

FIRST ACTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2016 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL



The National Folk Festival is delighted to reveal the first acts for its epic milestone Festival in 2016, celebrating 50 years of Australia's most iconic folk event.

"We have a very special program planned for The 50th National Folk Festival and the 2016 Festival will be like no other", said Festival Director Pam Merrigan. "There'll be artists and audiences converging from every corner of the globe and around Australia to be part of our 50th celebrations, and we do have a few surprises in store".

The first 6-pack of artists to be announced are:

Mànran (SCOT)– One of the best known and best loved Scottish bands on the world scene, Mànran has won multiple awards, played prestigious festivals throughout the world and are absolutely thrilling live. It's irresistible Celtic folk rock combining elements of funk, jazz and rock, with songs in both Gaelic and English showcasing the fiddle, accordion, flute, Irish uilleann and highland pipes to a driving beat.

The East Pointers (CAN) – Destined to be your favourite new band of the Festival, Canada's The East Pointers will grab your attention straight away with their arresting vocals and infectious rhythms. The East Pointers comprise banjoist Koady Chaisson and fiddle player Tim Chaisson who hail from Prince Edward Island, and are the sixth generation of a heralded legacy of fiddlers and folk musicians. With Jake Charron on vocals and guitar, the East Pointers are reimagining folk into a tradition that has a place in the future.

The Company – Heralded as a masterclass in bluegrass and boasting two Australian Bluegrass champions on guitar, fiddle and banjo, The Company is bluegrass at its very best with Michael Patrick on mandolin/fiddle who's been dubbed the Barry White of folk, Markus Karlsen (bass), CMAA Bluegrass Flatpicking Champion Jamie Clarke (guitar) and multiple award-winner 7th generation fiddler George Jackson (fiddle/banjo).

Jacinta Price – The first act to be announced in the Festival's lauded Indigenous Program, Jacinta Price's songs conjure up a Tracy Chapman feel and are grounded in the landscape, people and culture of Alice Springs and Central Australia. 2011 NAIDOC Artist of the Year, Jacinta Price's blend of folk, blues and country music reflects her Aboriginal/Celtic heritage with her mother a traditional woman from the Warlpiri tribe of Yuendumu (293km north-west of Alice Springs), and father an Irish Catholic from Newcastle.

Andrew Winton – Launching his new album *Glory Box Mechanics*, lap-slide impresario Andrew Winton makes a welcome return to the Festival. On his 13-stringed, double-neck, Alabama cypress tree root lap-slide beast "Lucky 13", Andrew Winton conjures up everything from sophisticated blues groans to dirty funk to seductive love songs with a feel that sits between John Butler and Harry Manx.

The Mae Trio - Recipients of the 2014 Folk Alliance Young Performer of the Year Award, the prestigious Maton Class Act Award and the 2014 NFSA Folk Recording of the Year, The Mae Trio will melt your heart with their spine-tingling harmonies and unique instrumentation.



Launching their new EP 'September' at the Festival, the Mae Trio present a compelling combination of banjo, ukulele, cello, violin and marimba accompanying their oh-so-sublime original songs.

The 50th National Folk Festival will feature over 1200 artists across 5 fabulous days in the National's Capital at Easter – 24-28 March 2016. Earlybird 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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