

**MEDIA KIT**  
**FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018**



Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	<i>Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Queenscliff Music Festival presents Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2018 featuring Madison Violet and Harry Jakamarra with Elwood Gray</i>
Tour Partner	Queenscliff Music Festival
Artists	Madison Violet (CAN) Harry Jakamarra with Elwood Gray (AUS)
Regional Partners	See Locations
Tour Announce Date	16 August 2018
Tickets On Sale	16 August 2018 <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> Prices vary by location
Web	<a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Twitter	site: <a href="https://twitter.com/SmallHallsAUS">https://twitter.com/SmallHallsAUS</a> Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsSpring <a href="https://twitter.com/madisonviolet">@madisonviolet</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/">https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls">http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls</a>

# MEDIA KIT

## FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls>

### Attachments/Provisions

- Artist biographies
- About Festival of Small Halls
- Locations, local partners
- Media release #1 + Simple Promo Paragraph
- Logo (1)
- Artist Images (3)

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<b>Artist Biographies</b>	<b>3</b>
Madison Violet (CAN)	3
Harry Jakamarra (AUS)	5
<b>Tour Location Details</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>General Promo</b>	<b>8</b>
FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS	9
FROM OUR PATRONS	11
IN THE MEDIA	11

**MEDIA KIT**  
**FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018**

## Artist Biographies

### Madison Violet (CAN)



For those who don't know of Madison Violet, it all began in 1999. Brenley and Lisa met over weak coffee and broccoli omelettes, in a restaurant called The Green Room, in Toronto. It was a chance meeting, 1900 kms away from the small town where both Lisa and Brenley's fathers were born. That was nearly 19 years ago, and the pair have been writing and creating beautiful music together ever since.

When you hear them, the first thing you'll notice is that their voices blend together, symbiotically, like family who were born to sing the same songs. And over the past decade and a half, the pair have taken to genre-bending, moving effortlessly from folk to pop to electronic to Americana. In a word, they are musical chameleons.

Madison Violet's first 2 studio albums, *Worry the Jury* and *Caravan*, were recorded with notable producer John Reynolds (Sinead O'Connor, U2, Damien Dempsey) and were critically acclaimed, garnering the pair several ECMA and CFMA nominations. Their 3rd and 4th releases, *No Fool for Trying* and *The Good In Goodbye* are homegrown collections, recorded in Ontario with producer Les Cooper at the helm. Their 5th studio release, was recorded in Toronto by acclaimed producer, Tino Zolfo (Carly Rae Jepsen, Soul Decision, Hawksley Workman), and solidified the duo as musically versatile powerhouse songwriters. Last Christmas, Madison Violet released their first holiday album, *Sleigh Bells In The Snow* to rave reviews. It is an eclectic mix of Christmas songs, old and new, which also featured their

## MEDIA KIT

### FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

good friend, Ron Sexsmith, on 'Frosty The Snowman'. And finally, their newest collection of songs *The Knight Sessions* is a mix of stripped back, acoustic takes on some of their more upbeat musings as well as a new batch of poetic and heartfelt tunes.

Over the years, Madison Violet have acquired quite a few accolades, including a *Juno* nomination, a *Canadian Folk Music Award for Best Vocal Group Album of the Year* and a *Critic's Choice* award from *Country Music People's Magazine*.

Their songs have been featured in the notorious music magazine *MOJO's* Top 10 Playlist, and received a mass of acclaim from outlets such as the BBC, the CBC, *Maverick Magazine* and NPR, and have earned the duo the Grand Prize in the 2010 Maxell John Lennon Songwriting Contest (which was voted on by a panel of distinguished artists including Elton John, Tim McGraw, Black Eyed Peas, Fergie, John Legend, Enrique Iglesias and Mary J. Blige). Madison Violet were on Germany's WDR's list of 'Best Bands of All Time' as well as having song placements on various television shows. Their remixed single 'These Ships' was released on one of the largest dance labels in the U.S., Ultra Records, and has garnered over 1,000,000 plays on Spotify.

