

# MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2024

## Rufus Wainwright announced for Sydney Festival 2025

**Canadian American singer, songwriter and composer announces Australian return performing at Sydney Opera House on 8 January 2025 as part of Sydney Festival**

Sydney Festival is delighted to announce that Rufus Wainwright will perform in its 2025 Festival, as part of an Australian tour presented by Chugg Entertainment, Frontier Touring, and Gaynor Crawford. The timeless and creatively adventurous vocalist will make his highly-anticipated return to Australia in January 2025.

Visiting Australia for the first time since 2019, Wainwright will perform stripped-back shows at Fremantle Arts Centre on Saturday 4 January, Sydney Festival at Sydney Opera House on Wednesday 8 January, Melbourne Recital Centre on Friday 10 January and Hobart's Odeon Theatre on Sunday 12 January, before a final full-seated show at The Tivoli in Brisbane on Tuesday 14 January.

"I have always loved playing Australia", said Rufus. "I love the country, the culture, nature and the people. There is an appreciation and enthusiasm for music which is hard to find anywhere in the world. Australia has some of the most beautiful venues. I love how warmly I am being welcomed in this amazing continent. I am sorry I cannot be there more often so hopefully this time around we can really have a wonderful time together."

**Sydney Festival and Sydney Opera House subscribers can access pre-sale tickets on Thursday 12 September 2025**, whilst Frontier Members can access pre-sale tickets for Melbourne, Hobart and Brisbane on the same day. General public tickets go on sale at 1pm on Monday 16 September 2025. One of the greatest male vocalists, songwriters and composers of his generation, three-time GRAMMY nominee Rufus Wainwright has a storied career curating genuinely original fusions of pop, rock, folk and classical music.

With an impressive list of collaborators from Elton John and Sting to Miley Cyrus and Carly Rae Jepsen, Wainwright has released eleven studio albums to date as well as three live albums, written two operas and numerous songs for movies and television including his infamous 2001 cover of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'.

Proving his ability to construct and fuse an array of genres, the multi-talented Rufus Wainwright knows no boundaries. Rufus returned to his roots and created a musical gem Folkocracy, released in 2023, collaborating with an incredible array of featured artists – among them John Legend, Anohi, David Byrne, Chaka Khan, Andrew Bird, Brandi Carlile, Sheryl Crow and Nicole Scherzinger.

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Touring the album through 2023 and 2024, Wainwright also added opera to his already broad musical repertoire. Following a memorable performance for BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall where he brought his extraordinary Want One and Want Two projects to life with orchestral arrangements, Wainwright then completed a Requiem that premiered with the Orchestre Philharmonique de la Radio France in Paris in June this year, with performances in Los Angeles, Barcelona and Amsterdam to come.

“Wainwright remains an inspired and formidable force of nature.” – The Herald Scotland

“His pristine voice is just as rich and luxurious as it was in 1998 when he recorded his first album, and his elaborate, wandering piano compositions are bewitching” – The Wellesley News

“No matter what he elects to sing, Rufus Wainwright does it with passion, pleasure and undeniable pizzazz.” – Magnet Magazine

It's been five years since his last visit to Australia, fans of Rufus Wainwright will enjoy catching up on the truly remarkable, ever-evolving artist! Performing many of his most popular songs from the last few decades. Prepare to experience the wonder of these performances, guaranteed to be inspirational, always enthralling and sublime.

FRONTIER MEMBER PRESALE (MEL/HOB/BNE ONLY) via [frontiertouring.com/rufuswainwright](https://frontiertouring.com/rufuswainwright)

Runs 24 hours from: Thursday 12 September (1pm local time) *or until presale allocation exhausted*

TICKETS ON SALE - Begins: Monday 16 September (1pm local time)

## **RUFUS WAINWRIGHT – Australian 2025 Tour Dates**

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY - Fremantle Arts Centre Front Garden | Fremantle, WA (18+)  
[oxtix.com.au](https://oxtix.com.au)

WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY - Sydney Festival at Sydney Opera House | Sydney, NSW (All Ages)  
[sydneyoperahouse.com](https://sydneyoperahouse.com)

FRIDAY 10 JANUARY - Melbourne Recital Centre | Melbourne, VIC (All Ages)  
*Presented by Chugg Entertainment, Frontier Touring, Gaynor Crawford & Melbourne Recital Centre*  
[melbournerecitalcentre.com.au](https://melbournerecitalcentre.com.au)

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY - Odeon Theatre | Hobart, TAS (Lic. All Ages)

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*Presented by Chugg Entertainment, Frontier Touring, Gaynor Crawford & DarkLab*  
[moshtix.com.au](https://moshtix.com.au)

TUESDAY 14 JANUARY - The Tivoli | Brisbane, QLD (18+)  
*Presented by Chugg Entertainment, Frontier Touring & Gaynor Crawford*  
[ticketmaster.com.au](https://ticketmaster.com.au)

Patrons are advised to purchase tickets only through authorised ticket sellers. We cannot guarantee any ticket purchase made through any means other than the official ticketing agents listed on the Frontier website.

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For more information about the Rufus Wainwright Australian Tour, visit  
[frontiertouring.com/rufuswainwright](https://frontiertouring.com/rufuswainwright) | [facebook.com/frontiertouring](https://facebook.com/frontiertouring)  
[instagram.com/frontiertouring](https://instagram.com/frontiertouring) | [x.com/frontiertouring](https://x.com/frontiertouring)

**To register for Sydney Festival pre-sale tickets, available on Thursday 12 September at 1pm, visit: <https://www.sydneyfestival.org.au/> Tickets go on general sale on Monday 16 September at 1pm.**

## ENDS

For interview opportunities or further information, please contact Nia Jones, Media Advisor at Sydney Festival [nia.jones@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:nia.jones@sydneyfestival.org.au) / 0436 100 201.

**Notes to Editors:** About Sydney Festival: Sydney Festival is one of Australia's largest international arts festivals, with a stellar reputation for bold, inventive and intelligent programming. Its vibrancy reflects the confidence, creativity and vigour of one of the world's most beautiful cities. Under the curation of Festival Director Olivia Ansell, the Festival's mission is to deliver an exhilarating summer of art, drawing stories from Sydney's 65,000-year history through to its contemporary zeitgeist. Sydney Festival stages the world's best artists whilst nurturing its homegrown talent; many of Australia's most memorable theatrical productions have stemmed from its premieres and commissions. The buzz of summer wouldn't be the same without the Festival's spectacular installations, immersive experiences and live events splashed across Sydney each January. In 2026 Sydney Festival will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.