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Concert: Man of Constant Sorrow: A tribute to the music of 'O Brother Where art Thou?' Photo: Tim da-RIn ۲

A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Concert: Man of Constant Sorrow: A tribute to the music of 'O Brother Where art Thou?' Photo: Tim da-RIn

#### VISION

To be one of the 'must visit' cultural destinations in Australia.

#### MISSION

To unlock the cultural, social and economic value of City Recital Hall.

We will do this by:

- producing, promoting, presenting, encouraging and facilitating excellent cultural events;
- ensuring diversity of users, audiences and programs;
- engaging new audiences; and
- operating and managing the venue responsibly and sustainably, and in cooperation with stakeholders.

#### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- Progressive thinking and creative excellence underpin everything we do.
  We think outside the square to deliver unique and creative experiences for our artists, partners and audiences.
- Democratic and diverse Everyone plays an important part, every voice is heard, everyone is respected. We champion diversity by engaging with all genres, all peoples, all ideas. We are proud to be open, transparent and inclusive.
- **Playful** We love exploring ideas and opportunities in a fun and creative cultural environment.
- We must be **connected** locally, nationally and internationally with our artists, partners and audiences.
- We act with integrity and professionalism at all times.

#### STRATEGIC GOALS

#### BRAND

City Recital Hall is a place that offers "music and more" to a wide audience

#### PLACE

The beating cultural heart of the Sydney CBD

#### QUALITY

If it's on at City Recital Hall, it must be good

#### SERVICE

City Recital Hall is an excellently run arts company with a talented, passionate and flexible team that goes above and beyond

#### TRUST

City Recital Hall is financially sustainable, and strongly supported by the City of Sydney and a loyal group of members, sponsors and donors

## ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

### TOTAL AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE 175,811

TOTAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS:

286

TOTAL RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS:

### 44

PERFORMANCES FEATURING **INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS/ ENSEMBLES:** 

### 87

CRH PRESENTS CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

115

TOTAL AUDIENCE FOR CRH CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

### 40.510

**CITY RECITAL HALL** ACTIVE MEMBERS

477

92%

4

PERCENTAGE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS:







WEBSITE

304,599

1,400,460

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS (page views)

TOTAL USERS

WORDS AND IDEAS

4%

CONTEMPORARY 28%

OTHER 7% KIDS 5%

8%

CLASSICAL

48%

SCHOOLS AND

UNIVERSITIES





360,299



TWEET IMPRESSIONS



257,055





85,623

2,342

**GENRE OF ARTS** 

AND CULTURAL **EVENTS GRAPH** 

**INSTAGRAM VIDEO VIEWS** 

CITY RECITAL HALL TV

COMMERCIAL SCREENED

1,550,899 TIMES ON SBS ON-DEMAND

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE



In our fourth year managing City Recital Hall, and the twentieth anniversary of the venue, our company has made significant progress in our contribution towards Sydney's cultural life. Through innovative programming, popular community events, and encouraging inclusivity, we have delivered a strong financial result.

Bringing exceptional performances to the broadest possible audiences continues to be the primary focus of this curated venue. This year we exceeded all programming and audience expectations to provide and host 286 inspiring concerts and events from diverse genres of music and performance. We provided 4,585 performance opportunities encouraging artistic excellence through engagement of locally and internationally renowned musicians and groups, including 863 artistic development opportunities for young and emerging artists.

Strong relationships with Key Presenters and regular hirers are key to our commitment to supporting local artists and the overall ecology of the cultural sector. Commercial relationships have strengthened significantly, demonstrating the versatility and flexibility of the venue and our team. 60% of our activities comprise Key Presenter, not-for-profit, commercial and corporate hires, while 40% represent our own presentations or co-presentations. City Recital Hall is gaining success in seeking partnerships with a broad range of co-presenters. For the first time we collaborated with Kinderling Radio to present *Kinderling House Party*, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras for *Requiem Mass: A Queer Divine Rite*, Bluesfest Touring for *I'm With Her* and *Arlo Guthrie*, and Vexations840 for our 12 hour new music festival *Extended Play*. Additionally, we strengthened our continuing relationships with The Other Art Fair for *The Exhibition Project* to bring the works of emerging visual artists to our venue.

We are recognised for our dedication to increasing participation in the arts through innovative community programming. *Sydney Flash Mob Choir* continues to be highly successful, with over 10,000 registered participants, and over 8,345 attendees at 13 sessions. Twice, Flash Mobbers moved beyond the walls of the auditorium to perform publicly, firstly in Martin Place in November to mark the launch of our 2019 artistic program, and again on 21 June 2019 at Wynyard Train Station to celebrate International Make Music Day. Free and low cost events comprise 57% of our own artistic program.

The ongoing support from our Principal Sponsor, the City of Sydney is vital to our operational viability, and we sincerely thank Lord Mayor Clover Moore and the Councillors, Monica Barone, Bill Carter, Ann Hoban and the Creative City and Property teams. Their continued commitment to City Recital Hall helps us galvanise our position as one of Sydney's most significant cultural assets, enriching the lives of so many within our community.

We thank our media partners SBS, Time Out and The Saturday Paper who have enabled us to expand our reach and spread awareness about our programs to an even broader audience. This year we continued our relationship with Young Henrys and partnered with Chalk Hill Wines and Claymore Wines, facilitated by Fisher Fine Wines, to bring an improved and standardised beverage offering to our bars. We thank them for their commitment and look forward to building upon these strong relationships into the future.

Thanks also to our Board of Directors whose leadership and experience has helped to drive our ongoing success over the past twelve months: Tim Cox AO, David Albert, Helen Bauer, Elizabeth Fullerton, Kerri Glasscock, Marcus McArdle, Carol Mills, Jennie Sager, Maria Sykes and Louise Walsh.

I express my appreciation to Elaine Chia and the team who continually demonstrate their integrity and their commitment to our vision to be a "must visit" cultural destination.

