



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

The Rolling Wave

Matthew Horsley

TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION IN PIPELINE FROM IRELAND



Multi-instrumentalist **Matthew Horsley** will present [*The Rolling Wave*](#), a recital of old and new music for the Irish uilleann pipes on Thursday 19th February at **fortyfivedownstairs**. It will mark the culmination of a mentorship project in which Matthew travelled to Ireland to study with the acclaimed Irish traditional musician **Mikie Smyth**.

The program will feature Matthew's interpretation of traditional Irish piping repertoire including jigs, reels, hornpipes and slow airs, as well as music borrowed from English and Australian sources. Additionally, new music has been commissioned especially for the concert by young Australian composers **Jeanette Little** and **Luke Paulding** as well as Matthew himself. *The Rolling Wave* will offer a glimpse into the rich history of the piping tradition while simultaneously exploring new possibilities for this rarely-heard instrument in the twenty-first century.

Trained as a classical percussionist at the Queensland Conservatorium and Victorian College of the Arts, Matthew has spent the last several years focusing on traditional Irish music. His travels to Ireland in July and August 2014, supported by the Australia Council for the Arts' JUMP mentorship program, afforded him the opportunity to study the pipes intensively with the master piper **Mikie Smyth**. He was also able to meet other numerous musical luminaries, immerse himself in Irish musical culture and perform around the country, including a solo recital for National Heritage Week in the magnificent 12th century Ennis Friary.

The uilleann pipes are an instrument in the bagpipe family, developed between 1750 and 1800, and are one of the principal instruments of the Irish music tradition today. Unlike the familiar Great Highland Bagpipe they are blown using a bellows strapped under one arm rather than the mouth and are much quieter and capable of a wider range of notes as well as harmonic accompaniment. Although the uilleann pipes are heard occasionally on recordings and film soundtracks, there are relatively few players in Australia. A full solo recital such as this is a rare opportunity to see and hear the instrument in action.

Date: Thursday 19 February 2015

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: Full \$20 / Concession \$15

Bookings: 03 9662 9966 (Tuesday-Friday between 10am-6pm) or at www.fortyfivedownstairs.com

Venue: fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne



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Since 2002 fortyfivedownstairs, a not-for-profit organisation, has offered an evocative urban space and a personalised service to an eclectic mix of artists for theatre, visual arts, forum, music and dance.