

# ACO Underground comes Back to Reality

**ACO UNDERGROUND: BACK TO REALITY**

**Saturday 4 June, 8pm**

The Neilson, Pier 2/3

*“ACO Underground is a splinter group that gathers some of the world’s finest musicians and puts them, but only once every so often, in one small, almost secret place. You feel like you’re part of a very privileged, slightly clandestine, revolutionary cabal, just being there.”*

– CRIKEY

*“A singing Vänskä transformed from woozy serenader to spitballing postpunk, or from Lili Marlene to Lydia Lunch if you will.”*

– SYDNEY MORNING HERALD



Expect a heady mix of dangerous realism, experimentation, and dreamy relief when ACO Underground makes its much-anticipated return for a one-night only gig as part of Vivid Sydney with **ACO Underground: Back to Reality**.

Provocative and enigmatic, ACO Underground is a boundary-pushing, electro-acoustic collaboration fronted by ACO Principal Violin **Satu Vänskä**. Alternating between performing on her precious 1726 ‘Belgiorno’ Stradivarius and taking to the microphone as vocalist, Vänskä will be joined by ACO Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, guitarist **Slava Grigoryan**, producer and keyboardist **Paul Beard** (Music Director for the likes of Robbie Williams, Lily Allen, Bryan Ferry and Art Garfunkel) and a quartet of ACO musicians.

For ACO Underground’s first show at the ACO’s new home at Pier 2/3, The Neilson – the ACO’s custom-designed performance space – will be transformed into an electrifying gig venue as the group perform music from Gesualdo’s 16th century Italy through to the American avant-garde of Ruth Crawford-Seeger and category-defying music of David Bowie, alongside new songs by Tognetti.

Vänskä describes ACO Underground as an ever-evolving group of acoustic and electronic musicians, who share a fascination with musical and artistic experimentation.

*“ACO Underground is an avenue for us to explore and experiment with our music, and we want to bring our audiences in on the experience,”* Vänskä said. *“The aim is for audiences to encounter the unexpected – beautiful at one end and shocking at the other – but where the music is always at the forefront.”*

**Media Contact**

For interview requests, images, media tickets or further information, please contact:

**Caitlin Benetatos**

**E** [caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au](mailto:caitlin.benetatos@aco.com.au)

**P** (02) 8274 3825

**M** 0422934693

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

