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CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2013 PROGRAM

A delicious abundance of events in all art forms for all ages

7 December 2012 – On Wednesday 12 December 2012 Festival Director Martin Paten will launch the highly anticipated Castlemaine State Festival program for 2013. Presented across the 10 day multi-art form Festival will be 6 world premieres, 2 Australian premieres, 10 commissions and 3 mentorships involving central Victorian, national and international artists.

A significant development for the 2013 Festival is the growth and expansion of events that are created, produced and presented within Castlemaine and the Central Goldfields region. Building on partnerships with community organisations, schools, businesses and artists; the Festival will involve over 150 local artists including 18 indigenous artists, over 112 musicians, 60 theatre performers, 35 writers as well as 1300 Primary school children.

Martin Paten, Festival Director says: *“The Castlemaine region would have to be one of the most inspiring places in Australia to create a festival given its imaginative, generous and supportive artists and community. For the 2013 Festival, I am particularly excited about Castlemaine Created, the arm of the Festival dedicated to presenting and producing works by regional artists which will boast 19 presentations and newly commissioned works.”*

2013 Festival venues include iconic and note-worthy locations and spaces that are forgotten or fleeting. The Visual Art Biennial curated exhibition **Periscope** inhabits the Hunt and Lobb building an old car-yard zoned for redevelopment, the historic Tutes Cottage and the Old Police Lock-Up. The performance and music program includes the atmospheric Old Castlemaine Gaol with a theatrical piece **Chants des Catacombes** about the persecution of women in history as well as the first Australian performance of infamous Corsican a capella choir **A Filetta**; the trees at Vaughan Springs Reserve will feature the world premiere of arboreal theatre piece and winner of The George Fairfax New Theatre Award, **The Republic of Trees: a Tale Between Earth and Sky**; world-renowned harpist **Marshall McGuire** will evoke metaphysical and subterranean themes from the baroque to John Cage and Ross Edwards, deep within former gold mine **Carman’s Tunnel**; as well as filling the many stunning churches, halls and individual homes with classical, jazz, beats, electronic, swing, choral and early music concerts.

Out on the street and in the parks a rich selection of free and youth events are on offer starting with the Opening Night celebration **Cornucopia!** - an outdoor extravaganza for festival-goers to sit centre-stage around a banquet table whilst a feast of music, song and entertainment spill over Lyttleton St. **The Grove** fills up Victory Park for the opening weekend to explore the fertile intersections of art, food and sustainability with participatory events for everyone: **The Living Stage**, **Produce** and our own version of the Iron Chef – **Garden Chef!**

The 2013 literature program **Collective DNA – Stories that make us up** takes place in the Market Building featuring over 35 artists with stories you’ll recognise, poems you’ll understand, songs you’ll be humming and dance moves you’ll wish were your own.

This year the box office will be open from 12 December and throughout the festival at the Castlemaine Market Building, as well as online with full program details: **www.castlemainefestival.com.au**

Please see media kit for full program information including youth programs, dance, comedy and film events, mentorships, associated activities and tourism information.



2013 Castlemaine State Festival

Programming key points and figures:

- 6 world premieres open at the 2013 Castlemaine State Festival; 2 Australian Premiere's; 10 Commissions; 3 Mentorships.
- Nearly 50% of artists are from Castlemaine and surrounding regional Victoria.
- 18 Indigenous visual and performing artists, representing Victorian alongside remote, tribal and urban northern Australian Indigenous artists.
- A major program for over 1300 children from all 15 primary schools in Mount Alexander Shire: 3 free public family events; 3 International companies; 1 Indigenous Tiwi Island; 1 Victorian; 1 Central Victorian.
- 5 free public events and workshops; across both opening and closing weekends as well as throughout the festival.
- 16 genres of music with over 26 ensembles, and over 112 musicians.

About the Castlemaine State Festival:

The Castlemaine State Festival was founded in 1976 by Berek Segan AM OBE and is the flagship multi-art form regional state festival in Victoria. With a commitment to programming regional artists and events, including a strong indigenous presence, the Festival also has significant recognition in the international arts festivals arena.

The biennial Festival preceded any other Victorian arts festivals and has been unique in its scope and diversity, and in its impact on the social and cultural fabric of the Mount Alexander Shire and environs. The Festival program has encompassed visual arts, music, theatre, opera, dance, literature and film, and has been a major contributor in connecting people and developing enterprise within the regional community.

In 2011 the Festival involved over 800 artists, had approximately 60,000 (?) attendees, sold out 50% of ticketed events, received a 98% satisfaction rating from audience surveys and contributed \$2.56 million to the local economy.

The 2013 Festival will be Martin Paten's third as Director. In this role, in which he is effectively both Artistic Director and General Manager, Martin has taken the 2009 and 2011 Festivals to unprecedented levels of creative and financial success achieving widespread national and international acclaim.