

Songs for Freedom

An evening of music by
the river celebrating
Country, freedom and peace

DYOONDALUP, POINT WALTER RESERVE

5PM: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

7PM: MUSIC

Free.

SONGS FOR FREEDOM RETURNS TO DYOONDALUP BY THE SWAN RIVER FOR ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE EVENING

"Songs for Freedom is more than just music, it's stories from our people. It's respect".

- Tyson Mowarin, Roebourne artist

"An unforgettable night of music." – X-Press Mag

"Songwriting for healing in the very purest sense." - ABC Radio

The Roebourne community with The City of Melville and Big hART, in association with Perth Festival, are delighted to announce that **Songs for Freedom** will return to Perth on Saturday 26th February for a glorious evening at Dyoondalup Point Walter Reserve celebrating the living culture, stories and songs where the desert meets the sea in the West Pilbara.

Songs for Freedom premiered in 2021 and attracted 3,000 people to Dyoondalup on the Swan River, attracting rave reviews from audience who described the concert as "exceptional", "uplifting", "captivating" and "inspirational".

In 2022 Songs for Freedom is an umbrella event of the **Perth Festival** and will return to Dyoondalup in Bicton on Whadjuk Boodja for a sublime evening celebrating country and peace, with some fresh new artists taking the stage. All the songs which feature on the night are written by the Ieramugadu (Roebourne) community on Ngarluma country and are part of an incredible legacy of creative development which has seen close to 100 songs written by community since 2011. Music direction will once again be led by broadcaster and Grammy award-winning artist **Lucky Oceans**, with performances by prominent Ieramugadu musicians such as **Tyson Mowarin**, alongside an ensemble of renowned Western Australian musical collaborators including **Kankawa Nagarra**, **Naomi Pigram**, **Stephen Pigram**, **John Bennett** and **David Hyams** performing alongside Elders from the Ieramugadu community.

This year's Songs for Freedom will include an inclusive, intercultural program of events on Whadjuk Boodja in the lead-up. Naomi Pigram and Kankawa Nagarra will run music and songwriting workshops in the community, there will be musician mentoring opportunities with Tyson Mowarin, and a public exhibition 'Country Freedom Peace' opening on the 23 February at the Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum in Ardross featuring stunning work by high profile and lesser known artists from the Pilbara, including award-winning artwork from the Cossack Art Awards.

Songs for Freedom is the culmination of 10 years of songwriting development and intercultural exchange on Ngarluma country in the West Pilbara involving leading Australian musicians - in the community, the prison, with Elders and young people. Workshops began in the prison to honour John Pat - a 16-year-old whose death in custody in 1983 brought much sorrow and trauma to Roebourne. Through songwriting, Ieramugadu began to sing again, giving rise to the Murru album and a series of concerts presented annually at the John Pat Peace Place in Ieramugadu on the International Day of Peace. Community have had their songs sung by Paul Kelly, Emma Donovan and The Waifs' Vikki Thorn, they've shared the stage with Archie Roach and they've opened the 2014 Melbourne Festival in Federation Square.



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SONGS FOR FREEDOM RETURNS TO DYOONDALUP BY THE SWAN RIVER FOR ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE EVENING (P2/2)

(CONT)

Pack a picnic and gather your friends, family and loved ones for an unforgettable night of music, peace and freedom. Songs for Freedom is a family friendly event. Food will be available onsite and there will be cultural activities for the kids from 5pm.

We acknowledge and express our deep gratitude to the Noongar Elders and their custodians past, present and emerging, on whose Country this concert is performed.

Founded in 1992, Big hART is a not-for-profit organisation which has worked in 50 communities in remote, rural, regional and urban Australia. Big hART works with communities to make content, build community and drive positive change. Big hART was first invited to the Ieramugadu community by senior women Elders in 2010.

What: Songs for Freedom
When: Sat 26 February, 5pm Kids and Cultural Activities, 7-9:30pm Music
Where: Dyoondalup Point Walter Reserve
Cost: Free

Songs for Freedom is a proud partnership between The City of Melville, Big hART and the Roebourne Community. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Perth Festival, LotteryWest, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Limited, Wirli-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, RISE Fund, Fortescue, Restore Hope, WA Government, Woodside, Alberts, the Telstra Foundation and the Blacket Family and Mr Paul Barnett.

The City of Melville is working to deliver this event safely in line with the WA Health directions. People aged 16 years and over must show proof of their double dose COVID-19 vaccination status, along with identification, to enter this event.

Changing restrictions mean the City of Melville will remain flexible and may have to make event management changes with short notice. Patrons are encouraged to register for this event to receive the latest health and event updates. www.melvillecity.com.au/songsforfreedom



BIG hART

NEW ROEBOURNE

PERTH FESTIVAL

lotterywest



Wirli-murra Yindjibarndi ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

NGARLUMA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Woodside

RESTORE HOPE FOUNDATION

Australian Government RISE Fund

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Alberts THE TONY FOUNDATION

TELSTRA FOUNDATION

Big hART gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Blacket Family and Mr Paul Barnett.

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