

Performers Profiles

Jeff Lang — has earned worldwide acclaim as a guitarist, dynamic songwriter and startlingly unique live performer, defying description and genres. His intuitive and idiosyncratic instrumental virtuosity are supported by songs that expand the boundaries of traditional folk, country and blues, creating a new blend of music which is undeniably and deeply steeped in tradition, yet with its vision set on future horizons. As an instrumental storyteller, Lang gives the guitar a voice and then makes it sing.

Bobby Singh — spent much of his childhood in Mumbai studying tabla. Recognised with a great talent, Bobby is the disciple of Aneesh Pradhan, one of the world’s most sought after tabla players. Nurtured into a mature, internationally renowned tabla virtuoso, both in traditional Indian and cross-cultural genres, Bobby has played with many of the top musicians in Australia and the world.

Together these Australian based musicians first met musically through their Aria Award winning world music project “Djan Djan” with Malian kora player, Mamadou Diabate. Jeff and Bobby’s relationship has endured beyond this project into a musical meeting point of folk, blues and Indian influences yet with it’s own distinctive personality. Their next collaboration involves Rajasthani musicians Asin Langa & Bhungar Manganiyar in Maru Tarang.

James Southwell Band feat. Charlie Wooton — James commands the stage like few others, and pushes his music past all boundaries and well past what most musicians consider what is safe. Charlie is a world class Bassist/Producer from New Orleans, and has worked with some of the biggest names in the world. They have put together a killer band that will see Charlie team up with Legendary Australian Drummer Mark Kennedy. This band will bring the funk to Thredbo.

Kevin Borich — The Artist is Kevin Borich with his three-piece Band The Express. Kevin is an iconic Australian Guitarist who’s music appeals to most ages across the board. Kevin plays his first set with a 1930’s National Acoustic guitar followed by his Electric guitars in the second set showing versatility in musical style. He has won the Australian Rock Music Awards Best guitarist for two years running in 1977 & 78 as well as being inducted into the Australian Blues Hall of Fame for his musical contributions.

The Foreday Riders — A working blues band since 1967, the Foreday Riders return to Thredbo in 2017 – the 50th anniversary of the band. The King Brothers, Ron (harmonica, vocals) and Jeff (guitar, Dobro) were foundation members and remain happy ‘backroom boys’ in the present outfit. The Riders’ credo: work hard and play hard – at every gig! That’s our intention at Thredbo 2017.

STARS IN CONCERT

Mal Eastick & Mick Pealing — Iconic Aussie country rock band STARS are Back Again and for the first time in over 40 years the original line-up of Mick Pealing, Mal Eastick, Glyn Dowding and Roger McLachlan, together with Nick Charles, are set to play their first Victorian show at the fabulous Thredbo Blues Festival 2017.

Originally from Adelaide Stars moved to Melbourne after being discovered by Beeb Birtles of Little River Band. By this stage the Andy Durant joined the band and began writing some of the most notable Australian songs before his untimely death at the age of 25. STARS supported The Beach Boys, Linda Ronstadt, and Joe Cocker and toured extensively to sell out gigs Australia wide. Many have said their country rock blend coupled with Durant’s lyrics were well ahead of their time and are often referred as Australia’s Eagles.

The band’s debut album Paradise peaked at No.11 on the Aussie charts and included their highest charting single Look After Yourself. This was followed by their second album Land of Fortune and then 1157 named after the number of live gigs they had done. The single Mighty Rock can be heard on radio today and is often requested by their loyal fan base.

Rick Melick— Rick Melick’s time has come. After years of keyboard duties as a side man to many of Australia’s great rock and rhythm & blues acts he is stepping out front to bring his own fresh and unique approach to RnB, funk and soul music. When you take a bunch of Australia’s best touring and studio musicians and let them play the music they really love, then you have a world class rhythm and blues band that is The Rick Melick Band

Kate Lush Band — Kate is one of Australia’s most outstanding Blues & Soul vocalists. Gritty, soulful & straight from the heart. Think Susan Tedeschi, Sara Bareilles with a dash of Aretha’s Soul & Bonnie Raitt’s harder rock edge. Great original songs, an outstanding band, and that is Kate Lush. Be prepared to be blown away!

Owen Campbell Band — With the 2014 release of Owen Campbell’s album, The Pilgrim, Owen showcased his bluesy vocals and smoky delivery serving up images of a veteran blues guitarist and singer, with a touch of The Band’s Robbie Robertson mixed in. This was the gateway that has allowed Owen to expound upon his many talents and keep you coming back for more.

Pete Cornelius — Pete Cornelius grew up as far away from the Delta heartland as is almost humanely possible. He’s never picked cotton, never hitched a ride on a freight train, nor traded with the Devil. Not knowingly, anyway. Yet the 32-year-old Tasmanian is one of the most experienced young bluesman in the country, with more live shows and festival appearances, album releases and awards under his belt than most performers twice his age.

Phil Manning — It is impossible to talk about blues music in Australia without Phil Manning being mentioned in the first sentence. Since the late 60’s Phil has been at the forefront of this genre as well as exploring other styles widely. His ability to absorb other styles and craft them to suit his personality has made him one of the truly unique performers of his time.

PJ O’Brien Band — Australian Blues artist PJ O’Brien knows how to get a party started. His fat and funky fretwork has been turning heads from Sydney to Memphis, Chicago, Austin, London, Singapore and back again. Along with frequent flyer points PJ has gathered a swag of awards including: Blues Song of the Year, WA Music Awards (WAMIs); Music Oz Blues Artist of the Year; Sydney Blues

The New South — If you are worried about the future of music – don’t be! Playing together for more than a year now The New South (formed from three of the members of Just Us) represent the future of contemporary music. The band members are well versed in many genres, styles and instruments, they have a particular love of Blues, Funk and Soul.