Brenley and Lisa are singer-songwriters. Multi-instrumentalists. Harmonizers. Dog lovers. Painters. Tennis fanatics. Amateur chefs. They have been described as folk, pop, roots, indie & Americana.

[www.madisonviolet.com](http://www.madisonviolet.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/madisonviolet>



<https://www.instagram.com/madisonviolet/>



<https://twitter.com/madisonviolet>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/madisonviolet>

*"Madison Violet really are a joy to experience. . . there are few other acts that can provide such a strong statement of quality musicianship coupled with songs of the highest caliber."*

- Lonesome Highway

*"In the end, it's all about the vocals. The playing is top-rate, especially Cape Breton-er Lisa MacIsaac's native and familial skill on the fiddle and all stringed things, but the harmony blend between the two is arresting."*

- [www.CBC.ca](http://www.CBC.ca)

*"I shouldn't have been too surprised to find a queue stretching down three flights of stairs . . . I soon became as engrossed in the girls' instrumental skills as I already was in love with their songwriting."*

- Maverick

*"Sometimes it all comes together in unexpected ways . . . it might come in the form of two dazzling women singing songs that are pure ear candy, blending perfect harmony with melodies and life-forged lyrics that insinuate their way into your psyche. So it is with Brenley MacEachern and Lisa MacIsaac, who call themselves Madison Violet."*

- AcousticLive

# MEDIA KIT

## FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

### Harry Jakamarra (AUS)



Harry Jakamarra has a voice that stops you dead in your tracks. A punchy, Springsteen-esque growl that's imbued with the rugged texture of the West Australian desert where he grew up.

Harry's songs are truly Australian . . . just like 'Wake in Fright'. A Kimberley Cowboy turned Mad Max, Harry tours in a vegie oil powered fire engine he converted to a house. He tears the roof off Pilbara pubs and southern sit-down gigs alike with his dry Guitar picking and dark, twisted lyrics.

Harry is joined by his younger brother Elwood Gray. Elwood, an already accomplished and road worn song-craftsman, possesses a depth to his playing well beyond his 18 years. With a telepathic ease on stage and virtuosic playing the two create vocal harmonies of a quality only blood can blend, reminiscent of the Everly or Stanley Brothers.

Harry also takes the Clawhammer Banjo style to new levels. Far from a dinky twang, Harry's Banjo playing is closer to the Saharan rasp of the Tuareg rebels who schooled him.

Inspired by Warumpi Band, Midnight Oil and Gillian Welch. Warped by studying Indian Classical on the banks of the Ganges River, and narrowly escaping a Tuareg uprising in Timbuktu. Coloured by a life spent on the road, Harry's music is the most genuine thing you will hear this year. His songs have the poetic staying power of Wilfred Owen, Paul Kelly and Hank Williams.

# MEDIA KIT

## FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

<http://www.harryjakamarra.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/harryjakamarra/>



<https://www.instagram.com/harryjakamarra/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCksRFiJNlbymq7p3WzxHxA/videos>

*"Harry plays that banjo with all the revered spirit of the 'ole timey' while lighting a new exciting virtuosic flame underneath it"*

- John Butler

*"One of the (Woodford) Festival's real stand-out artists of the year."*

- Melanie Tait, ABC Radio National Evenings, 15/12/17

*"And then Harry Jakamarra... just blew me away the first time I met him. He's kind of a genius. He's a bit of a multi-instrumentalist and can play the shit out of the guitar as well as having the amazing, gravelly, Bruce Springsteen-y kind of a voice. I think people are going to love him."*

- Missy Higgins ('The Music' magazine)

*"Harry Jakamarra has great storytelling, a commanding singing voice and he can pick a guitar or a banjo like the devil's on his tail."*

