

MEDIA KIT
FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS AUTUMN TOUR 2020
TO FAIRBRIDGE FESTIVAL AND BEYOND



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| Event | Festival of Small Halls |
| Presenting Line | <i>Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Fairbridge Festival presents Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020 featuring Iona Fyfe and Colin Lillie</i> |
| Tour Partners | Fairbridge Festival |
| Artists | Iona Fyfe (SCO) Colin Lillie (AUS/SCO) |
| Regional Partners | See Locations |
| Tour Announce Date | 26 February 2020 |
| Tickets on Sale | 26 February 2020 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location |
| Web | www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsAutumn |
| Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/ |
| YouTube | http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls |
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls |

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Artist Biographies

Iona Fyfe (SCO)



Short Biography

Aberdeenshire folk singer, Iona Fyfe, has become one of Scotland's finest young folk singers, rooted deeply in the singing traditions of the North East of Scotland. The youngest ever winner of *Scots Singer of the Year* at the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards 2018, Iona has been described as “one of the best Scotland has to offer.”

Full biography

Aberdeenshire folk singer, Iona Fyfe, has become one of Scotland's finest young folk singers, rooted deeply in the singing traditions of the North East of Scotland. The youngest ever winner of *Scots Singer of the Year* at the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards 2018, Iona has been described as “one of the best Scotland has to offer.” ([Global-Music.de](https://www.global-music.de)) With a number of high profile appearances under her belt, Iona, a mere 21 years of age, has toured throughout the UK, Poland, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Canada and Australia and has performed with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of the World Premiere of Disney Pixar's *Brave in Concert* at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Released in 2019, ***Dark Turn of Mind*** is Iona's first EP entirely in English and features six ballads and songs found in both Appalachia and Aberdeenshire and has been described as “a new interpretation to the country genre” – Maverick.

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Iona studied at the prestigious Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and graduated with a first class honours degree in Traditional Music and holds an FLCM in Traditional Voice from London College of Music. A sell-out show at Edinburgh Fringe Festival for three consecutive years, Iona was a finalist in the *BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year* and won the *Molloy Award* at Birmingham Irish Trad Fest. In 2018, Iona performed at Interceltique Festival De Lorient where she was described as “a Scottish folksinger, magical and charismatic” ([Rolling Stone, France](#)). She was nominated for “One to Watch” and “Best Live Performance” at the Sunday Herald Scottish Culture Awards 2018.

Her debut album ***Away From My Window*** was met with critical acclaim and features fresh interpretations of ballads, self-penned and contemporary songs alike, whilst sampling source singers such as Lizzie Higgins and Stanley Robertson and remaining sympathetic to the song tradition of which Iona grew up around. Produced by Jani Lang, of Dallahan, ***Away From My Window*** features a stellar folk line-up of musicians featuring Luc McNally, Tim Edey, Charlie Grey, Simon Gall, Ross Miller Graham Rorie, David Foley, and Charlie Stewart.

“Poignant and well delivered. Singing well within herself, Iona’s voice, at times reminiscent of Cara Dillon, is well suited to the ballads recorded on this album.”

- Scottish Field

*“Describing Iona Fyfe as a Scottish folksinger is probably doing her an injustice, as the versatility displayed on her new, EP release, *Dark Turn of Mind*, reflects her grasp and understanding of jazz, Americana and much more.”*

- RnR Magazine

★★★★★ Country Music Magazine

★★★★★ Maverick

★★★★★ RnR Magazine

Links/Contact:

www.ionafyfe.com

- www.facebook.com/ionafyfesinger
- www.twitter.com/ionafyfe
- <https://www.instagram.com/iona.fyfe/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF2ICSB7TCquQ26mawKtlmw>
- ionafyfe.bandcamp.com

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Colin Lillie (AUS)



Short Biography

Colin Lillie is one of a kind - this you discover within moments of hearing the "Gypsy Scotsman" and proud adopted Territorian share his song. Beyond that, what's truly special about Lillie is his passion for life and music. Capturing the kind of intensity that Colin has on an album or a live performance is something that every musician aspires to.

Full Biography

Colin Lillie is one of a kind - this you discover within moments of hearing the "Gypsy Scotsman" and adopted Territorian share his song. Colin's life experiences shine through fearlessly as he strives to connect.

In 2012 Lillie released an EP beginning his commitment to a life in music. In 2013 he won the NT heat for Telstra Road to Discovery. That same year he worked with Bill Chambers to help produce his wife and Indigenous artist Jacinta Price's album Dry River. In 2014 along with producers Dave Crowe (Resin Moon) and Ben Allen (Broadwing) recorded the self titled EP Shadows on Blue. In 2016 Lillie released his debut album Glass Homes. This album produced by Mark Myers (Middle East) allowed him to share his truth.

