

MEDIA RELEASE
20 August 2018

Katie Noonan's Elixir with Michael Leunig and WASO

Fri 26 October 8.00pm

PERTH CONCERT HALL

Katie Noonan: soprano
Stephen Magnusson: guitar
Zac Hurren: saxophone
Michael Leunig: poet and artist
West Australian Symphony Orchestra
Iain Grandage: conductor



Iain Grandage, Michael Leunig, Katie Noonan, Zac Hurren and Stephen Magnusson

Gratitude and Grief, a unique combination with Michael Leunig and some Elixir favourites

Multi-platinum selling and five-time ARIA award-winning singer and songwriter Katie Noonan returns to WASO with Australia's 'poet laureate' Michael Leunig and her ARIA Award-winning jazz trio Elixir featuring Zac Hurren and Stephen Magnusson for this Special Event at the Perth Concert Hall.

The concert will feature the new 'Gratitude and Grief' collaboration between Elixir and Leunig. Noonan had long been an admirer of Leunig's work and 'Gratitude and Grief' initially arose after Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) Artistic Director, Richard Tognetti, introduced the pair following a Noonan performance with the ACO.

The subsequent collaboration process involved Elixir setting several of Leunig's poems to music with the cartoonist providing insights and additional lyrics to flesh out some of the themes. Collaborations with musicians are nothing new to Leunig who had previously worked with Tognetti, Neil Finn and Brett Dean on the ACO's production of "Parables, Lullabies and Secrets".

The performance of 'Gratitude and Grief' takes the form of Leunig reciting his original poem prior to the song being performed by Elixir. At various stages during the performance, Leunig will draw an image while Noonan is singing. The drawings are not scripted and will develop spontaneously as Leunig responds to the music.

Iain Grandage, who requires no introduction to Western Australian audiences, will conduct the WASO in this special performance. This multi-Helpmann Award-winning composer and music director has collaborated with WASO on a number of occasions in the past and will present his first Perth Festival as Artistic Director in 2020. Grandage was also intimately involved with the 'Gratitude and Grief' project, sharing arrangement duties with Brisbane composer and pianist, Steve Newcomb.

This concert will showcase a unique combination of spoken-word poetry, angelic vocals and sublime improvisation. With some of Elixir's previous catalogue and a few of their favourite songs by other artists, this promises to be a truly special evening.

Tickets from \$39 on sale now at WASO on 9326 0000 or waso.com.au

#ENDS#

For further details please contact:

Lynne Burford
Lynne Burford Publicity
Mob: 041 792 1038
lburford@inet.net.au