

Arts Centre Melbourne presents

## **Bill Callahan**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 16 October 2019** – Singer songwriter and former Smog front man [Bill Callahan](#) and his four piece band return to **Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall** on **4 March, 2020** with songs from his profound new album ***Shepherd In a Sheepskin Vest***.

Recording under the names **Smog** and **Bill Callahan**, he has produced 16 albums with Chicago indie label Drag City and garnered an impressive cult following. His 2013 release *Dream River* was critically acclaimed, cementing his already solid reputation as a brilliant songwriter and singer.

*Shepherd In a Sheepskin Vest*, his first record since 2013, continues his accomplished music career with twenty songs that trace different life lines. Major life changes including marriage and the birth of his child have informed the shape of this new album as well as the experience of suddenly finding it harder to find the place that his songs came from.

His songs have always been elusive, landing lightly between character study and autobiography. Characterised by his rich baritone voice, deadpan delivery, and dry observations, Callahan's music is beautifully intense, understated and profound. But this was more than that. While sorting it all out, he worked on songs every day – which meant that for a while, there were lots of days simply confronting the void, as he measured this new life against the ones he'd previously known.

Moving gradually from reflections upon the old days in *Ballad of The Hulk* and *Young Icarus* to the immediacy of the present moment in *Watching Me Get Married* and *Son of the Sea*, *Callahan* traces the different life lines, casually unwinding knotty contradictions and ambiguities with an arresting stillness.

Callahan was last in Australia in 2017 with his guitarist Matt Kinsey for Vivid Festival and an exclusive residency at

Our partners



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# Media Release

Melbourne venue, Howler. These intimate shows were a stark contrast to the grandeur of his 2015 visit with Australian performances in Hamer Hall and Sydney Opera House's Concert Hall.

Callahan will be supported by special guest **Xylouris White**, with **Georgios Xylouris** on Cretan laouto and vocals and **Jim White** on drum kit. Xylouris has been playing professionally from age 12. Jim White is an Australian drummer known for his music in the Dirty Three, Venom P Stinger and now Xylouris White. For the last four years the two men have been performing as Xylouris White, the culmination of 25 years of friendship forged through music and place.

Images can be found [here](#).

**Arts Centre Melbourne presents**

***Bill Callahan***

**Special guest Xylouris White**

**4 March, 2020**

**8pm**

**Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne**

**Bookings at [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au) or 1300 182 183**

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