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‘What you Need’ The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection Consigned to Sotheby’s Australia

Auction in Sydney 21 March 2018

One of the finest private collections of Australian music history to be auctioned in recent years, the sale includes some of the musical instruments collected by, and used during, Kirk Pengilly’s career with INXS



Kirk Pengilly playing during an INXS concert at the Hordern Pavilion, Sydney in 1984
(image: Bob King)

On 21 March 2018, Sotheby’s Australia will host an exceptional sale of **Australian music history** with the private collection of **Mr Kirk Pengilly**, founding member, guitarist, saxophonist and backing vocalist for **INXS**. Estimated at \$159,600 to \$229,500, *The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection* comprises rare guitars, and a selection of the working instruments used in studio recordings such as *The Swing*, *Listen Like Thieves*, *X*, *Welcome to Wherever You Are*, *Kick* and concert tours associated with those albums.

The diversity of Kirk Pengilly's musical ability is truly astonishing, considering his limited formal training. Pengilly has been a lifelong member of the internationally renowned Australian band INXS since it was formed in 1977 (as The Farriss Brothers), and together the group has sold over 50 million records worldwide. INXS has received numerous nominations, awards and trophies for their work, including three American Grammy nominations, and induction into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2001. After the passing of lead singer, Michael Hutchence, in 1997, the band has continued its concerts and tours, including recording the *Switch* album after the critically acclaimed TV Show, *Rockstar-INXS* and producing a tribute album, *Original Sin* in 2010.

Aside from musical performances, Pengilly is an avid cook and in 2009 he entered *Celebrity Master Chef* where he was runner up finalist. His contributions to charities are numerous and include his ambassadorship for the Eye Surgeons Foundation, a cause he has championed since nearly losing his sight to Glaucoma in the mid-1980s. Recently, in 2015, he underwent successful surgery for prostate cancer and is now a key ambassador for Movember, raising awareness for men's health.

A highlight of the sale is a **Fender L-Series Stratocaster 'Candy Apple Red' guitar** from 1964 (estimate \$35,000-45,000, pictured). The 1964 year of manufacture has been described as the peak of quality of the Fender Stratocaster's, before Fender was bought out by CBS and changed their manufacturing techniques. When discussing this guitar with Kirk Pengilly he commented 'this is my favourite guitar in the collection. I used it on various records from the 'X' album onwards. A truly great sounding instrument.' Another instrument that Pengilly has consigned for auction is a **Selmer MK-VI baritone saxophone** (estimate \$8,000-12,000, pictured), which he used on the recordings of *Bitter Tears* and *All Around*.

Encapsulating the striking character of 1980s design, the sale also includes eccentric models such as the sharply angular **Westone 'The Rail' bass guitar** (estimate \$1,000-2,000) and the **Vaccaro 'X-Ray' custom colour electric guitar** (estimate \$1,500-2,500) the latter of which is a rare one off by the son of the Kramer Guitars founder. A **1986 Westone Pantera X300 electric guitar** (estimate \$4,000-6,000) featured prominently as the lead rhythm guitar in the recording of the 1987 hit, *New Sensation*, one of the most recognisable guitar riffs in Australian 20th century music history. A selection of studio microphones from Rhinoceros Recordings, the Sydney recording studio of INXS will also be auctioned. Pengilly also acquired other rare vintage microphones from the ABC when they were modernising their studios, and these too carry an aura of a highly creative period in the Australian recording industry.



A Fender L-Series Stratocaster 'Candy Apple Red', 1964. Estimate \$35,000-45,000



A Selmer MK-VI baritone saxophone, 1975. Estimate \$8,000-10,000

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with instruments from *The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection*. Contributing significantly to the Australian music industry and taking the sound of Australia to the world, Kirk Pengilly is one of our most renowned contemporary musicians. A generous man with his time, he has been at the forefront of supporting various charities. This collection is a remarkable legacy of Australia's music and is one of the finest to be offered for auction in Australia.'

Kirk Pengilly commented: 'I have been collecting guitars over my 40 year career as a musician. This collection of instruments contains a mixture of rare and unique instruments ready to be loved and/or played.'



Kirk Pengilly of INXS with guitars consigned for auction (image: Sotheby's Australia)

AT A GLANCE

The Kirk Pengilly (INXS) Collection
Estimate \$159,600-229,500 | 43 lots

Auction at The InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 21 March 2018, 7.30 pm

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra
15-21 March, 10 am to 5 pm

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