



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT: US ARTISTS RELEASED

For the first artist announcement of the new year, the National Folk Festival is today revealing an outstanding line-up of US Acts for it's milestone 50th Festival in 2016, proudly supported by the *US Embassy*.

Heading the list is revered seventh-generation ballad singer, storyteller and clawhammer banjo player **Sheila Kay Adams** who has appeared in acclaimed films *Songcatcher* and *Last of the Mohicans*. Born and raised in the Sodom Laurel community of Madison County, a region with a strong unbroken tradition of unaccompanied singing, Sheila has won multiple awards. Singing songs of endurance, courage and yearning, Sheila Kay Adams' sound is the cry of the rugged mountains of North Carolina, an area renowned for it's Appalachian tradition that dates back to the mid 17th century. An experience not to be missed.

Also heading to Canberra for the 50th National Folk festival is **Steve Poltz** the artist who famously co-wrote Jewel's 1995 break-out hit 'You Were Meant for Me', and was also founding member of alt rock band The Rugburns. With 12 albums in his stride and an indie rock voice combined with off-the-wall improvised stories, Steve Poltz is a unique entity and could just be the surprise cult hit of the Festival. Expect the unexpected with whimsical songs and wacky stories which capture everything from sharing a chamomile tea with Jewel, to tales of Sean Penn and Mexican drug busts. Polz is sure to captivate you, make you laugh, cry, and wanting more.

For fans of *O Brother, Where Art Thou*, comes legends of bluegrass, the **Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band**. Grammy winner Peter Rowan is a true icon of American Bluegrass, he was lead singer/guitarist with the "father of bluegrass" Bill Monroe. Along with Patrick Sauber (banjo), Chris Henry (mandolin) and Paul Knight (double bass) this band brings together some of the finest traditional bluegrass artists in the world. With a timeless lonesome sound, soulful tenor harmonies and old style ballads this act is a compulsory must-see at the 2016 National Folk Festival.

Stepping up to the 50th Festival Stage is America's foremost harmonica virtuoso, **Phil Wiggins**. For his Festival performances Phil will be joined by top Australian blues guitarist **Dom Turner**, best known as a member of the iconic Australian blues band The Backsliders. Phil Wiggins was born in Washington DC, has played with some of Washington's leading blues artists including gospel singer and slide guitarist Flora Molton and legendary guitarist and vocalist John Cephas with whom he has played every continent except Antarctica over a 30 year period. With set-lists packed with Piedmont, Delta and Hill Country Blues and classics from Skip James, Robert Johnson and Lead Belly as well as original songs, Phil Wiggins and Dom Turner's music will take you back to another time and place.

Also on the US list is previously announced award-winning US singer-songwriter **Kristina Olsen** who is set to charm and entertain Festival audiences with her big bluesy voice and gutsy songs. Kristina is most famously known for her entertaining performance of the infamous 'The Big O'.

Hurry! Earlybird 2 Tickets close this Sunday 10th January. Alongside these acclaimed US Acts, over 200 Acts in total will appear at the 50th anniversary festival at the Nation's Capital at Easter 24-28 March 2016. Keep up with all the latest 50th news, announcements and full artist line-up at www.folkfestival.org.au or on our Facebook or Twitter pages. @natfolkfest #ournff #5daysinaperfectworld

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