



MEDIA RELEASE

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL • 15 - 24 MARCH 2013

TAKE THOSE DANCING SHOES TO THE TOWN HALL TUBA SKINNY, THE RAAH PROJECT AND FLAP!

The 2013 Castlemaine State Festival music program is packed with 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 walls of the **Castlemaine Town Hall** are set to burst with excitement when these three diverse bands create a foot-tapping, hip-shaking frenzy under its roof.

United States jazzy ensemble, **Tuba Skinny**, take to the stage on 16 March to add their brassy swing and joyful swagger to the festival stratosphere.

Formed in the streets of New Orleans in 2009, **Tuba Skinny** has steadily evolved from a loose collection of street musicians into a solid ensemble and international phenomenon. Drawing on a wide range of musical influences — from spirituals to Depression-era blues, from ragtime to traditional jazz — their sound evokes the rich musical heritage of their New Orleans home.

Performing old blues and Dixieland jazz from the 1920s and 30s, accompanied by the raspy, belted vocals of Erika Lewis, likened to those of Mae West, the band has gained a loyal following through their distinctive sound, their commitment to reviving long-lost songs, and their barnstorming live performances.

Following **Tuba Skinny** on the 16 March are **True Live** creators and musical agitators, **Ryan Ritchie and Tamil Rogeon** with their compelling new vision, **The Raah Project**.

A 26-piece ensemble comprising a horn section, jazz rhythm section and string section including players from the Australian National Academy of Music, **The Raah Project** reimagines the established concepts of jazz, electronica, hip hop, dance and soul music.

In an interview Rogeon explained, “We sort of explore the areas of urban music with a string section, a big band”.

Following the release of their debut album *Score* (2010), **The Raah Project** sold out a national tour and received sparkling reviews across Europe and the UK (Rolling Stone; #6 Jazz Album of the Year on iTunes).

Australian festival favourite **Flap!** will storm the town hall stage on 23 March. A blistering yet charming five-piece band of brass, guts, words and skins, they crank out up-tempo songs, in frenzy-inspiring performances. Playing original music that is both old and new, they are inspired by the entire human diaspora and influences from 1920s jazz, Gypsy Brass, English Folk and Trinidadian Calypso can be heard peeping through their antipodean veneer.

Formed during an informal jam at the 2007 Port Fairy Folk Festival and playing their first gig at the Woodstock Cafe at Christiania, Copenhagen, that same year, **Flap!** is a veteran of the best of Australia’s music Festival circuit. Fresh from their *A Great Day For The Race* two-month European tour in late 2012, **Flap!** is in Castlemaine pumped and hot-to-trot.

EVENT DETAILS:

Tuba Skinny

Saturday 16 March 9.30pm,
Castlemaine Town Hall,
25 Lyttleton St,
Castlemaine
\$25 / \$20
Tuba Skinny YouTube clips [here](#)

The Raah Project

Saturday 23 March 8pm
Castlemaine Town Hall,
25 Lyttleton St,
Castlemaine
\$35 / \$30
Raah Project YouTube clips [here](#)

Flap!

Saturday 23 March 10pm,
Castlemaine Town Hall,
25 Lyttleton St,
Castlemaine.
\$20