

# *Stalin's Piano - Robert Davidson*

## **DRAFT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

(As at August 2018 – subject to change)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**Pianist:** Sonya Lifschitz [sonyalifschitz@yahoo.com](mailto:sonyalifschitz@yahoo.com)  
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# Stalin's Piano

## - Technical Specifications

### OVERVIEW

On March 5 1953, Joseph Stalin died in his bed. Spinning on his record player was Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, performed by his pianist of choice, the formidable Maria Yudina. An outspoken champion of new music and artistic freedom, Yudina was banned, suspended or exiled time after time. Yet, whilst so many of her fellow artists 'disappeared' or were purged by the KGB, Yudina outlasted Stalin and lived to tell her story. Robert Davidson's new work, conceived with and for the Ukrainian-born and equally fearless pianist Sonya Lifschitz, takes us into the heart of the ever-simmering conflict between state and individual, with contributions from people as diverse as Goebbels, Ai Wei Wei, Jackson Pollock, Whitlam and Yudina herself. Weaving together virtuoso piano music, the recorded voices of iconic creative and political figures, video and Sonya's speaking voice, this new composition by Robert Davidson is a devastating and captivating exploration of the big themes of modern history.

### STAGING

The staging has a minimalist aesthetic.

A 7'- 9' Grand Piano

A 16:9 projection screen suspended behind the pianist

The piano and pianist will need to be mic'd

Set up and rehearsals:

**Schedule A)** Is a one-day set up; rehearsal and performance if venue has production in place ie lighting, audio and projection

**Schedule B)** Is over two days; opening on the second night if venue is a bare wall hire ie no lighting, audio or projection

### PERFORMERS

The work for solo piano features Melbourne based pianist Sonya Lifschitz supported by composer Robert Davidson

### GENERAL SHOW INFORMATION

FOH information	Approx 65 mins Latecomers – not admitted, a lock out is required until a suitable break in the performance.
Number of shows	As negotiated
Touring company	
Full Company	Sonya Lifschitz – Piano Composer – Robert Davidson tbc Producer / production tbc

### VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Venue	From smaller 200 capacity up to 1200. Possible but not ideal for thrust stages (mainly visibility of screen) Also suitable for gallery spaces.
Performance area	6 metres wide x 5 metres deep minimum
Height – stage floor to grid	Minimum 5 metres
Stage Floor	Not raked
Masking	To mask screen as required
<b>Theatre access</b>	
Load-in & Load-out	Easy access for grand piano

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Draft by Neil Simpson

Last Update August 2018

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### PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

<b>Stage Management</b>	
Stage Manager desk:	Not required Communication – <i>see below</i>
Backstage	
Water	Access to filtered tap water
Kitchen	Tea/coffee making facilities including Urn or access to boiling water Washing up facilities Microwave
<b>Communications / Monitors</b>	
Communications	Stage Manager (TBC) desk x 1 Lighting x 1 Sound / AV x 1 Production desk x 2 (TBC) ( <i>see below</i> )
Stage Sound Monitor	1 x monitor
Stage Video Monitors	N/A
FOH ops position in auditorium	Audio ideally required in auditorium for bump in and performance Comms x 3 (SM, LX, SD TBC) Dimmable desk lights x 2
<b>Crew requirements</b>	
Local crew – bump-in	Refer to Schedule outline below
Local show crew - show	1 x Stage Manager /Artist support (tbc) 1 x Venue technical supervisor / LX operator 1 x Audio/ AV operator
	Refer to Schedule outline below
<b>Dressing Room / Laundry Requirements</b>	
Dressing rooms	Dressing room facilities for 1 performer with benches or dressing tables, chairs, mirrors (table and full-length), showers and toilets, good lighting for make-up. Need to be lockable to secure personal belongings Access to internet
Rehearsal Piano	A rehearsal grand piano if possible to be available to Sonya prior to her access to the stage and show piano.
Wardrobe Maintenance	TBC
Laundry facilities	1 x Washing machine 1 x Tumble dryer 1 x Drying cupboard Hand washing facilities Ironing facilities
Dry cleaning	TBC
Consumables	Filtered water, batteries for IEM and radio mic's
Freight	TBC
Risk Assessment	TBC
General show notes	TBC

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### Company to provide:

- All music, costumes and make-up
- Computer to drive AV and Audio
- NB: Audio is stereo. One side is the click track for Sonya's IEM, the other the audio for the AV
- Head phones for IEM system

