

Meriton Festival Village Music

Evenings at dusk, after dark and late night at the village

The Weather Station / The Chills / Hailu Mergia with Tony Buck & Mike Majkowski / Matthew E. White / DāM-FunK / DREAMLAND / Kev Carmody / Tiwi + Jazz / The Blackeyed Susans / Jenny Hval / Ryley / The Apartments / Cosmic Cambodia / Girlpool / Lou Barlow



Photo: Jamie Williams

The Famous Spiegeltent and the Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent will turn up the volume in Hyde Park this summer, showcasing a fantastic line up of musical talent from around the globe.

The Meriton Festival Village will come alive for three weeks as an eclectic mix of musical styles and diverse genres will take over both Spiegel tents from early afternoon to late in the evening. From Ethio-jazz and hip-hop, to post-punk rock, gospel and soul - powerful voices and hypnotic grooves will fill the summer air in back-to-back nights of exclusive and unique one-night-only international and Australian performances.

Ease into your evenings, chill out after work or come and play after dark with world-class performances in this uniquely intimate setting including:

The Weather Station (Canada)

The Famous Spiegeltent, 6 Jan - 5.45pm & 7 Jan – 8pm, \$39 General Admission.

“Contemplative folk that captures rare beauty.” **Rolling Stone**

As The Weather Station, Toronto singer-songwriter Tamara Lindeman makes sumptuous and fascinating music; her smoky voice wraps its way around elegant, understated arrangements that sweep you up effortlessly. Recorded in a French chateau with Bahamas frontman Afie Jurvanen, Lindeman’s latest album, *Loyalty*, is her fullest artistic statement yet, recalling such songwriting greats as Joni Mitchell and Bill Callahan. Suffice to say, The Weather Station live experience is nothing short of transformative.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/weather

The Chills (New Zealand)

Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, 13 Jan – 7:30pm, \$49 General Admission.

“The Chills invented their own trends to reinvent pop music.” **The Guardian**

Shivers are guaranteed when Martin Phillipps’ massively influential New Zealand indie-pop outfit The Chills take the stage to celebrate *Silver Bullets* – the band’s first album in nearly 20 years. As torchbearers for storied NZ label Flying Nun, The Chills epitomise the Dunedin Sound - a magical, lo-fi fusion of 60s psychedelia, punk and jangle-pop. Phillipps has been dubbed ‘the Brian Wilson of post-punk’ by Creation Records icon Alan McGee, a comparison which acknowledges both Phillipps’ musical gifts and the fact he’s wrestled with his share of demons over the years. As their reunion shows have proved, The Chills offer singularly intense, give-it-all live shows.

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More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/chills

Hailu Mergia with Tony Buck & Mike Majkowski (Ethiopia/Australia) – Australian Premiere Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, Jan 14 - 5:15pm, \$39 General Admission

“Mergia makes serpentine Ethiopian jazz.” **FACT Magazine**

When Ethiopian legend Hailu Mergia joins forces with double bassist Mike Majkowski and drummer Tony Buck (The Necks), resistance to their mighty grooves is futile. While Mergia was a crucial part of Ethiopia’s trailblazing Walias Band in the 1970s, his move to the United States found him driving a taxi for the next two decades.

However, he cut one album in 1985, *Hailu Mergia and His Classical Instrument*, an extraordinary fusion of home-grown motifs with synth sounds reminiscent of Kraftwerk. Awesome Tapes from Africa got hold of the cassette in Ethiopia, reissued it in 2013, and Mergia’s star is back in the ascendant.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/hailu

Matthew E. White (USA) Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, 15 Jan – 7:30pm, \$39 General Admission.

“A true musical blessing, extraordinary stuff.” **The 405**

Trying to resist Matthew E. White’s luscious country soul sound is like trying not to lick your lips while you’re eating an ice-cream, such is its utter deliciousness. On record, his velvet croon matches rock’n’roll, gospel and soul stylings to swoonsome effect: *Big Inner* (2013) and *Fresh Blood* (2015) won international critical acclaim, drawing on such past masters as Ray Charles, The Band and Jorge Ben. But live, White’s incredibly tight quartet perform his songs with hip-shaking grooves and fiery sensuality. Ecstatic crowd singalongs are a big part of the experience.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/white

DāM-FunK (LIVE) (USA) Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, 15 Jan – 11:45pm, \$39 General Admission.

