



UNDER EMBARGO

2 February 2022

## Festival of Small Halls returns to Victoria with Autumn Tour 2022: Port Fairy to the National

Award-winning indie folk darlings Charm of Finches and prolific singer-songwriter Jack Carty are hitting the road in March for the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2022, to play community halls across regional Victoria for the first time in three years.

The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2022 starts on 11 March at the Port Fairy Folk Festival before visiting 21 local halls across en route to the National Folk Festival.

Festival of Small Halls Producer Eleanor Rigden said the tour marks the first time many of these community spaces would host live music, or indeed any event, since the start of the pandemic.

"It feels quite monumental to be touring across the state again - 2019 was the last time we visited a lot of these halls," Ms Rigden said.

"Victoria has had such a hard time with one of longest lockdowns in the world and the custodians of these unique venues, who are often volunteers, are incredibly excited to bring live music back to their communities.

"People feel safe at these shows, the small scale, intimate nature of the music and these performances can really help to bring communities back together."

Two homegrown artists on the bill for the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2022, Melbourne's Charm of Finches and Brisbane-based Jack Carty.

Sister duo Charm of Finches are known for their intricate, dreamy harmonies traversing melancholy and wonder in equal measure - a perfect balm to these times.

Their 2019 album *Your Company* won the 2020 Independent Music Awards Best Folk/Singer-Songwriter Album and their music has featured on ABC TV, ABC RN, Triple J, Double J and community radio stations around Australia.

“Cosy community gigs are our absolute favourite and we just love touring,” they said.

“We are ridiculously thrilled we get to travel around this amazing country and play for so many small town communities.”

Joining Charm of Finches is accomplished singer-songwriter Jack Carty, whose last release *The World, When It's Sleeping* was recorded amidst bushfires, lockdowns and the uncertainty that has marred the past few years.

“Festival of Small Halls is the epitome of everything I love about music: community, friendship, travel and storytelling,” he said.

“I feel so lucky that I get to be a part of it in 2022 with new songs and the beautiful Charm of Finches.”

Julie Robins from the management committee of the Dunrobin Public Hall said everyone in the community of Dunrobin is very excited at having live music return to their small hall.

“It's been a long time since we've live music in our hall – we've not had a live band since 2014,” Ms Robins said.

“We use the hall for markets and we also have a community dinner – lots of the older folks would stay inside for days so the dinner helps get them out into the community and keeps us younger ones in touch with what is going on.

“We thought this might be a good way of attracting new people, and we're looking forward to attracting a good crowd.”

The Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2022 starts on 11 March at the Port Fairy Folk Festival and will visit 20 local community halls right across regional Victoria before crossing the NSW border to play in Rand en route to Canberra.

The tour concludes at the National Folk Festival in mid-April.

For a full list of festival venues and to purchase tickets, visit: [www.festivalofsmallhalls.com](http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com)

Festival of Small Halls is a much-loved not-for-profit music tour presented by Woodfordia Inc. the production team behind the iconic Woodford Folk Festival, bringing the finest home-grown talent to community halls across regional Australia.

Interviews are available. Full tour dates and locations listed in the media kit, attached.

**Contact:** Jen Kyna  
[jenkyna@gmail.com](mailto:jenkyna@gmail.com)  
+6123 196 880

**ENDS**