

PAUL GRABOWSKY & EMMA DONOVAN EPK

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

The Old Rugged Cross brings together two powerful forces in Australian music – pianist, composer and MIJF Artist in Residence **Paul Grabowsky AO**, and acclaimed soul vocalist **Emma Donovan**. The pairing of one of Australia's most distinguished artists with the soaring vocalist and celebrated front-woman of The Putbacks, takes concert-goers to church with a gospel-inspired set, complete with six-piece horn and rhythm section.

Emma Donovan is best known for her work with The Putbacks and The Black Arm Band – as well as touring and recording alongside legends such as Archie Roach, Yothu Yindi and Paul Kelly – and her voice carries within it many deep currents. Her family hail from both sides of the continent, and her many musical influences reflect her early experiences singing country, as well as the rich legacy of soul music which she conveys so powerfully. Paul Grabowsky AO is an ARIA-winning composer and pianist. Internationally recognized as one of Australia's finest jazz musicians, he has worked with artists such as Branford Marsalis, Archie Roach, Paul Kelly, Kate Ceberano and Vince Jones.

In The Old Rugged Cross, these two acclaimed artists are joined by a powerful collection of Australia's finest jazz musicians in exploring another side of Donovan's early influences: the gospel and hymn tunes she grew up with in communities. Alongside the title track, this performance will feature songs made famous by artists like Aretha Franklin and Johnny Cash, including 'Amazing Grace' and 'Will the Circle be Unbroken' – as well as songs written by Donovan's own grandfather, Micko Donovan.

This special collaboration delivers a joyful celebration of soul, country and gospel sounds – all given the Grabowsky treatment.

BIOS

Emma Donovan – vocals: Emma Donovan is an award winning Indigenous Australian singer and songwriter best known for her work with soul bands, The Putbacks and The Black Arm Band project. She has worked with artists such as Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, Spinifex Gum, Christine Anu, Yothu Yindi, Jimmy Little and Paul Kelly among others. On her mother's side, Emma is part of the famed Donovan family of singers of the Gumbaynggirr people, of what is now known as Northern New South Wales. On her Father's side, Emma is of the Yamatji people, of what is now known as Western Australia.

Paul Grabowsky – piano/composer: Paul Grabowsky AO is an ARIA-winning composer and pianist. Internationally recognized as one of Australia's finest jazz musicians, he has worked with artists such as Branford Marsalis, Archie Roach, Paul Kelly, Kate Ceberano and Vince Jones. He served as commissioning Editor (Arts and Entertainment) for ABC TV, and has composed scores for opera, theatre and over 20 feature films and television shows in Australia, the UK and the US. He served as Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival and the Queensland Music Festival and was the founding Artistic Director of the Australian Art Orchestra. He is currently Executive Director of Monash University Performing Arts Centre.

Staging: Venue to provide backline

Show Duration: 75min

Touring Party: 10 (8-piece band + tour management). The show can also be performed as a duet piano and vocals only (touring party of 4)

Genre: jazz/ soul/ gospel/roots

Available: 2023

Contact: Reuben Zylberszpic 0418 572 578 roob@ozemail.com.au

Resources:

- Bio (as above)
- [Tech specs](#)
- Images (see pp. 2)

CLICK IMAGE TO DOWNLOAD

