

ARIA-winning vocal sensation

Get ready Grafton: The Idea of North is coming to reset your musical compass



“An absolute joy...sounds that will remain with audiences long after the final notes have faded.”

- In Daily

Think you know the limits of the human voice? **The Idea of North** will make you think again. Famed for their sensational a cappella arrangements, the Sydney-based vocalists have toured internationally, released more than a dozen albums and won two ARIA awards.

Now they're visiting Grafton for one night only, bringing their passionate '**Ballads by Candlelight**' to **Christ Church Cathedral** on **Friday 5 April at 7:00pm**. The concert is presented by the Clarence Valley Conservatorium in association with Musica Viva Australia.

So what is The Idea of North? In short, a quintet of musicians, serious about their music without taking themselves too seriously. Renowned for their easy rapport, soprano **Emma Rule**, alto **Naomi Crellin**, tenor **Nicholas Begbie**, bass **Luke Thompson** and vocal percussionist **Kai Kitamura** tell stories through arresting vocal arrangements – all without touching an instrument.

With two ARIA awards under their collective belt, a significant local and international fan base, and a back-catalogue of over 10 albums, it would seem that despite their uniqueness, people are getting better at describing The Idea of North to their friends. Their third album was the highest ever seller in jazz for the label (ABC Classics & Jazz), while their 2010 release, a collaboration with jazz great James Morrison, won the 2010 ARIA award for 'Best Jazz Album'. They also took home the 2013 ARIA award for 'Best Jazz Album'. As James Morrison puts it: 'A cappella is sometimes thought of as being minimalist, but when you can sing and entertain like The Idea of North, a band would just get in the way'.

You may have heard and enjoyed the CDs, but as the group says, 'the best stuff actually happens live'. 'The range of sounds and colours we explore with our voices is vast, so one thing you can look forward to is hearing voices perform in ways they've never heard before,' promises tenor Nick Begbie. 'Emulating instruments, colour tone ranging from dark to delightfully twangy, and a whole range of emotions. We aim to extract both laughter and tears from our audiences. It will be an aural experience like no other!'

Their latest show, 'Ballads by Candlelight', explores songs of love lost and found, reconciliation and breakdown, heartache and joy – a veritable kaleidoscope of human emotion in music. Come and have these five exceptional singers pour theirs and others' hearts out in song – this moving performance is both amusing, heartbreaking and beautifully uplifting all at once. A wonderfully emotional, musical journey.

'We are REALLY looking forward to coming,' concludes Nick. 'See you all soon!'

CONCERT: Friday 5 April 2019, 7:00pm | Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton

Bookings and further details: <https://cvcon.com.au/event/the-idea-of-north/>