

MELBOURNE  
FESTIVAL

08-25  
OCTOBER  
2015

MEDIA  
RELEASE



*"(A) mesmerizing performance. Tuned gongs and ethnic hand percussion blended with erhu, flutes, piano, brass and bass for a sound that was both reverential and forward thinking, true world music without the baggage of commercial labelling..." - John Kelman, All About Jazz, on The Wide Alley*

Arts Centre Melbourne  
Fairfax Studio

Friday 09 – Saturday 10 October

7.30pm

1 hr, no interval

\$45 / \$36

Transaction and credit card fees may apply

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183

Ticketmaster 136 100

Post Show Q & A - Friday 09 & Saturday 10 October

FREE

#melbfest

AUSTRALIA+CHINA // Music

Australian Art Orchestra and Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Melbourne Festival present

## WATER PUSHES SAND

Australian Art Orchestra

Composer Erik Griswold and the Australia Art Orchestra team up with all-star musicians and performers of Sichuan, China to create a colourful collage of winds, piano and percussion in **Water Pushes Sand** at Arts Centre Melbourne on **9 and 10 October**.

**Water Pushes Sand**, produced by Insite Arts, is a major new musical work that sees virtuosic Chinese and Australian musicians reinvigorate the endangered music of China's Sichuan Province and in doing so, create an entirely new sound world.

The ten-piece big band fuses traditional Sichuan melodies and rhythms with modern jazz improvisation to create a wild intercultural celebration.

With dramaturgy and direction from **Tamara Saulwick** (Pin Drop, Endings, Chamber Made Opera), and video shot on location in Chengdu, **Water Pushes Sand** evokes the tea-houses, streets, and the rivers of Sichuan. On stage the musicians wear the brightly coloured traditional masks of Sichuan Opera as they explore the changing faces of Chinese and Australian culture.

The Australian Art Orchestra, led by artistic director Peter Knight, is renowned for creating work that merges musical styles and cultures in a thrilling way. Erik Griswold, Vanessa Tomlinson and members of the ensemble have been travelling to Sichuan for 15 years and their collaborations have produced three large scale shows – *Chengdu Streetsongs*, *Sichuan Fantasy*, and *The Wide Alley* - that have toured in China, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Eclectic composer-pianist Erik Griswold fuses experimental, jazz and world music traditions to create works of striking originality. Specialising in prepared piano, percussion and toy instruments, he has created a musical universe all his own that is "sincere" (*neural.it*), "playful" (*igloo magazine*), "colourful and refreshingly unpretentious" (*Paris Transatlantic*).

Since the late 1980s Griswold has composed new works for many adventurous performers in the U.S. and Australia, which have been performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, and Cafe Oto (London). A recipient of the prestigious Australia

MEDIA CONTACT

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Innova.

Since the late 1980s he has composed solo and chamber works for many adventurous performers in the U.S. and Australia, such as Margaret Leng Tan, Steven Schick, Either/Or Ensemble, Southern Cross Soloists, red fish blue fish, Speak Percussion, and many others. His music has been performed at numerous major festivals and venues throughout Australia, USA, Asia, and Europe.

Connected event:

**Music Workshop - Sat 10 Oct at 1pm**

MPAVILION // FREE

**For further media information and interviews, please contact:**

Suzanne Robson, Publicist on 03 9281 8526/0407 443 271 or  
suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Council Fellowship in Music, his works can be heard  
on Mode Records, Room40, Move, Clocked Out, and

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