- Jeff Lang

**MEDIA KIT**  
**FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018**

## Tour Location Details

Wednesday, Oct-24	Rocky Creek	Rocky Creek Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Thursday, Oct-25	Mallanganee	Mallanganee Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Friday, Oct-26	Jiggi	Jiggi School of Arts	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Saturday, Oct-27	Moonie	Moonie Sports Club	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or Moonie Rural Transaction Centre
Sunday, Oct-28	Peranga	Peranga Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Wednesday, Oct-31	Wallumbilla	Wallumbilla Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Thursday, Nov-01	Clermont	Clermont Civic Centre	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at The Outback Prospector and Clermont Artslink
Friday, Nov-02	Alpha	Alpha Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at Barcardine Regional Council Administration Office
Nov-03	Jericho	Jericho Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at Barcardine Regional Council Administration Office
Nov-04	Barcardine	Barcardine Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at Barcardine Regional Council Administration Office
Nov-6	Aramac	Aramac Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at Barcardine Regional Council Administration Office
Nov-7	Muttaborra	Muttaborra RSL Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at Barcardine Regional Council Administration Office
Nov-8	Moranbah	Moranbah Arts Centre	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Nov-10	Georgetown	Etheridge Shire Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Nov-11	Dimbulah	Dimbulah Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or at the Dimbulah Community Centre
Nov-14	Nebo	Nebo Memorial Hall	Tickets available at Isaac Regional Council libraries
Nov-15	Ilbilbie	Ilbilbie Community Centre	Tickets available at Isaac Regional Council libraries
Nov-16	Goovigen	Goovigen Community Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Nov-17	Kalpowar	Kalpowar Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or Monto Leading Appliances
Nov-18	Felton	Felton Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

# **MEDIA KIT**

## **FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018**

### **General Promo**

**Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Queenscliff Music Festival presents  
Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2018  
Madison Violet and Harry Jakamarra**

Festival of Small Halls is a series of tours that takes the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists performing at major Australian festivals, and sends them on the road to halls in communities all over Australia. Each night on the tour is a beautiful occasion for original music, and a chance to catch up with family and friends over cake and tea during a supper break.

From the outlying edges of the Toowoomba region to the red and orange horizons of far north Queensland, the tour will travel straight across the Queensland outback via Barcaldine, Clermont and Georgetown and back down its green inland farming belt before heading to showcase at Queenscliff Music Festival.

### **ABOUT THE SPRING TOUR 2018**

- This is the tenth Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- One partner festival – Queenscliff Music Festival
- 20 regional tour stops
- Madison Violet met when Brenley overheard Lisa mention her surname at a cash register in a small cafe. It was a familiar name to her, so the pair got chatting and discovered their fathers had sat together in school. 19 years later, the pair have clocked up eight albums, a Canadian Folk Award, an Independent Music Award, a Juno Award nomination, four ECMA nominations and once caught Sam Smith being inspired by their songwriting from the other side of their flat's front door.
- When Harry Jakamarra learnt to play banjo, he went on a journey through Africa to find the true roots of his beloved instrument that led him all the way to Timbuktu. He produced his most recent EP under the wing of legendary Australian musician Jeff Lang and counts John Butler and Missy Higgins amongst his fans.

### **FROM OUR CURRENT PARTNERS**

*"The Queenscliff Music Festival delivers and develops excellence in Australian contemporary music and celebrates community. This natural alignment with such a prominent tour of community halls has us looking forward to the unfolding of our inaugural partnership with Festival of Small Halls, and the opportunity to deliver more of the best music to even more communities through this programme. We're looking forward to opening the Queenscliff Town Hall with our dedicated Festival of Small Halls showcase at the the festival and we're thrilled to be a part of the Spring Tour 2018."*

- Andrew Orvis, Director, Queenscliff Music Festival



# MEDIA KIT

## FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

### FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

*"The Festival of Small Halls solidified my love of Australia, giving me the opportunity to visit so many beautiful towns and villages that I would have never gotten to see otherwise."*  
Dave Gunning, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018

*'The Festival Of Small Halls was easily one of the most rewarding tour experiences I have ever been a part of. I was blown away by the generosity and warmth of spirit of everyone involved and I feel that the bonds I have made along the way will be there for years to come.'*

