

TOPOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday May 27

TOPOLOGY RELEASES CONCEPT ALBUM, 'WE WILL RISE' REFLECTING UPON THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE, COLLECTIVE RECOVERY AND HEALING AMIDST WORLD EXISTENTIAL THREATS

Aria-nominated and internationally regarded quintet Topology, established leaders of musical creativity in Australia, operating successfully out of Brisbane for over two decades, will digitally release their 16th album **We Will Rise**, Friday June 19 at 7pm, 2020 AEST. The 10-track concept EP, especially curated from back catalogue signature compositions, reflects Topology artists' contemporary concerns. **We Will Rise** has thematic links to the existential threat of climate disruption and the need for strength, hope, fortitude and resilience in order for recovery and collective healing to commence on the back of traumatic natural events and a global viral pandemic.

Natural disasters such as bushfires, floods, cyclones, drought and other traumatic natural events are extremely challenging for those directly affected. The global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has drastically impacted and disrupted people's lives and communities in varying ways. **We Will Rise** tracks have been individually curated by Topology to empower, inspire, support and heal individuals and communities to recover and rebuild. **We Will Rise** highlights the strength and resilience of the economically hard-hit arts sector, and through this popular artform, demonstrates music's intrinsic power to inspire and heal. The EP includes new signature work *Drought Stories Texas* which world premiered last month and highlights the adverse impacts of long-form drought. Sheet music for each EP track will be available for purchase online, Friday June 19 at 7pm, 2020 AEST.

Announcing the album release, Topology Creative Director, Christa Powell said, "Artists are run aground both physically and spiritually at the moment. The emotional and financial pressure is overwhelming and has meant for many, a stalling and an inability to create in this time. Artists however are resilient by nature. In times of crisis people turn to the arts to see them through the long hours stuck in isolation – books, films, music. The world needs the arts. **We Will Rise** is an album we have curated together. A collection of Topology originals specifically selected for this time we find ourselves in. A collection of tracks that inspire, support, heal and hopefully give some relevance to what we are all going through at the moment. *Rush* (Track No 6) is really quite symbolic for me. It features all the Topology musicians on the piano. Ten hands on one instrument symbolising that we are going to get through this together."

Topology is Australia's foremost innovator of contemporary music with an unmatched style, unique approach to collaborations, cross genre creative projects and mentorship of young composers and artists. Winning numerous awards for the Topology Education program "Top Up", the organisation has also won the APRA Award for *Excellence by an Organisation in 2008*.

1



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Led cooperatively by the principal artists, Co-Artistic Directors John Babbage and Dr Robert Davidson, Topology has worked with over 23 Australian arts companies, dozens of emerging Australian composers and premiered over 600 original works.

Topology has consistently succeeded in the remarkable integration of music performance, collective composition, and improvisation together with theatrical staging, realising the creation of shows. Topology is a leading player in collaborative creativity in Australia. The organisation challenges and redefines artistic boundaries through cross-art collaboration. Collaborators are remarkably diverse, from the Kransky Sisters to the Brodsky Quartet, pop divas Kate Miller-Heidke and Katie Noonan, actors and theatre luminaries Geoffrey Rush and Neil Armfield, dance companies Queensland Ballet and Expressions Dance Company and jazz explorers Trichotomy

The virtuoso indie quintet have for over two decades used their signature compositions as artistic and social commentary, reflecting and highlighting important socio-political beats, both micro and macro, that require further thought, discussion, investigation or rigour. Armed with a deep belief that music plays an important role to inspire and nurture during difficult times, Topology has utilised famous political speeches, micro-doc interviews and multi-media works to discuss a wide range of topics including love, drought, climate disruption, homelessness, misogyny, and much more.

We Will Rise, the concept album's title (Track No 7) is a contemporary testament to the resilience of humankind, as James Scullin, 9th Prime Minister of Australia says, in a rousing confidence speech delivered to the Australian public during the Great Depression, Jul 11, 1931 upon returning home after months of diplomatic traveling abroad, "I ask that you have confidence in your nation, that you have confidence in yourselves and if you display that confidence... we will rise out of our difficulties and our depression." Topology Co-Artistic Director, Robert Davidson (Composer/Bass), said of *We Will Rise*, "I like how Prime Minister Scullin said 'and have confidence in yourselves' that we will rise through these difficulties and our depression because that I think is an important aspect. To be able to trust yourself and build that ability to be with yourself. Music is very helpful at empathising with people's different emotions and is a great way to connect people. One of the most stunning examples of that was the singing from the balconies and rooftops in Italy and Spain. But music is also a way to go inside yourself. That is what I have been discovering in this lockdown. Music's ability to become insular and internalised in a self-discovering way and to have empathy for yourself. I see the music on this album as being good for that purpose as well."

The track *We Will Rise* mirrors also, the confidence of Topology, who through its own acts of resilience, flexibility, and nimbleness of nature, have adapted business models against the backdrop of a rapidly changing creative industries sector, in order to continue to teach and inspire students and educators via TOP UP Online and to further proactively commit to hiring its artists and arts workers during COVID-19. Topology, in this most recent fiscal year, employed 58 artists and creative workers. Casual professional arts workers who have, in many cases, been left financially unassisted, via any national or state financial support scheme. One such arts worker, sole operator and stage technician, Dan Endicott, said "COVID-19 shutdown has resulted in a loss of 100% of my arts industry casual work and all planned Topology tours for the foreseeable months ahead. Fortunately, through this past work with Topology, I have been eligible to receive the JobKeeper allowance to sustain some work during this pandemic and to be in a position to return to my industry when Topology can once again, bring the music, live, to the people."

2



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In *MLK*, (Track No. 8) the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. said in 1963, "Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream." Topology quickly turned the award-winning and very successful TOP UP education platform to TOP UP Online in order to service its isolated client base in the past months. Topology will also feature virtually next month, in Musica Viva School's Tour, and as soon as travel restrictions are eased, Topology's THREE national tour will reignite.

Topology has a deep understanding of the importance of art in healing and recovery which is reflected in multi-media project *Drought Stories* which will, by completion in 2021, be a seven-chapter piece on the devastating ongoing effects of long-form drought to regional farmers and communities. *Drought Stories Texas*, (Track No 3) includes micro-doc interviews of Texas, Queensland farmers and their subsistence during difficult times. "I just don't want to be finished up by drought. If we want to finish things, we want it to be on our own terms or our children's terms," said Texas Farmer, Greg Finlay.

As ambassadors for creativity, Topology continues to excel in creating original music, connecting artists through collaboration and enriching communities and audiences through shared creative adventures.

TOPOLOGY | John Babbage (Co-Artistic Director, Composer/Saxophone), Dr Robert Davidson (Co-Artistic Director, Composer/Bass), Christa Powell (Creative Director, Violin), Bernard Hoey (Viola), Therese Milanovic (Piano).

BUY ALBUM + BUY SHEET MUSIC | We Will Rise will be available from 19 June on all digital platforms. Sheet music can also be purchased at the Topology store (www.topologymusic.com).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

TOPOLOGY respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and pays respect to their ancestors and to Elders past, present and future.

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