



Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Resilience Tour 2023 featuring Lucy Farrell and Hat Fitz and Cara
Artists	Lucy Farrell (UK) Hat Fitz and Cara (AUS)
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	12 April 2023
Tickets on Sale	12 April 2023 <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 #HallsResilience
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

# Lucy Farrell



### Short Biography

Odd, unconventional melodies, poetic, sophisticated song-writing and bewitching clarity; Kent-born, Canada-based Lucy Farrell's voice is made elegant with sparse, careful accompaniment on tenor guitar and occasionally viola, carving out a unique niche for an artist at the forefront of contemporary English folk music.

Her work as a band member and collaborator with such artists and projects as Eliza Carthy and the Wayward Band; Gluepot; Modern Fairies; The Furrow Collective; Carthy, Oates, Farrell & Young; has meant releasing a collection of her distinctive solo work has had to wait – until now.

Songs from Lucy's debut solo album, recorded at Wenlock Abbey in Much Wenlock, are scheduled for release through Hudson records April 2023.

### Full biography

Odd, unconventional melodies, poetic, sophisticated song-writing and bewitching clarity; Kent-born, Canada-based Lucy Farrell's voice is made elegant with sparse, careful accompaniment on tenor guitar and occasionally viola, carving out a unique niche for an artist at the forefront of contemporary English folk music.

Finding an international audience among artists like Julia Jacklin, Emily Portman, The Weather Station, The Unthanks and Eliza Carthy, the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Winner Lucy Farrell is not only awarded as a renowned composer and singer, but also as viola/fiddle/tenor guitar-player. Her work as a band member and collaborator with such artists and projects as Eliza Carthy and the Wayward Band;

Gluepot; Modern Fairies; The Furrow Collective; Carthy, Oates, Farrell & Young; and her duo work with Andrew Waite and Jonny Kearney, respectively has meant releasing a collection of her distinctive solo work has had to wait – until now.

Songs from Lucy's debut solo album, recorded at Wenlock Abbey in Much Wenlock, are scheduled for release through Hudson records April 2023.

Immersed in folk culture and traditions from birth via her Morris-dancing, folk-club running family home in Kent, the Garden of England, Lucy studied Folk and Traditional music at Newcastle University and has gone on to pick and choose the elements of tradition that suit her, and discard those that don't in favour of sounds and methods that support the songs – both hers and those handed down. It's as easy to imagine Farrell ignoring ink-stained fingers from a quill as hunched over tapping lyrics into an i-phone, though the seeming contradictions in sensibility aren't just on the surface. There's an ease and confidence in the deeply personal lyrical style of her own songs, as well as an effortless familiarity as she traverses material from hundreds of years ago.

In conversation, Lucy – who is deeply funny and self-deprecating alongside her insightful and deliberate songwriting – will talk of wearing her special tweed coat and trousers and taking nips from a hip flask full of Ribena when she saw Richard Thompson in concert as 10th birthday treat – along with her dad and maths teacher, or of how many pints it takes to lubricate the knees to dance with her father's Morris Troupe; or of playing totem tennis while commentating in an 'awful Australian accent' as part of Eliza Carthy's Wayward Band. There's something to the ink-stains though – Farrell is also an accomplished visual artist and crafter who will often put down her guitar and pick up a needle and thread. Lucy's community roots have prompted her to create 'Hudson Unearthed' Women's/Non-Binary Songwriting Sessions in collaboration with Jenny Sturgeon, as well as leading less formal song-writing prompt groups online.

<https://lucyfarrellmusic.com/>



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



<https://twitter.com/LucyLucyfarrell>



<https://www.instagram.com/thelucyfarrell/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmBfW7WoOX0zmsBtoe-zgiQ>

“Splendidly atmospheric”  
– fRoots

“One of the most refreshing interpreters of traditional song in the UK \*\*\*\*”  
– Songlines

“Something of a delicacy to be savoured”  
– \*\*\*\* Northern Sky

## **Approved Quote**

"I am so happy and excited to have the opportunity to explore a little bit of Australia, and to share my songs with you all!"  
- Lucy Farrell

**Hat Fitz and Cara**





### **Short Biography**

High-energy duo Hat Fitz and Cara are among Australia's most talented roots music artists. The husband and wife team have clocked up 14 years of worldwide touring, festival performances and album releases from their base of operations in the hinterland of South East Queensland's Sunshine Coast and are showing no signs of slowing down.

Fitz's weathered vocals and soaring blues-soaked guitar combined with Cara's pounding drums and soulful voice shows both of these multi-instrumentalists at the peak of their creative power.

### **Full Biography**

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Their festival touring circuit takes in Australia, the UK, North America and Europe where their modern blend of old-timey-influenced sounds is equally at home in a variety of settings from folk or Americana main stages to blues and acoustic venues. While the singer/songwriters are both multi-instrumentalists, it's Fitz's weathered vocals and soaring blues-soaked guitar combined with Cara's pounding drums and soulful voice that show them at the peak of their creative power.

Fitz served his musical apprenticeship in the 1980s touring around Western Queensland playing the show circuit with his father's band alongside boxing tent shows and rodeos. Here he came upon a vinyl album of Bo Carter playing with the Mississippi Sheiks which was to be a turning point in the way he would hone his

unique style of playing. He has toured with the likes of RL Burnside, Members of Canned Heat and many of Australia's greats. He still holds the record for the most consecutive shows at Byron Bay Bluesfest.

