

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

TRIBUTE TO THE CARTER FAMILY

Saturday 2.00pm Voices

The Carter Family really does not need any introduction to folk and country music aficionados as they are regarded as the “Parents of Country Music”. Bob Hart and Eric Johns (“The Silver Strings”) are joined by their friends Julie Barnes, Brian Killie and Ian Hobba to present this tribute to AP, Sara and Mabelle Carter who recorded as the Carter Family from 1926 to 1943. This performance will be a selection of their many songs and a short history of their lives and works. Instruments played will be similar to those used by the Carter Family – banjo, guitar, mandolin and autoharp, as well as the Carter style harmonies.

HUNTING OF THE SNARK – A MUSICAL ODYSSEY

Saturday 3.45pm Yuin

Lewis Carroll’s fantastical sea-faring poem is transformed into an eight-part musical odyssey by Eclectic Kitchen. The band presents readings from each of the poem’s eight “fits” to set the scene for the musical excursions which have been composed by David Harris and arranged by the group.

Published in 1876, The Hunting of the Snark was written as a nonsense ballad for children. What is the meaning of the Hunting of the Snark? Is it an allegory? Does it convey a hidden moral or is it a political satire. Carroll didn’t know. Even twenty years after publication he was still struggling. In a letter to some children he wrote “I’m very much afraid I didn’t mean anything but nonsense. Still, you know words mean more than we mean to express when we use them...” He liked one explanation that it is an allegory on the search for happiness. One academic treatise supposes that the Snark represents material wealth and another that the poem is a satire on the craving for social advancement. Another described it as a satire on an exploratory Arctic voyage of the time. A more recent musing has the Snark as Death and the journey one of existential anxiety! Come and hear it for yourself in this unique and entertaining setting and decide for yourself.

SONS OF FREEDOM

Saturday 4.45pm Yuin

In the net of the Southern Cross Trawlers (Margaret Walters and Don Brian) are several treasures of the Celtic diaspora: epic adventure stories of escape of Fenian prisoners (the Catalpa, the Cyprus Brig); intriguing sons of freedom (John Boyle O’Reilly, Frances McNamara, John Mitchel); broadside ballads; Irish immigrants and the songs they brought with them.

FAMILY FUN, FEAR AND FRIVOLITY

Saturday 7.00pm Voices

An entertaining look at family life through song and verse, from the sentimental to satirical. Presented by Dale and John Dengate and friends. Some of the “friends” who will be contributing to this presentation are Chris Woodland, Jenny O’Reilly, Diane Clifford, Kath Morgan, Seamus Gill and Alan Musgrove.

COMEDY CONCERT

Saturday 4.15pm Mumbulla

A mixed bag of humorous, satirical and rude songs, verse and stories from Bernard Bolan, John Dengate, the Shiny Bum Singers and other surprise (and surprised) guests, interspersed with stand-up comedy from Glover and Sorrensen, will have you rolling in the aisles, or at the very least tickle your funny bone. Laughter is proven to improve health and lengthen life (but don’t expect to be able to claim the cost of your festival ticket from Medicare, not yet anyway).

ALPHA JAZZ CLUB

Saturday 9.30pm Magpie

The Magpie venue on Saturday evening will see folk meeting jazz when the venue converts into an old style acoustic jazz club from 9.30pm. A group of local folk from the Candelo area have merged into a swinging jazzy sextet led by the piano-man Peter Wild and the soulful voice of Charlotte Lyngbye. Other members of the sextet are John Marshall (drums), David Harris (sax), Michael Menager (guitar) and Sam Martin (bass). There will be a few surprise guest performers as well.

POLITICAL SOAPBOX, SATIRE AND SEDITION CONCERT

Sunday 9.30am Magpie

With participants such as John Dengate, Judy Small, the Canberra Union Voices, The Shiny Bum Singers and a number of other guests given the stage and a theme loosely based around politics, a concert both entertaining and controversial is guaranteed. John Dengate is a master parodist with many a politician and royal personage having felt the sting of his satirical songs, Judy Small has written numerous songs concerning social justice issues; add the humorous songs about the public service from The Shiny Bum Singers, some stirring union songs from the Canberra Union Voices and the biting humour of Glover and Sorrensen and this is one concert not to be missed.

SONGS FROM REEDY RIVER

Sunday 11.30am Voices

“Reedy River” is a ground-breaking musical play set in the period after the 1890s shearers’ strike. It was written by Dick Diamond and first performed by the New Theatre in 1953, featuring the band the Bushwhackers and Chris Kempster (1933-2004) who had set Henry Lawson’s poem Reedy River (1896) to music in 1949. The play broke all records for an Australian musical and has since been revived many times. The song itself is now an Australian classic. The Canberra Union Voices will perform a number of songs from the play.

