



**MEDIA RELEASE - Wednesday 2nd December 2015 -
FIRST OF THE SUMMER RELEASES FOR 50TH NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL**

To mark the first week of Summer, the National Folk Festival is announcing more acts for their milestone 50th Festival. Prepare your ears, open your hearts and get ready for the next instalment set to take you around the world and back with a stellar list of outstanding talent.

Travel first to Iqualuit, a town 20 minutes by plane south of the Arctic Circle. This is home to **The Jerry Cans** from Northern Canada. With a sound that's been described as a cross between the Clash and the Pogues, The Jerry Cans combine ethereal Inuit throat singing, rave-up accordion, fiddle, bass and drums set to danceable tunes inspired by the fiddles and accordions brought to the Arctic by early explorers from Britain and Scandinavia.

From Bristol in the UK, the magic that is **Spiro** will take you on a journey from darkness to light. With influences that range from minimalist classical to dance music to a majestic cinematic feel, instrumental quartet Spiro use folk as the raw ingredient that's mixed and manipulated to uplift you, move you and provide nectar to your ears.

The power of song and story are celebrated with **Gordie Tentrees** (CAN) and **Keith Donnelly** (UK). Yukon-based, Ontario raised Gordie Tentrees has been touted as a young John Prine and sings songs that are deeply personal and lyrically rich, full of heart and homespun wisdom, heartache and redemption. Comedian, singer and storyteller **Keith Donnelly** is a one-man festival. The ultimate entertainer, Donnelly sings original songs accompanied by his acoustic guitar and is known as the funniest man this side of anywhere.

East meets West with Australia's triple ARIA Winner and internationally renowned oud virtuoso and composer **Joseph Tawadros**. For the 50th National, Tawadros has assembled top jazz and classical artists - with Matt McMahon on piano, James Crabb on classical accordion and James Greening on trombone. Their music will take you to the bazaars of Cairo and beyond, showcasing Tawadros' acclaimed new release 'Truth Seekers, Lovers and Warriors'.

Melbourne based **Perch Creek** have appeared everywhere from ABC's Spicks and Specks to the Sydney Opera House, Edinburgh Fringe and Woodford Folk Festival. They bring to the National harmony driven roots music with a creative energy delivering unforgettable shows, at moments haunting but always retaining an infectious joy. Open your mind with **Bush Gothic** who reclaim lost Australian territory. Their songs are of criminal women and convict men, treachery and transportation which they drag out, rip apart and then lovingly put back together as a reminder that history never leaves us.

Be captivated by **Loren Kate**, winner of the Adelaide Telstra Road to Discovery 2014 who has played alongside the likes of Vika and Linda Bull, Tinpan Orange, Mama Kin and Archie Roach, or be fascinated by the ingenuity of Tasmanian outfit **The Chordwainers**. They play elegant instruments made of leather by the late world-renowned leather sculptor Garry Greenwood, capturing a soundscape of world, whimsy, jazz and seduction.

The musical tapestry continues with **Co-cheòl** the 2015 winner of the Peter J Daly Memorial Award for best up and coming Celtic band; the Appalachian and bluegrass grit of **Catgut** and the French cabaret & samba beats of **Conchillia**. For something entirely different be drawn into the enchanting world of gorgeous young harpist **Siobhan Owen**, or get down and dirty where street poetry meets jazz with the lyrical intensity, political levity and high energy world of **Candy Royale and The Michael Wheatley Band**.

The 50th National Folk Festival will feature over 1200 artists across 5 fabulous days in the Nation's Capital at Easter, 24-28 March 2016. Early Bird Discounted Tickets now available. Keep up with all the latest 50th Festival news and announcements at www.folkfestival.org.au or on our Facebook or Twitter pages. @natfolkfest #ournff #5daysinaperfectworld

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