

## MEDIA RELEASE

Strictly embargoed to 6pm Monday 25 May, 2015



COOPER & HAMMOND:  
CLASSICS, GYPSY  
AND JAZZ  
FLYING TOUR



## CLASSICS, GYPSY AND JAZZ STARS TO FLY ACROSS CAPE YORK AND NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

From 25 July to 1 August 2015, Australian classical violinist Ian Cooper and inimitable pianist Ambre Hammond will fly across Far North Queensland to perform a series of concerts and school workshops for Queensland Music Festival's (QMF) *Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz*.

Musician and pilot John Morrison will transport the world-class duo in an 8-seater plane for the tour, which kicks off in Burketown and will see Cooper and Hammond visit Weipa, Aurukun, Hope Vale, Atherton, Innisfail, Palm Island, Charters Towers and Gladstone.

In an effort to make unforgettable music experiences accessible to regional and remote Queenslanders, this flying tour will visit Palm Island and Burketown for the first time.

Cooper and Hammond are two of the finest classical musicians Australia has to offer, and have performed across the globe to audiences in their thousands from Sydney, to New York, to London, to Paris.

ARIA Award-winning Cooper is the country's most exciting virtuoso violinist. He was commissioned to compose and perform the Tin Symphony for the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games; and has appeared with Silverchair, Simon Tedeschi, Barry White, and the Hoodoo Gurus.

Hammond has performed across the world and worked with industry legends Lalo Schifrin, Patrick Zimmerli and Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. She is also the founder of Girl Truck Piano, a project presenting concerts in remote locations worldwide.

In Aurukun and Hope Vale, the workshops with Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) will build on QMF's work carried out over the past two years with its *Cape York Instrumental Project* (CYIP). QMF is committed to nurturing instrumental music programs in primary schools in Aurukun, Hope Vale and Coen.

Another highlight of the flying tour will see the duo perform at Innisfail's iconic art deco Town Hall, featuring Hammond on the Steinway piano.

This will be the second flying tour to take place in QMF 2015. The first flying tour will see Emma Pask and the John Morrison Trio fly to remote and regional west Queensland from 16 to 22 July with their beautiful Latin, jazz and soul sounds.

Cooper, Hammond, Pask, and the John Morrison Trio will all perform between the flying tours tours, at QMF's regional epic event *Mount Isa Celebrates*.

Artistic Director James Morrison said QMF was the only festival in Australia, and possibly the world, to reach such a large geographic area.

"*Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz* is an important part of our regional and community program, and reflects QMF's commitment to offering regional and remote communities the opportunity to experience sublime music, and to learn from some of Australia's best musicians," Mr Morrison said.

"QMF wants to transform the lives of Queenslanders through music, whether people live in Brisbane or the furthest flung regions of Cape York. Geographical barriers shouldn't be a deterrent to presenting a festival of great music that is truly state-wide."

*Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz* is presented by QMF, and proudly supported by the Queensland Government, Burke Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board, Smit, Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy, Western Cape College and ABC Local Radio.

ENDS

Media Contact – Agency North

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

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

Connect

f /QldMusicFestival  
t @QMF  
i @QldMusicFest

yt /QldMusicFest  
qmf.org.au  
#qldmusicfest



# MEDIA RELEASE

Strictly embargoed to 6pm Monday 25 May, 2015



## CONT.

*Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz*

Burketown

Sat 25 Jul 6pm  
Burke Shire Nijinda Durlga

Atherton

Tue 28 Jul 7pm  
Merriland Hall

Gladstone

Sat 1 Aug 6.30pm  
The Grand Court  
Central Qld University

Weipa\*

Sun 26 Jul  
Western Cape College

Innisfail

Wed 29 Jul 7pm  
Innisfail Shire Hall

**BOOKINGS**  
[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)

This project has received financial assistance from the Queensland Government through: Arts Queensland's Playing Queensland Fund; and the Regional Arts Development Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Tablelands Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Charters Towers Regional Council and Gladstone Regional Council to support local arts and culture.

This project is proudly supported by Burke Shire Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. The Palm Island performance and workshop are supported by the Pavetta Foundation.

Aurukun\*

Mon 27 Jul  
Cape York Aboriginal  
Australian Academy

Palm Island

Thu 30 Jul 7pm  
Palm Island Outdoor  
Amphitheatre

Hope Vale\*

Mon 27 Jul  
Cape York Aboriginal  
Australian Academy

Charters Towers

Fri 31 Jul 7pm  
The World Theatre

\* workshops only

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government.

Media Contact – Agency North

Connect

Natasha Spong  
0424 202 147  
[nspong@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:nspong@agencynorth.com.au)

Dawn Hewitt  
0434 883 880  
[dhewitt@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:dhewitt@agencynorth.com.au)

[/QldMusicFestival](https://www.facebook.com/QldMusicFestival)  
[@QMF](https://twitter.com/QMF)  
[@QldMusicFestival](https://www.instagram.com/QldMusicFestival)

[/QldMusicFestival](https://www.youtube.com/QldMusicFestival)  
[qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)  
[#qldmusicfest](https://www.facebook.com/QldMusicFestival)