Claire Anne Taylor, Festival of Small Halls, Summer and Autumn Tours 2018

*Festival of Small Halls - a brilliant remarkable concept. [The Summer Tour 2017 was] remarkable, artful, successful, fun, and an enlightening run. New friends and fans in a whole new hemisphere. Bucket list stuff for any musician much less any American. The width and breath of some Queensland countryside. I made great friends...*

Vance Gilbert, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2017

*The Festival of Small Halls is a unique program, centred around the spirit of community and the role of music and culture in bringing these communities together. This ethos is a central part of my own career, and to that of many other musicians I know, and it's a privilege and joy to be a part of such a unique tour that distills these simple, and incredibly important, ideas so well and with so much dedication and heart.*

Liz Stringer, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2017

*"I cannot express how amazing our experience was touring the Tasmanian portion of "Festival of Small Halls Australia". Six out of the seven shows were sold out (the other was 90% full) ...as a touring musician this never usually happens. It is a sign of hard work behind the scenes - proper organization, publicity, rapport with the venues and all around excellent team work. Judging by the amount of albums both acts sold, I think the show was enjoyed. A lot of these communities were hurting for entertainment or a reason to come together. As I've seen in other areas where Small Halls has been, it really connects people by celebrating music. They can also forget about the struggle that sometimes happens in small communities. Being from one myself, I know what it's like not having outside culture grace your community... And when it does, you never forget it. The children in these small Tasmanian towns were bursting when it was time to talk at the end of the show. Several kids and a few teenagers told me that they plan on practicing their instruments more or taking up the fiddle (which is cool for me to hear). A real show with real people certainly tops watching one on television or YouTube. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to grace these towns and give back a gift that was given to us."*

Tim Chaisson, The East Pointers, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2016

*'It was one of the best, most inspiring things we've ever done! We are totally in love with the towns and communities we visited, with the extremely kind folk we met along the way, with Kate and Harry, and with the boys! Please know that we are 100% up for doing Small Halls again (and again and again). So grateful for the whole shebang. Will never forget it.'*

Siskin River, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Autumn Tour 2015

*'The Rhythm Boys unanimously agree that Festival of Small Halls Australia was one of the best tours we've ever been on... being immersed in the beautiful rural communities of Victoria and NSW made the experience all the more authentic and special. The crowds were extremely enthusiastic and appreciative for bringing music into their small halls.'*

Gordie MacKeeman and His Rhythm Boys, Canadian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Autumn Tour 2015

## MEDIA KIT

### FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018

*'My experience with the Festival of Small Halls was nothing short of magical. Coming from the frozen plains of Canada and jumping straight into a hot Australian summer gave me some worry at first, but all that worry quickly slipped away. What I walked into was a well run, well executed traveling show that was imbued with cultural relevance and importance that rivals any show I've taken in as a concert goer or as a performer. The greatest opportunity for me as a writer and performer was the chance to connect with a rural Australian audience. My songs and stories are agriculturally themed and I was given the chance hear stories from Australian farmers and producers and also people from all walks of life. This traveling festival seems like a model that could and should be implemented wherever possible. It's my belief that people do love music, and those of us who live in out of the way places don't get enough of an opportunity to take it in. It makes the most sense to me to bring a show to these towns. Rather than broadcast a message that music is only a cultural artifact of the urban landscape, we should all be interested in providing solid footing for the arts in the rural as equally as we do in the city.'*

Del Barber, Canadian Artist, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2014

*'Small Halls is a concept we all really believe in. We are big believers in live music as a way of keeping communities and towns connected and alive. It was humbling to realise how unusual and novel live music is for people living in small or remote towns. More often than not we felt like we were participating in town social events and we felt privileged to encounter some really awesome, inspiring communities as well as some truly quirky ones! We taught songs to high school kids who have never been taught music before (they thought it was the weirdest thing they had ever heard of but ended up embracing it and having fun!) We were also gratified by how well people embraced weird folky music they had clearly not encountered before.'*

