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In Four Four: A Sydney Writers' Festival Event

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MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday, 1 July 2009

Sydney Opera House in association with
Sydney Writers' Festival presents

in four four

A Sydney Writers' Festival Event
30 May - 1 June 2002



4 WRITERS, 4 MUSICIANS, 4 STORIES OF DANCING

a suburban nightclub kidnapping
a Shanghai piano bar
a blind woman recalls a life spent dancing
a young boy learns the dance steps of language

Four very special authors - Barbara Blackman, Brian Castro, Gretchen Miller and Gerry Turcotte - tell their own stories about nights spent dancing. Four extraordinary musicians - Sandy Evans (saxophones), Alister Spence (piano), Brett Hirst (double bass), and Philip South (percussion) - bring the stories to life through music. As the writers tell their stories the musicians respond to the words, weaving lines of emotion and adding layers of meaning. The result is a multi-dimensional performance experience arising from a shifting spiral of text, speech music and sound.

Director Gretchen Miller writes, *"I wanted to bring these stories about dancing to life in two ways. Firstly through the author's voice - the creators reading their own work aloud adds something intangible to the words. Secondly through music, which embodies all that is not said when two people come together on the dance-floor."*

While music and text are regularly brought together in traditional forms such as contemporary opera and chamber works, and are also brought together in new media contexts, one is usually regarded as an accompaniment to the other - the forms remain distinct and separate. With **In Four Four**, text, music and sound become inseparable, the one speaking to and through the other. This unique performance event will bring a new perspective to the way writers' work is presented to and interpreted by audiences.

Concept, composition and design by **Gretchen Miller**
Written and performed by **Barbara Blackman, Brian Castro, Gretchen Miller & Gerry Turcotte**
Music performed by **Sandy Evans, Brett Hirst, Phillip South and Alister Spence**
Lighting design by **Neil Simpson**
Dramaturgy by **Virginia Baxter**

THE STUDIO, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Thursday 30 May, Friday 31 May & Saturday 1 June @ 8.15pm

TICKETS: \$25/\$20(*includes GST where applicable; booking fees may apply)

BOOKINGS: (02) 9250 7777 or online www.sydneyoperahouse.com

INFORMATION: (02) 9250 7111
or visit www.sydneyoperahouse.com

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