



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

## MEDIA KIT

Media Release – embargoed until 10 Feb 2011

### Music Program part 2: Precious Music in Churches

Following the resounding response from the 2009 Castlemaine State Festival's Quiet Music in the Churches series, in 2011 the Festival presents **Precious Music in Churches**. Featuring the acoustic sounds of some of the most exquisite and accomplished chamber ensembles, from soloists to quintets and classical to new music, this series of stunning concerts will be a treasured experience. The architectural and ornamental features of these historic goldfield era buildings offer audiences both a visual and acoustic sensory feast.

Beginning the program are the gypsy inspired **Cosmo Cosmolino** on 2 April in the Castlemaine Presbyterian Church. Made up of **Suzanne Simpson, Andrea Keeble, Helen Mountfort, Judy Gunson** and **Dan Witton**, the group have been established for over 12 years and have become a Spiegelent favourite.

**Massimo Scattolin** is a highly distinguished classical guitarist from Italy, and specialises in performing some of the most challenging guitar concertos, including some written for him by composers such as Piazzolla. He is joined by first violinist from the Flinders Quartet **Erica Kennedy** to perform a program of delicate pieces for guitar and violin on 2 April.

Performing two special programs the **Victorian Welsh Choir** is a traditional all male choir that has been performing since 1980. Under the musical direction of Welsh-born **Faleiry Koczkar**, they have performed internationally and come to Castlemaine to perform in St Mary's Catholic Church on 3 April.

**Speak Percussion** is one of Melbourne's most unique and diverse percussion collectives. They perform a program of predominantly Australian pieces that feature the eclectic and diverse sounds of the vibraphone. Included is the world premiere of **Luke Palding's Surface Given Radiance** on 4 April.

Bringing 20 years exploration of sacred chant, minimalism, jazz and experimental music **Nick Tsiavos** will perform 'Liminal' with **soprano Deborah Kayser, saxophonist Adam Simmons** and **percussionists Eugene Ughetti** and **Peter Neville** in an exceptional performance on 5 April.

Melbourne pianist and composer **Benjamin Martin** will perform a beautiful program combining well-known piano repertoire with his own compositions in the Castlemaine Uniting Church on 6 April.

**Trio Anima Mundi** is noted for its eclectic and diverse programming, presented with 'welcome energy and persuasive authority'. Made up of **Kenji Fujimura (piano), Rochelle Bryson (violin)** and **Miranda Brockman (cello)** they perform on 7 April.

**Bendigo Chamber Choir** includes 35 of central Victoria's finest voices and is renowned for performing high-quality and diverse classical choral concerts. In 2011 Bendigo Chamber Choir will celebrate its **30 year anniversary**. This concert will be directed by Castlemaine's own **Michael Bottomley** on 8 April.

Continued overleaf...



[www.castlemainefestival.com.au](http://www.castlemainefestival.com.au)





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During the Festival, the **Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO)** will be conducting their **AYO Ensemble in Residency**, and producing a music program in response to this residency experience on 9 April. The AYO Ensemble in Residency will also include a mentorship of **Castlemaine Secondary College** musicians in collaboration with **Richard Gill, Victorian Opera Music Director**.

**Overlander** brings together four of Australia's leading musicians in an entirely rare union on 9 April — the didgeridoo super-star **William Barton**, the dulcet tones of singer/songwriter **Mel Robinson**, the boundless charm and wit of composer/performer extraordinaire **Iain Grandage**, and the voluptuous strength and energy of percussionist **Claire Edwardes**.

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