

WOMAdelaide

SOUNDS OF THE PLANET 2008

Media Release

WOMAdelaide 2008 – Full Line-Up Announced Today

Every summer for three days and two magical nights, Adelaide's stunning **Botanic Park** comes to life rejoicing in the richness of cultures from around our diverse planet. **WOMAdelaide 2008** will see over 400 artists from 20 countries unite to celebrate cultural diversity and the depth of creative talent from around the globe. Winner of the **2007 SA Tourism Awards, Bronze, WOMAdelaide** is, "as close to heaven as we can hope for in this lifetime." Sydney Morning Herald.

From **7 – 9 March WOMAdelaide 2008** will feature an impressive line-up of established greats alongside many new talents on seven open air stages throughout the park, alongside over 100 international food, crafts and display stalls plus street theatre, performance installations, visual arts, workshop activities, KidZone and more.

Event Director, Ian Scobie today announced details of the full line-up in the company of The Hon John Hill MP, The Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MSc MBBS PhD FRCPA MP, sponsors and media.

"Since 1992 WOMAdelaide has developed and refined a tradition of presenting an eclectic program of some of the worlds most extraordinary artists who with their art communicate across all the barriers of language, to all ages and in so doing open the pathways to new experiences for the audience – and each other. Over sixteen years and bridging the generations WOMAdelaide through the artists it presents enables us all to revisit the village green and experienced the pleasure and excitement of the new sights and sounds of the world in one park over one weekend." He said.

In addition to the 10 artists and companies announced in October, the 2008 line-up will feature:

American songwriter Zach Condon creates folk music that transcends generations and nations, where French Gypsy music meets American pop. After the first **Beirut album** in 2006, he constructed an eight member "ramshackle orchestra" for performing, and won further acclaim for *The Flying Club Cup* album.

Since singer-songwriter-guitarist Mat McHugh started **The Beautiful Girls (Australia)** in 2002, much about the band has changed, cruising from roots, hip-hop, reggae and soul to pop songs crafted within a bluesy folk core. The current album shifts again, with beefy reggae rock and driving ska-pop influence.

The alter ego of Kevin Mitchell – vocalist/guitarist for Australian indie pop band Jebediah – is enjoying a fulsome life since Mitchell issued a solo album under the guise of **Bob Evans (Australia)** in 2003. Since the release of his 2006 follow up, Mitchell has been doing Bob Evans shows at Australia's largest festivals, in Los Angeles, New York, London and throughout South Africa.

Clube do Balanço (Brazil) has re-ignited the work of Brazil's 1960s samba-rock masters, introducing a new generation of dance audiences to this pulsating ballroom style. Mixing jazz, rock and soul with an irresistible samba beat, this nine-member band's legend has been cemented through extraordinary live performances.

As Israel's most celebrated modern singer, **David D'Or (Israel)** has integrated elements of classical, pop, ethnic, Jewish and world music into his own unique sound. At WOMAdelaide he will present his stunning interpretation of Jewish prayers collected from across the diaspora.

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Don McGlashan & the Seven Sisters (New Zealand). As a canny wordsmith, astute social observer and crafty musician, Don McGlashan stands tall among New Zealand's best contemporary songwriters. After his leading roles in innovative music/theatre/film act The Front Lawn and international touring band The Mutton Birds, Don issued the strong *Warm Hand* album in 2006 with his new band The Seven Sisters. WOMADelaide exclusive

Founded in 1978, **Farafina (Burkina Faso)** has fascinated audiences with its virtuosity and ability to expand musical ideas without surrendering traditional instruments - djembes, tama, baras, balafons, flute and koras - while adding contemporary sounds through guitar and keyboard. WOMADelaide exclusive.

Highway 31 (Australia) are bassist Billy Hangan, guitarist/singer Zac Kingston, guitarist Steve Pederson and drummer Mel Horsman, who have transformed their casual porch jam sessions into a new Adelaide band that boasts a laid back country/folk feel echoing their musical heroes, from Bob Dylan and Paul Kelly to Steve Earle and Wilco.

