

MEDIA RELEASE

18 October, 2017

Emerging Sydney Artists Team Up To Raise Money For Rough Edges 'Roughtober'

On Friday 20 October, 2017 between 7.30pm – 9.30pm, emerging Australian artists Ed Jackson and JP Vernon will perform at St John's Community Services in Darlinghurst, Sydney, to raise money for Rough Edges 'Roughtober.'

Rough Edges, described as a 'lounge room' for street people, is one of the multiple services provided by St John's Community services who partner with St John's Church to help those less fortunate in Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Songwriters Ed Jackson and JP Vernon know the upcoming festive season is an important time to support community and those who may be doing it 'rough' on the streets. The songwriters say "The combination of financial stress, family dynamics and end-of-year tiredness can cause couples (and families) to hit breaking point. The track is essentially a back-and-forth conversation between a couple calling-it-quits, who then come to a realisation and an understanding," drawing from their personal experience.

Ed Jackson and JP Vernon are talented singer-songwriters, producers, and musicians, who have worked both internationally and here in Australia. Ed has been labelled 'one to watch in 2018', with the release of his debut EP *For A While* in 2017. His music covers a spectrum of raw human emotions through music.

JP, a sought-after session musician after classical training when young, has years of experience in music after learning the violin from a young age. Since then he's worked with many artists such as Bruce Braybrooke and his currently playing with Crash and the Crapenters and the blues outfit The Mighty Resonators.

The shared hardship between the two musicians sparked their interest in working with community charity Rough Edges and inspired them to create their latest track, *Absent Angel – Alone on Christmas Day*, a song about hope and the importance of having loved ones close by.

The release of the track has been timed to help raise awareness about those doing it 'rough' this festive season, with a percentage of the download and streaming sales from the song being donated to Rough Edges for Roughtober. The pair will also participate in the sleep-out on cardboard boxes within the St John's church grounds on Friday, with proceeds they raise through their *Gofundraise* page also going to the organisation.

Penny Barletta, Team Leader, Rough Edges said “At Rough Edges it is really important to us that our community members feel that they are known and always welcome. *Absent Angel* points out the value of loving relationships, even when they go wrong. Our Christmas message would be to cherish the people around you, and make time for those you love and who love you, even when it might be difficult.”

Absent Angel is a double A-side Christmas release featuring a mix of Sydney's best up-and-coming and established talent.

Written and independently produced by Ed Jackson and JP Vernon, the track also features other artists including Aria-award winning Pat Powell *The Protesters*, *Melbourne Ska Orchestra*, country soul singer Taya Chani, jazz composer Stu Hunter (piano), international percussionist Ahyko Akriff, guitarist Chris Davis *The Mighty Resonators*, violinist Miss Bow and up-and-coming young artists Michelle Benson and Alexie Pigot.

Absent Angel is packaged as a double A-side single with two distinctly different versions. The main track is an upbeat pop song with driving bass, smooth guitar and soaring soul-infused vocals by Pat Powell and Taya Chani. Atmospherically contrasting, the *Absent Angel* acoustic version is full of moody piano and violin and is delicately voiced by Alexie Pigot and Michelle Benson.

Absent Angel, the double A-side Christmas release will be available for download, streaming and radio play from early November.

For more information, images and to arrange interviews contact Momentum2:

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