

GIFT AS STORYTELLER EVIDENT IN ARCHIE'S PROFOUNDLY MOVING PERFORMANCE



Melanie Walters, *The Advertiser*
November 19, 2018 9:26am
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FRESH from receiving a Lifetime Achievement gong at the National Dreamtime Awards on Friday, Archie Roach gave a profoundly moving performance at UKARIA the next night.

Accompanied by Paul Grabowsky on the piano, Roach performed a set list of songs drawn from across his recording career, from his 1990 debut album *Charcoal Lane* through to his recent release *Dancing With my Spirit*. He dived immediately into the emotional deep end with *A Child Was Born Here*, followed by the even more poignant *Down City Streets*, written by his late wife, Ruby Hunter.

Also on the playlist was *F-Troop*, *Let Love Rule*, and the beautiful *Please Don't Give up on Me*.

The gospel blues-style *Little By Little* finished off the program, and received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Despite the capacity audience at UKARIA, Roach created a warm, very intimate atmosphere in the venue.

His gift as a storyteller was evident in his introductions to each song, and Grabowsky provided gentle, often plaintive underscores to these stories.

Roach's distinctive vocal style conveyed emotional depth and a stunning array of nuances through the concert, while Grabowsky's piano playing was beautifully balanced, with clarion melodic lines contrasting mellow chordal passages.

Archie Roach with Paul Grabowsky
UKARIA Cultural Centre
November 17