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**Jose Gonzalez Perth concert review**

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**MUSIC lovers revelled in an inspired performance from Jose Gonzalez on Saturday night.**

The uniquely talented Swedish singer/songwriter was the first musician to grace the Beck's Music Box stage as part of the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival.

His haunting voice was coupled with an amazing outdoor setting.

With the city skyline as the backdrop, the Beck's Music Box is surely one Perth's most atmospheric venues.

The Valentines Day crowd stood, sat on steps or lounged on couches.

The uber cool setting was the perfect venue to watch and listen as González weaved his magic.

González grew up listening to Latin folk which influences and permeates not only his songs but his style.

He kicked-off the show with *Deadweight on Velvet*, a tune from his debut album *Vaneer*.

His command of the stage was enviable - one man, one instrument yet all eyes were fixed on him.

González looked relaxed and comfortable as he chatted with the audience, perhaps an indication that he's overcome part of his painful shyness.

As he moved into songs from his latest album *In Our Nature*, González was joined by two back-up singers and percussionists.

It's interesting to note that *In Our Nature* was heavily influenced by González's reading of books such as *The God Delusion* by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins.

Crowd favourites *Lovestain* and *Remain* were executed to perfection.

González's voice sounded as beautiful live as it does recorded.

The gentle reflective nature of his music was enhanced by the simplicity of the stage.

Towards the end of the show González ventured and sang cover songs.

Accompanied by exceptional backing vocals from his percussionists, his spectacular version of Massive Attack's *Teardrop* excited the crowd.

As González gracefully left the stage the audience cheered and demanded more.

His encore featured more covers and an instrumental piece.

The crowd erupted as he performed The Knife's *Heartbeats* - a song he's made his name with.

His final tune was an interesting choice - a cover of Kylie Minogue's *Hand on Your Heart*.

The way González changed the cheesy pop tune into a soulful song was inspiring and illustrated his talent.

Being serenaded by González on a balmy Perth evening was the perfect way to spend Valentines Day.