The first single from "Glass Homes" Give Thanks won him NT Song of the Year (Blues and Roots). He also took out the National Live Music Award NT in 2016 and 2019 and the AU Reviews Peoples Choice Australian Artist of the Year.

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In 2018 Lillie appeared on The Voice Australia which saw him work with Boy George and share his story to a wider audience. He went on to sign a management deal with Footstomp Music/ Kadence Group and a bookings deal with The Harbour Agency. 2019 saw him tour with The Animals, James Reyne, Diesel and Busby Marou and perform at some of Australia's most loved Festivals including the National Celtic Festival Woodford Folk Festival.

After dozens of shows together Mark Lizottes (Diesel) suggested producing an intimate four track EP (Petrichor) to be released mid 2020.

2020 started with a Lillie showcasing at Folk Alliance in New Orleans. On his return Lillie was straight back on the road with Diesel.

Colin returns to Wild Mountain Studios mid year with producer Jamie Trevaskis (Leanne Tennant) to put the finishing touches on album 2.

Lillie is determined to show that no matter how remote you are you can build a successful career in music while continuing to record and perform live in front of audiences around Australia and beyond.

"With his debut record, Lillie has reached within himself and brought forth something truly special; a glass house is one thing, open for the world to see, but a Glass Home is another entirely."

- The Guardian 4/5 stars.

"A compelling debut album, packed with vocal power, poetry, passion and palpable honesty"

- The Australian 4.5/5 stars

<http://www.colinlillie.com.au/>



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



<https://twitter.com/ColinLillie>



<https://www.instagram.com/colin.lillie.music/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq7MEpkdJon7EzcN8a3kEJQ>

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Tour Location Details

| 17-19 Apr | Fairbridge, WA | Fairbridge Folk Festival | Tickets available at https://fairbridgefestival.com.au/buy/tickets/ |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 22-Apr | Northam | Northam Town Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Northam Visitors Centre |
| 23-Apr | Dalwallinu | Dalwallinu Town Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 24-Apr | Morawa | Morawa Town Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 25-Apr | Seabird | Seabird Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 26-Apr | Lancelin | Lancelin Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Lancelin Community Resource Centre |
| 29-Apr | Kalgoorlie | Chinese Garden of Remembrance | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 30-Apr | Esperance | Esperance Civic Centre | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 1-May | TBC | TBC | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 2-May | Mount Barker | Plantagenet District Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at Mount Barker Newsagent |
| 3-May | Youngs Siding | Youngs Siding Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 6-May | Augusta | Augusta Centennial Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 7-May | Nornalup | Nornalup Community Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 8-May | Wilyabrup | Wilyabrup Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 9-May | Acton Park | Acton Park & Districts Community Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |
| 10-May | Waroona | RSL Memorial Hall | Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com |

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General Promo

Woodfordia Inc in partnership with
Fairbridge Folk Festival
presents
Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020
Iona Fyfe (SCO) and Colin Lillie (AUS/SCO)

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.

Autumn 2020 sees the team venture into western Australia for the first time in Festival of Small Halls' six year history. Launching from one of the oldest folk festivals in Australia and West Australia institution of the arts Fairbridge Folk Festival, the tour covers the Mid-West, Wheatbelt, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Great Southern, South West and Peel regions in a fifteen-date loop of southern West Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTUMN TOUR 2020

- This is the 19th Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- One partner festival – Fairbridge Folk Festival
- 15 regional tour stops
- Iona Fyfe is one of Scotland's finest young ballad singers, and at 21 her songs have taken her around the world. It's also taken her to the Glasgow Royal Concert hall, performing with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of the World Premiere of Disney Pixar's *Brave in Concert*.
- Colin Lillie performed on *The Voice* in 2018, being mentored by Boy George.

FROM OUR CURRENT PARTNERS

"Fairbridge Festival is delighted to partner Woodfordia with its Small Halls initiative. Regional communities across our vast State rarely get the opportunity to engage with world-class music. The initiative strives to activate and inspire communities to deliver social and economic benefits and will leave a blazed trail that other artists can then move through. Wonderful stuff and we whole-heartedly support it."

