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MEDIA RELEASE

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Country music stars Troy Cassar-Daley and Sara Storer join jazz sensation James Morrison and DJ KLP for Yarrabah Band Festival 2017

Country classics, brass beats and electric grooves will bring the Far North Queensland community of Yarrabah to life when Queensland Music Festival (QMF) returns with some of Australia's finest musicians to present the fifth Yarrabah Band Festival on Saturday 28 October 2017.

Yarrabah Band Festival has become an anticipated yearly event showcasing visiting musicians and providing a platform for local artists to welcome visitors to the community. Since the inaugural event in 2013, the festival has continued to attract huge audiences, with over 4,000 attending in 2016. This year the festival moves to the Jilara Football Oval to accommodate the ever-growing crowd.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan is a passionate advocate of music's ability to change lives, particularly in regional and remote communities.

"Yarrabah Band Festival is an incredibly special event on the QMF calendar, celebrating local and national talent, connecting communities and inspiring the next generation of Yarrabah musicians. We cherish our relationship with this highly creative community and the opportunity to engage with and learn from them," Ms Noonan said.

Acting Premier and Member for Mulgrave Curtis Pitt said Yarrabah Band Festival is a unique QMF initiative celebrating the diversity of Australian music talent and showcasing performances that reflect local culture.

"The Festival draws thousands of people from across the region and supports the discovery and development of talented musicians in Yarrabah, both at local schools and in the wider community," the Acting Premier said.

Audiences can look forward to a stellar lineup in 2017 featuring country music star Troy Cassar-Daley, jazz sensation and all-round entertainer James Morrison, multi Golden Guitar Award-winner Sara Storer and the host of Triple J's House Party, KLP.

Performing at Yarrabah Band Festival for the first time, Cassar-Daley is one of Australia's most beloved musicians. Topping Australian country music charts in 1994 with his 'Dream Out Loud' single, he has since become a household name, recently winning the National Indigenous Music Awards' artist of the year accolade.

Joining him on the stage is James Morrison, internationally renowned jazz musician and former Artistic Director of QMF. Passionate about community engagement and education, Morrison was a galvanising force behind the rejuvenation of the Yarrabah Band Festival while at QMF and continues to work in the region. In recognition of this ongoing commitment, he was given a local name by the

King of Yarrabah, and presented with a set of clapsticks in a powerful ceremony in 2016. The name Morrison was given was 'Bipper' meaning rhythm in the local Yidinji language.

Sara Storer will make her first visit to Yarrabah this year. Storer is one of the country's most treasured singer-songwriters, whose crisp observations of the Australian landscape and its people provide the solid foundation for her music. She has seen all the beauty, joy and heartbreak this land can bring, living and writing music all over Australia.

Operating under the moniker KLP, Sydney based artist Kristy Lee Peters will also make her first appearance at Yarrabah Band Festival 2017. KLP has gained notoriety as a producer, songwriter, vocalist, DJ and radio host, amassing much deserved national and international attention. Whether it's through hosting Triple J's House Party each Saturday night, writing her own solo music or co-writing with numerous other artists, chances are you've listened to a KLP track before.

In the week prior to the festival, KLP will join storyteller, musician and advocate for social change, Shellie Morris for the Yarrabah Artists in Residence Program. Since its inception in 2014, the Artists in Residence program has offered mentorship opportunities for young singer-songwriters, a creative space for music making and resulted in several original works. This year festival-favourite Shellie Morris will return for her fourth stint with the program, where she'll work with KLP, students from Yarrabah State School and local musicians, developing and practicing material that will be performed on 28 October. In addition to her performance at the festival, Morris will also take to the Yarrabah State School stage with Troy Cassar-Daley and James Morrison for a one-off concert in the lead-up to this year's event.

A huge local band program will complete the Yarrabah Band Festival lineup – with close to 20 acts warming up the stage before the headliners alongside students from Yarrabah State School and local legends the Yarrabah Brass Band.

Initially founded in 2013 to revive the Yarrabah Brass Band, the festival has a close relationship with this inspirational ensemble. Anglican missionaries originally set up the band with the region's Indigenous community in 1901 to accompany hymns – the humidity of Far North Queensland necessitating brass instruments. Despite this history, the band had become an important part of community building and storytelling for Yarrabah residents and five years ago a group of Indigenous locals came together for the band's first performance in many years.

Ms Noonan is inspired by the incredible talent involved in this year's event.

"We're thrilled to have Troy, Sara, KLP and Shellie take to the stage with the Yarrabah Brass Band and other local acts and it's a special moment to welcome James Morrison back after all he's done for the event and the broader community," Ms Noonan said.

"With a fantastic lineup covering a range of musical genres and only a 50-minute drive from Cairns, we encourage locals and visitors from far and wide to join us for the biggest Yarrabah Band Festival yet."

The Acting Premier expressed his delight at the impact the festival has beyond the event itself.

"QMF artists and Yarrabah's youth have been collaborating in the months leading into the Festival, sharing their love of music and honing their music pieces, so there is great excitement in the air at Yarrabah," he said.

“The Queensland Government is proud to support QMF to help deliver programs which transform communities, help to build local pride and inspire young creative minds, especially in remote and regional Queensland.”

Tourism and Events Queensland also supports the Yarrabah Band Festival as part of the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar. Queensland, just the place to experience Australia's best live events.

The free festival will include a full day of live music, food stalls and local art.
The Yarrabah Art Centre and Museum will also be open and welcoming visitors.

-ENDS-

Yarrabah Band Festival is presented by Queensland Music Festival and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and is supported by Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Bryan Family Foundation, Tourism and Events Queensland, Seymour Whyte, Hutchinson Builders, Festivals Australia, Australia Council for the Arts, Queensland Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Frazer Family Foundation, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Diringhi Aboriginal Corporation and Bumma Bippera Media.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

EVENT DETAILS

EVENT: Yarrabah Band Festival

DATE: Saturday 28 October 2017

TIME: 12pm -10pm

VENUE: Jilara Football Oval, Black Beach Rd, Yarrabah

TICKETS: Free all ages event – gold coin donation welcome – proceeds go to the Yarrabah Seahawks Rugby League Club

Bring a blanket, chair or cushion
Alcohol-free event

For more information on Yarrabah Band Festival click [here](#).

To view press images please click [here](#).

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