

Joseph Tawadros

BIOGRAPHY 2017



“One of the most impressive musicians to emerge in Australia ... with a dazzling technique dispensing hair-raising tempos... His writing displays a real depth of emotion ...reveling in a zest for life and celebration.” - THE AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER

“THE origins of the oud lie in the ancient Arabic world but the music Joseph Tawadros conjures from it is forging a new music frontier. The virtuoso Sydney musician has transformed the way the fretless, round-backed string instrument is viewed, taking it out of its traditional Middle Eastern setting and into the realms of classical music and jazz.

"I can improvise in a traditional style and play traditional music," Tawadros says, "but I chose to bring something a little different and new to the oud." SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

* The album “Live At Abbey Road” released July 14, 2017

* Joseph’s first Concerto for Oud and Orchestra premiered with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at Melbourne Recital Centre on May 4, 2017

BACKGROUND

At 33, Joseph Tawadros is established as one of the world’s leading oud performers and composers. A virtuoso of diversity and sensitivity, Joseph performs in concert halls worldwide and is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance.

Born in Cairo, Egypt in 1983, Joseph lived in Australia until 2016 when he relocated to London.

His drive to push musical boundaries has led to collaborations with a number of significant performers and a solid repertoire of innovative, original music.

He has recorded 14 albums - *Storyteller, Rouhani, Visions, Epiphany, Angel, The Prophet: Music Inspired by the Poetry of Kahlil Gibran, The Hour of Separation, Band of Brothers, Concerto of the Greater Sea, Chameleons of the White Shadow, Permission to Evaporate, Truth Seekers, Lovers and Warriors, World Music* and his latest offering *Live At Abbey Road*.

Joseph has received 12 nominations and won three ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) Awards in 2012, 2013 and 2014 for Best World Music Album.

Joseph was nominated for Young Australian of the Year in 2014, received the NSW Premier's medal for Arts and Culture in the same year and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (AM) for his services to music and composition in 2016.

Joseph is acknowledged for expanding the oud's notoriety in mainstream western culture and has also been recognised in the Arab world, appearing on the judging panel of the Damascus International Oud competition in 2009, and taking part in Istanbul's first Oud festival in 2010.

He has toured extensively, headlining in Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East, and has collaborated with celebrated artists such as Zakir Hussain, Sultan Khan, Béla Fleck, John Abercrombie, John Patitucci, Jack DeJohnette, Richard Bona, Roy Ayers, Joey DeFrancesco, Howard Johnson, Jean Louis Matinier, Ivry Gitlis, Camerata Salzburg, Christian Lindberg, Neil Finn, The Grigoryan Brothers, Kate Miller-Heidke and Katie Noonan. He has performed and recorded with Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and the Academy of Ancient Music in London, making him the first and only Australian composer whose music has been performed by this prestigious orchestra. He has regularly performed with the Sydney, Adelaide and West Australian Symphony orchestras.

Joseph relocated from Sydney to London in 2016 and shares his time between the two cities. He is currently developing collaborations with UK and European performers including the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In May 2017 Joseph's Concerto for Oud and Orchestra was premiered by Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at Melbourne Recital Centre.

In July 2017 Joseph recorded new material in New York with special guests.

He returns to Australia for a series of concerts in July and August 2017 to launch the new album *Live At Abbey Road*.

"Certainly Tawadros is not averse to showmanship (witness the pink jacket on Monday's Q&A!), but that tendency was completely overridden by his profound instinct for making music that is a mirror of truth; a bridge between his heart and mind and those of his listeners.

The first set was devoted to the new material, which more than upheld Tawadros' reputation for excellence as a composer as well as an improviser." Sydney Morning Herald May 2016

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