



Thursday March 18, 2021

## **Australian Festival of Chamber Music appoints Dr Ricardo Peach Executive Director**

**A leading arts and cultural professional, Dr Ricardo Peach will return from South Africa to become Executive Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville.**

Dr Peach takes over from current Executive Director **Gavin Findlay**, who after three years steering the AFCM, has announced his retirement to his new home in the Daintree.

**Dr Peach is currently the Director of the Vrystaat Kunstefees/Arts Festival/Tsa-Botjhaba, a multi-artform Afrikaans language festival in Mangaung that forges links with Sesotho and English cultures.**

Commenting on the appointment, AFCM Chair, Sandra Yates AO said, “Dr Peach has impressed us all with the depth of his experience as an Arts Administrator, and his evident enthusiasm and ambition for both the Festival, and North Queensland. We look forward to welcoming Ricardo, and his partner, Eugene, to the AFCM family in May.”

Dr Peach said he was a huge advocate of regional arts development, having managed several large-scale initiatives in South Africa.

“They are complex and nuanced, but vital for establishing the cultural and economic autonomy of regional centres,” he said. “When the opportunity arose to lead the AFCM into a new era of expansion, I jumped at the chance.”

“I will work with the talented team at the AFCM to maintain and grow the core mandate of the Festival, and add additional creative industry initiatives to build regional capacity, in particular, elevating First Nations arts. I cannot wait to start!”

Dr Peach developed and is currently co-director of the Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PAID) at the University of the Free State, partnering with the Vrystaat Arts Festival and a Founding Director of the Pan-African Creative Exchange (PACE).

In his independent role he assisted as a Festival Partner Consultant for the Australian SituateArt in Festival initiative (2013-14). He has a long association with the Australia Council for the Arts, having been Acting Director of the Inter-Arts Office in 2012. At the Australia Council from 2006 to 2012, he commissioned research on arts and creative industry partnerships with QUT, instigated an MOU with UNESCO, developed the Indigenous Experimental Art Fund and the Art in Festival initiative among a range of special projects and flagship programs.

## **Australian Festival of Chamber Music**

23 July to 1 August 2021 in Townsville, North Queensland

General public tickets, passes and holiday packages go on sale from Tuesday 2 March 2021.

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