

For Immediate Release

9 June 2023

**GARRMALANG & BIG hART PRESENT
SONGS FOR FREEDOM
LIVE AT THE
DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE,
FRIDAY JUNE 23**

FEATURING PATRICK CHURNSIDE, FRED RYAN, KANKAWA NAGARRA (OLIVE KNIGHT), JOHN BENNETT AND GUESTS SHELLIE MORRIS AND KUTCHA EDWARDS, *SONGS FOR FREEDOM* IS THE ACCLAIMED LIVE CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF THE NEW ALBUM OF THE SAME NAME

FROM ROEBOURNE (IERAMUGADU) IN AUSTRALIA'S VAST NORTH-WEST, NEW ALBUM *SONGS FOR FREEDOM* BY THE FREEDOM COLLECTIVE WAS PRODUCED BY GRAMMY-AWARD WINNER LUCKY OCEANS, AND FEATURES 14 TRACKS OF HOPE, PEACE AND FREEDOM THAT SPEAK OF KEY INDIGENOUS ISSUES AND TO THE SOUL OF OUR NATION.

NEW SINGLE "LITTLE TOWN, BIG HEART" (ft. FRED RYAN) ALREADY ADDED TO ABC COUNTRY



Following performances this year at Mona Foma in Hobart and the Perth Festival, ***Songs for Freedom*** is coming to the **Darwin Entertainment Centre** on **Friday June 23**.

Guided by **Ngarluma** and **Yinjibarndi** Elders, ***Songs For Freedom*** sees songwriters from the Pilbara and singers from the Pilbara and elsewhere raising their voice for freedom. A stunning intercultural band including the extraordinary talented **Kutcha Edwards, Shellie Morris, Kankawa Nagarra, Fred Ryan** and **John Bennett**, join musicians and friends to pay tribute to the family of **John Pat** in the **40th anniversary year** of his passing in custody. The Pat family generously shared their story, their longing for peace and their love of music. These powerful songs give us the opportunity to stand together with his community and sing for peace and freedom for Aboriginal young people, like John, caught up in the justice system.

With musical direction from **Grammy Award**-winning artist **Lucky Oceans**, and narrated by **Ngarluma** man **Patrick Churnside**, ***Songs for Freedom*** is a concert experience that will fill your night with hope, peace, freedom and country.

***SONGS FOR FREEDOM AT DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
ON FRIDAY JUNE 23 IS PRESENTED BY GARRMALANG AND BIG HART.***

Further details and tickets are available [here](#).

The ***Songs for Freedom*** performance in Darwin coincides with the release of the ***Songs for Freedom*** album. An uplifting collection of original songs created by artists in the Pilbara town of **Roebourne and beyond**, together with guests from around the country, the album is the work of numerous songwriters, musicians and other creatives, coming together under the name **The Freedom Collective**. Produced by **Grammy Award**-winning musician (and long-time **ABC Radio National** presenter) Lucky Oceans, the ***Songs for Freedom*** album features lead vocal contributions from **Naomi Pigram, Patrick Churnside, Fred Ryan, Vikki Thorn (The Waifs), Kendall Smith, Kankawa Nagarra (Olive Knight), Jay Jarome** and **John Bennett**.

Songs for Freedom was recorded from April to December of 2022, in **Perth** and in **Roebourne**. The album is a culmination of years of work and has its foundations in workshops involving the family of **John Pat**, whose death in custody in **Roebourne** in 1983 triggered the Royal Commission into deaths in custody.

“The Songs for Freedom concert is a full-hearted collaboration - an ongoing process of creation with the community of Roebourne for more than ten years”, explains Lucky Oceans. “The people of Roebourne have shared their voices, music and songs so generously and really bring a sense of community to the stage. It’s a unique and inspiring thing to be a part of.”

The second single from ***Songs For Freedom***, "Little Town, Big Heart" (ft/ Fred Ryan) is available now and has already been added to high rotation on **ABC Country**.



