

Joanna Newsom

USA



Photo: Joanna Newsom Annabel Mehran

“Rejoice, lovers of imaginative, beautiful strange music”

Time Out New York

“Every aspect of Newsom’s work is precise and impeccable: her intricate harp work, her striking, delicate vocals and her sweeping lyrics.”

NPR

“Her style blends the luminous arpeggios of the classical- and folk-harp traditions with African syncopation — crisp, snappy, interlocking rhythms.”

New York Times

Californian singer-songwriter and harpist **Joanna Newsom** returns to Sydney Festival with her brand new album *Divers*, in what will be her first Australian show in five years. Emerging as part of the California scene a decade ago, Newsom has since established herself as a true visionary, weaving together folk, classical and pop strands into a rich, dazzling tapestry.

The 33 year old talent has not released an album since her critically acclaimed triple *Have One On Me* in 2010. The video for “Sopokanikan”, the first single to be released from the much anticipated fourth album was directed by **Paul Thomas Anderson**, who also directed Newsom in last year’s hit movie *Inherent Vice*.

Newsom’s portfolio of work is already expansive; in addition to four albums her collaborations include **Vashti Bunyan**, **Vetiver**, **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** (Sydney Festival 2008) and **The Roots**. Her diverse career has also seen her contribute vocals to the Muppet Show theme, star in **MGMT**’s video for *Kids* and perform alongside **Philip Glass** in *Glass’ Days and Nights Festival* in 2012. Newsom first showed interest in playing the harp at the preschool age of five and begged her parents for lessons. The ambitious youngster was already learning the piano at the time, and the local harp teacher suggested waiting and focusing on the piano, she later took up harp lessons at the age of nine.

Also an accomplished keyboard player, the fascinating musician has included several different keyboards and synthesisers in her latest album. Described by her record label as “a wheeling circuit of sci-fi sea-shanties and cavalier ballads...joined by Mellotrons and Marxophones and Moogs, clavichords and celestas” seeing Newsom perform the new album will be a real treat; the music exquisite, of course but the joyful robust energy of the singer and her band will be like nothing else.

From her debut album *The Milk Eyed Mender* in 2004 up to her brand new opus, *Divers*, this extraordinary singer and harpist has amazed time and again with her singular records and performances.

Co-presented with Sydney Opera House.

Where Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

When 21 January, 7.30pm
Doors at 7.30pm
Support act at 8pm

MEDIA RELEASE

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Duration 140 minutes including

Price Premium \$99
A Reserve \$89
B Reserve \$79/\$71
C Reserve \$59/\$53

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
Sydney Opera House 02 9250 7777
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/joanna>

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