

# TOPOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday June 19

## **TOPOLOGY RELEASES 16<sup>th</sup> ALBUM, 'WE WILL RISE' REFLECTING UPON THE NEED FOR RESILIENCE, COLLECTIVE RECOVERY AND HEALING AMIDST WORLD EXISTENTIAL THREATS**

Aria-nominated and internationally regarded virtuoso indie quintet Topology, operating successfully out of Brisbane for over two decades, proudly releases today, their 16<sup>th</sup> album. The 10-track concept EP, **We Will Rise**, curated from back catalogue signature compositions and a new composition, 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. The EP and sheet music for each track is now available for purchase online, Friday June 19, 2020 AEST.

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. Led cooperatively by 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.

The 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 have 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.

Topology Creative Director, Christa Powell (violin) said of the album release "At certain times in our lives we are faced with a unique situation where we need to take stock and reflect. This was a time for us as a group to consider both collectively and individually, what we care about right now. This assembly of tracks, both old and new, asserts our belief in optimism and the faith that we will pull through these times of crisis both individually, together and through the healing power of music. *Rush* (Track Number 6) is a perfect musical metaphor for this – one instrument, five musicians, ten hands all working together."

The natural disasters of long-form drought, catastrophic fires, floods, cyclones and 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.

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The EP includes new signature work *Drought Stories Texas* (Track No 3) which world premiered in April and highlights the adverse impacts of long-form drought on a regional Queensland town. Topology has a deep understanding of the importance of art in healing and recovery which is reflected in multi-media project *Drought Stories* and will form part of a wider project due for completion in 2021. *Drought Stories Texas* 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.

*We Will Rise*, the concept album's title (Track No 7) is a contemporary testament to the resilience of humankind, as James Scullin, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 "Music has the ability to become insular and internalised in a self-discovering way and to allow empathy for yourself. The music on this album is good for that purpose."

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 have throughout the COVID-19 restrictions continued to deliver inspirational creativity to its client base, playing music albeit remotely. Topology features virtually this week and next, during Musica Viva School's Tour, and as soon as travel restrictions are eased, Topology's THREE national tour will reignite.

Established leaders and ambassadors for musical creativity in Australia, Topology continues to excel in creating original music, connecting artists through collaboration and enriching communities and audiences through shared creative and educational 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* is available, Friday 19 June on all digital platforms including: <https://ffm.to/wewillrise> Sheet music can also be purchased at the Topology store (<https://www.topologymusic.com/product-category/sheet-music/>).

## 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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