Finally, thank you to our ever-growing community of audiences, members, performers, presenters, and donors whose advocacy and openness has encouraged us to be brave in our artistic aspirations. As we celebrate our twentieth anniversary year, we look forward to celebrating our vibrant future with you.

Hallo(

Renata Kaldor AO

### CEO'S MESSAGE



Our first week of this year saw a lunchtime concert of Bach and Brahms performed by Kathryn Selby AM with Timo-Veikko Valve, followed by an open singing lesson conducted by The Idea of North at our Open House series. The day concluded with an evening of music from Mataya Young spanning Joni Mitchell and Chaka Khan to her own songs. A few days later, the venue was filled with hundreds of toddlers and preschoolers, parents and grandparents enjoying the many activities and performances on offer at our *Kinderling* House Party. In between, we hosted performances from the Sydney Symphony and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Such is the diversity of live experiences that is now the norm at City Recital Hall.

Our vision of City Recital Hall as a place for everyone continues to evolve as our programming connects new artists and new audiences to this fabulous venue. The creativity and innovation that these collaborators bring stimulates and encourages us to boldly imagine what a live performance experience could be. I am especially proud of our partnership with Lyle Chan and Vexations840, with support from the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and the Australia Council for the Arts that resulted in Extended Play, our 12-hour festival of new music in August 2018. Extended Play involved 20 performances, 100 artists and countless more support crew, and

I can't thank you all enough for your trust in us to produce and present an event of this scale. Let's not forget the many composers whose works were showcased; please keep creating new sounds for us.

This last year, however, was also marked with some sadness. On 28 October 2018, Australia lost a musical giant in Richard Gill AO. Richard touched hundreds of thousands, if not millions of us, and in those first few days following his passing, we knew that the best way to share our sorrow but also to celebrate Richard's gift was to call a Sydney Flash Mob Choir to sing for Richard. Our heartfelt thanks to Sam Allchurch, Michelle Leonard and Brett Waymark for leading hundreds of voices in singing Thank You for the Music. A week later, we put aside our grief to join with the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra, Sydney Chamber Choir and many other musicians in Celebrating Richard Gill, a performance which Richard himself had been involved in shaping. As Richard would have said, the show must go on, and indeed it did, to a full house and thousands more who watched the live stream from as far away as France and Germany.

This year, the number of events held at the venue increased by 5%, and at some concerts, over half of the audience were first-timers to City Recital Hall. When we commenced in 2016, we had set ourselves a goal of 50% classical music, 50% contemporary music and other artforms, and we are proud to have reached that balance this year. It's not by our doing alone of course. We could not achieve this without the continued commitment from our Key Presenter companies, the regular classical music ensembles as well as the many other presenters and promoters who trust us to deliver their events, and in doing so, add to the profile of City Recital Hall as a venue for music and more.

We continue to receive strong support from our Principal Sponsor, the City of Sydney, and I'd like to thank the Lord Mayor Clover Moore, the Councillors, CEO Monica Barone and all the staff across the City Life and Property teams. We are deeply humbled to see our family of donors and sponsors grow each year. Know that your support resonates across the board. Firstly, your generosity allows us to continue our trajectory of adventurous programming, as well as offer a myriad of opportunities through free and low-cost events so that more people can discover City Recital Hall as a place where they can actively participate and be enriched by the arts. But just as importantly, your commitment to us is a strong endorsement of our vision and purpose. Thank you.

Working alongside a dedicated team means that we continue to punch well above our weight, and I remain in awe of their collective creativity, passion and commitment to our company's values and the City Recital Hall vision. Thanks to each and every staff member, permanent, seasonal and casual for your contribution.

My thanks to the Board for their continued governance and leadership across the many areas of our activities. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank Renata Kaldor AO. Thank you for always being available as a sounding board for ideas, in providing leadership and guidance, and for being so deeply engaged and attending so many concerts here, sometimes several in a week!

City Recital Hall, the venue, exists for artists and audiences, and I'd like to acknowledge the 4,585 artists and 175,811 audiences that have passed through our doors this year. In today's world where entertainment is so readily available, literally at your fingertips, it is heartening to see that so many of us still see value in the live experience, and most of all, wish to participate in those magic, unique moments which cannot be replicated, except in our hearts and minds.



### PRESENTING PARTNERS AND HIRERS

ABC Classic FM Abstract Entertainment Adrian Bohm Presents Pty Ltd Andrew McKinnon Presents Pty Ltd APRA | AMCOS Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Australian Chamber Orchestra Australian Directors Guild Australian Romantic & Classical Orchestra Australian String Quartet AWGIE Awards Bobby Goldsmith Foundation Camelot Lounge - Monsieur Camembert Career Seekers Chugg Entertainment Con Brio Cultural Office of the Consulate General of Italy Destination NSW **Elefant Traks** Gondwana Choirs Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Hoang Pham Human Synergistics Australia Pty Ltd Incognito Events Inspiring Australia NSW JHCPBG Joint Venture Law Society of NSW Magellan Asset Management Limited Meriden School Moore College Musica Viva Australia Newington College

NSW Ambulance Omega Ensemble Penney & Logan Pinchgut Opera Ltd PPIA Macquarie Property Council of Australia Royal Australian Navy Band Sales ITV Pty Ltd Sandy Evans Selby & Friends Shahkar Bineshpajooh Suncorp Sydney Festival Ltd Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Sydney Symphony Orchestra Sydney Writers' Festival The Other Art Fair presented by Saatchi Art The Scots College Sydney Top Shelf Productions Troubadour Music Australia University of Tasmania Victor Grynberg Woolworths Group Ltd World Projects South Pacific

## APPEARING ON OUR STAGE

Acacia Quartet ACO Collective Afro Cuban Allstars All Our Exes Live In Texas Sam Allchurch Robyn Archer, Michael Morley & George Butrumlis Arrebato Ensemble Trevor Ashley Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Australian Chamber Orchestra Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra Australian National Academy of Music Australian String Quartet Judy Bailey Désirée Ballantyne & Alexandra Dariescu Bang on a Can All-Stars Zane & Jy-Perry Banks Dimitris Basis Alessio Bax The Beanies The Beatle Boys Benedetti Elschenbroich Grynyuk Trio Benny Time Blake Erickson, James Lee, Tyran Parke, Kurt Phelan & Hayden Rodgers Bonniesongs Borodin Quartet Lorenza Borrani Professor Katherine Boydell

