

AUSTRALIAN ART ORCHESTRA WATER PUSHES SAND

COMPOSER ERIK GRISWOLD AND MASTER MUSICIANS OF SICHUAN PROVINCE

Review of Water Pushes Sand at
Melbourne Festival October 9 2015

“Juggles ancient and contemporary disciplines
to create something startlingly new”

The Age

“a masterful musical montage”

Sydney Morning Herald

Nominated for APRA/AMC Art Music Awards

‘2016 Jazz Work of The Year’



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Water Pushes Sand Showreel



The Australian Art Orchestra, led by artistic director Peter Knight, is renowned for merging musical styles and cultures to create thrilling works. August 2017 sees The AAO cement their position as Australia's leading art music ensemble as they tour nationally performing their acclaimed work *Water Pushes Sand* with a ten-piece ensemble featuring Sichuan ‘face changing’ dancer and promoting the album release of this important work through Jazzhead.

Water Pushes Sand was composed by Erik Griswold for the Australian Art Orchestra and master musicians from Sichuan, China. Long term associates of the AAO, Erik Griswold and Vanessa Tomlinson have spent 15 years exploring the music and culture of Sichuan - their collaborations with musicians from Sichuan are well known.

Sichuan is the “Texas of China”. It is known for its brash and friendly people, spicy food, laid back tea-houses and the distinctive twang of its spoken dialect. Its music combines colours from rustic country folk, street songs, and the ear-splitting cacophony of gongs and cymbals. It is more like blues or early rock and roll than classical music. Even Sichuan opera is hard core. The combination of Griswold’s spaced out big band sensibility and an Australian / Sichuanese ten-piece all-star band makes *Water Pushes Sand* sound like nothing you’ve ever heard.

Since *Water Pushes Sand*’s lauded debut at 2015’s Melbourne Festival the piece went on to be nominated for the APRA/AMC Art Music Awards ‘2016 Jazz Work of the Year’ and won rave reviews in the media for its unique fusion of Sichuan folk music and jazz. Planet Arts called it “a liberating performance showing the beauty and strength of two cultures intertwining”, and The Music “an excellent collaboration”.

Peter Knight says, “The AAO is doing something unique in Australian music. We collaborate with musicians from around the world to work in the space where cultures, genres and disciplines collide. We are breaking down barriers, blurring lines, creating dialogue and building friendships. *Water Pushes Sand* epitomises this, creating something distinctive and completely relevant to Australia in 2017.”

Water Pushes Sand, featuring master musicians from Sichuan out now on Jazzhead PLUS a national tour of acclaimed ten-piece ensemble commences August 17th at Darwin Festival.

Released on Jazzhead



HEAD234
www.jazzhead.com/waterpushessand
www.aao.com.au

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**WATER
PUSHES
SAND
PERFORMANCE
DATES**

**THURSDAY AUGUST 17
DARWIN FESTIVAL
DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE**

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**TUESDAY AUGUST 22
MELBOURNE • THE JAZZLAB**

• [Click Here for Tickets](#)

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23
CANBERRA AINSLIE ARTS CENTRE**

• [Click Here for Tickets](#)

**THURSDAY AUGUST 24
DUE WEST FESTIVAL BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB
BRAYBROOK – VICTORIA**

• [Click Here for Tickets](#)

**SATURDAY AUGUST 26
MONA HOBART – MUSEUM OF OLD AND NEW ART**

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