



Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2022/23 featuring Emily Lubitz and The Paul McKenna Band
Artists	Emily Lubitz (AUS) The Paul McKenna Band (SCO)
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	18 November 2022
Tickets on Sale	18 November 2022 <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> Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsSummer
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>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls">https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls</a>
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## Artist Biographies

# Emily Lubitz



### Short Biography

Very few artists can cradle your heart in their hands while they kick your ass, but after more than a decade touring with critically acclaimed indie-folk darlings Tinpan Orange, Emily Lubitz is striding out on her own.

With that timeless, aching quality that only the great voices have, Lubitz is every singer's favourite singer, a captivating live performer who has won the hearts of audiences around the world, and yet she is more priestess than popstar, creating her own iconography that sears itself into the listener's imagination.

### Full biography

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Lubitz tells us stories about everyday things, but her voice transfigures them into works of beauty, like a messy bedroom suffused with golden morning light: "Sometimes we just need to pretend things are better than they are. Remember how it used to be. Sometimes we share pain that seems bottomless and we can only acknowledge it in a glance, while we try to keep it together, get the kids to bed, share a beer and put a record on."

Lubitz is a veteran of the scene, having performed on some of the world's biggest stages and collaborated with the likes of Paul Kelly, Martha Wainwright, Clare Bowditch and the album she recorded with old friend Mama Kin, and yet her solo work is imbued with the raw energy of a breakthrough artist.

Wandering through the material on *Begin Again*, her recently released EP, one is often surprised by commonplace images from domestic life that rear up out of the darkness, saturated by a strange poetic force. This sense of the everyday uncanny, and of the magic behind the veil of suburbia, is the arrow in a technicolour musical bow.

A six-foot tall frontwoman with a gossamer voice, Lubitz prowls the stage with the gravitas of a giant Edith Piaf stalking through a post-apocalyptic Laurel Canyon.

<https://augustmgmt.com/talent/emily-lubitz>



[https://www.instagram.com/emily\\_lubitz/](https://www.instagram.com/emily_lubitz/)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1OP843bEcCoSoHaFLRtiWw>

"Emily's exquisite, brushed-velvet vocal conjures a steady neck-hair raising waltz"  
- The Age

"Strikingly assured"  
- Rolling Stone Australia

Approved Quote

"I'm so looking forward to joining the small halls tour in January. Playing in beautiful regional places and spaces is my favourite way to tour. Having just released my debut solo ep, *Begin Again*, I'm excited to bring my new material on the road and share it with the world."

# The Paul McKenna Band



## Short Biography

Called "The best folk band to have come out of Scotland in the last twenty years" by The New York Times, Paul McKenna has long been ranked among Scotland's finest young singers and songwriters. Paul is armed with a powerful yet intensely emotive voice and passionate social conscience, often expressed through his songs, a combination that's brought frequent comparisons to the great Dick Gaughan.

The Paul McKenna Bands' newest release *Breathe* (2019) showcases Paul's development as a songwriter and includes two co-writes with acclaimed Canadian songwriter Dave Gunning and another with one of Australia's most respected songwriters, Liz Stringer. Produced by Mike Vass, this new release expands on the bands trademark sound with added instrumentation to enhance and focus on the original material.

## Full Biography

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Paul was a featured artist at the world-renowned Transatlantic Sessions in 2019. Alongside Cara Dillon, Tim O'Brien, Molly Tuttle and the multi-talented house band, he performed a string of shows across the UK.

He and his band – comprising Conor Markey (banjo/bouzouki/guitars) and Toby Shaer (percussion) – draw on both Scottish and Irish roots, in a dynamic, full-bodied array of original and traditional material, along with songs by like-minded authors.

<http://www.paulmckennaband.com>



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



<https://twitter.com/paulmckennaband>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/ThePaulMcKennaBand>

"The best folk band to have come out of Scotland in the last twenty years" - New York Times

"The best band of their generation"  
– The Living Tradition

"A band with the potential to dominate the Scottish/Irish traditional scene for the next twenty years"  
– Fatea Magazine

## Approved Quote

"We are thrilled to be able to come back to Small Halls and make a return to some of the festivals we performed at on our very first visit to Australia."

### Tour Location Details

Jan - 4	Sulphur Creek	Sulphur Creek Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 5	Chudleigh	Chudleigh Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 6	Stanley	Stanley Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 7	Wilmot	Wilmot Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 8	Southport	Southport Community Centre	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 11	Rowella	Rowella Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 12	Longford	Longford Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan 13 - 15	Cygnets	Cygnets Folk Festival	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 18	Pyree	Pyree Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 19	Kangaroo Valley	Kangaroo Valley Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 20 - 22	Illawarra	Illawarra Folk Festival	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 25	Marthaguy	Marthaguy Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

Jan - 26	Currabubula	Currabubula War Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 27	Mitchells Flat	Mitchells Flat Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 28	Orange	Bloomfield Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Jan - 29	Ganmain	Ganmain Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Feb - 1	Savernake	Savernake School of Arts Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Feb - 2	Humula	Humula Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Feb - 3	Coolac	Coolac Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Feb - 4	Dalton	Dalton Public Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Feb - 5	Goulburn	St Saviour's Cathedral Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

# General Promo

**Woodfordia Inc**  
**presents**  
**Summer Tour 2022/23**

Festival of Small Halls is a series of tours that takes some of the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists and sends them on the road to halls in communities all over Australia. Each night on the tour is a beautiful evening filled with community catch-ups, high quality original music, and endless goo spirit.

