



**Media release**

**\*\*STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2016\*\***

## PASSIO

### FOR VOICES, BRASS, WOODWIND AND PERCUSSION

**VENUE:** Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall

**DATE:** Sunday 19 March, 5.00pm

**BY:** Jack Body, David Farquhar, Ross Harris, Lissa Meridan, Michael Norris, Dame Gillian Whitehead, from Richard Davy

**CONDUCTORS:** Dr Karen Grylls and Peter Scholes

**ARTISTS:** Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir with Madeleine Pierard | Auckland Chamber Orchestra

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Conceived by the visionary New Zealand composer and ethnomusicologist Jack Body (1944-2015), *Passio* is a rich re-contextualisation of Richard Davy's (1467?-1538) moving *Passion according to St Matthew* and a testament to Body's musical courage and brilliance.

The ground-breaking opus reworks the first-ever setting of the sacred *St Matthew's Passion*. In this revisiting of Davy's early-Renaissance work, ancient mingles with modern as choir, vocal soloists and brass are given new voice by a consortium of six New Zealand composers.

The first and only performance of *Passio* to date was in Wellington in 2006 and was described [in a tribute to Body](#) as "mesmerising" and "a true Festival piece."

In that performance, in the Great Hall of the former Dominion Museum, attended by Auckland Arts Festival Artistic Director Carla van Zon, the Tudor Consort was joined by the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band and the audience able to walk at will around the performance space and delight in the sound.

In Auckland, *Passio* will again be an immersive and rare musical experience in which audiences are free to move around and through the performance area to more fully absorb the resonances of musicians and singers – Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir with special guest Madeleine Pierard and additional soloists, and Auckland Chamber Orchestra. (Please note: seating will also be available.)

The instrumental commentaries have been devised by five composers, curated by Body – David Farquhar (*Passio* was first performed the year before he died), Ross Harris, Lissa Meridan, Michael Norris and Dame Gillian Whitehead.

Exquisite voices invoke the past amidst a dynamic instrumental present in this one-night-only, Auckland Arts Festival-produced concert. *Passio* is an opportunity to remember and celebrate the genius, guile and inventiveness of New Zealand musical treasure Jack Body in the coming together of some of the country's most talented composers.



## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

<b>TICKETS</b>	GA \$69   GA Conc \$63
<b>WHEN</b>	Sunday 19 March, 5.00pm Talk: Friday 17 March
<b>WHERE</b>	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall
<b>BOOKINGS</b>	Ticketmaster.co.nz   09 951 2501
<b>DURATION</b>	2 hours, no interval
<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	General admission is standing. Some seating provided – arrive early if you require a seat
<b>FOLLOW</b>	@aklfestival #aklfest
<b>ABOUT THE AAF</b>	<p>Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand’s largest city.</p> <p>Over 1.6 million people have attended the Festivals to date.</p> <p>Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward.</p> <p>The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.</p> <p>Significant support for AAF 2017 is received from Foundation North, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust and The Lion Foundation.</p>
<b>MEDIA CONTACT</b>	Siobhan Waterhouse   Media and PR Manager   Ph: +64 22 126 4149   E: <a href="mailto:siobhan.waterhouse@aaf.co.nz">siobhan.waterhouse@aaf.co.nz</a>