

THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2016 PROGRAM

On Wednesday night the National Folk Festival launched its full 2016 program and artist line-up for its milestone 50th Festival!

The impressive line-up of over 200 A-list acts includes

From Overseas: Nancy Kerr (UK), Phil Wiggins & Dom Turner (US/AU), The East Pointers (CAN), Manran (SCOT), Gordie Tentrees (CAN), Jaleekaay (GAMBIA/ AU), Black Market Tune (AUSTRIA), Colum Sands (IRE), Keith Donnelly (UK), The Jerry Cans (CAN), Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band (CAN), Kristina Olsen (US), The Rambling Boys (IRE), Sheila Kay Adams (US), Steve Poltz (US), Tony McManus & Beppe Gambetta (SCOT/ITALY), Vishten (CAN), The Young'Uns (UK) and Spiro (UK).

Australian Artists: Skipping Girl Vinegar, Stephen 'Baamba' Albert, Joseph Tawadros Quartet, The Fagans, Perch Creek, Jacinta Price, Andy White, Margret RoadKnight, The April Maze, Miriam Lieberman with Lara Goodridge & Kate Adams, Kurna Cronin, Enda Kenny, Bush Gothic, Rayella, The Little Stevies, Castlecomer, Siobhan Owen, Candy Royalle, The Davidson Brothers, All Our Exes Live in Texas, Eastwinds, Sparrow-Folk, Black Mountain String Band and The Chordwainers.

There are many special events and initiatives to look out for in this year's program. There's the *1967 Looking Back Special Events* to mark the 50th, the dynamic Indigenous Program, an enriching program commemorating the 100 year anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising, plus new venues include a very unique shipping container venue in the Budawang forecourt and a 97 year old Spiegel tent will appear for the very first time at the Festival.

The recipient of the *2016 National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award* was also announced at the Festival Launch. This year the title goes to 2 high profile recipients – **Phyl Lobl** and **Danny Spooner**. Phyl Lobl is a singer-songwriter and all round champion of folk music and supporter of the next generation of folk artists. She was on the original committee which instigated the National Folk Festival in 1967, featured on various recordings of Warren Fahey's iconic Larrikin Records, was the first artist to take part in the Folk Touring Circuit initiated by the National Folk Trust and was also on the Music Board of the Australia Council. Danny Spooner's passion is the expression of British and Australian culture through folk music. Described as "a living national treasure", Danny is dedicated to the social context of folk song and can make traditional music seem new, and new songs seem old. He has appeared at every major folk festival in Australia, his workshops have been recorded by ABC national radio and his ultimate passion is getting people singing, and inspired.

Special guests at the Launch included ACT Government Chief Minister Andrew Barr and Director-General of the National Library Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich who both congratulated the Festival on its longevity and acclaim, with the Chief Minister also noting the important tourism value the Festival brings to the national capital.

Held across 18 vibrant venues at Exhibition Park in Canberra at Easter, the National Folk Festival attracts an audience of over 46,000 annually, and showcases sounds from around the planet – from acoustic to blues, roots, world, folk and country. Expect nothing less than five days in a perfect world with a special dedicated KidzFest, hands-on immersive art experiences, hundreds of poetry, dance and music experiences and workshops to indulge in, with the Festival streetscape a kaleidoscope of colour with gifted artists on every corner- from soaring acrobats to pop-up street choirs and DIY orchestras.

Discounted tickets available till 20th March at the Festival website. BYO tent, motor home, caravan or hire a tent on-site with our Rent-a-Tent Accommodation. Purchase a ticket and share it with your friends for as little as \$82.50 per day with our Package of Days pass. More info at www.folkfestival.org.au or follow National Folk Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @natfolkfest #ournff #5daysinaperfectworld

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