## ABOUT THE SUMMER TOUR 2023

- This is the 32nd Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- 19 locations
- 3 Music Festivals
- Emily Lubitz has collaborated with Paul Kelly, Martha Wainwright, Clare Bowditch and has recorded an album with old friend Mama Kin.
- There are some unique instruments played in The Paul McKenna band. Conor Markey plays the banjo, guitar and *bouzouki* – a long necked lute popular in Greece. The Irish bouzouki is an adaptation on this instrument after it was brought over to Ireland in the 1960s. Its tuning was adapted for Irish folk music.

## Producer Quote

*The Festival of Small Halls is a pinnacle for touring - celebrating and fostering community spirit, resilience, and passion. We're so grateful to be welcomed into these amazing small towns, and to put shows on with our incredibly talented dynamic artists forges an event that is retold as stories from the drive home to the dinner table for years to come.*

- Isobel Bartlett, Producer, Festival of Small Halls

## FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

"The Festival of Small Halls tour was a wonderful experience for my band and I. It was our first trip to Australia from Scotland and we were made to feel so welcome by all of the communities which we visited and we learned a lot about the varying cultures and traditions along the way. It was so exciting to have the opportunity to visit so many different parts of Australia that we might not have had the chance to otherwise. The shows themselves were really enjoyable and it was a privilege to share our music each night. I came home from this tour full of inspiration and joy and I hope that I will be able to return again soon."

Siobhan Miller, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

The Festival of Small Halls was like a dream. The music, venues, adventures, towns and friendships I experienced will stay with me always. The instant sense of community each show creates was only rivalled by the camaraderie that grew within the confines of the tour van with every kilometre, ocean swim, new town and broken string."

Jack Carty, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

"My time on the Small Halls tour was easily my favourite experience playing music so far. The genuine focus and appreciation that the crowds gave us at the shows was breathtaking, a sort of earnest care and excitement for live music that you'd be hard pressed to find in the city. It was clearly something out of the ordinary in most of these towns, sometimes we seemed a little dorky, sometimes we seemed a little cool, but the value it had in bringing these communities together and showcasing great sound / light production was always spot on. Tears and laughter were wheezed out at different times at different shows, people chatted to long lost neighbours in the break, kids ran around, sometimes parents ran after them. The shows felt deeply humanising, lots of soup and bread rolls. It was also an incredible opportunity for me to grow as a performer and a person too. I think a major highlight was getting to know Kate our tour manager, as well as Gina, Guy and Jarred our touring crew. People who I now feel very lucky to have been around and have been influenced by. Perhaps if we are all crusty bread rolls, then these shows are the soup, they seem to make people softer, and soak up some warmth in towns where that doesn't always happen as often as it should. And that is a very lovely thing."

Jack Davies, AUSTRALIA, Autumn Tour 2022

The Festival of Small Halls has been on my gig bucket list for years. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Regional QLD summer tour with Tullara and have my fiancé Claire also join me on Celtic Harp. We got to travel through our own regions road tripping and performing 20 shows over 26 days to some really special places between Austinville and Koah! I met distant Kirwin relatives I didn't know I had, and made some really great community connections that I'll be sure to revisit on future tours. The team at Woodfordia set the bar when it comes to making Artists like myself feel at home while travelling. We had a great crew and I feel like we'll be friends for life. Truly, a special experience travelling and sharing songs and stories in these small halls off the beaten track with such fine people!

Andrea Kirwin, AUSTRALIA, Summer Tour 2021

Festival of Small Halls is honestly a one of a kind experience! It was an absolute privilege to be able to travel to rural communities, that I've never been to, and share my music and stories with all of the locals. I had many wonderful conversations with beautiful folk and I made some connections that I'll cherish forever - including meeting baby Tullara, who was named after me a few years ago when I played at the Woodford Folk Festival!

Tullara, AUSTRALIA, Summer Tour 2021

Festival of Small Halls is easily the best tour I have ever been on! Everything was impeccably organised and thoughtfully done. The work put into promotion and rapport-building ensured that we had great support from the community at every stop along the way. Ultimately it was an absolute pleasure to play each show. I believe strongly that music is integral to community, so I feel very aligned with the vision of Festival of Small Halls. People in our

regional communities need and deserve music as much as those in the cities - maybe more - so to play a part in bringing these communities together night after night was truly joyous.  
Karl S. Williams, AUSTRALIA, Summer Tour 2020

Festival of Small Halls was a really joyful experience for women in docs. The team were fun and professional, and the gigs were well attended and engaged the local communities. This tour came straight after a year of no gigs due to COVID-19 and so being on stage was so very welcome at that time. We loved engaging with audiences again, singing along together, and, for one outdoor show, it was our first gig with dancing! Festival of Small Halls is an amazing community engagement program that celebrates regional areas, local bands and arts workers, and brings people together all over Australia.  
women in docs, AUSTRALIA, Summer Tour 2020

## 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 Grounsell, Caloundra Weekly