



Media release



The Festival of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Embargo on release of schedule of events in its entirety before 23 February 2006.

January 2006

Festival Melbourne2006 – FREE PERFORMANCES

Free concerts at the Bowl

A free series of concerts at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl will be a highlight of Festival Melbourne2006. Superstar Alkinoos Ioannidis will perform for the first time in Australia, and Evelyn Glennie, who has stunned audiences world wide with her superb percussion performances, will perform two concerts, one with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and another in a percussion extravaganza also featuring Canada's Nexus and Scrap Arts Music. There will also be a celebration of all things Bollywood, and music from the UK, Africa, the Pacific and Australia.

Alkinoos Ioannidis is arguably the most powerful force in contemporary Greek music today. Ioannidis is internationally acclaimed as one of the most important singer-songwriters of his generation. His magnetic stage presence, poetic songwriting and passionate voice have enthralled audiences from New York's Madison Square Garden to the Acropolis in Athens. With six massively successful solo albums influenced by traditional Greek and Cypriot music, classical, jazz and rock music, he appears in for the first time on **March 20 at 8:30pm.**

Bollywood at the Bowl, an all-singing, all-sashaying, all-sari spectacular, featuring Bollywood goddess Sunidhi Chauhan with her red-hot troupe of Indian musicians and dancers and a special guest appearance by the Jaipur Kawa Brass Band. An idol in her own country, the gorgeous Sunidhi will unleash her stunning voice for a sparkling evening of Indian exuberance straight out of the movies in this Bollywood spectacular especially created and choreographed for Festival Melbourne2006. With a special guest appearance by the irrepressibly joyous Jaipur Kawa Brass Band, all the way from the Pink City of Rajasthan, they perform on **25 March at 8.45pm.**

Scotland's **Evelyn Glennie** has stunned audiences around the globe with her superb technical abilities, extraordinary visual flair and her astonishing musicality. And now, for one magnificent concert only, she will show why she is one of the world's most acclaimed solo percussionists when she performs at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl with the full might of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra behind her. Drawing on a staggering array of percussive instruments, Evelyn and the Melbourne Symphony will perform a dazzlingly eclectic program including Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 2*, and Vivaldi's *Piccolo Concerto*. This is a rare opportunity to see one of the world stars of percussion in full, glorious, unfettered flight, with our very own Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. She will perform an array of percussive instruments with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on **March 18 at 7:30pm**, part of the Percussion Gala at the **Bowl on March 18 at 7.30pm**, and **solo at the Alexandra Gardens Soundshell on March 17 at 9:15pm.**

Random Dance is one of Britain's most innovative modern dance companies. *Nemesis* is a remarkable work from Wayne McGregor that explores the interfaces of body, screen and machine. Described as 'extraterrestrial dances meets reality TV', this electrifying and compelling piece showcases the superb abilities of this highly athletic dance troupe, alongside animatronics from Jim Henson's Creature Workshop and an original score from Scanner. The cutting edge has never been sharper. Random Dance was founded by Wayne McGregor in 1992 and became the instrument upon which he evolved his drastically fast and articulate choreographic style. This maverick company is particularly renowned for pushing the boundaries of

modern dance with its radical approach to new technology, incorporating animation, digital film, 3D architecture, electronic sound and virtual dancers into its live choreography. On **22 March at 7.30pm.**

Miriam Makeba is known throughout the world as Mama Africa, and it is no exaggeration to say that South African diva Miriam Makeba put African music on the international map. From the beginning of her career in the 1950s, her incredible voice has inspired musicians, audiences and humanitarians alike. She has always been an artist ahead of her time, a pioneer who blended different styles long before anyone had even begun to talk about "world music". In a long and dramatic career she has worked with the likes of Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone and Paul Simon; sung at President Kennedy's birthday; been exiled from her homeland for speaking out against apartheid; and became the first South African to win a Grammy Award. Miriam Makeba will perform at the Bowl with Nii Tettey Tetteh and the Kusun Ensemble (Ghana) on **March 17 at 7:30, and at the Alexandra Gardens Soundshell on March 18 at 9:15pm.**

Jimmy Cliff, Jamaica's world-superstar of reggae music, has influenced Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon and the Clash. His critically acclaimed role as a gun toting, drug-selling 'rude boy' in the 1970s cult classic *The Harder They Come* introduced an entire generation to reggae. He is, quite simply, the world's greatest living reggae legend. Travelling the long road from audacious teenage star to reggae ambassador, Jimmy Cliff, alongside Bob Marley, moulded the future of reggae music. Known for his easy, pop-friendly reggae style as well as harder-edged tunes with social and political lyrics, Jimmy has put his signature sound on some massive hits including his cover of Johnny Nash's *I can See Clearly Now* and his own compositions *You Can Get It If You Really Want* and *Many Rivers to Cross*.

With a special performance by the combined steelpan masters of Trinidad & Tobago, the Renegades Steel Orchestra and Liam Teague. Jimmy Cliff will perform with Liam Teague and the Renegades Steel Orchestra (Trinidad & Tobago) on **16 March at 7.30pm.**

The Sounds of the Pacific, starring Te Mataarae/Orehu (New Zealand), Tolegeu (the Solomon Islands) and Te Vaka (New Zealand) will offer uplifting island sounds of the Pacific and some power-charged kapa haka dancing. With their tribal, powerful and rootsy sounds, the twelve musicians and dancers of **Te Vaka** have a huge international following in the region and beyond. **On 23 March at 7.30pm.**

Top Brass, the Australian Defence Force Tri-Service Band, perform with pomp, presence and power. Over 100 musicians in full dress uniform will take over the stage of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to belt out a rousing cavalcade of stirring marches and popular favourites on **24 March at 7:30pm.**

The All-Star World Percussion Spectacular, featuring the biggest percussion names in the world, including Nexus (Canada), Evelyn Glennie (Scotland), The Dhol Foundation (England), Synergy (Australia), Scrap Arts Metal (Canada), Liam Teague (Trinidad & Tobago), Talvin Singh (Great Britain), Nii Tettey Tetteh & the Kusun Ensemble (Ghana) and The Renegades Steel Orchestra (Trinidad & Tobago) happens on 19 March at 7:30pm.

Festival Melbourne2006 – Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March, 2006.

Festival Melbourne2006 celebrates the breadth of culture and art from across the nations of the Commonwealth. The Festival is an integral part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, and it is proudly funded and supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.

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Australian Government

