



MEDIA RELEASE - Thursday 28th January 2016 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES IRELAND'S EASTER RISING

In 2016 the National Folk Festival celebrates 50 festivals, and in Ireland in 2016 the Irish celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. With festivities happening all around the globe, the National Folk Festival also will commemorate this important anniversary and celebrate the Irish's impact on Australia in music, poetry, dance and song.

The Easter Rising is remembered by many as the beginning of a revolutionary cultural and language movement which forged Ireland towards independence and self-determination. The following concerts and presentations at the 2016 National Folk Festival are part of the Government of Ireland's international program to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising and proudly supported by the Irish Embassy here in Australia:

National Folk Festival Remembers the Easter Rising

This was one of the most pivotal events in modern Irish history and was an armed insurrection that took place, mostly in Dublin, during Easter Week 1916. This illustrated historical presentation at the Festival's Trocadero venue focuses on the significance of the 1916 Easter Rising through music and narrative in both English and Irish headed by **John Spillane** and Band with choir, and will be narrated by **Maurie O'Sullivan**.

Easter Friday 3:20pm and Easter Monday 10:00am, Trocadero, Exhibition Park

National Folk Festival Celebrates the Journey of a Nation Rising

The Irish have had a significant impact on Australia, its music and its culture from convict days to the present through both forced and free immigration. These concerts celebrate our connection with Ireland in dance, music & song from rich Celtic music to fiddle and concertina tunes, to the otherworldly sounds of the harp.

There will be 4 Events, one for each of the Provinces of Ireland

Fri 12:30pm Lyric (Ulster) Siobhan Owen

Sat 12:30pm Lyric (Connacht) Coolfinn Mac with Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers

Sun 12:30pm Coorong (Munster) Dance Event – An Afternoon of Cork & Kerry Sets

Mon 12:30pm Lyric (Leinster) Ciaran O'Grady, Aifric Boylan and Graeme Newell with Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers.

Gala Easter Rising Concert

On Easter Monday the Gala Easter Rising Concert will present two of the Festival's headline Irish acts, **Colum Sands** and the **Rambling Boys**. County Down Grammy-shortlisted songwriter Colum Sands is a poet disguised as a songwriter, and a singer disguised as a storyteller. Colum will bring you an unforgettable intimate performance, enchanting you with classic Irish traditional songs as well as his own original folk songs. The Rambling Boys feature some of Ireland's finest traditional and folk music exports taking to the stage. Performing blistering infectious tunes and emotional heartfelt ballads, the musicians of The Rambling Boys have played with the likes of Damien Dempsey and Declan O'Rourke. Easter Monday 2:40pm Colum Sands, & 3:30pm The Rambling Boys, Budawang, Exhibition Park

The Easter Rising celebration is just one of many special events planned for the 50th National Folk Festival, which features 200 international and national artists across 18 venues at Exhibition Park, Canberra on the Easter weekend, 24-28 March. Discounted tickets still available. More news still to be announced so stay connected at www.folkfestival.org.au or follow National Folk Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @natfolkfest #ournff #5daysinaperfectworld Just be there!

All Media Enquiries to National Folk Festival Publicist Bettina Richter

mob: 0414 441 860 e: media@folkfestival.org.au