



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

Media Alert

Melbourne Recital Centre & Shir Madness Melbourne presents

FOJAM



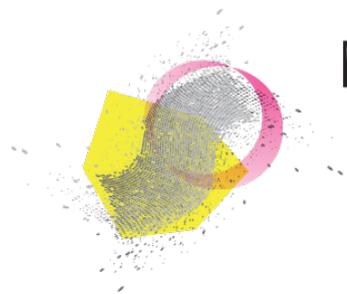
MELBOURNE'S INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

The **Festival of Jewish Arts and Music (FOJAM)**, formerly Shir Madness Melbourne, takes over Melbourne Recital Centre in a day-long immersion of contemporary Jewish culture with performances across music, theatre, dance and conversation on Sunday 8 September.

Inspired by Lou Reed's urgent call to *Walk on the Wild Side*, the program features over 140 international and homegrown artists who are breaking or have already broken convention to carve new paths.

Among the international headliners making their Australian debut are Israeli beatmaker and producer **Noga Erez**; American singer-songwriter **Chris Cohen** (formerly of the band Deerhoof); and stalwart British journalist and performer **Vivien Goldman** aka 'the Punk Professor'. Also on the international roster is **Zackary Drucker**, who speaks about the intersections of queer and Jewish identities.

In the Festival's headline performance, *Transformer - A Tribute to Lou Reed*, indie-pop artist **Gabriella Cohen** serves as musical director to artists including **Alex Gow** (Oh Mercy), **Emily Lubitz** (Tinpan Orange) and ARIA-winning post-punk legend **Deborah Conway**, who perform songs from Reed's iconic album *Transformer*. Deborah Conway and **Willy Zygiel** also curate and perform in festival favourite *Song of Songs*, a tribute to Jewish songwriters and composers.



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

Media Alert

Elsewhere on the program, **Gabriella Cohen** and her full band present a sonic wonderland of works off her new album. *Deborah Conway and Vivien Goldman in Conversation: Jews. Rebels. Feminists.* has both women reflecting on what those things meant to them in the '80s and what they mean to them now.

Curator and choreographer **Gideon Obarzanek** presents his *Circle Dance* work, based on an Israeli folk dance, and Israeli choreographer **Israel Aloni** shakes things up with his solo performance *My Body, My Nation*. **Asis D'Orange**, a household name in Tel Aviv's underground drag scene, performs *The Carrot*. Esteemed Australian composer **George Dreyfus** with his quartet celebrates a life in music. Russian-Israeli avant-garde artist **Mary Ocher** performs a solo set on piano and closes out the festival with a DJ set.

'We are bringing together critically acclaimed and emerging artists working across music, dance, drag, comedy, theatre and moving image from Australia, Israel, Russia and England' said FOJAM Artistic Director Lior Albeck-Ripka. 'Whether it be through their performance, their process, composition or ideas, each artist is trying something new, and this year, we are asking our audiences to do the same.'

'The festival is a celebration of Jewish identity, history, culture and arts - an expression of freedom,' says Festival Producer, Jesse Lubitz. 'We hope artists and audiences walk away from FOJAM delighted, inspired, and maybe even challenged to reconsider their idea of the Jewish experience.'

More details to be announced 24 July.

CONCERT DETAILS

Sunday 8 September from 10.30am

Melbourne Recital Centre

Full Day \$180 (\$110 conc)

Daytime/Evening \$90 (\$70 conc)

VIP Full Day \$220 (includes premium seating, artist meet & greets plus more)

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Shir Madness Melbourne

For more information and to book tickets visit: melbournerecital.com.au | 03 9699 3333

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Di Rolle

di@dirolle.com | 0419 001 068 | [Download media assets](#)

Prue Bassett

prue@netspace.net.au | 0419 559 040

Melbourne Recital Centre
Cnr Southbank Blvd & Sturt St
Southbank VIC 3006

P 03 96992228

F 03 9207 2662

melbournerecital.com.au



MELBOURNE
RECITAL
CENTRE

