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SAM SMITH GIVES FANS AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT IN MELBOURNE POWERED BY OPTUS, KIIS & IHEARTRADIO

Saturday, January 20, 2018 - The excitement of the crowd was palpable as Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Sam Smith took to the stage in Melbourne last night and treated his fans to an unforgettable performance.

[High res photos and video available to download here – Photo credit Martin Philbey and Ian Laidlaw.](#)

More than 1,350 fans, media, celebrities, music and radio industry executives packed the Melbourne Town Hall for Sam Smith's special **live in Melbourne event powered by Optus, KIIS and iHeartRadio** to witness the acclaimed UK artist perform new songs from his sophomore album, **'The Thrill of It All'**.



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The exclusive event was hosted by Melbourne's newest breakfast team, KIIS 101.1's Jase & PJ aka Jason 'Jase' Hawkins and Polly 'PJ' Harding. After welcoming Sam on stage the duo did a short Q&A, with questions put forward from some of his biggest fans.

The room then hushed as Sam began his first song, and was quickly greeted with cheers as he launched into his mega-hit 'I'm Not The Only One'. Playing twelve songs over an hour, Sam chatted to the audience throughout the set, revealing stories behind the songs.

'Palace', he explained, was written after a song-writing session in Nashville, after realising that he'd never regretted any of the times he'd fallen in love. "True love is never a waste of time. Give your love away guys, every day", he said, before beginning the song.



His introduction to 'Say It First' was just as candid, explaining "This next one is the only positive love song I've ever written. This is that song where you just started seeing someone and you're falling for them and you really love them, but you want them to say it first."

His incredibly talented band and backing singers were also a huge highlight, and Sam was quick to credit them saying, "The best part of my job is... well, actually, that's you" he said to his fans, who cheered and whistled. "The second best part of my job is playing with these guys", he praised, gesturing to his band."

Of his upcoming tour, he added, "I can't believe we've already sold out some shows, I'm so excited to tour here."

The final song of the night was reserved for his number one hit 'Too Good At Goodbyes' which had the entire room on their feet, swaying and dancing.

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Celebrities enjoying the exclusive Melbourne show included **Magda Szubanski, Olympia Valance, Cathy Freeman, Rob Mills**, TV presenters **Christine Ahern** and **Jo Hall** and cricketers **Stephen Fleming** and **James Faulkner**, along with radio and music industry execs from ARN, Optus and EMI.



Last night's performance comes after the worldwide release of **Sam's** sophomore album, **'The Thrill of It All'** via EMI Music.

Dedicated fans won their way into the exclusive event via iHeartRadio.com.au and by listening to the KIIS Network - Melbourne's KIIS 101.1, Sydney's KIIS 1065, Brisbane's 97.3FM and Adelaide's MIX 102.3. Optus also

offered their customers the chance to meet the man himself, along with VIP tickets.

Bushra Abel, OPTUS' Associate Director for TV Mobile and Video Content said:

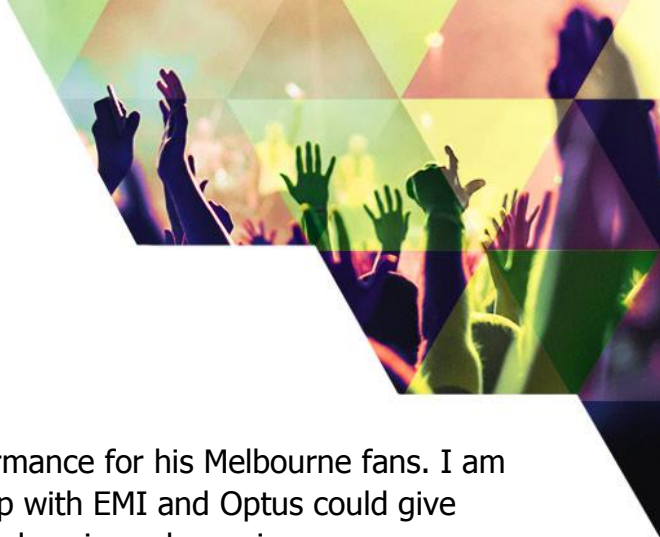
"The opportunity to give our customers an intimate experience with global megastar Sam Smith was not something we could pass up.

