



MEDIA KIT

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL • 15 - 24 MARCH 2013

2013 CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL

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.

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.

MEDIA PASSES:

General media including photographers and television crews are able to gain a 'media pass' to Castlemaine State Festival events and shows. Review tickets must be requested and issued before the date of the event. Contact: Pia Johnson, pia.johnson@gmail.com, 0413450951



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FESTIVAL DIRECTOR MARTIN PATEN

The 2013 Castlemaine State 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 acclaim.

Martin's vision for the Festival as both a showcase opportunity for the enormous wealth of local artistic endeavour, and as a platform for the presentation of entirely new works in a regionally based international festival is further enabled through the expertise of an exemplary Festival team. An extensive network of dedicated volunteers together with the financial commitment of government and NGO bodies, philanthropic individuals and organisations ensure the Castlemaine State Festival's continued success.

Martin came to the Castlemaine State Festival with 13 years' experience directing and managing public festivals in central and suburban Melbourne. He has directed the Moonee Valley Festival, overseen the strategic direction of Melbourne Moomba Festival and managed funding relationships with many of Melbourne's major international festivals including Melbourne's Arts, Fringe, Comedy, Film, Jazz, Midsumma and Next Wave Festivals.

Martin left the City of Melbourne in December 2007 after a 10 year career managing a team delivering Melbourne's Public Art and Laneway Commissions, Melbourne Conversations, City Music and Art and Heritage Collection.

Martin lives locally in the beautiful town of Vaughan, 10 minutes from Castlemaine. He is married with two children.



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COMMUNITY & YOUTH EVENTS PROGRAM

The 2013 Castlemaine State Festival offers a range of community events, with performances, interactive activities, workshops, dance, music and a suite of youth activities. And the best part is, it's all free.

The Grove (16-17 March) will be the community hub of the Festival over the opening weekend—a place of festivity and performance set in the leafy surrounds of Victory Park. Exploring the fertile intersections between art, food and sustainability, The Grove will host a delicious program of regionally conceived imaginative performances and interactive activities amidst an abundance of regional and market produce.

Created by **Tanja Beer, Hamish McCallum, Sas Allardice** and local community members, *The Living Stage* combines stage design, permaculture and community engagement to create a recyclable, biodegradable and edible performance space in The Grove. Part theatre and part garden, *The Living Stage* will house a series of experimental works that draw on the concept of regeneration, and interact with the unique design that surrounds them. Works include *Produce*, a performance piece by **CreateAbility** (Bendigo) along with *Born in a Taxi*, **Justin Bull (undue noise)** and *Garden Chef*, Castlemaine's very own version of *Iron Chef* that will see contestants using produce taken directly from the stage itself.

Generating Y (23 March) is a whole day of activities dedicated to young people. Curated and organised by members of local youth organisations **XtremeInc** and **FReeZA**, the day will feature singing and dance workshops, performances from young musicians including the new **XtremeInc Youth Choir**, and a specially choreographed dance piece responding to the Festival theme 'Elemental'. And to top it off, the young foodies in our midst will take part in the provision of delectable dishes.

The *Generating Y* program will also showcase *This is Me—Now* (16-24 March), a series of video portraits by five young people from the Castlemaine district produced in collaboration with **Ranters Theatre**; *Lost in Tranzit* (16-23 March) a multimedia installation created by three groups of young people from Castlemaine, Hobsons Bay and St Albans in 2011, in collaboration with **Blackhole Theatre**; and *Trace Video Architecture* (22-23 March) a spontaneous, collaborative and interactive project that re-imagines the built and natural environments of our public spaces and explores the relationships of multidisciplinary arts practice, integrating elements of drawing, painting, movement and sound with the ethereal, dream-like element of light.

VOICE & CO. is a series of workshops (16-23 March) that will bring together local and visiting singers and choir directors with the Castlemaine community in the spirit of song. Festival goers can participate in a range of vocal workshops including: a lip to lung vocal adventure with **Mal Webb**, modern songwriting with **Casey Bennetto**, an exploration of sounds and sonic spaces with **Penny Larkins and Carl Pannuzzo**, traditional Sudanese women's songs with **Ajax Kwai**, musical story-telling with **Anne Conway**, vocal techniques and phonetic fundamentals with **Scott Sanders**, body and vocal percussion and all things funky with **Stephan Taberner**, intro to emceeing, rap and hip-hop with **Jesse Lavery and Wade Kongas**, and funky harmonies with **Maggie and Elsie Rigby**. The workshops will come together with a performance on the last day of the festival for a celebratory finale at Victory Park.