Greta Bradman & Tamara-Anna Cislowska Bunny Racket Ray Chen & Julian Quentin Circa Natalie Clein & Katya Apekisheva ConCreative Brittney Cooper & Rebecca Traister, Brad Cooper & Bev Kennedy Marcus Corowa & Daniel Edmonds Darren Curnoe Anna Da Silva Chen & Paul Cheung Brett Dean & Zubin Kanga Danielle Deckard Juliette Di Bello & Eun-Jung Byun Doric String Quartet Elision Ensemble George Ellis Ensemble Offspring Ephemera Trio Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Sandy Evans, Shubha Mudgal, Aneesh Pradhan, Sudhir Nayak, Bobby Singh & Sirens Big Band Stefanie Farrands Taryn Fiebig & Scott Davie Natalie Gamsu Dr Sandra Garrido **Richard Gill AO** Dan Golding Gondwana Choirs & Sydney Children's Choir Griffyn Ensemble and Fred Watson Grigoryan Brothers and Wolfgang Muthspiel Ilya Gringolts, Timo-Veikko & Julian Thompson Beniamin Grosvenor Arlo Guthrie Tom Harding Erin Helyard

Concert: Kate Miller-Heidke Image: Asaf Luft Hinterlandt Alon Ilsar I'm With Her Mark Isaacs Steven Isserlis Sumi Jo and Jose Carbo Paul Kelly, James Ledger, Alice Keath & Seraphim Trio Bev Kennedy with Juliette Coates, Jacqui Dwyer, Zacariah Ellevsen & Brendan Xavier Natalie Klein and Katya Apekisheva Ladysmith Black Mombasso Jay Laga'aia Andrey Lebedev Miriam Lieberman Trio Lior & Paul Grabowsky Lucibela Sarah J Maas Adam Majsay Manhattan Transfer Simon Marnie **Branford Marsalis** Matava Emma Matthews Anna McMichael Ralph McTell Kate Miller-Heidke & lain Grandage, Keir Nuttall & Jessica Hitchcock Christina Mimmocchi & Grace Yang Lisa Moore Music Box Project

**Clancy Newman** Nexas Quartet Guy Noble & Jess Ciampa Caroline O'Connor with Tyran Parke & Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Choir Omega Ensemble Orava Quartet Susan Orlean & Jennifer Byrne Steven Osborne Anthony Pasquill Esther Perel & Benjamin Law Hoang Pham Daniel Pinteño & Melissa Farrow Plait Ensemble Raven Damien Rice Goetz Richter Kristen Roupenian, Olivia Sudjic, Meg Wolitzer, Krissy Kneen & Michelle Law **Rubiks Collective** Agus Sandjaya George Saunders & Paul Holdengräber Sonja Schebeck & The Freestyle Orchestra Selby & Friends Kathryn Selby AM, Andrew Haveron & Timo- Veikko Valve Oliver Shermacher Iliza Shlesigner **Riley Skevington** 

My Friend the Chocolate Cake

Gabriella Smart Stereogamous Emily Sun Sydney Brass Sydney Chamber Choir Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Sydney Symphony Orchestra Synergy Stephen Taberner Teeny Tiny Steevies Robert Teicher The Idea of North The Morrisons The Sixteen The Vegetable Plot **Tinalley String Quartet** Topology & Karin Schaupp **Russell Torrance** Simon Trpceski Benett Tsai Holcombe Waller, Julie McCrossin & Victoria Spence We Are Breathing Brett Weymark David Wenham Dr Alice Williamson, Tom Gordon Joyce Yang Young Mannheim Symphonists Zela Margossian Quintet ZOFO

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE

### WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL OPINION OF THE EVENT/CONCERT?



#### HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CITY RECITAL HALL?

#### QUALITY OF EVENT

AMBIENCE AND ATMOSPHERE

QUALITY OF REFRESHMENTS

VARIETY OF REFRESHMENTS

PRE-EVENT INFORMATION PROVIDED

TICKET PURCHASE EXPERIENCE

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT THE VENUE



## SUPPORT FOR THE SECTOR

#### TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We continue supporting our sector through participation in professional development opportunities, and ensuring our experience and expertise is generously shared.

Our relationship with ArtsReady continued with Harry Kerr completing his Technical Traineeship. Harry gained technical experience in all areas of production, and has now transferred onto our casual technical department roster.

We continue to support organisations providing professional development opportunities such as the Theatre Network NSW, NSW Department of Education, NSW Department of Industry and ACFIPS.

Concert: Lior and Paul Grabowsky Image: Asaf Luft

#### **EMERGING ARTISTS**

Continuing our relationship with The Other Art Fair, four exhibitions of 12 emerging artists took place as part of our ongoing series *The Exhibition Project*, cocurated by Lana Zegura and Julie Giuffre.

Our twelve hour new music festival *Extended Play* incorporated young and emerging artists through inclusion of ConCreative, an ensemble of students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music performing works by student composers.

In 2019 we commenced *Ears to the Ground*, a monthly curated foyer series accepting expressions of interest from emerging contemporary artists of all genres. Artists benefit from our extensive marketing, promotion, ticketing, audio, and front of house infrastructure to perform in a casual and informal setting in the centre of Sydney. In 2019 we presented 16 artists as part of this program.

#### **EXTERNAL VENUES**

City Recital Hall provides customer support and online services to 22 events presented at Sydney based not-for-profit organisations such as the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, St James Church, St Mary's Cathedral and Sydney Town Hall, facilitating the access of 15,963 audience members.

#### INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIP

City Recital Hall is proud to be a member of the following industry organisations which provide important advocacy and support for artists and arts workers:

- Australian Alliance for Wellness in Entertainment (AAWE)
- Australian Music Centre (AMC)
- Live Performance Australia (LPA)
- Sydney Arts Management Group (SAMAG)
- The Arts Wellbeing Collective

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is key to providing exceptional experiences to wide audiences, and is a priority for City Recital Hall. This is achieved through maintaining essential accessible infrastructure as well as facilitating opportunities for attendance for those with specific access needs.

For children and families, *Kinderling House Party* and *The Beatles Orchestrated for Kids* had a relaxed space, and *Requiem Mass: A Queer Divine Rite* included Auslan interpretation.

Additionally, Pinchgut Opera incorporated audio description for 10 performances of *Artaserse* and *The Return of Ulysses* during their seasons.

City Recital Hall is equipped with a hearing loop, accessible seating and courtesy wheelchairs which are available for all performances. In November, we launched a refreshed website, and incorporated accessibility innovations to ensure that consultation is possible for the largest possible demographic.

Concession priced tickets totalled 16% of all tickets sold by City Recital Hall, and 127 Companion Card tickets were issued.

#### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

We continued our commitment to providing engaging and exciting events for young children, school aged students and families, with over 8,711 attendees at 16 performances. Our venue also welcomed 945 children and students to perform on our stage in conjunction with our presenting partner Gondwana Choirs, and international youth musicians participating in activities by World Projects South Pacific.

Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra presented three performances to 1,918 high school students as part of their *Voyage of Musical Discovery* series.

In collaboration with Kinderling radio, we presented *Kinderling House Party* in July 2018. The kid's music festival saw six performances to 656 young children and families, incorporating participatory activities and time-out spaces.

With George Ellis, we co-presented two performances of *Beatles Orchestrated for Kids* in the October school holidays. The fun concerts resonated well with children and parents, with 2,129 attendees.

#### FREE AND LOW-COST

Over 11,000 people participated in 28 free events and 7,682 people in 24 low cost events over the 2018/19 financial year.

Our strong partnership with Inspiring Australia (NSW) continued with four *This Sounds Like Science* lunchtime talks, where leading Australian researchers demonstrate how both science and music can assist with breakthroughs. Topics across Music and Mental Health, Music and Human Evolution, Music and Philosophy and The Periodic Scales and the Elements of Music were covered.

Our free evening foyer series *Open House* continued with five presentations, including a vocal workshop with The Idea of North, a collaboration with ABC to present *What is Music*, music trivia with Simon Marnie and two ukulele workshops conducted by Tom Harding. Providing accessible free music education and participation opportunities in a comfortable and casual environment is key to the grassroots ethos underpinning City Recital Hall's vision.

Concert: Concertos on Fire Image: David Vagg A Little Lunch Music, co-curated by City Recital Hall and Kathryn Selby AM, provided diverse musical experiences introducing our audiences to leading Australian groups performing in classical, jazz, opera, musical theatre and contemporary flamenco. Over 7,100 people attended 13 A Little Lunch Music concerts, involving 45 artists.

We continued presenting music in our entry level foyer, with *2by20*, and in 2019 introduced a new series *Ears to the Ground* to showcase contemporary artists, including emerging musicians, in an intimate setting in our foyers to engaged and supportive audiences.

#### SYDNEY FLASH MOB CHOIR

Our popular community project Sydney Flash Mob Choir continues to grow having reached 10,000 registrations by June 2019, a 15% increase from the previous year. 8,345 people turned up to sing across thirteen sessions held. On 9 November 2018, to launch our 2019 program, approximately 1,000 Flash Mobbers took to the streets to sing Dancing in the Street in Martin Place under the baton of Guy Noble accompanied by Nexus Quartet and percussionist Jess Ciampa. This was our first outdoor flash mob choir. A second one was held on 21 June 2019, on International Make Music Day, when the choir filled the walkway to Wynyard Train Station to sing Locomotion.

In November 2018, the choir came together just a few days following the passing of inspirational conductor and music educator Richard Gill AO, to sing in a special tribute under the direction of Michelle Leonard, Sam Allchurch and Brett Weymark.

In February 2019, the choir was led by community choir leaders Christina Mimmocchi with Grace Yang in learning *The Moon Represents My Heart*, a traditional Chinese song which the choir learnt to sing in Mandarin Chinese in celebration of Lunar New Year.

This year our choral leaders included Adam Majsay, Brett Weymark, Christina Mimmocchi with Grace Yang, Robert Teicher, Stephen Taberner, Anthony Pasquill, Sam Allchurch, Michelle Leonard, Guy Noble, Georgia Mooney and Elana Stone from All Our Exes Live in Texas.

Concert: Sydney Flash Mob Choir Image: Katelyn-Jane Dunn



### CITY RECITAL HALL MAINSTAGE CONCERTS

#### CELEBRATING ROSS EDWARDS

Saturday 4 August saw City Recital Hall celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of Australia's best-known, mostperformed and most-loved composers, Ross Edwards. Sydney Chamber Choir and percussion virtuosi Synergy came together to perform pieces composed by Ross alongside the music that has both inspired him and the music he himself has inspired in others.

#### ROBYN ARCHER: DANCING ON THE VOLCANO

Following a wonderfully positive audience response to her 2017 performance at City Recital Hall, we invited Robyn Archer back to our stage on 22 August. Joined by Michael Morley (piano) and George Butrumlis (accordion), Robyn Archer took audiences on a journey to the golden age of cabaret in 1930s Germany, offering a truly authentic interpretation of this repertoire: raucous, funny, steeped in the musical harmony and political discord of the times, and often frighteningly relevant to our twenty-first century world.