"At Optus, we are dedicated to bringing Australians closer to the music they love through data free streaming and exclusive events. Thanks to our partnership with KIIS 101.1 and iHeartRadio we've created an amazing event with incredible content that we can't wait to share with music fans."

Geraint Davies COO of iHeartRadio Australia said: "Sam Smith is an incredibly talented artist and it's an honour to be part of the team, along with EMI and Optus, that gave his dedicated fans, and some well know faces like Magda Szubanski and Cathy Freeman, the chance to see him perform in such an intimate environment. The Australian public obviously loves Sam and his music, it's great to see he's added additional dates to his upcoming tour."

ARN's National Content Director Duncan Campbell said: "This was an excellent way to kick off what is going to be a fantastic year for ARN in Melbourne. KIIS 101.1's new Breakfast team of Jase & PJ brought a great energy to their hosting role at the

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event and of course Sam Smith gave a brilliant performance for his Melbourne fans. I am excited that KIIS 101.1 and iHeartRadio in partnership with EMI and Optus could give Sam's fans the chance to see their favourite artist up close in such a unique venue as Melbourne Town Hall.

'Too Good At Goodbyes', the first single off Sam Smith's new album, has achieved global success, hitting #1 on the ARIA Singles Chart and racing to Platinum sales. It also reached Number One on the UK singles chart, delivering Sam his sixth UK number one single, along with Australian, UK and US iTunes charts.

'The Thrill of It All' sees Sam once again working alongside close friend and long term collaborator Jimmy Napes as well as the likes of Timbaland, Malay, Jason "Poo Bear" Boyd and Stargate. The album also sees Sam collaborate with unsigned artist, YEBBA for their breath-taking track 'No Peace'.

It's been more than three years since Sam Smith's debut album was released, and since then he has become one of the biggest acts on the planet with over 12 million global album sales and an array of impressive awards, including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, three Brit Awards and four Grammys, among others.

You can stream [Sam Smith and all of your favourite artists data free on iHeartRadio Australia](#) on selected Optus mobile plans. Find out how [here](#).

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About ARN

ARN is one of the leading broadcasters in the country with ownership or investments in 12 radio stations nationwide. Its network brands KIIS and Pure Gold, along with iHeartRadio and The Edge, entertain and influence over four million listeners across Australia.

Its KIIS network consists of Sydney's KIIS 1065 with Kyle & Jackie O, Melbourne's KIIS 101.1 with Jase & PJ, Adelaide's Mix102.3 with Jodie & Soda, Brisbane's 97.3FM with Bianca, Terry & Bob and Perth's 96FM with Paul & Lise. The National Drive Show across all stations is Will & Woody.

Its Pure Gold network consists of Sydney's WS FM101.7 with Jonesy & Amanda, Melbourne's GOLD104.3, Brisbane's 4KQ with Laurel, Gary & Mark and Adelaide's Cruise 1323 with John Dean.

The Edge is available on FM as The Edge 96.ONE in Sydney and nationally via iHeartRadio and DAB+. The Edge Breakfast hosts are Mike E & Emma.

ARN also launched iHeartRadio, the world's fastest growing digital service, to the Australian market in 2013 and the platform has had over 1,541,000 downloads of the app. iHeartRadio is a free, all-in-one radio, music streaming, entertainment and live events platform. In addition to being able to access their favourite music from around the globe, audiences can access their favourite stations in Australia from ARN, the ABC, SBS and Fairfax, as well as stations from New Zealand and the USA.

ARN is a HT&E company.

ABOUT OPTUS

Optus offers data free mobile music streaming service to select prepaid, consumer and SMB postpaid mobile and mobile broadband plans. Optus also offers customers access to amazing events, video content, and the hottest musical acts through partnerships with Universal Music, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Google Play.

ABOUT EPICURE

At EPICURE, we are passionate about two things: creating food that's delicious and delivering a service second to none. For more than 25 years we have been honing our craft to ensure those that experience our unique events, have memories to last them a lifetime. Our dedicated team combines fresh and gourmet cuisine with a keen eye for detail. We service more than 15 venues across Australia and New Zealand, each with its own distinctive style – from trendy, contemporary locations to grand, iconic landmarks. Whether it's an intimate gathering or large gala event, EPICURE is committed to fine-tuning every last detail to ensure a lasting impression.