- Rod Vervest, Artistic Director, Fairbridge Folk Festival

FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

"Apart from the thousands of Kilometres travelled by road, Festival of Small Halls for us was more than a thousand magical steps into the hearts of the communities. We were welcomed in with open arms even though some communities were going through tough times due to the droughts and fires that were happening at that time, their welcome was of warmth and welcome. It was quite the experience for us to make such a connection with the people of these halls through our music and such a privilege to be held so kindly in their community. This experience would only have happened because of the Festival of Small Halls."

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It shows this beautiful country in its wonderful glory in its regional areas to artists that would have never had this experience or opportunity before. Thank you for this experience."

- Cara Robinson, Hat Fitz and Cara, Summer Tour 2019

"Festival of Small Halls was quite possibly our favourite tour we've ever been a part of. Whether it was a big festival or tiny town hall, the crowds welcomed us with open arms and brought so much love to the shows. You really got the sense of the whole community coming together for a special night.

Travelling with and performing alongside an Aussie duo (Ash & Sara) was such a delight, finding instant camaraderie and friendship, which made the tour all the more enjoyable, while both our amazing tour manager and sound tech struck that magical balance of being similarly fantastic company while also running the tour logistics flawlessly.

Also, often times it seemed like everyone in Australia has some connection to Scotland, which is for us pretty special being so far from home. Australia has so much to offer in so many respects and it was such a privilege to receive the opportunity to experience it in this way."

- The Jellyman's Daughter, Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2018

"The Festival of Small Halls is such an incredible concept for both artist and audience. As an artist, to be invited to play music in these beautiful mostly historic country halls was for one night, to become part of the rich history of that hall. And then there was the incredible generosity and welcoming of the local communities. Each town was unique but the common thread between all the communities was their willingness to show this little band of travelling musicians their good old fashioned country hospitality. After each night people would come up and tell us how grateful they were that we travelled all the way to their town. The thing was though, the feeling was mutual. We were grateful that they showed up in all their finery and made the nights so much fun. That they prepared food and really made the night something special for everyone. These were some of the most beautiful shows we've ever done."

- Ash Bell and Sara Tindley, Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2019

"When it comes to music, community and your sense of where you fit in the world, the Festival of Small Halls knows what your heart and soul truly needs more than you do. It was an epic journey filled with boundless music, laughter and memories. If asked to do it again, we would gladly make the 17000 + km trek. Because it's worth it."
Geraldine Hollet, The Once, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2019

"Small Halls is a brilliant, inspiring tour that brings we musicians and regional communities together in a mutual discovery and celebration of each other. With this awareness Small Halls is helping build respect and sustain a healthy responsibility in the relationship between contemporary musicians work and regional Australian communities. I blinking loved every sweat, soaked, dusty morsel of every show and mile."

Liam Gerner, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2019

"It was a life-changing experience for me, being a part of the Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour. It was amazing sharing my music with communities I wouldn't normally get to visit and to be greeted with such warmth and generosity of spirit. We travelled through so many beautiful, special places that I will never forget, and I am sure my memories of the tour will filter into some of my songs in the future!"

Lucy Wise, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2018

"Festival of Small Halls seems to do everything right. From mission to community to execution, this roving, nightly festival shares and is made by the same dedication and love as its parent festival—the Woodford Folk Festival. I saw and met amazing people and places I wouldn't

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ever have dreamed of seeing and visiting and felt able to deliver the best version of myself as an artist over a sustained and lengthy tour thanks to the amazing team. We went to extraordinary places for extraordinary community building and celebratory happenings. Thank you."

Old Man Luedecke, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2018

"Festival of Small Halls breeds new life and culture into Australia's regional communities at a time when it is most needed. A fresh take on an old tradition."

Elwood Gray, Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2018

"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 an experience of a lifetime. Imagine a traveling touring festival where the focus is celebration of community, family and music, all somehow beautifully wrapped in song and story performed by under-the-radar national and international artists, brought to distant corners of the Continent in order to co-create with local communities an evening to remember. It's mind blowing! My bandmate and I were introduced to regions of Australia that many Australians have never seen before, performing in community halls that most have never heard of, singing for audiences of all ages and all walks of life. I recall asking our fabulous tour manager why the parent organisation (Woodfordia) was so keen on the Small Halls tour idea. Her simple yet powerful response was "because it's important." With that I knew we were indeed part of something life changing, of something life giving, not only for us but for everyone involved in the endeavour. I am so honoured to have been a part."

Cara Luft, The Small Glories, Festival of Small Halls Summer 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

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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

'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!'

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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

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

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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 Grounsell, Caloundra Weekly

...if supporting the growth of Australian music is one aim, so is a celebration of the halls themselves, the oldest of which date to pre-federation.

- Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore, The Guardian Australia