

MEDIA RELEASE

Strictly embargoed to 6pm Monday 25 May, 2015

ONE HUNDRED & ONE YEARS BRISBANE TOWNSVILLE

QLD
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
17 JULY
12 AUG
2015



WORLD PREMIERE SERIES IN TOWNSVILLE AND BRISBANE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE SACRIFICES MADE BY AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS AND CELEBRATES PEACE

In a unique international collaboration, Queensland Music Festival (QMF) will present *One Hundred & One Years* (1914 - 2015), a free concert series in Townsville on 16 and 17 July and Brisbane on 19 July 2015, featuring musicians drawn from local communities, Australian army bands and Germany's renowned Saxon Wind Philharmonic.

One Hundred & One Years is a dramatic musical narrative exploring the excitement and trepidation of going to war, from big bold numbers brimming with patriotism and adventure, to heartbreaking hymns of longing and goodbye.

The spectacular world premiere series, drawing on the spirit of the Anzacs, is dedicated to courageous Australians who fought in all wars, conflicts and peace operations, and pays tribute to those who gave their lives in service.

From Wagner to *Tipperary*, music from the last 101 years is interwoven with rarely seen archival footage and evocative readings sourced from diaries, letters and soldiers' own stories from Australia and Germany.

Germany's celebrated Saxon Wind Philharmonic will make their Australian debut, led by one of the world's greatest trumpet players Thomas Clamor.

The concerts will celebrate the spirit of reconciliation and respect, symbolically binding Australian and Germany, once adversaries, through powerful music.

The age of enlistment in World War One (WWI) was 21, or 18 with a parent or a guardian's permission, but boys aged 14 to 17 were able to enlist as buglers, trumpeters and musicians.

To honour the men and women who fought for Australia, and to reflect on how young they were, the free open-air concerts will put the spotlight on young actors and musicians, including a specially formed 30-piece community ensemble and a chorus of narrators

comprising locals from Townsville in the Townsville Community Brass Band and Brisbane's Community Brass Band respectively.

The spectacular concerts will also feature the Australian Army Band Brisbane, and the Townsville 1RAR Band performing alongside Australia's leading cabaret and music theatre artist Naomi Price, actor/singer Ben Mingay from Network Ten's *Wonderland*, and emerging vocalist/performer Zac Parkes.

The Premier and Arts Minister Anastacia Palaszczuk said Brisbane and Townsville would be proud to host such a unique musical collaboration commemorating Australians who have served, and still serve, their country.

"More than 57,700 Queenslanders enlisted in the First World War. This concert series will provide a fitting tribute," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"In addition to ongoing QMF funding through Arts Queensland, the Queensland Government has also committed \$250,000 to this year's event as part of the Anzac Centenary program, to celebrate the Anzac spirit through music and art."

QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said the concert series would commemorate the sacrifice made by Australia's armed forces in the pursuit of peace.

"*One Hundred and One Years* will be a moving and powerful tribute to all those young Australians who went to war to fight on behalf of our country," said Mr Morrison.

"It will be a moment to reflect, and an opportunity for people to share their family's stories and their role in conflicts over the last 100 years through music and narration."

"It's also a special international collaboration, with our stellar Australian army bands performing side-by-side with the celebrated Saxon Wind Philharmonic, which is in Australia for the first time."

Media Contact – Agency North

Natasha Spong
0424 202 147
nspong@agencynorth.com.au

Dawn Hewitt
0434 883 880
dhewitt@agencynorth.com.au

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CONT.

One Hundred & One Years is presented by QMF, the Queensland Government, Brisbane City Council and Townsville City Council, and proudly supported by Seymour Whyte, QUT Creative Industries, The Goethe-Institut, State Library of Queensland, Townsville Bulletin, Seven Local News, 630 ABC North Queensland and ABC Local Radio.

ENDS

One Hundred & One Years

Townsville

Thu 16 / Fri 17 Jul 6.30pm
Jezzine Barracks

Free Event qmf.org.au

Brisbane

Sun 19 Jul 6pm
Brisbane Riverstage

Free Event qmf.org.au

This event is proudly supported by the Queensland Government.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government.

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0424 202 147
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