

**MEDIA RELEASE - Thursday 19th November 2015 -
SECOND MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 50th FOLK FESTIVAL**



Today the Festival announces more acts for its milestone 50th National Folk Festival:

From French Canada comes **Vishten**, third generation Acadians from Prince Edward Island and the nearby Magdalen Islands. Combining the tradition of French chanson & Celtic with step-dancing, fiddle, guitar, accordion, mandolin, jaw-harp and bodhran, their electrifying music celebrates the Acadian spirit with a contemporary edge. Don't miss them!

Take a rare journey into acoustic music with the sublime sounds of two of the world's foremost guitar players – **Tony McManus (of Scotland) and Beppe Gambetta (Italy)**. Tony is long acknowledged as the world's best exponent of Celtic guitar and Beppe is a virtuoso acoustic guitar flatpicker and singer, and together the pair present a winning combination of great artistry.

Get ready to jump, jive and swing with **Bluetongue Bush Ceilidh** bringing a new high energy Ceilidh sound to the National that is heating up the dance halls in the UK right now. Featuring some of the best dance musicians from the UK and Australia, Bluetongue Bush Ceilidh pull out all the stops with their explosive infusion of rock and funk into this traditional dance form to make it accessible for all ages.

From the UK, leading folk singer and multi-instrumentalist **Brian Peters** will re-inspire you with traditional folk ballads and their power, mystery and courage. In contrast, all the way from Berlin **The Beez**, will get you out on the dance floor with a mash-up of flavours from punk to polka, Cajun to country.

From Australia back by popular demand are hot young things **All Our Exes Live in Texas** and **Castlecomer**. All Our Exes is a fantasy draft of four women in four-part folk heaven who will be seducing you with songs from their new debut album at the Festival. Super cool young folk rockers **Castlecomer** also return to the National from months of back-to-back touring amassing fans all around the country, plus a bunch of great new anthems up their sleeve that will keep you rocking till way past midnight.

Belfast-born singer-songwriter **Andy White** has written with the likes of Peter Gabriel and Tim Finn, penned 3 books and recorded 11 albums. Showcasing his latest album at the Festival 'How Things Are', these heartfelt songs speak of beauty and hope amidst chaos and loss. For bluegrass lovers, stepping up to the Festival Stage are National Bluegrass Champions & 3-time Golden Guitar winners **The Davidson Brothers**. With high-powered picking, vocal harmonies and classic humour, the boys will feature songs from their 7th studio album 'Wanderlust'.

From Queensland the stirring acoustic folk pop flavour of **Women in Docs** will warm your soul, and from Tasmania comes talented up-and-coming singer/songwriter **Matthew Dames**, winner of the 2015 Liz Johnston Memorial Award for Vocal Excellence.

The Festival's feast of world music continues with **Eastwinds**, bringing together a Japanese didgeridologist, an Estonian songbird, an English guizoukist, an Iranian percussionist and an Australian woodwind maestro. And, with a rich tapestry of Cajun sound, comes **Le Blanc Bros Cajun Band** who will transport you to the tastes and flavours of classic Louisiana.

In a special dedication to the 50th Festival, iconic Australian folk artists Danny Spooner and Margret RoadKnight return to fly the flag at the National Folk Festival. Both artists performed at the very first folk festival in 1967 and have both gone on to forge outstanding and diverse careers, touring around the world and recording multiple albums.

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.folksfestival.org.au or on our Facebook or Twitter pages. @natfolkfest #ournff #5daysinaperfectworld

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