

Festival of Small Halls Announces Summer Tour 23: Cygnet Folk Festival to Illawarra Folk Festival



Festival of Small Halls has announced that *Emily Lubitz* and *The Paul McKenna Band* will feature on the upcoming Summer Tour 2023: Cygnet Folk Festival to Illawarra Folk Festival.

Packed to the brim with 19 communities and three partner festivals, this 32nd edition of the regional touring festival will journey across two states, dipping its toes into the waters and wonderful hospitality of its hosts across Tasmania and New South Wales.

Produced by Woodfordia Inc, The Festival of Small Halls brings years of passionate folk spirit into every nook and cranny of the vast and spectacular communities that make up this country. The programme for this tour showcases renowned, skilled and enamoured musicians from Scotland and Australia, harnessing the powerful and multi-layered community spirit in their songs.

Beginning at Woodford Folk Festival's enticing return to the summer festival circuit, the Summer Tour 2023 will embark across the Southern Isle of Tasmania, performing at Cygnet Folk Festival, before heading back up to New South Wales for Illawarra Folk Festival and a loop of the rich and green Central and Southern areas of the state.

"We're so excited to be heading back to Tasmania, after a long couple of years away", Festival of Small Halls Producer, Isobel Bartlett said. "This tour engages so many incredible communities who put so much into their shows, and with the amazing and marvellous pairing of Emily Lubitz with The Paul McKenna Band, this tour is going to blow us all away – I can feel it."

Emily Lubitz captures a timeless, heart-string-pulling ache in her music that will have its hold on you. After a decade of touring with Tinpan Orange, Lubitz is striding out on her own, and

right into the open doors of the halls of the nation. A veteran of the touring scene, her recently released EP *Begin Again* traverses a poetic and luminescent portrait of everyday life and the magic within it all.

Lubitz shared, "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 has been hailed as "the best folk band to have come out of Scotland in the last twenty years" by The New York Times. Led by songwriter Paul McKenna, who's powerful lyricism has had him become one of Scotland's finest young singer-songwriters, with a powerful voice to match his passionate social conscience. McKenna and his band – Conor Markey (banjo/bouzouki/guitars) and Toby Shaer (percussion) – draw on the Celtic folk tradition, with roots in both Scotland and Ireland. With a mix of original and traditional material, The Paul McKenna Band will bring a full-bodied and dynamic sound to every show they play.

The Paul McKenna Band were featured on the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020, which was cut short after just a few days. "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," said Paul McKenna.

The Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2023: Cygnet Folk Festival to Illawarra Folk Festival will begin in Sulphur Creek on the 4th of January, before continuing onto 20 more destinations across Tasmania and New South Wales. The tour features at Woodford Folk Festival, Cygnet Folk Festival, and Illawarra Folk Festival concluding in Goulburn at on February 5th.

Tickets on sale from Friday 18th November at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com .

Woodfordia Inc presents
FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS SUMMER TOUR 2023
featuring
Emily Lubitz and The Paul McKenna Band

Jan - 4	Sulphur Creek	Sulphur Creek Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 5	Chudleigh	Chudleigh Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 6	Stanley	Stanley Town Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 7	Wilmot	Wilmot Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 8	Southport	Southport Community Centre	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 11	Rowella	Rowella Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 12	Longford	Longford Town Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan 13 - 15	Cygnets	Cygnets Folk Festival	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 18	Pyree	Pyree Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 19	Kangaroo Valley	Kangaroo Valley Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 20 - 22	Illawarra	Illawarra Folk Festival	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 25	Marthaguy	Marthaguy Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 26	Currabubula	Currabubula War Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 27	Mitchells Flat	Mitchells Flat Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 28	Orange	Bloomfield Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Jan - 29	Ganmain	Ganmain Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb - 1	Savernake	Savernake School of Arts Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

Feb – 2	Humula	Humula Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb – 3	Coolac	Coolac Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb – 4	Dalton	Dalton Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb - 5	Goulburn	St Saviour's Cathedral Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

LINKS

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