



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

# Media Alert

*Melbourne Recital Centre presents*



Melbourne Recital Centre announces its 2020 program for **Music Play Family Festival**, with three days of concerts, workshops and fun free activities just for families, including standout performances by **Justine Clarke**, **Simon Tedeschi**, and loads of free foyer fun such as *The Wonderlands* featuring the **Federation Handbells**.

Each year the Festival is eagerly awaited by kids and families. The Centre is renowned for presenting the world's finest musicians and bands on its stages, and Music Play unleashes the musician, composer, rock star or rap artist in every child. For numerous children, Music Play will be their first time attending a live performance or playing an instrument.

Director of Programming Marshall McGuire says:

‘Summer at Melbourne Recital Centre is all about adventure and fun - and, of course, all about music. This year’s Festival features some big, beautiful and bold events. The wonderful appeal of Music Play is that the whole of Melbourne Recital Centre is utilised with big concerts and a sing-along in Elisabeth Murdoch Hall and an array of mini concerts for the little ones held daily in the Primrose Potter Salon.’

The wonderful **Justine Clarke** returns with her new show *Mimi's Symphony* (Sat 18 January), where a full orchestra explores the story of the little magpie who falls out of her nest and tries to find her way home. With **George Ellis** leading the orchestra, this is the chance to experience Australia's favourite storyteller.

*Meeting Mozart* (Fri 17 January) is an energetic and joyous event, looking at the naughty, funny, mischievous side of Mozart, as played by the pianist **Simon Tedeschi** joined by a string quartet.



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Not to be missed is **Karen Kyriakou** leading us all in the *Beethoven Big Sing* (Thu 16 January), where we get to make lots of noise (all in tune, of course) and sing some of the music created by Ludwig van Beethoven, as we celebrate his 250th birthday - plus, many other songs as well!

In the Primrose Potter Salon, **Inventi Ensemble** takes us to outer space in *Laura the Astronaut Explores the Planets* (Fri 17 January); the **Musical Sprouts** (Thu 16 January) share catchy tunes and stories about growing up; and **Mr Snotbottom** (Sat 18 January) sings songs about bottoms.

Workshops are always a great way to get together with others and make music. You can design and build a new instrument in *Frankenstein Instruments* (Fri 17 January), be part of an *African Drumming Circle* (Sat 18 January); start *Rapping with Defron* (Thu 16 January); or explore the joys of music for the first time in *Song Play* (Thu 16 - Sat 18 January), designed especially for young children under four.

Marshall McGuire added:

‘Our 2020 Betty Amsden Commission is *The Wonderlands* featuring the **Federation Handbells**. These magnificent hand bells will be installed throughout the foyers and other public spaces in the Centre for you to discover, to ring, to listen to, and also witness some special performances on our Grand Staircase. The foyers will be filled with face painting, the photo booth, music by harpist **Michael Johnson** and the always popular *Open Stage*, where you can come and sing or play your favourite song, with our wonderful MC Stacey Camilleri. This might be your chance to play Beethoven’s *Für Elise* for his birthday. Music Play has become such a great event during summer, and we welcome all family members to come and enjoy the music we have on offer.’

## FESTIVAL DETAILS

### **Music Play Family Festival 2020**

Thursday 16 - Saturday 18 January 2020 daily from 9am

Melbourne Recital Centre

Tickets from \$10

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

*Music Play Family Festival is supported by The Betty Amsden Kids & Families Program and features the Betty Amsden Commission. The Wonderlands was commissioned with the support of the Betty Amsden Sub-Fund.*

For more information and to book tickets visit:

[melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay2020](http://melbournerecital.com.au/musicplay2020) | 03 9699 3333

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