

FIRST BIG MAJOR ACTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2016 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL



The National Folk Festival is delighted to announce the first major round of artists for its milestone 50th Festival, Easter 2016. On the back of the recent '6-pack teaser' 18 more acts covering all facets of the folk music spectrum are being revealed. The Festival is proud to announce:

One of the most sought after acts on the English folk scene, **The Young'uns** earn 5 star reviews wherever they go and recently took out Best Group at the 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. With an infectious love for harmony singing, a passion for storytelling and a commitment to social commentary, these three young men are an irresistible act bringing the songs of the street and the working class into a whole new light.

Celebrating the sounds of the planet the West African music of **Jaaleekaay** is grounded in the sublime cultural traditions of Gambian music. Witness a unique and energised crossing point of the Senegambian tradition of vocal singing 'Mbalax (translated as rhythm), backed by blues guitar and the Kora like you've never heard it before. From Austria the award-winning Celtic Folk outfit **Black Market Tune** weave a tapestry of song and music with a charming twist and sexy swing, while the USA's **Kristina Olsen** with her big bluesy voice and timeless songs will launch her latest jazz infused collaboration at the 2016 Festival.

Out of Ireland and back at the festival by popular demand is **Colum Sands**. The County Down Grammy-shortlisted songwriter has produced over 100 albums, worked with the likes of Joan Baez and Pete Seeger, and brings his unforgettable, intimate performance style to the Festival. Also from the Emerald Isle **The Rambling Boys** will feature some of Ireland's finest traditional and folk music exports. With Gino Lupari (Bodhran and vocals), David Munnelly (Accordion), Sean Regan (Fiddle, Mandola and Vocals) and Alan Burke (Guitar and Vocals), each member of the band has achieved great success individually having recorded and toured with the likes of Damien Dempsey, Sharon Shannon and Declan O'Rourke.

For it's 50th festival the National Folk Festival will also celebrate a wave of exciting Australian folk currently capturing audiences across the country. There's 'Indie force of nature' (The Age), **Skipping Girl Vinegar**, a sonic explosion of colour who thrilled audiences at Splendour in the Grass, Falls and Woodford. With airplay on Triple J, ABC & US College Radio Skipping Girl Vinegar will launch their acclaimed new album 'The Great Wave' at The National. Fresh off winning the hearts of the British with rave reviews and national airplay with their acclaimed new album 'Sleeping Storm', beloved alt-folk duo **The April Maze** return to the Festival stage. With dreamy tripped-out harmonies combining cello, banjo, guitar and sultry vocals, The April Maze mix dustbowl blues, vengeful hoedowns and pared back swoon songs into a soundtrack for both rainy days and sun-soaked summers.

Get ready for a high energy rollercoaster with award-winning Blues & Roots act **19-Twenty**, the dirty Americana roots flavour of **Den Hanrahan** or the pop folk canvas of rising stars **Rowena Wise**. For something more meditative the compelling combination of Turkish, Mongolian throat singing and bluegrass music with **Horse & Wood** will keep audiences entranced. Also not to be missed is 2015 FAA Youth Award-winner **Kaurna Cronin**, who returns to the Festival with a sparkling debut album under his belt, firmly establishing this emerging artist as the next big thing.

In 2016 the National Folk Festival will celebrate the sounds of every state and territory in Australia. Other artists announced today include **Bloodwood** from the NT, **Hayley Shone** from the ACT, **Cloudstreet** from QLD, and **Latehorse** and **The Ballpoint Penguins** from WA.

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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