The band quickly established itself as an act with the presence, technique and stagecraft that one would expect of far more seasoned performers. The difference being that their average age is fifteen! Not content with playing covers the band writes its own music bringing a mix of the familiar and new to every performance.

19Twenty — 19-Twenty have been whipping up a frenzy on the festival scene. They are electric. They are manic. An infectious riff and groove based blue-billy-grass-rockin’-roots band. Imagine walking into a bar a little bit cut and a little bent sideways. You look to the stage, lights are turned down, amps cranked up. You hear one part Gary Clark Jr, one part Black Keys, and a whole lot of drunken sailor. This is what the latest single “Sailor Jerry” conjures.

Arc Riders — “The Arc Riders” is the brainchild of Tony Cini whose career in music has spanned almost five decades. After putting to rest “work horse” band, the Ginhouse Bluesband, Tony has decided to move into a new direction by forming “The Arc Riders”. There will not be a regular band line-up, just household known band members ready to deb in and give it their all, reminiscent of The Party Boys in the 1980s. Tony’s early influences included the British Blues boom of the late 1960’s with bands such as Cream, Free and the original Blues-based Fleetwood Mac.

Chase The Sun — The Australian heavyweight champions of Blues-rock shred have roots planted in the blues scene but have been letting their love of rock and roll fully hang out since forming in 2007. Crowd favourites at festivals all over the country, Chase The Sun infuse their take on the blues with loud guitar, blazing hard funk and a cranking 70’s southern rock feel.

Dogg’n It — Dogg’n It are Australian Storytellers and Song writers. Dogg’n it live performances take you on a journey through Australia’s past, and celebrate iconic Australian culture, with original songs about Timber getting, Whaling and the Hungry Mile at Millers Point, they will take you on a blues journey that bypasses thought and taps directly into the heart and soul.

The Steve Edmonds band has garnered a reputation as one of the country’s coolest BLUES/ROCK acts. Edmonds’ many years as guitarist to some of Australia’s finest recording artists (Jimmy Barnes, Renee Geyer, Doug Parkinson, Billy Thorpe, Delta Goodrem, Margaret Urlich, Chain, Hippo’s, Matt Finish and Shannon Noll to name a few) has earned him a quality reputation as sideman to the stars and guitarist extraordinaire.

The Blues Preachers— Last year, with the release of their second record, Dry Long So, the Sydney based Blues Preachers in my opinion, put out one of the best blues records of the decade. The Blues Preachers will take you to another place and time, somewhere between 1920 and 1940. Their music paints a landscape of pre-war struggle and determination with sounds reminiscent of the Deep South. The Blues Preachers perform a fusion of good old blues, rags, gospel and hillbilly folk. The powerful simplicity of driving finger-style and slide-guitar combined with the sounds of tasteful harmonica and old-school vocal harmonies create a traditional and untarnished sound that will have you on the edge of your seats.

Mary Jane Guiney Band — Born in Ireland, Mary Jane Guiney currently lives in Sydney Australia. Mary Jane frequently visits the United States and has adopted New Orleans as her favourite place to study, write and develop her music. With nearly three decades in the music business, Mary Jane has performed at various venues, concerts and festivals around the world including Byron Bay Blues and Roots Festival Australia, Lugano Blues Festival Switzerland, Tangier Jazz Festival Morocco. Small in stature, yet big in voice and heart, Mary Jane is an artist who is a treasure to all she touches.

“Hat Fitz and Cara — Hat Fitz is a “veteran” wild man of the blues scene in Australia. He has a record 18 straight appearances at Byron’s East Coast Blues and Roots Festival, a record that is not likely to ever be broken, and one which bears testimony to his amazing live performances and popularity with festival goers. Cara draws on her soul background (she’s toured Europe and the United States with singers such as Jamiroquai and the hugely popular Corinne Bailey-Rae), and although blessed with a sensational voice she was not content to be labelled as ‘just a singer’. She has taken to drumming duties as well as washboards, flute and tin whistle, sometimes all at once.

Ray Beadle — Ray Beadle is one of Australia’s most acclaimed and gifted guitarists, possessing a voice resplendent with soul and rich with life experience and we’re so pleased to have him back to perform 2 rockin’ [solo & band] sets at the Caravan once again! Picking up a guitar at the age of nine and with a career spanning more than 14 years, Ray Beadle is one of Australia’s most acclaimed and gifted guitarists, possessing a voice resplendent with soul and rich with life experience.

Groove Kings — The Groove Kings are five blokes intent on invoking the spirits of Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Slim Harpo, T-Bone Walker, William Clarke, Big Walter and a host of other Blues music titans, past and present. Using the time-honoured line-up of guitar, harmonica, vocals, drums, bass and keyboards, The Groove Kings dig deep into rich seams of shuffles, slow Blues, swamp Blues-Pop, West Coast Jump Blues and Old School R&B. Come and see why The Groove Kings have delighted audiences at festivals and live music venues with their deluxe take on the best traditions of Blues music.

Chris Raggatt — The CJ Raggatt Band is an exciting blues and roots quintet from Sydney Australia. CJ plays a double-neck guitar of his own design, incorporating an open-tuned slide guitar and a conventional six-string electric guitar. CJ and the band play their own style of stomping Rhythm and Blues, thrilling audiences with their distinctive high energy rocking blues and soulful ballads.

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