NUCLEAR POWER? NO THANK YOU!

Sunday 1.00pm Yuin

For twenty years, the world seems to have ignored the threat of nuclear catastrophe that was so tangible in the 1980s. In this presentation, Margaret Walters and friends present songs that spoke so clearly back then and are unfortunately still very relevant today.

FAREWELL ALL YE DUKEES AND DUCHESES

Sunday 2.30pm Yuin

That irrepressible master of satire, John Dengate, has put together a themed concert of songs and verse about farewell. Some sad, but mostly covering politician from Menzies and Joh to our latest PM. Guaranteed to be entertaining.

INSTRUMENT WORKSHOPS

GYPSY FIDDLE WITH ALANA HUNT (VARDOS)

Saturday 11.30am Yuin

Alana is the fiddle player from that fabulous group, Vardos. After hearing them play, many fiddle players will want to learn how to play these wonderful gypsy tunes. Alana has learnt directly from Roma (gypsy) musicians in Eastern Europe and is here to pass on the tunes and techniques.

GUITAR WITH MARCUS STURROCK

Saturday 12.30pm Yuin

Here’s a chance for guitarists, whether beginners or advanced, to learn some tricks and techniques from a master. Find out how Marcus achieves his unusual sounds. Marcus says; “Fun is the key. Questions and answers create laughs and an interactive environment”.

ACCORDION WITH DAVE DE SANTI

Saturday 1.30pm Yuin

Dave is probably best known as the long-serving (14 years! – how does he do it?) Director of the very successful Illawarra Folk Festival (originally at Jamberoo, now at Bulli) as well as being a member one of the best bush bands in Australia – Wongawilli. He has been involved in folk music for about 25 years having been turned on to Australian folk music in particular after hearing the Bushwhackers, from just playing the odd Italian folk tune on accordion. Dave is appearing at this festival as a member of the Broomhall, Spillane and De Santi trio. Dave is a superb player of the piano-accordion and has a huge repertoire of tunes from many cultures. This workshop will primarily be for players of piano-accordion but other types such as button accordions will be represented.

AUSTRALIAN TUNES WITH ALAN MUSGROVE

Saturday 2.30pm Yuin

This is a workshop for players of any instrument. Although better known for singing Australian traditional songs, usually accompanied by guitar (see him performing with his Watsaname Band at this festival), Alan is also a renowned collector and fiddle player in the traditional style. In this workshop he will be teaching participants some tunes collected by Alan and other folklorists.

SPOONSLAPPERS WORKSHOP WITH LEON ARUNDELL

Saturday 6.30pm Bunyip

Leon is a multi-instrumentalist who plays mediaeval, Morris, Australian and modern music on the pipe and tabor as well as other instruments and combinations. In this workshop, Leon will be demonstrating and teaching how to make music on that most utilitarian of instruments – the spoons. How to play different rhythms and accompany different tune types. Although conducted in the Bunyip venue used for the kids activities, this workshop is open to everyone – kids of all ages!

WHISTLE WITH JOHNNY SPILLANE

Sunday 9.15am Yuin

John, appearing at this festival as a member of the Broomhall, Spillane and De Santi trio, is a veteran of many well known Illawarra based bands such as Settlers Match and Madd Marianne. John is one of the finest whistle players around and has taught many people to play whistle through his popular workshops at festivals around Australia.

HARP WITH MARK DAVIES

Sunday 10.15am Yuin

Mark is a talented multi-instrumentalist (see him also playing flamenco guitar at this festival) but harp is his main instrument. Not only does he play them but he also makes them. The harps designed and made by Mark range 5 - 6.5 octaves and are made from native Australian Rosewood (fallen timber- not felled). He is an experienced tutor for the harp and this workshop is for players of all standards. He will have a couple of spare harps available, so if you are thinking you would like to learn the harp, this is an opportunity to try one. Alternatively, if you can play harp but do not have your instrument with you, you can still participate.²

WORKSHOPS AT THE CROSSING YOUTH EXPO

These workshops are aimed primarily at young performers but are not restricted to youth. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Voice and Beatbox workshop with Mal Webb

Saturday 12.45pm The Crossing

Around the world and into your brain, vocal adventurer Mal Webb takes you on a lip to lung journey through the fun, physics and physiology of all the sounds a face can make.

Singing workshop with Ecopella

Saturday 3.30pm The Crossing

Explore Rounds, part-singing and harmony using songs about the environment.

Bajji's Full-on Drum Workshop

Saturday 4.30pm The Crossing

Explore the wonderful world of rhythm through drumming.

Stagecraft Skills with David Meyers

Sunday 12.45pm The Crossing

Tips and skills for budding performers. David ran this workshop last year and it proved popular with young performers.