Since emerging in 2002, **Idan Raichel Project (Israel)**, has offered a powerful message of love and tolerance within its blend of Ethiopian and Middle Eastern musical influences. Keyboardist/composer Idan Raichel recorded with more than 70 singers and musicians, but performs with a seven-piece band and singers from Ethiopia, South America, South Africa and different parts of Israel.

The energised, funky take on roots music by the **The John Butler Trio (Australia)** is resonating in the world's ears. Born in California and raised in Western Australia, John has progressed from iconic busker to chart-topping sensation, earning two ARIA awards with the band in 2007 for their *Grand National* album.

A lifelong study in percussion for **Joji Hirota Trio (Japan)** involved learning from the great master of Japanese Taiko drumming Itto Obha. After relocating to London in the 1970s, Joji has composed film and TV scores, worked with classical ensemble Tozai and released five solo albums with his London-based Taiko drummers group. WOMADelaide exclusive.

Joseph Tawadros Trio (Egypt/Australia), born in Cairo but immigrating to Australia with his family when he was two, Joseph Tawadros has emerged as a masterful oud player, performing with tabla master Zakir Hussain, Sultan Khan, Slava Grigoryan, Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and in his acclaimed trio with his percussionist brother James and jazz/funk bass player Ben Rodgers.

Respectfully dubbed "The Ray Charles of Cambodia," **Master Kong Nay (Cambodia)** is one of the most celebrated artists in the chapei tradition. Accompanied by his own spirited strumming on the chapei dang weng (a Cambodian long-necked lute), Kong Nay uses his lively voice and tenacious word play to cleverly improvise poetry and song. His student and accompanist, **Ouch Savy**, will join Kong Nay onstage. WOMADelaide exclusive.

Four brothers form the core of **Kora (New Zealand)** with huge live presence, Laughton, Francis, Stuart and Brad Kora combine with Dan McGruer to conjure soaring vocal harmonies atop powerhouse funky dub and reggae beats. Kora's debut self-titled album hit the top of the NZ charts on release in October 2007.

While studying at Koori Kollij in Collingwood, **Kutcha Edwards (Australia)** started singing in 1991 and was soon touring the world with Melbourne Koori band Blackfire. He started a solo career in 2002, wrote and produced his own theatre show, and in 2007 issued a CD, supported by his new six-man band. Kutcha will perform with this band and also as part of *Murandak: The Black Arm Band*.

Adelaide band **Lowrider (Australia)** blends smooth hip hop and soul, with an emphasis on expert musicianship and improvised live performances. Comprising brothers John Bartlett (piano/keyboards) and Paul Bartlett (drums/beats), with singer Joe Braithwaite and bass player Scott Duncan, Lowrider released its debut self-titled CD in August 2007.

Having learned to play the kora since the age of four, **Mamadou Diabate (Mali)** has been embraced by musicians from jazz luminaries Donald Byrd and Randy Weston to blues masters Eric Bibb and Guy Davis. At WOMADelaide, he will join his famous kora-playing cousin Toumani Diabate for a thrilling duet.

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Hindustani classical vocalist **Manjiri Kelkar (India)** has shot to fame as India's finest young singer, moving with graceful ease from purely classical to semi-classical forms such as thumri, with meticulous attention to the spirit of the raag she sings. She is accompanied by Utpal Dutta on tabla and Suyog Kundalkar on harmonium.

Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill (Ireland/USA), Irish fiddle virtuoso Martin Hayes and American guitarist Dennis Cahill possess a rare musical kinship, enabling them to push traditional Irish music to the edge of the genre with slow-building, fiery performances that draw parallels with jazz masters, and albums that have attracted a legion of listeners.

Through 40 years of singing, **Mavis Staples (USA)** has stamped her reputation as a legend in soul and gospel music, appearing with everyone from Martin Luther King and her famed family group The Staples Singers to Janis Joplin, Pink Floyd and Santana, and recording with artists as diverse as Bob Dylan and George Jones.

Mista Savona (Australia), Melbourne producer/musician Jake Savona is the brains behind *Melbourne Meets Kingston* – a roots reggae-dancehall album featuring some of Jamaica's most renowned singers and 'toastmasters', supported by leading Australian musicians. A 13-piece group has been assembled to bring this huge and exciting sound to the stage.