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LITERATURE PROGRAM

Collective DNA: We Are Made of Stories, Poetry and Song

Featuring 7 events and a veritable smorgasbord of players, including local and international literary giants, newbie authors, dancers, doctors, puppeteers, journalists, critics, playwrights, lawyers, actors, poets, activists, comics and singers, the 2013 Castlemaine State Festival literature program will present stories you'll recognise, poems you'll understand, songs you'll be humming and dance moves you'll wish were your own.

Paying homage to Olivia Newton-John's clarion call of the early eighties, ***Let Me Hear Your Body Talk*** (17 March) will be a full 'workout' of stories written on, in or by the body.

Declaim to Fame (19 March) asks Festival artists to reveal the iconic and not-so-iconic 'texts' they are drawn to and why. Expect everything from Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' to Susan Boyle's 'I dreamed a dream'...

Get amped and plugged in for ***Hairbrushes and Air Guitars*** (21 March) —a night of stories by a rollicking line-up of musicians, music writers, critics, comics and music lovers of the songs that killed them softly or rocked them hard: when, why and how.

Challenging the predictability of a certain famous plot line, ***Luke...I Am Your Father*** (22 March) will be a night of stories of less 'expected' family revelations and/or wished-for additions to the family tree as told by a stellar line-up of disappointed children (now esteemed writers) and their imaginary parental units, siblings and friends.

In ***Everything you need is here*** (16 March), three internationally lauded poets—**Glenn Colquhoun**, **Cate Kennedy** and **Cyril Wong**—bring you poetry, performance and more...and when we say more, we mean classical Indian dance, pop songs, opera and the haka.

Let poetry save your life with ***Poetry Triage*** (23 March). Our friendly poetry triage staff will be on hand to guide 'patients' through a step-by-step triage process—the patient's history with and need for poetry will be determined, and tests for adverse reactions to poetry will be carried out. Attending physicians (poets) will then administer their particular brand of 'medicine' on the triage floor in a series of one-on-one consultations.

Finally, ***The Sound of Our Own Voices - forum*** (16 March) will act as a Festival taster, with artists from across the larger Festival program called on to discuss 'voice', its manifestation in their particular practice and its employ in their lives. A hybrid musical, literary and performance panel—where you can add your own voice to the mix.

Featuring: **Cate Kennedy, Romy Ash, Benjamin Law, Jeff Sparrow, Glenn Colquhoun, Lachlan Plain, Colleen Burke, Jayanthi Siva, Sabrina Zuber, Bhagya Murthy, Nancy Black, Michael 'Dan' Mori, Cyril Wong, Jordie Albiston, Elisabeth Campbell, Nathan Curnow, Ross Donlon, Rodney Croome, Alice Garner, Iris Makler, Michael Gurr, Jane Rocca, Barry Divola, Peggy Frew, Pete McCracken, Megan Spencer, Justin Heazlewood, Alice Pung, Matt Blackwood, Ginger Briggs, John Stanton, Maggie Rigby, Elsie Rigby, and Karen McMullan.**



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CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL MENTORSHIPS

The Castlemaine State Festival is proud to have the vision of its Founding Patrons, Berek and Marysia Segan who will once again support the 2013 Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Mentorship, created to help aspiring regional young people achieve their creative potential.

The 2013 Mentorship brings a selection of Australia's most inspiring vocal and instrumental artists and companies together with music students of the Castlemaine Secondary College for a series of workshops that will culminating in two feature Festival performances.

The first of these mentorships is with Tamil Rogeon, composer and virtuoso violinist from the Raah Project, and string players from the Australian National Academy of Music will conduct a series of workshops with students from the Castlemaine Secondary College over 6 weeks prior to the Festival.

Tamil will focus on improvisational string techniques from some of his own compositions, while Australian National Academy of Music players will work with the students on traditional classical pieces that require concentrated manuscript reading. Altogether they will prepare a special Castlemaine Town Hall concert to be presented on the afternoon of our Generating Y youth day.

After the 2011 success of the Australian Youth Orchestra mentorship, in 2013 the AYO Woodwind Ensemble will mentor Castlemaine Secondary School students for two days of workshops prior to the Festival. Culminating as one ensemble – the Goldfields Secondary Woodwind Ensemble they will perform during the Festival.