Concert: Requiem Mass: A Queer Divine Rite Image: Jeffrey Feng

#### EXTENDED PLAY

A new event conceived and produced by City Recital Hall and Lyle Chan, Extended Play was our most ambitious project to date. The 12-hour festival of new music held on Saturday 25 August was a complete take-over of City Recital Hall, with five performance spaces created across the four levels of the venue. The event saw performances by over 20 ensembles and 100 artists, and attracted a total visitation of over 1,000 from noon to midnight. Artists included New York ensemble Bang on a Can All-Stars, Australia's pre-eminent new music group Ensemble Offspring, ARIA-nominated Topology, virtuosic Elision Ensemble and drummer and instrument designer Alon Ilsar. Audiences also experienced performances by world-renowned composer and violist Brett Dean and pianist Zubin Kanga, a daredevil and unique recital by Lisa Moore, and ensemble We Are Breathing brought together electronica and classical music in a unique fusion. The Australian said of the festival, "Exciting, invigorating and good fun, Extended Play was the best new classical music initiative Sydney has seen in years."

#### **HITS OF MOTOWN**

Saturday 1 September saw audiences transported to a golden era of music when soul superstars The Temptations, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson and Marvin Gaye reigned at the top of the charts. The sold out City Recital Hall performance was led by Musical Director David Longo, and featured singers Andrew Bukenya, Cheyenne Kavanagh, Virna Sanzone, Carmen Smith, Flip Simmons and Natasha Stuart.

#### **HUSH 18**

This collaboration between City Recital Hall and the Hush Foundation showcased the artistry of six established and six emerging Australian composers who were commissioned by Hush to write music inspired by their time spent with young people with chronic illness and mental health challenges in children's hospitals across the country. Performed by ACO Collective on Sunday 16 September, the concert featured compositions by Matthew Hindson and Katia Beaugeais, Paul Stanhope and Natalie Nicolas. Stuart Greenbaum and Caerwen Martin, James Ledger and Olivia Davies, Elena Kats-Chernin and Rachel Bruerville, Maria Grenfell and Thomas Mission.

Concert: Hits of Motown Image: Tim da-Rin

#### LIOR AND PAUL GRABOWSKY

Two of Australia's most respected artists – singer, songwriter and guitarist Lior and composer, pianist and polymath, Paul Grabowsky – came together on our stage on Thursday 20 September to present reinventions of some of Lior's most cherished songs.

#### TREVOR ASHLEY DOUBLE DS: TWO DECADES OF DIVADOM

Trevor Ashley has been a fixture of the Sydney entertainment scene for two decades, refusing to be defined by gender, style, or playing by the usual showbiz rules. We celebrated Trevor's 20-year career on 22 September with a special, intimate show of music, stories, laugh-out-loud comedy, and a sequined gown or six.

#### CAROLINE O'CONNOR: FROM BROADWAY WITH LOVE

We were thrilled to present a dazzling concert by Australia's greatest gift to Broadway and London's West End, Caroline O'Connor, to a sold out City Recital Hall audience on 26 October. Caroline performed her favourite Broadway songs alongside director Tyran Parke, an orchestra conducted by George Ellis, and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir.

#### VOICES OF ANGELS – THE LAND OF SILENT NIGHT

In partnership with the Austrian National Tourist Office, the 2018 edition of our co-presentation with Gondwana Choirs, *Voices of Angels* brought the fun and festivity of an Alpine Christmas to City Recital Hall on 10 and 11 December. These concerts joined the global celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the much loved carol *Silent Night*, with the program inspired by the Austrian town of Oberndorf where Franx Xaver Gruber's timeless classic was first performed.

#### GRIGORYAN BROTHERS AND WOLFGANG MUTHSPIEL

Our 2019 season kicked off on 15 February with a performance by three icons of the guitar world: Austria's Wolfgang Muthspiel and Australia's finest classical guitarists, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan. They brought their incredible artistry to our stage on 15 February, showcasing their diverse influences, stunning technique and risk-taking improvisations.

#### REQUIEM MASS: A QUEER DIVINE RITE

We were proud to collaborate with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras to present an original choral work written by American singer and composer, Holcombe Waller, on 21 February. Requiem Mass: A Queer Divine Rite is a radical appropriation of the formal Latin Mass that aims to add Queer voices to the cannon of worship and religious music in a contemporary context. This moving performance featured the voices of Sydney Chamber Choir, conducted by Sam Allchurch, and the Mardi Gras Community Choir, interspersed with narrative from Terese Casu, Julie McCrossin, Victoria Spence, and Holcombe Waller.

#### **BOYS OF SONDHEIM**

Under the Mardi Gras umbrella, we presented an intimate cabaret concert featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim, an artist many would call the most important in musical theatre history and one of the most significant gay artists of the 20th century. Directed by Kris Stewart, this production featured the vocal talents Blake Erickson, James Lee, Tyran Parke, Kurt Phelan and Hayden Rodgers.

#### THE SIXTEEN

On 9 March, the 18 voices of The Sixteen filled City Recital Hall with a stunning program of British choral music spanning over 500 years. Audiences were treated to works by 16th-century composers Tallis and Byrd, and music by Britain's most celebrated 20th and 21st century composers, including Britten, Tippett and James MacMillan, in the sublime acoustic of our hall.

#### MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW: A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF 'O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?'

This sold out concert on 23 March brought together the talents of Australian musicians All Our Exes Live In Texas, The Morrisons, Tommy Dean, Luke Escombe and Brian Campeau to pay homage to the now legendary soundtrack from the Cohen Brothers' hit film.

#### I'M WITH HER

In a new partnership with Bluesfest Touring, we presented folk trio supergroup I'm With Her on 16 April; a sublime collaboration between musicians Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan. Together, these three multi-Grammy-Award-winners possess a special, family-like chemistry, garnering acclaim for their unique blend of instrumental interplay combined with their indelible harmonies.

#### ARLO GUTHRIE: ALICE'S RESTAURANT BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

In our second collaboration with Bluesfest Touring, City Recital Hall presented a concert by folk legend Arlo Guthrie on 17 April. Known for his clever storytelling and classically-styled folk songs of protest against social injustice, Arlo Guthrie treated an enthusiastic Sydney audience with music from his classic album *Alice's Restaurant*.

