

MEDIA RELEASE

POWERFUL FIRST SINGLE FROM THE ACCLAIMED MUSIC PRODUCTION THE SPIRIT OF CHURAKI RELEASED

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An epic live musical collaboration united by the sand and the surf, created to honour the memory of Churaki, an aboriginal man heralded as the **Gold Coast's** first lifesaver is being

released this April as part of the 2019 **Bleach* The Gold Coast Festival**.

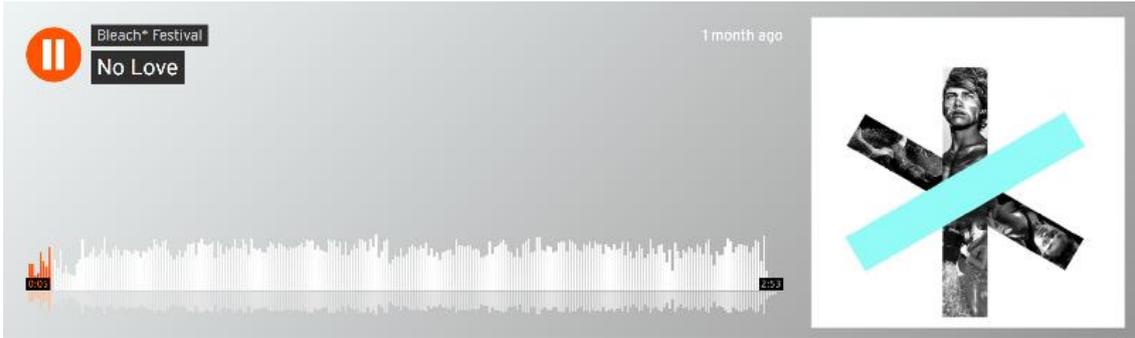
The World Premiere of ***The Spirit of Churaki***, produced and commissioned by Bleach*, was presented at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Following the success of this unique music production, the energy of the stage production can be listened to in your own living room as the Festival releases the album.

The Spirit of Churaki Soundtrack rides the perfect wave between rocking surf tunes, laid back oceanic beats, beautiful ballads and the ancient sounds of Aboriginal language. Inspired by a heroic and largely unknown story, it honours the memory of Churaki who performed the first documented rescue of a swimmer in 1911, with many subsequent rescues to his name.

The creation of the show brought together under the musical direction of American rock legend **Brian Ritchie** (Violent Femmes) in collaboration with the local indigenous community including musicians and lead artist **Kyle Slabb** along with **Jarulah (Juz) Slabb, Josh Slabb, Kaleb Slabb & Colin Usher**. The show also feat with an extraordinary line up of touring Australian musicians including **Fred Leone** (Impossible Odds, Black Arm Band), **Leah Flanagan, Greg Sheehan Sam Pankhurst & Veronique Serret**. Together they wrote a collection of songs which honour a rich lineage of saltwater people, a spirit of generosity, a deep connection to country and cultural obligation.

Part of this musical journey was a music camp for emerging indigenous musicians. It was here that one the youngest members of the group, Jarulah "Juz" Slabb, wrote lead single "No Love". *"The story of No Love is true and happened to a friend of mine. She told me about it the day before the camp started and made me wonder where she could turn after her children were taken away."* Juz explains.

The Spirit of Churaki was the most ambitious project that the Festival has ever commissioned and has continued to inspire and ignite audiences where ever it goes. This unique collection of music is like nothing else being produced or presented in Australia and as Fred Leone describes the show, *"The Spirit of Churaki is reconciliation in action"*



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