

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Our Ref: T15:0032

24 November 2016

Attention: News Editor

### **Festival brings music and pop-up museum**

Rock and soul music, classical performances and a pop-up museum of water are among the highlights of the fifteenth Great Southern Festival in February and March 2017.

The Great Southern Festival program of Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) events started in 2003 with the founding support of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

The 2017 Great Southern Festival program was launched on Wednesday 16 November.

PIAF artistic director Wendy Martin outlined the program and said events such as the Great Southern Festival were about bringing people together to celebrate diverse aspects of their community.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the festival connected the regional community to artistic and cultural experiences that are usually only available to metropolitan audiences.

“It’s a wonderful enhancement to life in this region and it’s another reason that the Great Southern is a natural choice for opportunity and lifestyle,” Mr Thornton said.

The GSDC is supporting the 2017 festival with \$65,864 of Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

Ms Martin played a clip of American rock, soul and blues outfit Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats, who will perform at the Albany Entertainment Centre on Saturday 4 March.

Classical music events include the Calder Quartet, the Vuyani Ensemble and the piano collaboration of Elena Kats-Chernin and Tamara-Anna Cislowska.

PIAF artist-in-residence Amy Sharrocks, from the UK, will invite public participation in the creation of the Museum of Water, a project that gathers samples of water and associated stories that will become part of the permanent collection of the WA Museum.



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Authors William McInnes, Jessie Burton, Ian McGuire, Amy Stewart and Kate Summerscale appear in the writers program and the festival features a cinema program of 12 international films.

The Great Southern Festival runs from Tuesday 7 February to Thursday 16 March 2017. Ticketing information is available through [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au).

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