

Happy Gathering Festival Club Artist Biographies

Crystal Jade - Traditional Chinese Ensemble

Created especially for the Armadale Arts Festival Happy Gathering Festival Club, Crystal Jade is an exciting new trio of accomplished Chinese musicians featuring Xiao Xuan playing the yang qin, Merlin Ma on the bamboo flute and Malcolm Mah on bass and wood block percussion.

Flabalotti – Operatic Comedy

Tenor Paul Leeder discovered many years ago that he would rather make people laugh than give him standing ovations. Hence the character *Flabalotti* the Italian Tenor was born.

Paul studied singing at the Sydney Conservatorium and has sung in many shows and concerts as both himself and as 'Flab' since then. He remembers performing as the Italian tenor at the Telethon Seniors Concert at the Perth Concert Hall and almost fainting because he included dancing in his routine. The fat suit he wears is extremely hot and he wishes he could put a bag of ice in it. Flabalotti sings anything from Opera to Elvis and Tom Jones in his own indelible style.

Katherine & Elisabeth: Soul Sisters

Featuring the combined talents of Katherine John and Elisabeth Gogos as the Soul Sisters, this dazzling new act will make its debut for the Opening Night of the Happy Gathering Festival Club.

Katherine John is a well-known local cabaret artist and jazz vocalist, who studied at The Music Institute in Los Angeles and regularly returns to the US to perform. She is also a founder of the Classic Sounds School of Music teaching and inspiring new generations of talented local musicians.

Elisabeth Gogos is a much-loved local singer specialising in country and gospel. In 2014, she went to the World Championship of Performing Arts in Hollywood and won bronze for her Country and Original song performances.

She was a founding member of the Merindas, the popular WA Aboriginal soul band, and is often seen on National Indigenous TV singing her original material.

Performing together for the first time, Katherine and Elisabeth, bring a wealth experience to the stage that will delight audiences accompanied by a talented four piece backing band.

LLiDD

LLiDD is a unique sonic collective specialising in experimental live electronic music. Formed in the mid-nineties for the UK Club scene they played many festivals like Glastonbury playing epic pulsating ambient sets. Now Roleystone-based, they have recently reformed and are started recreating the vibey sonic experience again using the same 90's technology.

DJ Ektik Eklektik

Dj Ektik Eklektik plays a mash up of different style from reggae to jazz to hip hop to funk bringing a slice of hipster vibe to Armadale.

Dixie Ferdinands

Dixie Ferdinands is a multi-awarded musician originally from Singapore.

For many years he performed extensively with the country rock group 'Gypsy' at the forefront of the Singapore music scene making countless television appearances and performing across South East Asia.

His subsequent solo career saw him release two albums and he received a Singaporean COMPASS Meritorious Award for his compositions. Since migrating to Australia, he has taught music and moonlighted in several groups. The Happy Gathering Festival Club performance sees him back on centre stage with an exciting new band of accomplished players.

PCB

PCB is a new Perth Chinese Band that recently formed to complement the beautiful voice of trilingual vocalist Ling Kho. They are a sophisticated contemporary Chinese cabaret pop band that perform songs in Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

Since forming in 2015, they have been in strong demand and perform regularly at the Crown Perth casino and many corporate functions. Come and experience some new Chinese music in the intimate Happy Gathering Festival Club.

Chung Wah Dancers

The dazzling Chung Wah dancers perform beautiful traditional dances from across China with stunning costumes and elegant choreography. The Chung Wah Association is the oldest Chinese organisation in Western Australia, formed in 1909. For over 100 years, Chung Wah has promoted harmony and practiced humanity as a bridge between the Chinese community and our enriched multicultural Australian society.

MotET

Described as 'musical technomages', MotET play a collision of electronic and rock instruments, creating industrial dance music to start the revolution.

MotET has played for astronauts and even had a show interrupted for a call from the International Space Station.

They have an annual Halloween residency in the Perth Cultural Centre where they have created events blending music with live actors and big screen visuals, such as The War of the Worlds and Nosferatu. MotET's shows are always unique.

Paul Peacock

Paul Peacock is a local music theatre artist with an extraordinary career working in the West End in London, one of the theatre capitals of the world.

He was in the first international company of Les Miserables, performed 25th Anniversary concert of Les Miserables at the O2 Arena and undertook a British national tour of Les Miserable playing Marius. He was part of the World Premiere of "Peggy Sue Got Married" at the Shaftbury Theatre. Back in Australia he played the principal role of Donald Marshall opposite Debbie Reynolds in the Australian production of Irene, the ley role of 'Che' in Evita at His Majesties Theatre. He also wrote and starred in the one man/woman drag queen musical "Sebastian Crinkle, Welcome to Wonderland" for Downstairs at the Maj, the Adelaide Fringe Festival and London's West End.

Gongwalkabout

Experience the exotic beauty of gong soundscapes with local musician, Paul Ford. Influenced primarily by ambient and experimental music, Paul works with his gongs to deliver what has been described as ethereal, melodic and enchanting. His presentations connect with audiences on many spiritual and emotional levels and the gongs are a sight to behold.

Two-Cent Professionals

The Two-Cent professionals are a tight 10-piece party swing band bursting with energy and wild dance moves. They play a diverse repertoire of contemporary and classic jazz, blues, R&B, rock, pop, jump and funk that is guaranteed to entertain and get you up on the dance floor. Featuring a stellar line-up of talented young players with a huge six-piece horn section, the Two Cent Professionals have become much-loved act in Armadale.