

QUEENSLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL BRINGS AWARENESS TO THE ENDANGERED NIGHT PARROT WITH WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

The melodic call of the **Night Parrot** will be immortalised in a world-premiere commissioned work by celebrated Australian composer Jessica Wells this July as part of the **Queensland Music Festival**.

The work commissioned by **Queensland Music Festival** and **Bush Heritage Australia** will be performed by dramatic soprano **Morgan England-Jones** with the **Acacia Quartet**, with the **endangered bird's haunting call the inspiration for the work**. Jessica Wells is one of Australia's most prolific composers working across concert, theatre, film and television with pieces ranging from solo harp through to full symphony orchestra and was excited to meet the challenge to create a piece around the **Night Parrot**.

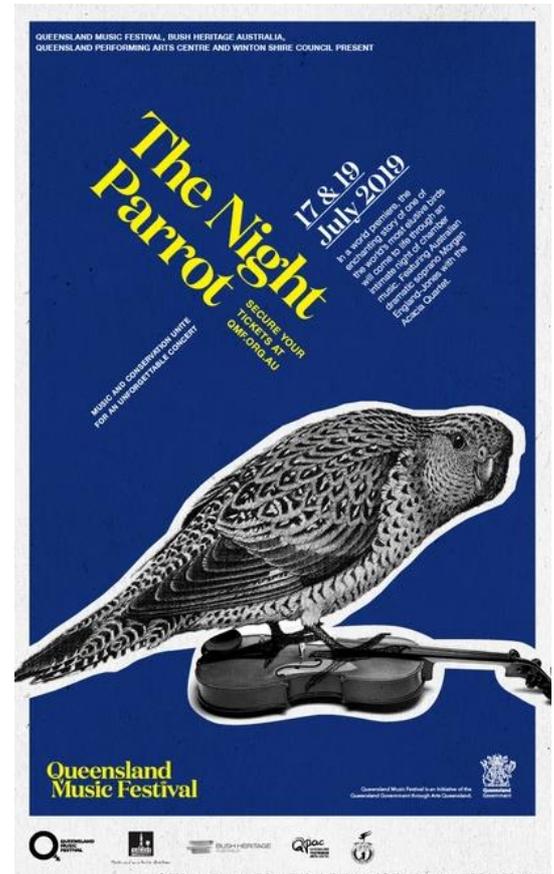
*"The marrying of science and art is a fascinating concept and I'm happy that this piece will convey a message to audiences about current topics that affect our nation. The great work that has been done by scientists and organisations such as **Bush Heritage** to protect what we have and conserve our endangered species is crucial work, and the **Night Parrot** serves as a totem of sorts to represent what we almost lost, and could lose again if we don't fight to keep it."*

The Night Parrot is one of the world's most elusive and mysterious birds, both nocturnal and ground-dwelling and for nearly a century was thought to be extinct. **Bush Heritage Australia** has established the 56,000 hectare **Pullen Pullen Reserve** near **Winton** in outback Queensland, where it is believed that the few remaining parrots reside, becoming one of Australia's priority endangered species projects.

*"Shining a light on uniquely Queensland stories is something that **Queensland Music Festival** is renowned for and the plight of the **Night Parrot** brings together a range of stakeholders to use song to aid conservation,"* said **Queensland Music Festival Artistic Director Katie Noonan**. *"This unique and innovative chamber piece by **Jessica Wells** is an aural tribute to an animal once thought extinct and those who fight today for the species survival."*

The Night Parrot will have its world premiere in Winton, the home of the Night Parrot on Wednesday 17 July, before a special performance at QPAC's Cremorne Theatre on Friday 19 July.

For ticketing information visit qmf.org.au.



Queensland Music Festival
Presents

THE NIGHT PARROT

Wednesday 17 July – Shire Hall – Winton, QLD

Friday 19 July – Cremorne Theatre, QPAC – Brisbane, QLD

ENDS

The Night Parrot is presented by Queensland Music Festival, Bush Heritage Australia, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Winton Shire Council and proudly supported by Brisbane City Council.

The Night Parrot composition is commissioned by Queensland Music Festival and Bush Heritage Australia. The Winton performance is supported by Tim Fairfax Family Foundation.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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