“A one-man wrecking crew of thumping beats... and iced-out synths.” **Rolling Stone**

Are you ready for some seriously golden, breezy West Coast vibes? Enter, on a keytar-shaped sunbeam, Pasadena’s maverick funk hero, DāM-FunK, who earned his chops as a sought-after virtuoso for G-Funk hip-hop artists in the 90s before deciding to go ‘full-funk’ and plough his own, extremely cool furrow. Having signed to Stones Throw Records for his 2009 debut, *Toeachizown*, a handful of tantalising tracks followed, leading up to 2015’s joyous sophomore album, *Invite the Light*, featuring such free-thinking like minds as Ariel Pink and Snoop Dogg. Says DāM: “No matter how old you are, you just keep getting better, if what you do is true.” Damn right.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/damfunk

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DREAMLAND, Jack Ladder, Kirin J Callinan, Donny Benét & Laurence Pike (PVT) (AUS)

Magic Mirrors Spiegelent, 16 Jan – 11.45pm, \$25 General Admission.

A group of unlikely friends and musical mercenaries.

Somewhere between the Miles Davis Quintet and Cold Chisel, these outsider virtuosos traverse the full spectrum of musical paradigms – from Jack Ladder’s surrealist croons to Donny Benét’s Italo street funk, Kirin J Callinan’s perverse guitar noise and Laurence Pike’s futurist rhythms with PVT. For one night only, they plan to share the spotlight, revealing the four-headed beast of their creative output – each member’s individual and collaborative efforts – all the while exchanging songs, stories and solos. Imagine The Band’s *Last Waltz* featuring the cast of *Seinfeld*; it’s the *Twin Peaks* Red Room meets *Red Faces*.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/dreamland

Kev Carmody (AUS)

Magic Mirrors Spiegelent, 17 Jan –4.30pm, Documentary 30mins, Performance 60mins, \$39 General Admission

“His story songs encompass so much human drama” ABC Radio

Poet. Radical. National Treasure. Kev Carmody is many things. Most famously he’s the man who, with Paul Kelly, penned the anthem of Aboriginal Australia, ‘From Little Things Big Things Grow’. Following his wildly successful *Cannot Buy My Soul* shows (Sydney Festival 2008), Kev will perform songs collected over the past 40 years, selecting the best from his new releases, *Recollections... Recollections... (A Journey)*, a 4 – CD set recorded in a Queensland shearing shed.

Kicking off proceedings will be a screening of *Songman*, an intimate portrait of Kev by director Brendan Fletcher.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/carmody

The Blackeyed Susans (AUS)

Magic Mirrors Spiegelent, 17 Jan – 7pm, \$39 General Admission

“Lachrymose Balladry best imagined as Scott Walker singing country.” Uncut

Born as a holiday project for members of The Triffids, Martha’s Vineyard and Chad’s Tree in 1989, The Blackeyed Susans have grown into a beloved Australian institution whose ever-rotating line-up has featured members of The Bad Seeds, The Cruel Sea and Dirty Three.

This one-off performance celebrates the Susans’ rich career – over 25 years and counting – which has seen the band playing its dark, country-tinged songs on tour with such greats as Johnny Cash and Leonard Cohen. A string quartet join The Blackeyed Susans in honour of this special occasion.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/susans

Jenny Hval (Norway)

The Famous Spiegelent, 19 & 20 Jan – 8pm, \$39 General Admission.

“Surreal and hyper-real, a Lynchian underworld of avant-pop, alt lit poetry and potent sexuality” Exclaim!

Experimental Norwegian singer-songwriter Jenny Hval fearlessly explores notions of gender, sexuality, feminism, vulnerability and danger in her songs, in a potent blend of delicate and dreamy, disturbing and

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dissonant.

Hval made her debut with the playful *Innocence is Kinky* (2013), and now celebrates her lauded latest, *Apocalypse, girl* (2015), taking an unflinching, tender look at our relationships with our own bodies as well as other people's. The spirits of such sonic innovators as Kate Bush, Björk and Laurie Anderson loom large in Hval's work, which finds its fullest expression in her captivating live shows.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/hval

Tiwi + Jazz (AUS)

Magic Mirrors Spiegelent, 20 Jan – 5.15pm, \$39 General Admission.

A collaboration between Tiwi tradition and new jazz.

The Tiwi Strong Women's Group have been singing together since they were young girls, learning traditional songs from their mothers and grandmothers. Now in their 60s and 70s, they still sing every day, teaching the stories held in Tiwi songs to new generations.

In *Tiwi + Jazz*, they explore field recordings of Tiwi songs made over the last 100 years, creating 'memorial duets' between jazz instrumentalists, Tiwi singers and deceased Tiwi songmen and women.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/tiwi

Ryley Walker (USA)

The Famous Spiegelent, 22 Jan – 8pm & 23 Jan – 5:45pm, \$39 General Admission.

