

1 February 2025

Hordern Pavilion

SYDNEY SYMPHONY
PRESENTS

disco wonder land

A NIGHT AT
STUDIO 54

SYDNEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Principal Partner



SYDNEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS

Saturday 1 February 2025, 7pm

Hordern Pavilion

DISCO WONDERLAND

A NIGHT AT STUDIO 54

VANESSA SCAMMELL conductor
PAULINI vocals
TIMOMATIC vocals
LUCY MAUNDER vocals
NICK AFOA vocals
DYAGULA backing vocals
ALWYN DE LOS SANTOS backing vocals
BARRY CONRAD host

DISCO WONDERLAND BAND

DAVID GOODWIN keys/piano
JACK STREMPER moog
ALEXANDER FLOOD drums

ZAC TYLER producer and director

Act 1

I Will Survive
Fantasy
Shake Your Groove Thing
MacArthur Park
Miss You
What a Fool Believes
If You Could Read My Mind
Salsation
Young Hearts Run Free
Grease
Let The Music Play
No More Tears (Enough is Enough)

Act 2

Love to Love You Baby
Michael Jackson Medley
Take Me Home
Stayin' Alive/September
Don't Leave Me This Way
I'm Coming Out

Estimated durations

Act 1 - 60 minutes
Interval - 20 minutes
Act 2 - 50 minutes
This concert will run for approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Cover image

Photo by Craig Abercrombie
Design by Amy Zhou

Audio

aFX Global

Lighting

Peter Rubie

Stage manager

Roman Benedict

Principal Partner



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

PAULINI vocals

Paulini has been heralded as one of the finest vocalists and performers to come out of Australia. The Fijian-born songstress rose to fame through television screens on the very first season of *Australian Idol* which thrust her into the spotlight. Making it through to the final four, she won the hearts of a nation with her angelic, five octave range and engaging personality.

Post-*Idol* Paulini rose to the top of the Australian ARIA Charts in 2004 with her debut platinum album *One Determined Heart* and her platinum smash single 'Angel Eyes', both hitting the #1 spot and receiving Aria Number 1 Chart Awards ('Angel Eyes' remained at the top of the charts for 6 consecutive weeks).

In fact, Paulini is still one of only ten Australian female solo artists to have a #1 album debut on the Australian ARIA Charts.

In 2006 Paulini went on to become a part of the chart-topping Young Divas. Her powerful vocals were perfect for the disco classics and the group went on to have two top ten albums and two top ten singles. After leaving the girl group Paulini grew as a performer, a songwriter and as a woman, steering her own destiny in her music career and making choices that she truly feels great about.

In 2017 Paulini played the lead role as Rachel Marron in *The Bodyguard* musical to great critical acclaim, singing 17 Whitney Houston tracks every night. After *The Bodyguard* Paulini joined the *Saturday Night Fever* musical cast as a lead vocalist, followed by another lead role as Dionne in the 50th anniversary of *Hair* in 2019.

Paulini returned to television in 2019 in the hit show *The Masked Singer*. As The Spider she wowed the judges weekly using her amazing voice to change genres easily which kept the judges guessing.

In 2021 Paulini appeared on *I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Australia* and in *Chess the Musical* the Australian tour.

2022 saw Paulini compete in *Eurovision Australia Decides* which coincided with her latest single 'We Are One'. In 2023 we watched Paulini grace our television screens once again this time competing for the Mirrorball trophy on *Dancing with the Stars!*

Most recently though in 2024 you may have seen Paulini performing as the Teen Angel in *Grease*.



Paulini

TIMOMATIC vocals

The multi-platinum entertainer Timomatic has conquered many milestones through his multifaceted career. From dancer, acclaimed song-writer and recording artist to being cast as multiple lead roles in theatre, TV and film. Timomatic has become a staple in the Australian entertainment industry and has no intention to slow down!

Captivating audiences on the hit TV show *So You Think You Can Dance*, Timomatic quickly became a household name and secured a leading role in *Fame The Musical*. It was due to a serious injury that he channelled his passion to create music. This led to Timomatic becoming a top three finalist on *Australia's Got Talent* and releasing his four times platinum, APRA Award-winning single, 'Set It Off' which peaked at #2 on the ARIA music charts. His live shows would attract special guest invites to perform alongside global acts such as Nicki Minaj, Janet Jackson, Pitbull, Jessie J, Flo Rida, Salt N Pepa and David Guetta. Within the same year, Timomatic launched his self-titled album taking the #3 spot on the ARIA Charts, featuring hits 'If Looks Could Kill', 'Can You Feel It' and 'Incredible'.