#### MIKIS THEODORAKIS: ROMIOSINI AND BEYOND

Continuing our annual partnership with The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW we closed the 2019 Greek Festival of Sydney with a spectacular concert celebrating the music of Greece's most popular composer Mikis Theodorakis on 24 May. This sold out concert featured the much-loved vocalist Dimitris Basis, performing with an orchestra and Greek band conducted by George Ellis.

#### KATE MILLER-HEIDKE AND IAIN GRANDAGE

Fresh from her performance at Eurovision 2019, Australian pop icon Kate Miller-Heidke joined forces with composer and director lain Grandage for a reimagination of Kate's music at City Recital Hall on 29 May. The rapturous full house enjoyed a stripped back performance featuring some of Kate's chart-topping hits such as 'The Last Day on Earth' and 'Caught in the Crowd'.

### THIRTEEN WAYS TO LOOK

We were thrilled to present this new song cycle composed by Australian music legend Paul Kelly in collaboration with James Ledger as part of Vivid Sydney on 1 June. These thirteen new songs and soundscapes inspired by birds were performed by Paul Kelly and James Ledger, celebrated piano trio Seraphim (Anna Goldsworthy – piano, Helen Ayres – violin and Tim Nankervis – cello) and singer-songwriter Alice Keath.

#### **CONCERTOS ON FIRE**

The centerpiece of this extraordinary performance on 7 June as part of Vivid Sydney was a new concerto, *Tale of The Firebird*, composed by Chloé Charody for violin, fire and orchestra. Performed by fire-taming violinist Sonja Schebeck and interdisciplinary acrobatic ensemble The Freestyle Orchestra, this concert brought together young musicians from across Europe and Australia and integrated contemporary music, modern circus and physical theatre in a way that has never before been seen on the City Recital Hall stage.



### KEY PRESENTERS

Our Key Presenters, comprising some of Australia's most acclaimed performing organisations, contribute significantly to the cultural vibrancy and ongoing success of City Recital Hall. This year, the Key Presenters together presented 100 performances in the hall to an audience of 92,349.

- Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
- Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Musica Viva
- Pinchgut Opera
- Sydney Symphony Orchestra



## VENUE HIRERS

The annual program of concerts and events at City Recital Hall includes productions by some of Australia's most renowned presenters and promoters, as well as local ensembles and collectives. Their decision to hold their events at this venue greatly contributes to the breadth and diversity of the program, and has generated significant participation from both the core City Recital Hall audience, and new comers to the venue.

Our hirers presented 76 concerts and events with a total audience of 43,934.

We greatly value and continue to grow our strong relationships with our continuing hirers, some of whom have been with the venue for over 12 years, and welcome our new hirers who bring the highest quality artists and performers to our venue, and creatively explore the potential our hall has to offer. "The Australian World Orchestra has presented performances, education projects and sponsor activations at City Recital Hall over the past few years. We've had great support throughout all stages of the process and have found the venue management team and all staff extremely professional, accommodating and resourceful. We enjoy working with City Recital Hall and look forward to returning in future years."

Jayne Hughes, Marketing, Communications & Partnerships, Australian World Orchestras

"I have yet to present any singer, actor or musician who has not loved the acoustic and ambience of City Recital Hall.

And as a hirer, I appreciate the warmth of welcome artists and crew receive from Keith and his efficient production and front of house staff.

Keep up the good work!"

Andrew McKinnon, Producer, Andrew McKinnon Presentations

> Concert: Requiem Mass: A Queer Divine Rite Image: Jeffrey Feng

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NAOMI MILGROM FOUNDATION

Concert: Hits of Motown Image: Tim da-Rin

As a not-for-profit cultural venue, we are grateful to our partners whose support played a fundamental role in creating value and benefits across many areas of our operations throughout 2018/19. This year we celebrated the renewal of a number of key partnerships as well as welcoming new relationships with businesses supportive of our vision and delivery.

Continued support from our Principal Sponsor the City of Sydney provides essential financial support towards managing, maintaining, programming and upgrading the venue to deliver worldclass experiences to all hirers, artists and presenters, and audiences alike. Deepening engagement with the City of Sydney has been an area of focus this year to secure a sustainable future for the venue and the Company.

Our media partnership with SBS continues to deliver our message to audiences we could not otherwise reach through screening of City Recital Hall commercials on SBS On-Demand, realising 1,550,899 impressions over twelve months. The Saturday Paper continued to support us through inclusion of print, app, website and e-newsletter promotion, reaching approximately 390,000 readers. We also welcomed Time Out as a Media Partner, who have actively promoted our venue to their significant readership. Approximately 2,161,902 readers accessed material online about the venue and events through this medium.

To enhance audience experiences, we established a new partnership with Chalk Hill Wines and Claymore Wines through Fisher Fine Wines to provide a range of consistent quality to our bars. Over 12,700 people have enjoyed wine from this range since February 2019. Young Henrys continues to demonstrate enthusiastic support for our programming, through support of our *Open House*, *2by20* and *Ears to the Ground* events as well as joining as Event Partner for *Man of Constant Sorrow: A Tribute to the Music of O Brother Where Art Thou* in March 2019.

Our partnership with Technology Partners AV1 and JPJ Audio has enabled us to provide exceptional technical support at diverse events throughout the year.

We are grateful to Jeff Goss of Andelain Consulting and Fiona Shand of Shand and Associates for their continued support in providing in-kind legal advice, and to Bob Evett and his team at Bentleys as Clty Recital Hall Limited auditors.

# GIVING

Our donors are at the heart of all our achievements at City Recital Hall. As an organization which was granted Deductible Gift Recipient Status by the Register of Cultural Organisations in December 2016, the City Recital Hall philanthropy program is still very much in its infancy, and we are enormously grateful to our Founding Donors who have shown so much trust and shared passion in our vision.

In November 2018, in addition to our Founding Donors program, we successfully launched three more annual giving campaigns: Bravo Circle, Community and Access Supporters, and the Encore Circle. We have been heartened and humbled by the support we have received from the broader community towards these programs. Our community of donors now numbers 47 families and individuals.

