

# CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL MARCH 13-22 2015

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Global sounds take Castlemaine by storm**

3 February 2015

A star-spangled showcase of international performers will be appearing at the Castlemaine State Festival, March 2015. Eclectic and modern examples of world music from Cuba, Italy, India, Paraguay and Cambodia will appear alongside local acts with diverse backgrounds, bringing a wealth of music and culture from five continents to regional Victoria.

One of the world's most celebrated traditional Cuban bands, **El Son Entero** will perform their irresistible Afro-Cuban dance rhythms at the Theatre Royal (Sat 21). The Castlemaine State Festival has worked closely with the Cuban Ministry of Culture, and this will be El Son Entero's first performance outside Cuba. El Son Entero's members are classically trained and deeply passionate, with tightly woven string rhythms, full Afro-Cuban percussion, blistering trumpet and tight vocal harmonies.

The following night the Theatre Royal will be transformed by the Indian rhythms of **Maru Tarang** (Sun 15). Deep in the deserts of Rajasthan, a virtuosic collaboration between Australian artists Jeff Lang and Bobby Singh, and Indian artists Asin Langa and Bhungar Manginyar was formed, without a common spoken language, through music. Ancient Rajasthani folk songs are heard anew with the input of Australian roots music, while seminal blues songs are enriched with an Indian-influence.

On another global note, Phnom Penh based rock'n'roll outfit **The Cambodian Space Project** (Wed 18) is a psychedelic phenomenon at the forefront of Cambodia's cultural revival. Charismatic front-woman Srey Channthy channels past divas of Cambodia's lost rock'n'roll roots, making her own mark through narrative songs like Whisky Cambodia, the title track of their third album, produced by Motown guitar legend Dennis Coffey. The Cambodian Space Project will transform the Theatre Royal with their live music & dance performed in front of a spectacular mash-up of 60's films.

Maestro Alfirio Cristaldo (Paraguay) and his student Andy Rigby (Australia) have been playing harp together for 30 years as a teacher-student duo, **'Los Hermanos del Arpa'** (Brothers of the Harp). Christaldo's harp is the national instrument of Paraguay, producing a rich bass sound and clear melody. Their polyphonic instruments will converse with each other in pieces ranging from galloping polca to sentimental and soothing guarania beats. (Wed 18)

### **Event Details**

El Son Entero, Theatre Royal, Saturday 21 March 9pm & Pasaje (performed by El Son Entero),

Theatre Royal, Saturday 14 March 8pm

Maru Tarang, Theatre Royal, Sunday 15 March 7pm

The Cambodian Space Project, Theatre Royal, Wednesday 18 March 8pm

'Los Hermanos del Arpa' Castlemaine Market Building, Wednesday 18 March 6pm

**For more information & bookings please visit [castlemainefestival.com.au](http://castlemainefestival.com.au)**