The 2013 Dominique Segan Emerging Artist Mentorship will culminate in an award of \$2,000 to one of the participating mentored students to support their artistic and music aspirations. The Award will be presented by the Festival's Founding Patron, Berek Segan (now 96 years of age) and Marysia Segan at a concert on Saturday 23 March at the Castlemaine Town Hall.



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MUSIC PROGRAM PART 1: TOWN HALL AND FESTIVAL CLUBROOMS

The 2013 Castlemaine State Festival will again host an expansive music program including an outstanding range of styles, genres and ages, with international and local acts performing across a variety of venues, from the sacred to the subterranean.

The **Castlemaine Town Hall** will present 7 concerts ranging across classical, choral, flamenco, jazz and soul. Join the **Australian String Quartet** and **award-winning Australian soprano, Tiffany Speight**, (16 March) for a brave and evocative program of music by Andriessen, Respighi, Golijov and Brahms.

Modern jazz ensemble, **The Sun Songbook** (17 March), led by jazz trumpeter **Phil Slater**, will perform adaptations and interpretations of the music of **Peter Sculthorpe**, one of Australia's pre-eminent composers.

Arrebato Ensemble (20 March) is made up of outstanding musicians led by acclaimed flamenco guitarist **Greg Alfonzetti**. Merging original music with contemporary flamenco, they create a passionately moving musical style with an intensely international flavor that has excited audiences and critics alike.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the death of 'the little sparrow', **French-born cabaret star Caroline Nin** will present ***Hymne a Piaf*** (21 March)—a performance in honour of Edith Piaf's music and tragic but extraordinary life. Nin made her debut in the late 80s at the Hollywood Savoy in Paris, a swing and jazz venue. Her frank and tender bi-lingual tribute is spine-tingling as she breathes new life into familiar anthems.

The performers in Sydney's experimental jazz trio **The Necks** (22 March) conjure a chemistry together that defies description in orthodox terms. Not entirely avant-garde, nor minimalist, nor ambient, nor jazz, the music of The Necks is unique in the world today.

Bringing together the crème of Melbourne's emerging innovators and musical agitators, **The Raah Project** (23 March) reimagines the established concepts of jazz, electronica, hip hop, dance and soul music. Their performance will draw from musical influences as diverse as Kanye West, Charlie Parker, Igor Stravinsky and King Tubby with a 16-piece ensemble.

The premiere Australian performance in the Castlemaine Gaol by world-renowned Corsican a capella choir **A Filetta** (24 March) is guaranteed to be a 2013 Castlemaine State Festival highlight. Performing works from the very traditional to the contemporary, these male choralists sensitively detect the movement and vibration in each other's bodies to blend harmoniously into a single instrument.

Backstage at the Castlemaine Town Hall throughout the festival you'll find **The Clubrooms**, where you can warm up for an evening of Festival performances or wind down when the performances are done and dusted. This unique venue will be sporting a rub-a-dub bar and grub, as well as A-grade performances from a string of bands guaranteed to get your body moving, including the **Allstars**, **The Black Diamonds**, **Tuba Skinny (USA)**, **Flap!** and **guest players** from the festival 'bench'. The Clubrooms combine live art with Allstar attitude, cabaret with locker room cheek, deep heat and Dencorub. Come celebrate with the team 'til the stars go home.



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MUSIC PROGRAM PART 2: CHURCH AND REGIONAL

Fresh off the blocks and utterly lovely local sisters **Maggie and Elsie Rigby** with **Anita Hillman** are **The Mae Trio** (16 March). Fast making a name for themselves in contemporary folk, they possess a grace beyond their years and write strikingly insightful original songs that they sing in exquisite harmony.

Ludovico's Band (17 March) is one of Australia's most dynamic baroque bands, acclaimed for its performances of music from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Their performance will feature the music of John Dowland, Henry Purcell and John Dryden.

Songs with Legs is the creative combination of the skills and gifts of two much-loved folk singers, **Fay White** and **Jane Thompson** (20 March). They bring their unique blend of musical yarn-spinning to audiences.

The Castlemaine State Festival is thrilled to present the extraordinary international classical trio, **Streeton Trio** (21 March). Formed in 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, from three of Australia's leading young musicians, the trio is the only Australian ensemble ever to be selected for the prestigious European Chamber Music Academy, where it has been ensemble-in-residence since 2010.

