



illawarra **FOLK** FESTIVAL

12-15 JANUARY 2012

BULLI SHOWGROUND, WOLLONGONG, NSW



Presented Illawarra Folk Club Inc. PO Box 5289, Wollongong, NSW 2500

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Sydney gets a taste of the Illawarra Folk Festival

Sydney will get a taste of the state's biggest folk festival when eight acts from the upcoming Illawarra Folk Festival perform at a special showcase concert at the Empire Hotel in Annandale on Sunday, 8 January.

The 27th annual Illawarra Folk Festival will be held at Bulli Showground on 12-15 January, and organisers are staging the showcase to promote the festival to Sydney music lovers.

The show at the Empire Hotel starts at 6.30pm, and costs \$10 (\$5 for festival pass holders). Children under 16 are free, and are very welcome.

Festival Artistic Director David De Santi said the eight acts chosen for the showcase would provide a good cross-section of musical styles and demonstrate what people could expect at the festival.

"We have around 150 acts from Australia and overseas playing over the four days of the festival," Mr De Santi said. "The eight acts performing at the showcase will provide a really good sample of what people can expect at Bulli, from traditional Australian folk to Irish dance and world music – and a lot in between."

The eight showcase acts are:

AZADOOTA: Known for their catchy originals and accessible, dance-driven style, Azadoota fuses traditional Assyrian dabke with Arabic, Latin, Flamenco and Pop. Azadoota is unique as the only Assyrian group who perform outside the Assyrian community. Singer Robin Zirwanda is passionate and genuine, conveying meaning and emotion through gesture, intonation, and cheeky interactions with the band. Backed by pumping grooves and flamboyant percussion, intricate oud improvisations weave through Azadoota's songs, caressing the melody lines with the fluency of a true maestro. Flamenco guitar, the modern descendent of the oud, adds vibrant rhythms and melodies, creating a powerful synthesis of ancient and contemporary.

GET FOLKED: Get Folked are the new faces of old music. Combining traditional Irish, Scottish and medieval music with other folk influences alongside their own unique style, Get Folked are four odd, folksy blokes. From the streets to the stage to the folk session at the pub, they've played their music throughout Sydney.

THE CON ARTISTS: Hailing from The Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, The Con Artists is an all ages community ensemble combining young up and coming students with some of the region's experienced folk musicians. With a vast line-up of wind, brass, percussion and string instruments, the band's high energy repertoire is influenced and informed by the musical traditions of New Orleans brass bands, Klezmer, Balkans, French-Canadian Rock n Reel, Italian Folk, Romani and others. The band is directed by David Rooney and featuring David De Santi (accordion) and Mark Holder-Keeping (sax/clarinet).

SYDNEY IRISH CEILI DANCERS: The group is the longest continuously running traditional Irish dance group in Australia. Formed in 1958 by Peter McKenna, late of Ardee, County Louth, Ireland, this group continues to promote, teach and exhibit traditional Irish dancing at its best. Group leaders and teachers, Margaret and Bill Winnett have danced together since 1964 and together have more than a century of dance experience. They have travelled the world with their dancing and recently returned from their 15th trip to Ireland.

SNUGS: Sydney North Ukulele Group is a bunch of people keen on playing the ukulele based in North Sydney and Forestville. Their philosophy is that everybody plays, sings and has fun. They love to share our music with the community by performing at nursing homes, markets and festivals.

JAMES GASTINEAU AND ANDREW RUSSELL: James Gastineau-Hills is a Sydney based fiddler grounded in the Scottish tradition, but whose associations and musical interests are wide. He has recorded an album of Burns poetry accompanied by Scottish fiddle with reciter Neil Morrison, an album with Scottish band Luce Women, and guested on the latest album from Sydney medieval group Pastance. Andrew Russell grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he played and recorded with many legends of the Nova Scotia music scene. He recorded many albums with the Jarvis Benoit Quartet. He is also an accomplished jazz guitarist who performs regularly in Sydney.

CJ SHAW: Cj Shaw is one of Australia's most entertaining up and coming singer songwriters. Backed by two talented musicians, Cj Shaw engages his audience with witty word play, heartfelt melodies and intricate finger picking.

ALBION FAIR MORRIS : Albion Fair Morris from Sydney have been performing their own distinctive style of morris dancing from England's north west since 1978. They wear striking black and red pinafores with traditional English clogs, and their dances are punctuated by the frequent and urgent blowing of a whistle. Bells, ribbons and garlands add to a colourful, and sometimes noisy, spectacle!

International headline acts that will be playing at the festival in Bulli include Scottish folk singer Dougie Maclean and American folk legend and political activist Peggy Seeger, who is on a farewell tour of Australia. There will also be a great line-up of contemporary acts, including The Bearded Gypsy Band from Adelaide and Melbourne bands the Woohoo Revue and Triple J indie-music favourites Skipping Girl Vinegar.

View the entire festival program at <http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au/page/Program>

Four-day festival passes are \$130 and provide four days and nights of great entertainment, including world class musicians, poetry, folk dancing, musical workshops and international food stalls. You can book your tickets through the festival website www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au or by phoning the **FESTIVAL HOTLINE 1300 887 034**. Tickets are also available over the counter at Albion Park and Bulli post offices.

A feature of the festival is the Green Music Trains that travel from Sydney to the festival, featuring some of the festival acts. The first train on Saturday 14 January will leave Bondi Junction at 8.13am, picking up at Central (platform 25) at 8.29, Hurstville at 8.48 and Sutherland at 8.59, arriving at Bulli at 9.57. The second train will follow one hour later. On Sunday the only service will be the 8.13am train originating at Bondi Junction, with the same pick-up times along the route.

The Illawarra Folk Festival is an annual event presented by volunteers from the Illawarra Folk Club.

Caption: The Con Artists will be hoping their reception is anything but frosty when they play at the Illawarra Folk Festival Showcase at their Empire Hotel, Annandale on Sunday 8 January.

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