

**MELBOURNE**  
International Arts  
**FESTIVAL**

2 → 20  
October  
2019

The Nico Project

**Expression  
of Interest**



# The Nico Project

## Introduction

Melbourne International Arts Festival is a major international arts festival and a celebration of dance, theatre, music, circus, visual arts, multimedia, outdoor and free events held each October.

In 2019 the Festival runs from 2–20 October under the helm of Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway.

At the heart of our live performance program is *The Nico Project*: a special commission co-created by performer Maxine Peake and director Sarah Frankcom alongside a team of exceptional female or female identifying artists drawn from the worlds of classical music and theatre.

## Synopsis

**Survivor. Muse. Creator. Destroyer.**

From her 1967 debut with The Velvet Underground to her premature death just two decades later, Nico was one of pop culture's most enigmatic figures. Now, Maxine Peake and Sarah Frankcom are conjuring this visionary artist up from the shadows with a stirring theatrical immersion into her sound, her identity and the world in which she fought to be heard.

*The Nico Project* is inspired by her stark, bleak and beautiful 1968 album *The Marble Index*. Ignored on its original release, the album is now rightly regarded as one of the defining masterpieces of 1960s counterculture. With text by award-winning playwright E.V. Crowe and music by acclaimed composer Anna Clyne, *The Nico Project* brings us closer to the ghosts that haunted Nico and the devastating past that shaped her, and celebrates the potency of female creativity in a field dominated by men.



# Expression of Interest

**Playing a role in this commission will be an ensemble of instrumentalists and singers that brings together local musicians and those who recently premiered the work at Manchester International Festival.**

The nature of this theatrical presentation invites those female or female identifying between ages of 18–30 to submit a demonstration of their musical standing for this exciting opportunity, remunerated in accordance with industry standards.

The instrumentation sought is as follows:

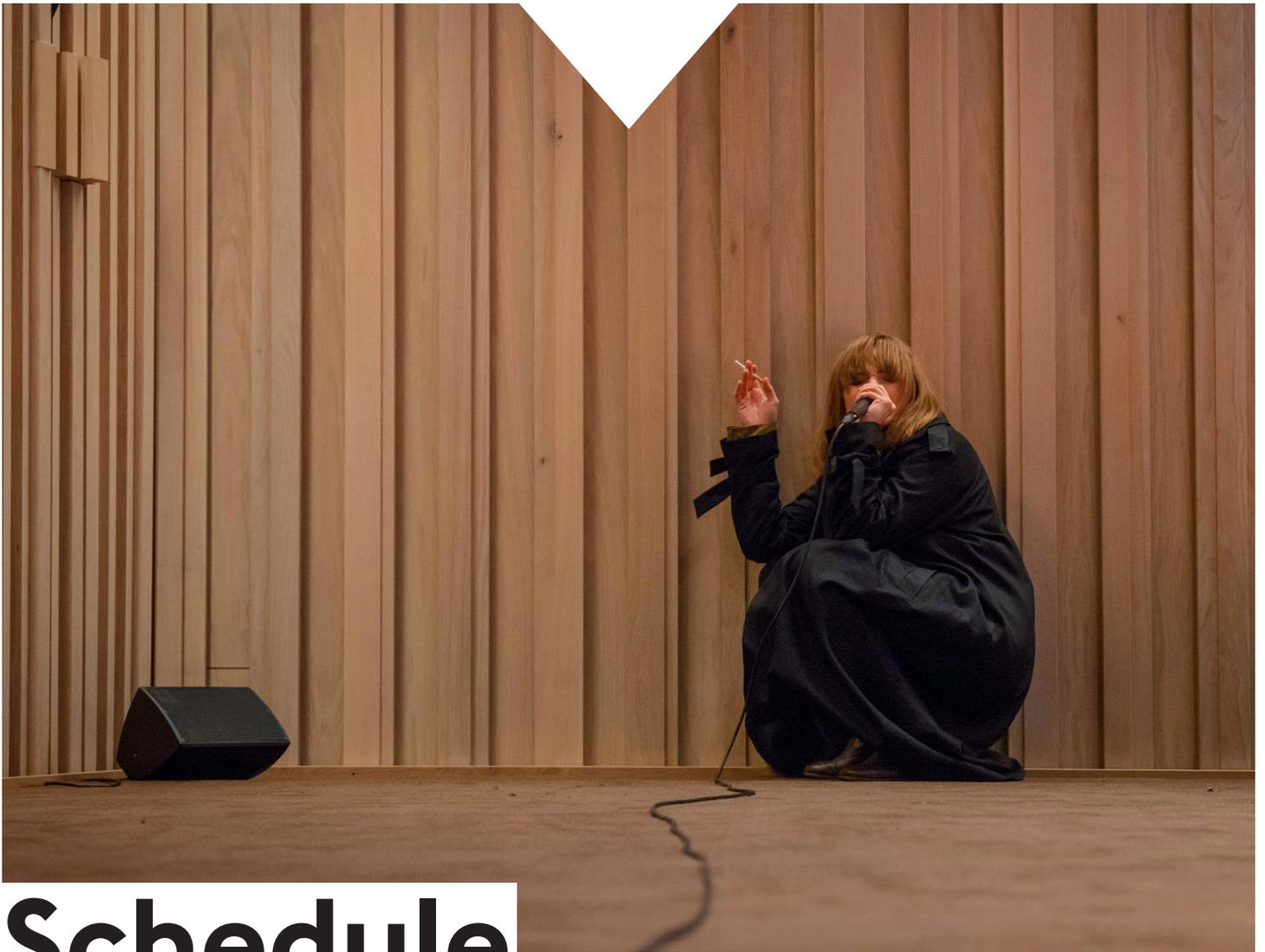
- Cello
- Double bass (with low C extension)
- Timpani
- Vocals (pop/folk style, alto range, to reach at least a low E)

In addition to possessing musical ability commensurate with conservatory training, we are looking for musicians who are open to exploring new ways of working (this might include movement, playing from memory and/or playing without a conductor) and are up for the challenge of creating a unique piece of live theatrically-based performance.

All musicians will need to commit to the full schedule as follows, submit a two-minute video performance excerpt of repertoire (either solo or with piano) and if shortlisted, participate in a live audition that will explore each musician's particular suitability in this unique context.

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For any enquiries, please contact  
Matt Hoy [m.hoy@festival.melbourne](mailto:m.hoy@festival.melbourne)  
Music Associate, Melbourne International Arts Festival



# Schedule

## Rehearsal Period & Preview

Fri 4 October—Sun 6 October (incl.): 10am—5pm daily \*  
Tue 8 October—Fri 11 October (incl.): 10am—10pm daily ^

## Performances^

Sat 12 October: 6—9pm  
Sun 13 October: 12—3pm / 6—9pm  
Tue 15 October—Fri 18 October (incl.): 6—9pm daily  
Sat 19 October: 12—3pm / 6—9pm

\* Location TBA

^ Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne

### Note:

Mon 7 & Mon 14 October do not  
comprise any scheduled activity.