As a versatile electric and acoustic guitarist, distinctive singer and powerful harp player, Brisbane's **Mojo Webb (Australia)** is making waves in the Australian blues and roots scene. His debut album *The Burden* shows off Mojo's multi-instrumentalist skills further, with him playing every instrument, including saxophone, bass and drums.

Coming to music initially through church, school and her father's oddball record collection, New York City DJ **Nickodemus (USA)**, famed for founding the Turntables on the Hudson parties, has a unique hip hop flavour, incorporating breaky beats and brisk grooves with live congas and bongos. His *Endangered Species* album embraces World, folk, funk, jazz, hip hop and dance music, all laced with messages of peace and love.

From the Tiwi Islands, the **Pwanga Womens Enterprise (Australia)** features 17 Tiwi women producing unique fabric prints and sewn garments in brilliant bold, timeless designs, feature traditional symbols, structures, family and environmental representations central to Tiwi culture. For WOMADelaide, Pwanga will create screen-printed fabric on site.

Sarah Blasko (Australia) Coming to music initially through church, school and her father's oddball record collection, Sarah spent years writing, recording and playing live before emerging as a solo artist. Her albums *The Overture & the Underscore* and *What The Sea Wants, The Sea Will Have* gained international fans through her commitment to perform live the world over - with her five-piece band, and in duo.

For 20 years, Soul Jazz Records has run its own music shops and recording labels, issuing more than 250 releases, while **Soul Jazz Sound System (UK)** DJs and MCs have run London's 100% Dynamite club for the past nine years. Appearing at WOMADelaide will be DJs Pete Reilly and Stuart Baker with MC Oxman.

Afro-Peruvian music had little respect within Peru until the beautiful songs of **Susana Baca Susana Baca (Peru)** won widespread international acclaim. Mixing traditional and contemporary music with lyrics written collaboratively with many of Latin America's leading poets, Susana sings with heartfelt delivery on Peruvian forms such as the landó or vals while embracing elements of Cuban and Brazilian music. WOMADelaide exclusive.

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Brisbane-based Tibetan singer **Tenzin Choegyal and the Tashi Lhunpo Monks of Tibet (Australia/Tibet)** will conduct a variety of performances and rituals at WOMADelaide; a solo concert by Tenzin, a concert by Tenzin and the monks featuring multi-phonic chanting, and guided meditations, teaching Tibetan folk songs, sand art workshops, and creating a sand mandala at their marquee on site.

With songs born in the desert and shaped in the city, **Tecoma (Australia)** seamlessly combines country, jazz and roots music, mixing it up with drum'n'bass rhythms, spaghetti western themes and sampled beats. Amira Pylotis, the musician behind the name Tecoma, has won wide plaudits for her first album, *Home Brew*.

Toumani Diabate's Symmetric Orchestra (Mali), more than any other kora player, Toumani Diabate has taken this unique 21-string West African harp to audiences around the world. As an instrumental virtuoso, band leader, teacher, musical conservationist and composer, he is at the vanguard of a new generation of Malian griots modernising but still honouring their musical tradition.

Victor Valdes and The Real Mexico Mariachi Band (Mexico/Australia), for 10 years, musician, singer and dancer Victor Valdes was a member of the highly acclaimed Tien Huicani from Veracruz, named best folk group in Mexico, before relocating to Sydney in 1998 and assembling local talent from leading Mexican and Latin American acts to create Australia's first authentic Mexican Mariachi band.

The distorted rock riffs and funk-ed-up Afro-Cuban rhythms of **Watussi (Australia)** have set Australia's music scene alight. Led by Colombian-born singer/guitarist Oscar Jimenez, this eight-piece band conjures wild live shows, and energetic original compositions dissolve genres on its debut album *Tequila, Sangre y Fuego*.

Roving performers and site installation artists include **Angus Watt Flags (UK)** which have been a fixture at WOMADelaide since 1999. His recent banners were made using only solar and wind power at his home in the mountains of Spain, and in 2008 more new flags will flutter throughout Botanic Park.