We would also especially like to acknowledge the support of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and an anonymous donor for our festival of new music, *Extended Play.* Their generosity and leap of faith enabled us to successfully deliver this, the most innovative event we have imagined to date.

#### FOUNDING DONORS

Janie and Michael Austin Helen Bauer and Helen Lynch AM Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis Foundation Abby Bloom and Robert Angyal The Boyarsky Family lan and Jennifer Burton Tim Cox AO and Bryony Cox Fiorella and Phillip de Boos-Smith Lisa Chung and Philip Howard The Hon. Justice Elizabeth Fullerton Nora Goodridge The Greatorex Fund Christina Green and Maurice Green AM Carol and Victor Grynberg Andrew Kaldor AM and Renata Kaldor AO Mrs W.G. Keighley The Key Foundation James Kirby and Claire Wivell Plater Elizabeth Laverty Barbara and Sam Linz Suzanne and Michael Lynch Olivia McArdle Dominik Mersch Naomi Milgrom Foundation Catriona and Simon Mordant AM Lisa and Egil Paulsen Andrew Rogers David and Daniela Shannon Belinda Storr Mary-Lynne Taylor and the Estate of the Late Ted Taylor Wilson Asset Management (Louise Walsh) Anonymous (1)

#### **BRAVO CIRCLE**

Elaine Chia and Ettore Altomare lan and Jennifer Burton Christine and Diane Malcolm (Dioptics) Jean McPherson Anonymous (2)

#### COMMUNITY AND ACCESS

Ben Adamson Jill Berry Ian and Jennifer Burton Kate Dixon Fiona McDonald Sue Radford Jennie Sager and Family Masako Walker

#### ENCORE CIRCLE

Lawrence Osborn Anne Smith

#### SUPPORTERS

Peter Cassidy David Cooper **Timothy Freeman** L. Goodridge Andrea Govaert Peter Halas Georgina Horton Iphygenia Kallinikos Dr Veronica Lambert Robert Mangioni Marcus McArdle Sylvia Rosenblum Dr P and Mrs D Southwell-Keely Ernestine Spiegel Maria Sykes Anonymous (5)



## **MEMBERSHIP**

City Recital Hall Membership provided regular concert goers access to a range of offerings to recognize their loyalty and support of our venue.

To celebrate the commencement of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, a special membership offer of two years membership for the price of one was promoted in November and December. Over 230 memberships commenced or renewed during this period. Members continue to enjoy benefits such as access to our Supporters' Lounge prior to selfpresented concerts and events, special pricing for many concerts and events in our venue, and no booking fees. As a group, we know we can rely on our members to support challenging initiatives, and in August they enthusiastically responded to free access to our inaugural new-music festival *Extended Play*, and continue to attend opening nights for *The Exhibition Project*.

Thanks to the support of surrounding businesses in the Angel Place and Martin Place precincts, our members also have the opportunity to benefit from special member pre-theatre dining offers from restaurants and cafes, as well as discounts at our bars. Members are amongst our keenest supporters and advocates, and we are proud of the relationships we have forged with one of our most important stakeholder groups. We are grateful to our members for their continued support.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The City Recital Hall Limited Board saw several changes during the 2018/19 financial year. Jennie Sager and David Albert joined the Board in February, and Kerri Glasscock resigned from the Board in June. The Board consists of ten directors whose expertise across music and performing arts, business and strategy, finance, legal, governance, marketing and media, programming, community engagement and commercial brings together significant experience and knowledge to successfully guide the overall direction of the company. The Board met on seven occasions, and implemented a number of key actions including:

- Setting strategic priorities for the company
- Approving the annual budget and monthly financial reports
- Ensuring compliance and effective risk management (also through the Audit and Risk Committee)
- Developing the company's strategic plan and business case to 2025

There are five sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Nominations, Artistic, Development and Precinct.

DIRECTOR	BOARD	AUDIT & RISK	NOMINATIONS	ARTISTIC	DEVELOPMENT	PRECINCT	
Renata Kaldor AO	Chair	~	✓	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	
Tim Cox AO	Deputy Chair	Chair	✓		✓		
David Albert Joined 14 February 2019	✓	✓					
Helen Bauer	✓	✓	Chair				
Elizabeth Fullerton	✓	✓				✓	
Kerri Glasscock resigned 13 June 2019	✓			Chair		Chair	
Marcus McArdle	✓	✓				✓	
Carol Mills	✓		✓				
Jennie Sager Joined 14 February 2019	✓						
Maria Sykes	✓					✓	
Louise Walsh	✓				Chair		

# BOARD



RENATA KALDOR AO CHAIR

Renata has been involved in business, education and community affairs. She is a Director of Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW. In the past, Renata has been a Trustee of the Sydney Opera House, a Board Member of Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a Director of Sydney Children's Hospital Network, and the Australian World Orchestra, a Judicial Commissioner, Deputy Chancellor at the University of Sydney, as well as Chair

of the NSW Women's Advisory Council. In 2002 Renata was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and received the Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2005 she was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney.



TIM COX AO DEPUTY CHAIR

Tim founded his public relations company Cox Inall Communications in 1975, an award-winning company working with some of Australia's largest companies and with state and federal governments. Tim joined the Board of The Australian Ballet in 1984, becoming Chair for four years from 1995. He was Chair of Bell Shakespeare from 1999 for 10 years. From Tim's suggestion that all performing arts companies should collaborate more, the Australian Major Performing Arts Group was established in 1999, and has been extremely successful since. Tim also served on the Major Performing Arts Panel of the Australia Council from 2011 to 2015 and was Deputy Chair of Sydney Film Festival. In recognition of his distinguished service within the arts industry, Tim was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2003.



#### DAVID ALBERT

David is the CEO of Alberts and part of the fifth generation to work in the Albert family business that has been operating in Australia since 1885. He joined Alberts in 2004 after a career working across the globe in marketing roles with companies including Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak and Kellogg's, and back home with telcos Optus and Telstra.

