



MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

# Media Alert

*Melbourne Recital Centre presents*

## JOSEPH TAWADROS QUARTET



**Joseph Tawadros AM** is a leading oud virtuoso, brilliant composer, improviser, storyteller and four-time ARIA winner. A virtuoso of diversity and sensitivity, Joseph performs in concert halls worldwide and is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance. Born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1983, Joseph lived in Australia until 2016 when he relocated to London. His drive to push musical boundaries has led to many celebrated collaborations and innovative, original music.

Performing with his Quartet as part of an Australian tour, Joseph said:

‘It’s always special performing in Melbourne. I love the vibe and energy of the city and its people and the audience really give us a buzz every time I perform here. Returning to Melbourne Recital Centre with my Quartet is exciting and we look forward to making it a very special night for those loyal Melburnians who have come out to hear us.’

Sharing a near telepathic rapport with his band members - his brother James Tawadros (percussion), bassist Karl Dunncliff and jazz pianist Matt McMahon - performances feature stunning invention and creativity. Joseph is a natural and quick-witted storyteller, whose charismatic stage presence and refreshing humour bring another dimension to the performance.

‘Tawadros would be hard pressed to assemble more sympathetic musicians than pianist Matt McMahon, percussionist James Tawadros and bassist Karl Dunncliff ... the playing of all was nuanced and sparkling with invention and energy, and McMahon routinely showered the music with torrential yet concise improvisations.’ John Shand, *Sydney Morning Herald*



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The origins of the oud lie in the ancient Arabic world, but the music Joseph Tawadros forges a new music frontier. He has transformed the way the fretless, round-backed string instrument is viewed, taking it out of its traditional Middle Eastern setting and into the realms of classical music and jazz.

‘I can improvise in a traditional style and play traditional music,’ says Tawadros, ‘but I chose to bring something a little different and new to the oud.’

‘One of the most impressive musicians to emerge in Australia ... with a dazzling technique dispensing hair-raising tempos.... His writing displays a real depth of emotion ... reveling in a zest for life and celebration.’ *The Australian*

Tawadros’s masterful technique and depth of musicianship have brought him into contact with the worlds of jazz, classical and world traditions, and drawing from these he creates original music that transcends labels and shatters borders. He is considered by peers and music critics to be a truly original performer. A performance not to be missed!

## CONCERT DETAILS

**Joseph Tawadros Quartet**

**Joseph Tawadros** oud

**James Tawadros** Egyptian percussion

**Matt McMahon** piano

**Karl Dunncliff** double bass

Thursday 4 July 7.30pm

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall (Two hours incl. interval)

Tickets \$50/\$40

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre

For more information and to book tickets visit: [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au) | 03 9699 3333

## INTERVIEWS & MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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