Meanwhile Cara was growing up in a commune on the other side of the world, living a gypsy lifestyle around various parts of the Northern Ireland coast. Through a substitute teacher at school she was introduced to the folk-blues of Leadbelly, and, by way of a cassette she bought at the age of 13, got turned on to Atlantic soul. Cara's soul music background has seen her tour Europe and the USA supporting tours with Jamiroquai and the popular Beverly Knight. She has sung with and written for Corinne Bailey-Rae. She has also co-written songs with Jeff Lang, Alison Ferrier, Aine Tyrell, David Holmes, LTJ Bukem, Ricky Ross (Deakin Blue) and many others.

Winners of Blues Album Of The Year at the 2013 Australian Chain Awards and UK Spiral Earth, Hat Fitz & Cara also won Best Vocal Of The Year at the 2015 Chain Awards and were finalists in the 2015 Memphis International Blues Challenge in the USA.

<http://www.hatfitzandcara.com/>



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



<https://www.instagram.com/hatfitzandcara/>



<https://twitter.com/hatfitzcara?lang=en>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVygrWvjiP4>

"Cara has a stunning voice and when unleashed in its full seductive glory it's goosebumps time. As for Hat, his slide playing is nothing short of world class tasteful, and his grainy dusty vocals, the perfect foil for Cara's. These guys can stomp."

- Acoustic Magazine

"Throughout the album these two characters show their material needs no additional frills or padding – blessed as they are with a rare depth & conviction."

- Uncut Magazine

"Together they create the juiciest slice of down-home country blues to come out of Australia"

- Hifi +

Approved Quote

"We are rapt, chuffed and tickled to be welcomed back into your communities and to share our new songs and stories beneath the roofs of your beautiful small halls."

- Hat Fitz and Cara

### Tour Location Details

May - 18	Murwillumbah	The Citadel	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
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May - 19	Coramba	Coramba Community Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
May - 20	Willawarrin	Willawarrin Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
May - 24	Woodstock	Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
May - 27	Comboyne	Comboyne War Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
May - 28	Frederickton	Frederickton School of Arts Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
May - 31	Hernani	Hernani Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
June - 1	Nullamanna	Nullamanna Public Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
June - 2	Deepwater	Deepwater School of Arts Hall Trust	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
June - 4	Collins Creek	Collins Creek Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

# General Promo

**Woodfordia Inc  
presents**

## ***Festival of Small Halls Resilience Tour 2023: New South Wales***

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 occasion for original music, and a chance to catch up with family and friends over cake and tea during a supper break.

### **ABOUT THE *Festival of Small Halls Resilience Tour 2023: New South Wales***

- This is the 34<sup>th</sup> Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- There will be 10 shows
- Lucy Farrell was immersed in folk culture and traditions from birth via her Morris-dancing, folk-club running family home in Kent, the Garden of England
- Fitzy from Hat Fitz and Cara served his musical apprenticeship in the 1980s touring around Western Queensland playing the show circuit with his father's band alongside boxing tent shows and rodeos. Meanwhile Cara was growing up in a commune on the other side of the world, living a gypsy lifestyle around various parts of the Northern Ireland coast.

### **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. Together, we forge events that are 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

Festival of Small Halls is, in my opinion, the pinnacle of regional touring in Australia. Activating the beautiful and historic halls all over the country into the exquisite live music venues they were always intended to be is the heart and soul of a Halls tour. Led by an incredible team, with world-class sound production, the halls are the best possible venues to perform. The audiences who attend are the best possible people to play for. The Resilience Tour 2022 was a particularly profound experience in that many of the communities we visited had not gathered since before the major bushfire events of 2019. The joy that these shows bring to town is tangible and infectious. It is much about community as it is about the music. I cannot express how grateful we are to have been involved in Festival of Small Halls.  
Ash Bell, AUSTRALIA, Resilience Tour 2022

Arriving to play at a small hall in a small town is such a beautiful glimpse into the strength and generosity of the local community. The tireless volunteers, the love and care in the setting up of the hall and then there's the home cooked delicious food. As a performer, these shows are so special and I think they are special for the audience too. A win-win situation.  
Sara Tindley, AUSTRALIA, Festival of Small Halls, Resilience Tour 2022

The opportunity to be a part of a Small Halls tour is on every Australian artists bucket list. When I mentioned I was going on one, so many of my peers said they couldn't wait to get on one of the tours. Small Halls reputation is second to none as an amazing opportunity, not only because of the incredible locations and performance spaces provided, but to be able to perform to audiences outside of mainstream locations and build upon your organic audience by performing to music fans that may not ever get the opportunity to see you perform in a more commercial location. The people and audiences I met on the tour were so open and excited to be able to attend and see some good quality live music. I have since had many contacting me privately requesting I return and perform for their town again, which in these times of limited work, has offered me a means to continue performing and making a living from my art, which is a wonderful side-effect of having participated in the Small Halls tour. The other artist on the tour, and the supportive crew were so professional and respectful, and provided me a safe and nurturing performance environment which was so soul enriching. I am forever grateful to have been a part of a Small Halls tour, and can confidently say it is a very high quality program with many positive outcomes and impacts for all involved"

Sue Ray, AUSTRALIA, Resilience Tour 2021

This was the most enjoyable working experience of my touring life. The team were amazing and the entire machine ran like clockwork. I felt supported, valued and the whole experience gave me hope for a bright future after what have been some strange and difficult times. The Small Halls concept is truly wonderful and I am so glad I was able to take part. I saw first-hand how it changes for the better the lives of people in the community and had the pleasure of sharing so many poignant and intimate moments that filled the cup of both myself and the audience. Music heals, it brings people together and it we are all better for it. Bloody lovely.

Paddy McHugh, AUSTRALIA, Resilience Tour 2021

## 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