"Ryley Walker has a voice like Tim Buckley and plays acoustic guitar like Bert Jansch" NPR

It's one thing to play flawless, crisp jazz-folk songs in the vein of late 60s era Tim Buckley and Van Morrison – but quite another to imbue them with the fire, spirit and youth that's such a natural part of Ryley Walker's performance. The rising Chicago troubadour's latest album, *Primrose Green*, has a freewheeling ease that's a result of Walker's band comprising the city's most brilliant jazz musicians – who also happen to be his best friends. His live shows take the sweet lustre of his records and transform them into mesmeric, groovy wig-outs. Bask in the heady, psychedelic glory.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/walker

The Apartments (AUS)

The Famous Spiegelent, 24 Jan – 8.15pm, \$39 General Admission.

Treasured Australian Chamber pop outfit returns after years of silence.

Given the history of The Apartments' latest album, *No Song, No Spell, No Madrigal* – the group's first in 18 years – it's a miracle it exists at all. Having briefly joined The Go-Betweens in the late 70s, Peter Milton Walsh returned to The Apartments, releasing their beloved debut on Rough Trade in 1985, followed by a string of albums in the 90s. But tragedy struck and Walsh walked away from music following the death of his young son in 1999. Only in 2013 did he feel ready to record the songs he'd been writing in secret for over a decade. Don't miss this special opportunity to see this unique Australian band live.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/apartments

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Klub Koori, Gadigal Information service Redfern (AUS) **Magic Mirrors Spiegel tent, 24 Jan – 5.15pm, \$30 General Admission.**

Emerging and iconic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander talents.

Klub Koori is a vibrant showcase of unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander live performance in a one-of-a-kind community atmosphere. Produced by Gadigal Information Service, the organization that operates Sydney's only Indigenous radio station (Koori Radio 93.7FM), *Klub Koori* delights audiences with an array of emerging and iconic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander acts across a range of genres, from reggae and rock to blues.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/klub

Cosmic Cambodia, The Cambodian Space Project (Cambodia/AUS) **Magic Mirrors Spiegel tent, 26 Jan – 5:15pm, \$39 General Admission.**

Out of this world Cambodian rock psychedelica.

Blast off and rock out with The Cambodian Space Project in *Cosmic Cambodia*; a high-energy, sci-fi psych rock'n'roll take on a Phnom Penh karaoke bar.

Singer Channthy Kak and musician Julien Poulson (featured in 2015 doco *The Cambodian Space Project – Not Easy Rock 'n' Roll*), along with their uber cool band, sing back to life the lost divas and rock legends of Cambodia's golden age of rock'n'roll, all but wiped out by the Khmer Rouge regime.

Mashing tradition with rock, groove, soul and trippy visuals, they reimagine Khmer classics alongside originals. Get your dancing shoes on and get down with this astonishing revival.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/Cambodian

Girlpool (USA) **The Famous Spiegel tent, 26 Jan – 8pm, \$39 General Admission.**

"It almost doesn't matter what they're singing about. The sound of their voices together contains it all."
New York Times

Los Angeles duo Girlpool make a whole lotta noise with little more than guitar, bass and aching vocals. Bassist Harmony Tividad and guitarist Cleo Tucker combine for raw, bluesy punk sounds that require no percussion, thanks to their candid lyrics and pure guts. Drawing on influences from early Bright Eyes to 50s beat poetry, the band accentuate their bare bones instrumentation with brutally honest songs. The pair are leading a quiet rebellion without drums that champions vulnerability; they're opening the pages of their diaries and inviting fans inside.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/girlpool

Lou Barlow (USA) **Magic Mirrors Spiegel tent, 26 Jan – 7:30pm, \$39 General Admission**

Career-spanning solo show by the Godfather of lo-fi

Is it possible to be a lo-fi hero? Well, as Lou Barlow's massive influence attests, yes, it sure is. Praised by Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore as the inventor of the lo-fi sound which defined indie rock in the 90s, Barlow has inspired legions of songwriters (and caused many to well up and have to make a swift exit from the party). After co-founding and then getting kicked out of Dinosaur Jr, Barlow found his own voice with

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Sebadoh, Sentridoh, and the Folk Implosion; the sound is warm, downbeat and unflinching. In 2015, Barlow released a beautiful, intimate collection of songs, *Brace the Wave*; in his own words, “Nine songs without drums, without regrets”. Traverse the depths of Lou Barlow’s music in an utterly unmissable career-spanning solo show.

More information and video at sydneyfestival.org.au/barlow

Multipacks are available for all Sydney Festival events. Book 3 or more events and save 10 – 15%. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.



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