

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
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sydneyfestival.org.au



Winterreise

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

William Kentridge and Matthias Goerne, South Africa/Germany



“one of the most compelling and insightful performances of “Winterreise” I have ever heard”
New York Times

Photo: Festival d’Aix-en-Provence 2014 © P.Berger /ArtcomArt

Winterreise makes its Australian exclusive debut at Sydney Festival following rave reviews at its sell out American Premiere at New York’s Lincoln Centre. Franz Schubert’s *Winterreise* or “Winter’s Journey” will be reimaged in a unique multi-media collaboration between German baritone superstar **Matthias Goerne**, acclaimed South African artist **William Kentridge** and Austrian pianist **Markus Hinterhäuser**.

Schubert’s song cycle is a story told in 24 poems that were written by 19th Century German poet Wilhelm Müller. *Winterreise* follows a lovelorn wanderer who embarks on a grim journey through a snow covered landscape questioning his entire existence. William Kentridge creates his own vision for the piece carefully crafting his renowned black and white animations as a backdrop.

As a child in 1960s Johannesburg, Kentridge often listened to Lieder (German art songs from the Romantic period) with his father who was a leading figure in the anti-apartheid movement. Kentridge’s artwork is deeply personal, his intentions are not to depict the story but to create an intimate work that at times reflects on his own family history.

Matthias Goerne is an exceptional baritone vocalist with an unbridled talent that enables him to beautifully convey the shifting emotions of the texts he sings. He has appeared on many of the world’s principal Opera stages including Vienna State Opera houses, Paris National, Teatro Real in Madrid and London’s Royal Festival Hall. Goerne studied under the distinguished late baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, won an International Classical Music Award and has been nominated for four Grammy Awards. *Winterreise* sees Goerne and Markus Hinterhäuser perform together seamlessly through the dramatic and expressive ebbs and flows of Schubert’s song cycle. Hinterhäuser, an internationally renowned pianist has performed in the world’s most prestigious concert halls, and is currently Artistic Director of the Salzburg Festival.

William Kentridge has been awarded many accolades; including, being an elected member of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, becoming an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts at Yale, and being named Commandeur Des Arts et des Lettres by The French Ministry of Culture.

Winterreise is a tremendous showcase of masters of their respective forms, culminating in a haunting encounter between voice and visuals.

Where City Recital Hall

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When 7 & 8 January, 8pm
Duration 75 minutes no interval
Price Premium \$119
A Reserve \$99/89
B Reserve \$59/\$53
Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
City Recital Hall 02 8256 2222
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/winterreise>

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A Festival d'Aix-en-Provence co-production with Wiener Festwochen, Holland Festival, KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, Les Theatres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Lille Opera and Lincoln Centre.