On 22 March Europe's top klezmer players, the **London Klezmer Quartet**, will take you on a musical odyssey through the Yiddish villages of eastern Europe and beyond, playing the music that keeps wedding parties on their feet for days.

Comprising musicians all residing in the Central Victorian region, exquisite, contemporary classical vocal ensemble **37° South** (23 March) perform a program including lesser-known works by familiar contemporary composers.

Across the regions, four additional performances will take place. After a sell-out 2011 Castlemaine State Festival performance and residency, the **Australian Youth Orchestra** returns in 2013 with their **Wind Quintet** (16 March) who will perform in the atmospheric Anglican Uniting Church, Newstead.

Following a brief residency at the Old Fryerstown School, postmodern bush band, **Jenny M. Thomas and the System** (23 March) have prepared a special performance responding to the distinctive characteristics of this historic gold rush town and its recently restored School. This performance will change everything you thought you knew about Australian bush music.

Acclaimed as one of the world's leading harpists in contemporary and baroque repertoire, **Marshall McGuire** (16 March) will present a recital program in Carman's Tunnel that explores the rich sonorities of this most ancient of instruments within an intimate subterranean space. And in another unusual venue—the home of Harvey Mitchell—soprano **Tiffany Speight** and pianist **David McNicol** (17 March) will unite to perform a recital full of contrasts, featuring the works of Mozart, Dvorak, Grieg and Ivor Novello. David will be playing the famous Bosendorfer Imperial, made in Vienna in 1899.



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CASTLEMAINE VISUAL ARTS BIENNIAL

The **2013 Castlemaine Visual Arts Biennial** will present 4 distinct and exciting exhibitions featuring some of the most **creative individuals from the Central Goldfields region** alongside artists **Tim Craker** (Australia/Malaysia), **Bindi Cole** (Australia), **Tanya Schultz** (Australia) and **Time Circus** (Belgium).

Inaugurated at the 2009 Castlemaine State Festival, the Visual Arts Biennial has become a major component of the Festival program, emphasising the essential role of visual artists in the life of regional Victoria.

Periscope is a major exhibition featuring works from 14 local and national artists. Curated by **Deborah Ratliff**, the exhibition will offer multi-sensorial engagements across a range of extraordinary sites, including an abandoned car salesroom, a former police lock-up and an original miner's cottage. With works created from an eclectic range of materials, including sugar, spice, an artist's mother, double adaptors, Chinese red packets and a reconfigured 1972 Holden Kingswood, **Periscope** promises to be compelling, complex and sometimes strange. A series of 30-minute **floor talks** by **Periscope** artists Rhett D'Costa, Pia Johnson and Leslie Thornton will be held on 17 March.

Artists include **Daniel Armstrong, Julie Collins and Derek John, Rhett D'Costa, Pia Johnson, Ben Laycock, Jessica Ledwich, Tanya Schultz, Dean Smith, Leslie Thornton, Frank Veldze and Jason Waterhouse.**

Showing at the Theatre Royal, **For Such A Time As This** presents 4 very different video art and experimental film works by Aboriginal artist **Bindi Cole**. Including **EH5452** and **Ab Blaster 40,000**, these contemporary and innovative videos provide a compelling glimpse into the politics, personality, playfulness and heart being voiced by Cole today.

Twig, by **Tim Craker**, is a continuation of the artist's long-held fascination with everyday materials and pattern. Using the most basic of building blocks—gum tree twigs and branches collected as fallen bush debris from the local area—Craker will assemble an enormous installation within the Castlemaine Market Building that explores the geometry of the pentagon in two and three-dimensional structures, where mathematical perfection and the imperatives of tessellation balance against natural variation and bush-litter chaos.

Inaugurated in 2011, the Castlemaine State Festival international arts residency will again take place in 2013, this time welcoming Belgian company **Time Circus** to engage in a hugely exciting three-way collaboration with Vossloh Cogifer Australia (steel railway 'switch gear' specialists), and students from Castlemaine Secondary College. The resulting artwork, **Raildomino**, will be a public sculptural installation that draws on the town's famous history in steel forging and railway part production. Fabrication of the sculpture—to be exhibited on the Vossloh Cogifer site in Barker Street, Castlemaine—will commence in the weeks leading up to the Festival, with some of the making process taking place during the Festival.

Associated events include a wide range of local open studios as well as the La Trobe University **Bite** exhibition of new work by higher degree and honours students, as well as **At This Time: Visual Arts Symposium** conversations about relationships between arts institutions, artists and the arts culture of today before the festival.