Established in Melbourne in 1989, **Born in a Taxi (Australia)** produces highly original, humorous, physically driven work, embracing elements of dance, mime, clowning, music, bouffon and improvisation. Nick Papas, Carolyn Hanna and Penny Baron will present the absurd and comically surreal *Boat of Faith*, featuring Leunig's Mr Curly and the lush and leafy roving characters from the Garden Party, a moving garden landscape.' **dotComedy (Australia/UK)** *The Chain* - the Australian premiere of a wonderful secret project, popping up at the festival when you least expect it!

The Cyclogists (Australia), three cyclists resplendent in lycra suits and helmets, arrive in the most unexpected places with their bicycles, dismount, rest them on stands and start playing them like musical instruments. In snappy seven-minute cycling concertos, the trio conjure all sort of musical tricks from various parts of the bicycles. Then, as suddenly as they arrived, they remount and cycle off to a new location.

Melbourne's giant puppet company, **Snuff Puppets (Australia)**, combine elements of puppetry, live music, visual and physical theatre and anarchic cartoon humour to create a unique and idiosyncratic performance language. The "Snuffies" will this year introduce Kareem the African Elephant, who will perform tricks with the help of his tamer.

For the first time in Australia, **Zic Zizou (France)**, nine musician-actor-singers who play multiple instruments and found objects but, at their core, they are a brass band who experiment with punk, funk, rock'n'roll and the element of surprise. In 2008 they bring *Le Kiosque (The Kiosk)*, an abandoned kiosk, part circus, part music box, which comes to life!

Pedson Kasume (Uganda) is a dancer and multi-instrumentalist who after years with Ndere Troupe – Uganda's top dance company, started his own music and dance company Xpera Uganda – a group of young Christians who use Ugandan traditional musical instruments to perform Gospel and traditional music, and more than 20 traditional dances from the multi-ethnic tribes of Uganda. Pedson will conduct workshops at Gilles Street Primary School prior to WOMADelaide. At the festival, he will lead a percussion and

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dance workshop on stage and host workshops on the grass with a magnificent hand-made embaire, a large wooden instrument similar to a xylophone. WOMADelaide exclusive.

Introducing families to delicious international foods and encouraging them to be adventurous, **Taste the World** returns in 2008 with artists and other guests preparing their favourite traditional meals for audiences to sample. **Carclew Youth Arts** will once again present an exciting and diverse program of performance and crafts workshops with a multicultural focus for kids aged 5 and upwards while the WOMADelaide **Parade**, themed "Samba" in 2008, will see workshops throughout the weekend where children can make costumes and head dresses to parade throughout the park on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday evening on Stage 2, Musical Director Don McGlashan (NZ) will lead around 20 festival artists in **The All-Star Gala**, a celebration of musical diversity.

WOMADelaide has been a pioneer in the area of waste management since 2001, leading the way for other major outdoor festivals - no other event in Australia has made such a minimal impact on the site which hosts it. A Finalist in the **2006 Banksia Environmental Awards** in the Eco-Innovation category, **WOMADelaide** maintains its green approach in 2008 by aiming to divert all waste from landfill, returning compost to the Botanic Gardens, providing shuttle buses, free secure bike parks, 'butt bins' and more.

Through the continuing partnership with Greening Australia, 2008 audiences have been given the option of offsetting their emissions when buying a ticket to attend the event (travel, consumption on site etc). And for the first time, an Eco Village of 'green discussions' will be set up, and composting toilets and 'Desert Cubes' - waterless urinal systems - will be used.

In January 2008, WOMADelaide will release its **2008 Sounds of the Planet Compilation CD**, featuring music from 16 festival artists (through Filter Music / Shock Records), as well as the daily schedule and session ticket details (for Fri/Sat/Sun night and Sat or Sun day+night).

The full-line-up is available online now at www.womadelaide.com.au

Weekend Passes available at www.womadelaide.com

All details correct at the time of printing. WOMADelaide reserves the right to change the program without notice.

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More information available online at www.womadelaide.com.au

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