David holds an MBA from MGSM, a Masters from the University of Massachusetts, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, has recently graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also has a number of not-for-profit director roles.



Concert: Miriam Lieberman Trio Image: Katelyn-Jane Dunn



#### **HELEN BAUER**

Helen served in chief executive roles in the NSW Public Service, then established an independent consulting practice specialising in workplace management. In 1998 Helen was invited to membership of Chief Executive Women Inc, and in 2000 was appointed a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in recognition of her outstanding contribution to public administration. Helen was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 for service to business and the community.



#### **ELIZABETH FULLERTON**

Elizabeth was appointed to the Supreme Court of NSW in February 2007. She has served on various Boards of a number of charities and public organisations and has advised on legal and governance issues. These include Performance Space, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and the Australian Centre for Photography Boards. As a practising barrister between 1983 and 2007, she was a member of the Bar Association Professional Conduct Committee and served on the Association's Criminal Law and Legal Aid committees. Throughout her legal career she has been a mentor and supporter of women coming to the Bar.



#### MARCUS MCARDLE

Marcus is a Partner in the Audit Division of KPMG. Marcus is the Audit Division's Risk Management Partner and leads the United States' desk in KPMG Australia's National Technical Group (Department of Professional Practice). Marcus has over 25 years of experience in providing audit and advisory services to Australian and international companies in the information, communications, biotech and energy and natural resources industries, including three years in KPMG's New York office. Marcus also assists companies with United States and European Union debt and equity raisings.



#### **CAROL MILLS**

Carol is the Director. Institute for Public Policy and Governance at the University of Technology Sydney. Carol has been a chief executive in the NSW Public Service and Australian Parliamentary Service and has worked as a management consultant focusing on governance, strategy and change management. As a public servant Carol was responsible for some of Australia's most significant public assets and has extensive experience in public policy, regulation, grants and arts administration. Carol has served on a number of boards including the Sydney Festival, Sydney Film Festival and the National Art School. She is presently also the President of Gymnastics NSW.



#### **KERRI GLASSCOCK**

Kerri Glasscock is the founding codirector of artist-run company 505 which own and operate the legendary live music club Venue 505 in Surry Hills, and the Old 505 Theatre in Newtown. Kerri has also worked in various roles in the Sydney arts scene as performer, director and theatre practitioner, and is currently the Festival Director and CEO of the Sydney Fringe Festival. A vocal advocate for the Independent sector she has contributed to a number of key action plans and resulting policy reforms including: Sydney As A 24 Hour City -The Committee for Sydney, the Lord Mayor of Sydney's Live Music and Performance Task Force, Inner West Council's Off Broadway Report. She was included in the Sydney Morning Herald Sydney Magazine's annual 100 Most Influential People List in 2011 and is currently Co-Chair of the City of Sydney's Night Time Advisory Group. Kerri resigned from the Board in June 2019.



#### JENNIE SAGER

Jennie Sager is a Media Executive with more than 20 years' experience creating and delivering global first campaigns for top tier companies. Throughout her career, Jennie has produced awardwinning programs for top television networks, including MTV, Discovery, NBC, ABC, CBS, The Nine Network, and HGTV. She has worked all over the world at the biggest events, including Superbowl XLVIII, The Academy Awards, and The Grammys. As the Director of Content Partnerships for Asia Pacific at Twitter, Jennie oversaw the teams in Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, India, Singapore, and Australia. She also created Twitter's global VIP space, the BlueRoom, a Twitter based TV show "Tweet the Beat", and spearheaded the world's first Twitter artist tour. As the Country Manager for global app, Nextdoor, her mission is to strengthen communities across Australia while combatting the nation's loneliness problem. Jennie also sits on the Board of Directors of MediaRING, an organisation that fosters career opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the media sector.



#### MARIA SYKES

Maria was the Chief Operating Officer of Rugby League World Cup 2017, where she lead the development and delivery of the pinnacle event in international rugby league to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. Previously, Maria was Director of Strategy for Hornall Anderson Design Works, a leading American design agency focused on the commercial and creative strategies for global marguee sites including One World Trade Centre, the Empire State Building and Madison Square Gardens, as well as major hotel groups and numerous Fortune 500 clients. She also spent a decade as a senior executive at Sydney Opera House responsible for commercial strategy, tourism, world heritage listing and every aspect of the visitor experience.



#### LOUISE WALSH

Louise Walsh is the Chief Executive Officer of the Future Generation companies founded by Wilson Asset Management Chairman Geoff Wilson. Louise also works with Wilson Asset Management on its philanthropic initiatives. Louise is a senior executive with a strong mix of experience in the not-for-profit, government and private sectors. A former solicitor at Allens, she has spent most of her career in sport, arts and philanthropy. Louise was recently the CEO of Philanthropy Australia, the peak body for philanthropy in Australia. Louise is a board member of St Vincent's Curran Foundation and the Snow Foundation.



Concert: Extended Play Image: Joan Shortt-Smith

# STAFF

**CEO** Elaine Chia

**EXECUTIVE PROJECT OFFICER** Caroline Davis

HEAD OF OPERATIONS Justin Boschetti

#### EVENT PLANNING AND DELIVERY

**CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER** Keith Foote

**CONCERT AND EVENT MANAGER** Jayden Spillane

CONCERT AND EVENT ASSISTANT Amy Burrows

PRODUCER Linly Goh

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER Andrew Hudson

TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR Timothy Cramsie

VENUE TECHNICIAN Jay Cusack

#### FACILITIES

**BUILDING SERVICES MANAGER** Graham Parsons

#### FINANCE

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR Nadine Wheeler

#### FRONT OF HOUSE

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER Brett Reynolds

#### MARKETING

MARKETING MANAGER Cynthia Crespo

DIGITAL MARKETING COORDINATOR Krista Tanuwibawa MARKETING COORDINATOR Katelyn-Jane Dunn

#### TICKETING AND BOX OFFICE

TICKETING SERVICES MANAGER Vanessa Knox

**BOX OFFICE MANAGER** Amy Vitucci

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