

Noosa Longweekend Festival set to take guests on a magical, musical, mystery tour



The annual 10 day, Noosa Longweekend Festival will be alive with the sound of music from June 18-27 as audiences are taken on a magical, musical world tour with 18 musical related events as performed by a variety of local Sunshine Coast, national and international artists.

Festival Director, **Ian Mackellar** said that this year's musical program featured influences from France, America, India, Japan, Egypt, Macedonia, Africa and Australia and was designed to appeal to a wide selection of musical tastes.

Additionally, the decision to expand the festival for the first time to include **The Events Centre Caloundra** as a cultural partner meant that in some cases, an additional 900 tickets would be available for specific performances for the benefit of music lovers all over Australia.

"A number of musical and dance events including **Tom Burlinson, Band of Brothers, Caroline Nin,** and the **International Stars of Ballet** will play at Noosa and Caloundra this year.

"We also have a selection of intimate, Supper Club performances which will allow audiences the chance to get 'up close and personal' with their favourite performers whilst enjoying a glass of wine and supper in the stunning surrounds of berardos restaurant and bar," Ian said.

The full musical program includes two performances (one at Noosa and one at Caloundra) by Australian screen, stage and singing legend **Tom Burlinson** who will be accompanied by an eight piece show band. Mr Burlinson will perform his widely acclaimed **Frank – A Life in Song** show - a tribute to the late, great Frank Sinatra.

On the home grown theme, Sunshine Coast local duo **Tunji Beier** and **Linsey Pollak** from **Dva** will delight audiences with their Macedonian and South Indian inspired music played on an amazing array of traditional and handmade, hybridised instruments. Tunji will then make a repeat appearance as part of acoustic trio, **The Vitals** with **Ric Halstead** on sax and flute and **Mark Williams** on guitar. **The Vitals** will treat audiences to their original music compositions featuring influences from India, Spain and Eastern Europe.

Joie de vivre will be the order of the evening when festival audiences are transported to France by cabaret chanteuse and Parisian Lido performer **Caroline Nin**. Ms Nin will stage two performances of her amazing **Hymne a Edith Piaf** show which has enjoyed sell out seasons at the Sydney Opera House and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Audiences will once again be given the chance to enjoy Ms Nin's sultry tones during a third festival performance, this time as part of an intimate, late night Supper Club event at **berardos restaurant and bar**. A selection of Lido favourites as well as some French classics by Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf will be performed whilst audiences enjoy a two course supper and glass of wine.

For an Oriental influence, Japanese concert pianist **Yayoi Negishi** and master calligrapher **Juko Saruta** will combine their two arts disciplines to take audiences on a glorious journey of the senses. Yayoi will perform an unforgettable recital of classical masterpieces whilst Juko simultaneously interprets and transforms the musical movements into ancient Japanese symbols, using ancient, large stroke calligraphy brushes.

Previous festival favourites guitar virtuosi, the **Grigoryan** brothers, will return to the stage, this time accompanied by the **Tawadros** brothers under the moniker **Band of Brothers**. The exotic sounds of the Egyptian oud, tambourine and guitar will mesmerise audiences in an adventurous partnership that crosses musical and cultural boundaries.

An exclusive preview of their upcoming European Recital will see the **So-La Voce Chamber Choir** performing polyphonic vocal works from the Western European and early Baroque periods and opera will once again feature as part of the festival program with the **Dame Joan Sutherland Awards**. The bi-annual awards, as judged by a prestigious panel of adjudicators, will launch an aspiring opera singer's career. The audience will join in the judging as they vote for an 'audience choice' award.

Cabaret lovers are well catered for at this year's festival. **Berardos restaurant and bar** will be the venue for Australian cabaret sensation and screen legend, **Toni Lamond** as she performs her **Still Full of Life** show which includes popular Irving Berlin, Neil Sedaka and Stephen Sondheim songs. The show has received rave reviews in New York, Los Angeles and Australia.

Carita Farrer, who has been described as a combination of Shirley Bassey and Dawn French, will present her outrageously camp and hilariously perverse cabaret show, **The Farrer away the Better** in a special one night only, Supper Club appearance. Carita is a singer, comedienne and star of the recent one-woman hit musical *Mutha of All Divas*.

Still on the cabaret theme, two unique cabaret stars of the future **Elizabeth Cousemaker** and **Tom Sharah** will present their 2009, award winning Sydney Cabaret Showcase shows and closer to home, Noosa's own **Blossom Goodchild** will present the premiere of her one, woman cabaret show **Watch Me Blossom** including a snippet from the play *Shirley Valentine*.

For a complete change of pace, *All Saints* star and singer **Virginia Gay** will sing a selection of pop songs interpreted as you've never quite heard them before. Songs from Lady GaGa, Mondo Rock and Guy Sebastian amongst other artists will take on whole new meanings as interpreted by Virginia. This is one for mature audiences only!

Colour and culture awaits at the festival's **Bollywood Dreams** dance workshop and to complete the world tour of musical experiences, participants are encouraged to "unleash their natural rhythms" by singing, drumming and dancing in the **African drumming workshop**.

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TICKET SALES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

- The full festival program can be viewed on line at www.noosalongweekend.com.
- Tickets are on sale NOW. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.
- Tickets for Noosa events are available at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at www.thej.com.au
- Tickets for Caloundra events are available at the Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online www.theeventscentre.com.au
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on the Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com

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For more information, images or interviews with The Noosa Longweekend Festival artists or staff contact:
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The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proudly presented by **MACQUARIE**

NB: Whilst all events listed as part of media communication are accurate at the time of release, the Noosa Longweekend Festival program is subject to change without notice due to circumstances outside of the event organizer's control.