

EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.12.2019

Autumn Bounty Rich with Music for Small Halls in 2020



Australia's largest regionally dedicated music tour Festival of Small Halls has announced its 18th seasonal music tour, the *Autumn Tour 2020: Port Fairy to the National*.

Showcasing the stories and songs of critically acclaimed Scottish group The Paul McKenna Band and emerging Australian singer-songwriter Alana Wilkinson, the tour will travel from the Port Fairy Folk Festival to the National Folk Festival, encompassing four states and territories.

Thriving on the dedication and resilience of the communities that host the shows, this tour boasts 16 communities returning from the Autumn Tour 2019, ready to build on sell-out performances and unprecedented demand. Festival of Small Halls has also welcomed five new Halls for audiences to experience. Each community is armed with fresh belief in the power of music for their regional community and are ready to rock the roofs of their quaint country halls.

The Autumn Tour 2020 launches in the seaside town of Port Fairy for the 44th edition of the iconic Port Fairy Folk Festival. The route will encompass the length of Victoria, from the Gippsland region in the east to Mildura in the west. The merry band will cross the Flinders Ranges to reach up the edge of the South Australian desert and take an Australiana adventure through the Snowy Mountains before a closing celebration in Canberra with the renowned National Folk Festival.

The Autumn Tour 2019 is also presented as part of the trailblazing partnership, *Year of Scotland in Australia*. Year of Scotland in Australia is nationwide calendar of activity celebrating Scottish music, culture, food and drink. YOSA2020 starts 31st December 2019 and continues through until 31st December 2020, with spectacular New Year's Hogmanay celebrations bookending hundreds of activities designed to increase appreciation for the remarkable quality and diversity of Scottish musical culture.

Featured Scottish artist The Paul McKenna Band are returning to Australia after extensive touring throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and Canada. Their latest album *'Breath'* draws on traditional Scottish and Irish folk roots, fusing with a charismatic and warm reality of the bands talent to create a trad-folk-rock and emotively powerful record.

"We are thrilled to be heading back to Australia and to be part of the Small Halls tour, said Paul McKenna.

"This tour allows us to visit towns and share our music with people that we might otherwise miss on a regular touring route".

The Paul McKenna Band is paired with Australian musician Alana Wilkinson, an emerging folk songwriter who brings a charm of sunshine and humility to every show. Hailing from Melbourne, Alana has been carving her way through festivals all around Australia, marvelling audiences from house concerts to supporting sold out national shows. Her songs are stories that discover an affectionately human condition. With a performance of stunning melodies that connect audiences through her vulnerability, humbleness and poeticism, Alana will warm these halls like a freshly brewed pot of tea.

Together these musicians exemplify contemporary folk - full of richness, history and warmth with detailed musing on the lives around them.

The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour starts on the 6th of March 2020 at Port Fairy Folk Festival, then continues onto Pomonal Community Hall on the 11th of March 2020.

Proudly presented by Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival.



LINKS

<http://festivalofsmallhalls.com>
www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls
<https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/>

MEDIA CONTACT

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Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival presents:

Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020: Port Fairy to The National Feat. The Paul McKenna Band (SCO) and Alana Wilkinson (AUS).

6-9 Mar 2020	Port Fairy, VIC	Port Fairy Folk Festival
11 Mar	Pomonal, VIC	Pomonal Community Hall
12 Mar	Robe, VIC	Mt Benson Hall
13 Mar	Lameroo, SA	Lameroo Memorial Hall
14 Mar	Orroroo, SA	Orroroo Memorial Hall
15 Mar	Beltana, SA	Beltana Assembly Hall
18 Mar	Red Cliffs, VIC	Red Cliffs Civic Centre
19 Mar	Wycheproof, VIC	Wycheproof Shire Hall
20 Mar	Caldwell, NSW	Caldwell Hall
21 Mar	Sedgwick, VIC	Sedgwick Public Hall
22 Mar	Glenlyon, VIC	Glenlyon Shire Hall
25 Mar	Loch, VIC	Loch Public Hall
26 Mar	Merton, VIC	Merton Memorial Hall
27 Mar	Hallston, VIC	Hallston Mechanics Institute Hall
28 Mar	Tarwin Lower, VIC	Tarwin Lower Mechanics' Institute
29 Mar	Port Albert, VIC	Port Albert Mechanics Institute
1 Apr	Heyfield, VIC	Heyfield Memorial Hall
2 Apr	Stanley, VIC	Stanley Soldiers Memorial Hall
3 Apr	Dalgety, NSW	Dalgety Memorial Hall
4 Apr	Brungle, NSW	Brungle Memorial Hall
5 Apr	Ganmain, NSW	Ganmain Hall
8 Apr	Barnawartha, NSW	Barnawartha Soldiers Memorial Hall
9-13 Apr 2020	Canberra, ACT	National Folk Festival

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