The Mae Trio, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2014

*'Festival of Small Halls is an absolutely brilliant initiative! There are so many winners; from the regional communities who seldom have the chance to engage in live, original music, to the historic, intimate and often unused community halls, to the production crew who make the whole thing happen. The biggest winners, though are the artists. Meeting and sharing our music with the folks who turn out to these shows has been the most profoundly rewarding experience. Their honest appreciation and genuine commitment to supporting the whole concept has filled our hearts with hope!'*

Starboard Cannons, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Spring Tour 2014

*'The Small Halls tour was not just another tour! To go into these small, sometimes tiny towns to set up and play shows for the people was truly satisfying. Many of the towns were still in the rebuilding stages from devastating floods, and the Small Halls tour in many cases was the first bit of live entertainment they'd had since then. I felt like my music was helping people. And I'd never really felt that like this before.'*

Jordie Lane, Australian Artist, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, Nov/Dec 2013

*"Having grown up in a small town, my appreciation for the Small Halls Australia tour was deep. There is something truly special about a community coming together in the centre of town with food and drink and people of all ages, to share in a night of music. There was an element of surprise in each town as they showed their pride and colours. This is probably the most unique and memorable tour I've done and certainly a great introduction to many parts of Australia I may never have seen."*

Rose Cousins, Canadian Artist, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, Nov/Dec 2013

# **MEDIA KIT**

## **FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SPRING TOUR 2018**

### **FROM OUR PATRONS**

"I just want to thank Meander Valley Council and particularly Patrick Gambles for the fabulous concert we had on Friday night. Our little community being under siege [from bushfires] for nearly a week and inundated and virtually "taken over" by strangers - I was dispirited, anxious, dog tired and in no mood for this event - it appeared to be just another thing we didn't need right at that moment. What eventuated was that it was EXACTLY what we DID need! The hall looked amazing and we burst with pride. It sounded amazing and we congratulated each other. The crowds were tremendous and we patted each other on the back. The concert was a HUGE success and we felt our spirits lift and our morale soar as we stomped, clapped, yahoo'd and danced with each other. Thank you MVC and Patrick and his team for this moment of light relief in a time of such gloom (literally!). Well done"

- J Lamont, Chudleigh Hall Committee

"This is truly one of the most lovely projects I have seen developed in regional Aus in forever. What a brilliant thing! Big visions and open hearts. These sorts of things sew community back together."

- P Larkins, Girgarre

"Made the four hour trip from Sydney to Grenfell to see these amazing international and local entertainers. What a great night. Can't wait for next year's. Thank you for making my boy exceedingly happy! Kirby exclaimed that Wednesday night at Grenfell Festival of Small Halls Australia was, "the best night of his entire life!" A big call for an 8 year old. Your cd has been on constant rotation, and it seems we'll be making a trip to Canberra, to see you again before you leave Oz. Thank you so very much."

- B Meur, Grenfell

"We live in an isolated area and are very drought-stricken at present. Our community is being hit hard...times are tough for people on our land, and in a micro-community, the effects are felt by all. However, sitting there last night watching such a beautiful and moving performance, all was lost for a while."

- K Sutton, St George

A great experience at Numinbah Valley School of Arts Community Hall. Was invited and really had no idea what to expect. Great concept and a wonderful way to use these halls. Friendly people and wonderful talents on stage.

- R Maguir, Numinbah Valley

### **IN THE MEDIA**

"Once again the good people from the Woodford Folk Festival have hit the nail right on the head... Where in Australia are there promoters thinking of doing a tour featuring such improbable places as Forest Hill, Eulo, Barcaldine, Wallaville?"

Sam Cutler, Rhythms Magazine

"I always thought about the history of the place, the community meetings, the weddings, the dances, the loves lost and found. It always made me a little sad that those spaces were so often locked up and underused. So it cheered me to hear about the Festival of Small Halls..."

Noel Mengel, Courier Mail

"The event is not just an experience for those who watch it, but also for the musos themselves."

Lauren Grounell, Caloundra Weekly