### Presenter to provide:

- 7'- 9' Grand and tuning costs
- All Audio (including crew and radio microphones and IEM system as required)
- All AV projection equipment and crew as required
- All Lighting equipment
- All bump in and show crew as required
- Theatre plans and schedule of equipment 6 weeks prior to performance date

Sound Requirements as at July 2017 –	
Microphones	<p><b>Sonya Lifschitz :</b> Shure Radio Pack with head set mic DPA d:fine 4088 with a flat head capsule</p> <p>Shure SM 58 radio mic for introductions by composer (and back up)</p> <p>1 x wireless IEM system for click track monitoring. NB: We supply headphones for IEM and belts for belt packs</p> <p><b>Piano Mics :</b> Piano Bot #1 Schertler DynGP – or similar Piano Bot #2 Schertler DynGP – or similar Piano Top #1 Earthworks PM40 – or similar Piano Top #2 Earthworks PM40 – or similar</p> <p>NB: Piano when mic'd it is to sound as acoustic as possible. If the piano is loud enough in the room, the mic's may well no be used. But will always be set up.</p>
PA	Good quality professional PA includes Left and Right, Subs, centre and front fill. If there are balconies please provide Delays eg Meyer, d&b FOH Mixing Console
FOH processing	Desirable- pending venue size
<u>Foldback</u>	1 x wireless IEM monitor system 1 x Monitor Wedge on floor next to piano for Sonya to hear AV track
Stage Management (TBC)	Cast Call system to all dressing rooms and backstage offices Light. Phone or comms to FOH Supervisor
Talkback	Ideal but not essential, wireless radio Comms with a min of 3

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	wireless belt-packs
Cue lights	N/A

**LIGHTING:**

**Company to provide:**

- Venue specific Lighting Plan based on venues technical specifications one month before prior to company's arrival
- Show Plot disk – USB if applicable

**ACCESS INFORMATION**

Live Captioning	N/A
Audio Description	N/A
Auslan interpretation	TBC

## Stalin's Piano - Technical Specifications

### Suggested Crew Schedules (Drafts as at JULY 2018)

Production Schedule A (one day set up)				Stalin's Piano			
Draft July 2018				Draft as at July 2018			
Venue	Date	Start	Finish	Activity Type	Production Name/s	Activity Details	Crew Notes
	Day 1	08:00	22:00	Set up and performance	<i>Stalin's Piano</i>	Rig LX, Audio AV screen and projector. Piano delivered in morning if not in venue	Crew as required TBC
		12:30	13:30	Lunch breaks - SD and LX to split		SD to tune system during LX break. Piano tune required, TBC time	TBC crew split
		13:30	15:00	Technical Work	<i>Sonya to join</i>	Sound and Projection Check	Show crew
		15:30				Dress rehearsal and notes	Show crew
		17:30	18:30	Dinner Break.		Piano Tune	
		18:30	19:00	Sound check		Sound check and prep for Performance	Show crew
		19:30	20:45	Performance No.1			Show crew
		21:30	22:00	Notes and finish			

Production Schedule B (two day set up)				Stalin's Piano			
Draft as at July 2018				Draft as at July 2018			
Venue	Date	Start	Finish	Activity Type	Production Name/s	Activity Details	Crew Notes
	Day 1	09:00	22:00	Set Up	<i>Stalin's Piano</i>	Rig LX, Audio AV screen and projector. Piano delivered in morning	Crew as required TBC
		13:00	14:00	Lunch break			
		14:00	18:00	Technical Work		Continue install Focus LX when ready	
		16:00		Tech rehearsal	<i>Sonya to join</i>	Mic up Sonya sound check and work technically with projection and audio	LX and AV tech rehearsal with Sonya
		18:00	19:00	Dinner Break.		Piano Tune	
		19:00	19:30	Half Hour call for tech rehearsal		Continue prep for Tech rehearsal	Show crew
		19:30	21:00	Tech/Music rehearsal		Technical Rehearsal	Show crew
		21:30	22:00	Notes and finish			
	Day 2	13:00	22:00	Venue Access	<i>Stalin's Piano</i>		
		14:00	17:30	Technical Work as required		Tech work and tech tidy as required and prep for full Dress Rehearsal	Show Crew

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		14:00	14:30	Media Call TBC			
		15:00	16:30	Dress Rehearsal		Show Crew	
		16:30	17:30	Rehearsal as required		Sonya	
		17:30	18:30	Break		Piano Tune	
		18:30	18:55	Prep for Opening Night Performance			Show crew
		18:55		Half Hour Call			
		19:30	20:45	Performance			Show Crew
		21:30	23:00	Bump out as required			Crew as required