



2011
**CASTLEMAINE
STATE FESTIVAL**
1-10 APRIL

MEDIA KIT

Media Release – embargoed until 10 Feb 2011

Music Program part 1:

Dancing Room Only – World – Jazz – Classical – Youth Orchestra

After the huge success of the 2009 Castlemaine State Festival, the music program has expanded to include an outstanding range of music styles, genres and ages, with international and local artists performing in the Theatre Royal, Town Hall and Castlemaine churches as well as various outdoor rural locations.

The **Theatre Royal** is undoubtedly the Festival's party venue and will be the destination for dance almost every night of the 10-day event. The stand-out, internationally hot new samba group - **Batucada Sound Machine from New Zealand** play on 2 April. They combine sounds of Brazilian, Cuban and Afro beats, a hip-hop frontman and samba-reggae percussion. Next is the highly-acclaimed award-winning group - **Beyond the Pale from Canada**: continuing their Australian tour in Castlemaine on 3 April, with exquisite music of Klezmer, Balkan and Romanian styles fused with North American influences. On 7 April is fiddling virtuoso **Ashley MacIsaac from Nova Scotia, Canada**: crossing boundaries of Celtic, folk, punk, rock and grunge; he pairs up with **Quinn Bachand** the 15 year old Celtic guitar prodigy, a concert not to be missed.

For the final weekend also in the Theatre Royal are, **The Pearly Shells** on 8 April, reminiscent of Duke Ellington and Count Basie – this stellar line up of Melbourne jazz players will win everyone over with their arrangements of the big band classics. On 9 April, Australia's masters of funk and deep soul **The Bamboos** will play their highly energetic mix of funk, hip hop, modern rock and soul.

The **Castlemaine Town Hall** will present 6 concerts ranging from world music to classical and opera. **Joseph Tawadros** has established himself as one of the world's leading oud performers and composers. He comes together with his brother **James Tawadros**, jazz pianist **Matt McMahon** and Greek clarinettist **Dimitri Vouros** to play as the **Joseph Tawadros Quartet** on 3 April – a unique collaboration of Egyptian, classical and jazz music.

ACO is one of Australia's finest chamber orchestras, and its little sister **ACO2** performs regionally connecting talented young musicians with the stars of the ACO. For their concert they play with guest artist **Canadian violinist Lara St John**, with a program of Vivaldi, Piazzolla, Hindson and Tchaikovsky on 6 April.

La Compañía are an Australian ensemble directed by **Danny Lucin**, who perform the music of the Renaissance and early Baroque. With some of the best period instrumentalists the group follows the 16th-century practices of ornamentation, diminution and embellishment. They perform on the 7 April, with a program of love songs and lively dance tunes.

Victorian Opera bring their much-loved participation event **Sing Your Own Opera** to the festival on 9 April. Led by **Music Director Richard Gill** this is an event where anyone who dreamed of being an opera star can have their moment.

The inaugural performance of the **Goldfields Youth Orchestra**, is a major collaborative project with **Castlemaine Secondary College Orchestra**, **Bendigo Colleges Symphony Orchestra**, **Australian Youth Orchestra**, **Richard Gill** and **Victorian Opera**. The 2011 Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Mentorship, which builds upon the Dominique Segan Visual Arts award, has evolved to connect inspiring national arts leaders with emerging young central Victorian artists. The performance on 8 April, will be the culmination of an intensive residency workshop and rehearsal period.

Continued overleaf...



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Aimed at youth in particular, and as part of National Youth Week, the Festival will present two free events **FReeZa Fever** on 8 April, and **Couch Recovered** throughout the festival. **FReeZa Fever** will present an exciting mini festival event at the Castlemaine Skate Park and Western Reserve, featuring skateboarding and BMX riding competitions, dance, singing workshops, food, street art, live bands and performances, including headline acts **Diafix** and **Massive hip hop choir** from Melbourne. **Couch Recovered** is a creative project where old couches are transformed into artwork and placed in various locations throughout Castlemaine.

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