Timomatic was a featured performer at one of Australia's biggest sporting events, State Of Origin (2013). This led him to international performances such as Miss Universe which broadcasted to millions globally, and Mexico's biggest radio concert El Evento 40 to an audience of over 100,000 people.

Timomatic has since jumped back on the reality TV stage but this time as a judge on *Australia's Got Talent* alongside Gerri Halliwell, Dawn French and Kyle Sandilands.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Currently Timomatic continues to break entertainment barriers by becoming a being invited to sing the National Anthem at the 2023 NRL Grand Final and starring as Ike Turner in the smash hit musical *TINA*.



Timomatic

NICK AFOA vocals

Nick Afoa is a New Zealand-Samoan actor and baritone who has recently completed the Australian tours of *Miss Saigon* and *Rent*. With an extensive theatrical background, he has held a long-term role in Australia, spent five years in London's West End in *The Lion King*, and recently co-directed *Pacifica the Musical*. In 2024 Afoa made his feature film debut in *Mysterious Ways*.



Nick Afoa

LUCY MAUNDER vocals

Since graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA Music Theatre) in 2006, Lucy has cemented her reputation as one of Australia's mainstage leading ladies playing a huge range of roles over the last 18 years. Most recently Lucy starred as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* for Crossroads Live which has just completed its Australian tour to massive acclaim with a star-studded cast including Anthony Warlow, Zoe Ventoura, Peter Rowsthorn and Asabi Goodman.

Immediately prior to starting *Chicago* Lucy left the Australian tour of the critically acclaimed Cameron Mackintosh/Michael Cassel Group/Disney revival of *Mary Poppins* playing the role of Winifred Banks across all cities in Australia in 2022/2023, earning a Sydney Theatre Award nomination for Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical. Before moving to Sydney to commence *Mary Poppins* Lucy also starred in Victorian Opera's production of Kurt Weill's anti-capitalist musical *Happy End* as Lillian Holiday. In a true career highlight Lucy also had the opportunity to play protagonist Alison Bechdel in the MTC Australian premiere production of Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron's Tony Award-winning musical *Fun Home*, directed by Dean Bryant, for which she was nominated for a Green Room Award and a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical following its smash hit season at Sydney Theatre Company in 2021.

Other career highlights include *The Spirit of Christmas* concerts at QPAC in 2021 and 2019; *There's Something About Music* for The Little Red Company; *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Michael Cassel Group) starring as sassy Cynthia Weil on its critically acclaimed Australian tour (Green Room Nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical).

Prior to this, with her newborn baby in tow Lucy played Miss Honey in the Australian/New Zealand tour of Tim Minchin's *Matilda: The Musical* (Louise Withers and Associates/Royal Shakespeare Company), and was nominated for a 2017 Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Other highlights include Cinderella in *Into the Woods* (Victorian Opera, Helpmann and Green Room Nominations); Georgia Hendricks in *Curtains* (The Production Company); Gertrude Lawrence in *Noël and Gertie* (CDP Theatre Producers, Glug Award for Best Actress in a Musical); Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* (STC, Malthouse, Victorian Opera); Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (TML Enterprises); Emma in *Jekyll & Hyde* (TML Enterprises) and Anne in *A Little Night Music* (Opera Australia); *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Melbourne Recital Centre); *Side By Side /by Sondheim* (Enda Markey); Claudia in *Nine* (Melbourne Recital Centre).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lucy's one-woman show *Irving Berlin: Songs in the Key of Black* toured Australia to rave reviews at venues such as the prestigious Spiegeltent, the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, The Noosa Long Weekend Festival, His Majesty's Theatre Perth and La Salon at Claire's Kitchen. Her album featuring arrangements and musical direction by Daniel Edmonds is available on iTunes, Spotify and Apple Music.



Lucy Maunder

BARRY CONRAD host

Barry Conrad is an accomplished actor, singer-songwriter, and performer whose multifaceted career spans screen, stage and music. His screen credits include originating roles in iconic Australian television shows such as *Neighbours*, *Home and Away*, *Return to Paradise*, the AACTA-nominated series *Erotic Stories*, and the critically acclaimed, #1 box office hit *The Sapphires*. On stage, he's delivered standout performances, including playing one of the principal roles in Lin Manuel Miranda's four-time Tony Award-winning *In The Heights* at the iconic Sydney Opera House, and a principal role in the Australian premiere of the Tony Award-winning *Violet*, earning him a Sydney Theatre Award nomination for Best Actor.

Conrad has been cast as the male lead in *Destiny*, a play by the prestigious Melbourne Theatre Company. He has received numerous accolades for his work, including a Spotlight Short Film Award in the United States for *4D*. In his role in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, he was part of a production that won five Helpmann Awards, underscoring his contribution to critically acclaimed theatrical works.

