

MEDIA RELEASE

Strictly embargoed to 6pm Monday 25 May, 2015

UNDER THIS SKY
LOGAN'S MUSICAL
CELEBRATION

QLD
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
17 JULY
- 2 AUG
2015

OVER 700 LOGAN LOCALS TO STAR IN UNDER THIS SKY - QUEENSLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL'S EPIC PRODUCTION

On Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 August, Queensland Music Festival (QMF) will stage *Under This Sky*, the largest community production in its history, showcasing the ambition and talent of more than 700 Logan locals from the culturally diverse South East Queensland city.

Under This Sky explores a day in the life of the pulsing City of Logan, boasting original rousing musical numbers written by and for the community and spectacular choreography accompanied by a booming orchestra.

The City of Logan is a vibrant place full of energy and diversity, woven together by myriad stories, both shared and unique, waiting to be told. It is home to 215 cultures, with Samoan, Mandarin, Hindi, and Spanish among the top languages other than English spoken.

QMF's epic musical production will unite Logan's communities and put the rich cultural fabric of the city centre stage in two spectacular free outdoor events at Logan Brothers Rugby League Club football field, with crowds of 10,000 a night expected.

"From the start this project has been about engaging with the community, making music and helping locals celebrate the Logan story," QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said.

"This world premiere production is the culmination of two years of work in the community, and is so spectacular that no mere stage can contain it," Mr Morrison said.

Carved into the banks above Logan Brothers Rugby League field, the 100m-wide performance space merges with the landscape and the open night sky will provide a stunning backdrop.

An 86-piece orchestra with members ranging from 10 to 70 years old; a 25-strong all-star core choir; 10 community choirs from across the city; 240 primary school children; and numerous soloists will share the stage.

Musical genres mesh as gigantic puppets meet fire-twirlers, dancers face-off, a solo guitarist plays to the night stars, while the full-throttle sound of hotted-up lawnmowers makes way for the thunderous rhythm of massed drummers.

QMF was approached by Logan City Council to help encourage mutual respect and understanding between people of different backgrounds.

City of Logan Mayor Pam Parker said the city has been buzzing with excitement as word of the project spread through the community.

"We've always known that Logan has a wealth of cultural and artistic talents, and now that talent will be on full display," said Mayor Pam Parker.

"The journey to date has been so rewarding. James Morrison, Sean Mee, and the team, including all the fabulous local musicians and creative contributors, have done amazing work in telling a distinctly Logan tale.

"I'm looking forward to finally seeing their efforts come to life beneath the Logan sky."

The creative team, including Creative Director Sean Mee, Music Director Morgan Lewis aka Morganics, Choral Director Cath Mundy, and Orchestra Director/Arranger Shaun Dorney, has immersed itself in the community since 2014, holding song-writing workshops and rehearsals.

QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said Logan was a creative hotspot with an unbelievable wealth of talent.

"The initial cast has more than doubled, as we keep stumbling across wonderful people we simply must include in the show. We have called previous community projects like Logan big, but this is epic," Mr Morrison said.

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"The whole process has been inspiring, to say the least, to bring the residents of Logan together to simply make music and tell their stories.

"We immediately saw the city had an abundance of diverse talent, and have been overwhelmed by the energy and enthusiasm. We ended up handing a lot of the songwriting over to the community, which we have never done before to this extent, and it really gives the project an authentic voice.

"Observing all the cross-cultural collaborations and seeing the show develop – from all the jam sessions and ideas as they turn in to full compositions – has been something truly special and I cannot wait to see all these different groups share the stage in the final show.

"The heart of the performance is about living in one place with compassion, humanity and resilience and I think community pride is going to be sky high when the curtain falls."

Under This Sky is presented by QMF and Logan City Council, and is proudly supported by Bendigo Bank, Logan Hyperdome, QUT Creative Industries, Logan Brothers Rugby League Club, TFH Hire Services, Illuminated Industries, Queensland Rail, The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Canterbury College, Audi Centre Springwood, Kingston Park Raceway, IKEA Logan, The Coffee Club, TAFE Queensland Brisbane, Black & White Cabs, J.J. Richards & Sons and ABC 612 Brisbane.

ENDS

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Under This Sky

Logan

Sat 1 / Sun 2 Aug 6.30pm
Football Field
Logan Brothers Rugby League Club

Free Event

qmf.org.au

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government.

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