

MEDIA NOTE: Queensland's chamber orchestra, Camerata of St John's embarks on their annual regional tour next month with special guests flamenco guitarist Gerard Mapstone and electric violinist Shenzo, including school workshops in Gladstone, Mackay, Moranbah, Emerald and Biloela.



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 6 November, 2013

CAMERATA OF ST JOHN'S
QUEENSLAND'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Frets and Wires for regional Queensland tour

What do you get when you mix an electric violin, a flamenco guitarist and a chamber orchestra in regional Queensland?

A brilliant musical premiere collaboration to wow Gladstone, Mackay, Moranbah, Emerald and Biloela, of course!

Embarking on their annual regional tour, Camerata of St John's will be joined by electric violinist Shenzo and flamenco guitarist Gerard Mapstone in November, to present a series of accessible Australian compositions to audiences throughout Queensland.

Camerata's violinist and leader, Brendan Joyce, said the group is excited to be performing works by living Australian composers in the very environment that inspires artists of all genres.

"This tour features a range of beautiful, accessible compositions by living Australian composers," Joyce said. "A sort of 'Live Composer's Society'."

"We have yet to present this exciting new project in Brisbane or any other major centre, so it's exciting to be premiering it in regional Queensland."

"We are all looking forward to sharing some amazingly unique musical experiences with the people of regional Queensland – it will be a fusion of wonderful Australian art and the bringing together of exciting young Australian performers".

This tour marks the first collaboration with Shenzo, a classically trained violinist who has expanded the electronic violin genre with popular performances with Monsieur Camembert, Four Play and his own high flying aerial performance act, Shenzo's Electric Stunt Orchestra.

Gerard Mapstone, who has previously worked and performed with Camerata, is one of Australia's most sought after flamenco guitarists.

This project is exclusive to audiences in Gladstone, Mackay, Moranbah, Emerald and Bioela. The performers are also conducting workshops with school students in each town in between concerts.

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***MEDIA CONTACTS**

For interviews with guest artists Gerard Mapstone or Shenzo, please contact **Jane Balkin** from **JBPR** on 0419 772 550 or jane@janebalkinpr.com.au

For further information, images during the tour, or interviews with Camerata's Brendan Joyce please contact the local organisers as listed overleaf.

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CONCERT SCHEDULE

Gladstone: *(Local contact is Maddie Cook, gragm@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)*

Public concert

Date: Saturday November 16, 7pm

Venue: Tannum Sands State High School Performance Centre

Admission: free

Aged Care Concert

Date: Sunday November 17, 10:30am

Venue: Bindaree Lodge, Boyne Island

School concert

Tannum Sands State School

Date: Monday November 18, 9am

Mackay:

Public concert

Date: Monday November 18, 7:30pm

Venue: Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Admission: Donation towards restoration of organ

School concert

Date: Tuesday November 19, 9am

Venue: Whitsunday Anglican School

Moranbah: *(Local Contact is Elri Hunt moranbahartscouncil@gmail.com)*

Public concert

Date: Wednesday November 20, 7pm

Venue: Moranbah Community Centre

Admission: \$20 per family / \$10 adult / \$5 student.

Proceeds to Breast Cancer Network Australia

School concert

Date: Tuesday November 19, 2pm

Moranbah State High School

Emerald: *(Local contact is Dana Jones djone90@eq.edu.au)*

Public concert

Date: Thursday November 21, 6pm

Venue: McIndoe Function Centre

Admission: \$10 family / \$5 adult

School concert

Date: Thursday November 21, 2pm

Emerald State High School

Biloela: *(Local contact is Fay Neale fayneale1@bigpond.com)*

Public concert

Date: Saturday November 23, 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Ministry Centre

Admission: Adults \$10 / students free

School concert

Biloela State High School

Date: Friday November 22, 2pm

MEDIA INFORMATION

ABOUT CAMERATA OF ST JOHN'S

From underground Brisbane secret to celebrated operandi in a matter of months, 2013 was always going to be a big year for Queensland's Chamber Orchestra Camerata of St John's and its hard-working 18-piece ensemble.

Known for its innovation and verve Camerata was first founded in 1987 by Elizabeth Morgan who perceived a gap in the community for a high level, chamber orchestra.

Years on and several adaptations later Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, Camerata of St John's is in a thriving position as a professional chamber orchestra without a conductor and no artistic director.

Instead the ensemble is led by violinist Brendan Joyce in a formation where he says he is simply "...considered a first among equals."

"We think differently... whether Camerata are punctuating each performance with a wild card segue or going barefoot when the occasion calls, Camerata of St John's love what they do and its audiences find that to be tangible," says Joyce.

GERARD MAPSTONE

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Mapstone was a teenager when awarded the universities classical guitar prize by Julian Byzantine. He also studied in Spain, in Jerez de la Frontera, mentored by Jose Ignacio Franco, and in London with Carlos Bonell, director of guitar at the Royal College of Music.

Gerard has worked along side the best in world music, touring the UK with flamenco fusion band Candela, supporting Tomatito and Estrella Morente, and has performed with Doch Gypsy Orchestra, supported the Gypsy Queens and Kings, and Buena Vista Social Club. Gerard continues to compose for guitar, orchestra, flamenco dance and directs the DaLeCAÑA Flamenco Company, one of Australia's leading contemporary flamenco groups.

SHENZO

Classical violinist turned rogue. From flying through the air with Shenzo's Stunt Orchestra, to mesmerising performances as a featured soloist with top Flamenco, Indian and Jazz musicians, Shenzo's virtuosic talents are in demand across Australia and internationally.

Shenzo is currently in production of the eagerly awaited album with FOURPLAY - The Electrified String Quartet that wows audiences with modern arrangements of songs such as 'Killing in the Name' (Rage Against The Machine) and 'Grace' (Geoff Buckley) and host of originals; all featuring non-conventional techniques. Shenzo appears with many festival favourites like Circle of Rhythm, Totally Gourdgeous, DaLeCAÑA Flamenco Company, Bandaluzia, Saruzu, and has directed for WOT-Opera, and Opera Australia.

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