switched to silent for the duration of the

performance.

Tickets are not transferable and there are no refunds or exchanges permitted, except as required under New Zealand consumer law. If a show is cancelled you will be refunded your ticket price (excluding the Ticketmaster service fee).

Any claims on refunds for cancelled shows must be done prior to Friday 27 March 2020, via Ticketmaster.

**Need help with your booking?**

**Call Ticketmaster on 0800 120 071**

**Want to find out more about the shows?**

**Call the Festival on (04) 473 0149**

**Festival Whānau**

New Zealand Festival of the Arts is managed by Tāwhiri: Festivals and Experiences

Tāwhiri is the creative force behind New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Wellington Jazz Festival, Second Unit and Lexus Song Quest. Find out more at tawhiri.nz

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