Beyond acting, he's collaborated with a range of highly acclolated artists as a singer-songwriter, including Grammy, American Music, and Billboard Award-winning producer Rodney Jerkins; Grammy, ASCAP, and Billboard Music Award-winning group OneRepublic; iconic multi-Grammy Award-winning mastering engineer Tom Coyne; and American Music Award-winning duo K-Ci & JoJo. He's also toured internationally, playing prestigious venues such as The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, United Center in Chicago, Illinois, Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, The Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro (to more than 100,000 attendees) and the Festival of Life in Zimbabwe (to an audience of 250,000). Barry leverages his platform to create and host *Banter with BC*, an ongoing podcast dedicated to celebrating talent and providing a platform for voices from all backgrounds, featuring acclaimed guests such as Keiynan Lonsdale (*The Flash*, *Legends of Tomorrow*) and David Berry (*Outlander*). As of 2025, he has been named the new co-host of the American health and fitness show, *The Intermittent Fasting Podcast*, alongside SAG-AFTRA actress Melanie Avalon.



Barry Conrad

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

VANESSA SCAMMELL conductor

Vanessa Scammell's most recent engagements include a double bill (*The Dream/Marguerite and Armand*) for The Australian Ballet, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* for the Melbourne Symphony and a concert version of *Singin' in the Rain*. In 2021/2022, she conducted the Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and West Australian Symphony Orchestras in programmes such as *Vera Blue*, *The Bamboos*, *Birds of Tokyo*, *An Evening with Anthony Warlow*, *Love Actually*, *To Barbra With Love*, *Opera in the Outback* (for Opera Queensland) and *An American in Paris* for The Australian Ballet.

Previously, she conducted *Sweeney Todd* and *Jekyll & Hyde* (both starring Anthony Warlow), an encore national tour of *From Broadway to La Scala*, *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia and a new production of *The Merry Widow* for West Australian Opera; she led seasons of Lehár's masterpiece for Opera Australia and Opera Queensland in 2018 as well as conducting *Eskimo Joe* for the Brisbane Festival.

For Opera Australia, she has conducted South Pacific, the national tour of *La traviata* and was Musical Director for their acclaimed 2015 television opera, *The Divorce*. For the Australian Ballet, her credits include *Body Torque*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and *The Dream*.

For the Really Useful Company, Vanessa was Musical Director for *The Phantom of the Opera* in Beijing, Taipei, Athens, South Korea, South Africa and Australia; *West Side Story* Australian Tour for Farrelly Productions; Chicago Australasian Tour for Gordon Frost Organisation and the Australian premiere of *The Light in the Piazza*.



Vanessa Scammell

THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities.

Their concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres. They also celebrate the role of the symphony orchestra in movies, television and video games.

sydneysymphony.com

THE MUSICIANS

FIRST VIOLINS

Alexandra Osborne
Associate Concertmaster

Fiona Ziegler
Assistant Concertmaster

Jennifer Booth
Seroan Danis
Emily Long
Alexandra Mitchell
Alexander Norton
Léone Ziegler

SECOND VIOLINS

Kirsty Hilton
Principal

Emma Jezek
Acting Associate Principal

Emma Hayes
Shuti Huang
Monique Irik
Nicole Masters

VIOLAS

Richard Waters^o
Acting Principal

Anne-Louise Comerford
Associate Principal Emeritus

Sandro Costantino
Rosemary Curtin

CELLOS

Catherine Hewgill
Principal

Simon Cobcroft
Associate Principal

Christopher Pidcock
Adrian Wallis

DOUBLE BASSES

Alex Henery
Principal

Richard Lynn

FLUTES

Tomomi Matsuo^{*}
Guest Principal

Carolyn Harris

HORNS

Samuel Jacobs
Principal

Euan Harvey
Acting Principal

Marnie Sebire
Rachel Silver

OBOES

Shefali Pryor
Acting Principal

Miriam Cooney^o

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata
Associate Principal

Oliver Crofts[†]

BASSOONS

Hayden Burge^{*}
Guest Principal

Fiona McNamara

TRUMPETS

Brent Grapes
Associate Principal

Cécile Glémot
Anthony Heinrichs

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont
Acting Principal

Nick Byrne

Mitchell Nissen^{*}
Guest Principal

Bass Trombone

TIMPANI

Joshua Hill^o
Acting Associate Principal

Timpani/Section Percussion

PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos
Principal

Timothy Constable
Jess Ciampa^{*}

HARP

Louisic Dulbecco
Principal

EXTRAS

Clive Lendich^{*}
Guest Principal Guitar

Christina Leonard^{*}
Guest Principal Saxophone

Bold Principal
^{*} Guest Musician
^o Contract Musician
[†] Sydney Symphony Fellow