"Little Town, Big Heart" by the Freedom Collective (ft. Fred Ryan) (Official Audio)

SONGS FOR FREEDOM by THE FREEDOM COLLECTIVE is out now on Big hART/ Remote Control.

Purchase or stream the digital release now at

freedomcollective.lnk.to/songsforfreedom-lp

or order the CD from www.bighart.org/product/songs-for-freedom-cd-pre-sale

NEW SINGLE "LITTLE TOWN, BIG HEART" (ft. FRED RYAN) OUT NOW

Rhythms

EST. 1992

Australia's National Roots
Music Magazine

"The Songs
for Freedom
concert is a
full-hearted
collaboration.
It's a unique
and inspiring
thing to be a
part of...."



Songs For Freedom

PLUS:

- Jason Isbell
- Rickie Lee Jones
- Stephen Cummings
- Marianne Faithfull
- Natalie Merchant

TOURING

- Tommy McLain & CC Adcock
- The Delines • Jimbo Mathus
- Milk Carton Kids

HISTORY

- No Fixed Address
- Women Who Rock



\$15.00 inc GST
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Click image to read the 5-page **Songs For Freedom**
feature in the latest issue of **Rhythms** magazine



SONGS FOR FREEDOM - THE FREEDOM COLLECTIVE

Since 2011, a series of workshops involving the family of **John Pat**, which have been supported by Elders, have taken place in the Roebourne prison, school and community.

These workshops have created music, theatre, performance and digital content, all with a view to promote positive stories being told about Roebourne. The project has resulted in about 100 songs to date, including those featured on the 2013 album ***Murru*** - and since 2018 it has delivered an annual ***Songs for Peace*** concert in Roebourne, at which community has had their songs sung by **Paul Kelly**, Vikki Thorn and **Emma Donovan**. **Archie Roach** sang in prison and at the first show in 2018. Other artists from outside the community who have been involved in the workshops include **Brian Ritchie** of the Violent Femmes and **Bill Chambers**.

The ***Songs for Freedom*** project, with its compelling songwriting and performances and lush and earthy instrumentation and production, sounds a positive note as we head towards the 40th anniversary of **John Pat**'s passing, and a national referendum.

Beyond that, ***Songs for Freedom*** has a simple and urgent purpose – to raise awareness and push for a change to the shockingly disproportionate number of Aboriginal young people caught up in the justice system.



(Top) Fred Ryan (Joseph Penipe Photography)

(Bottom) Lucky Oceans (by Laura Dunjey)

Download high resolution images [here](#)

FRED RYAN & LUCKY OCEANS BIO'S

Fred Ryan

Indigenous singer song writer, loves to paint a picture in his lyrics, enjoys writing about real people and real- life stories. Fred put his new album together with the same guy as the first, his good mate and producer Peter Oats of Kitchen Cooked Records in Fremantle WA.

Fred grew up in the outback listening to country music and his music reflects that.

A powerful lyricist, he has contributed some significant songs and co-written a number of new works over the last few years, becoming an established member of The Freedom Collective.

Lucky Oceans

Lucky Oceans is a two-time Grammy Award winning musician, a fluent player of jazz, folk, blues and country styles. He has 10 years' experience working in the Roebourne community and prison, songwriting and performing as part of the annual *Songs for Peace* concert.

Lucky was born into a music-loving family in Philadelphia in 1951. He heard John Coltrane live, chauffeured Big Joe Williams and co-founded the group Asleep at the Wheel with whom he won 2 Grammy Awards and 7 Nominations.

He is a musician with deep roots in many musical styles and a strong desire to communicate with his audience. He hosted the beloved and acclaimed Daily Planet on ABC RN for 21 years, is a former Australia Council Music Board Member and has played with Eric Clapton, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Paul Kelly, Archie Roach and Hank Marvin. He writes music for film and television and is committed to pushing his instrument, the Pedal Steel Guitar, into new directions. He has been called 'the most influential steel guitarist of his generation' and was featured in Hugh Gregory's book, '1000 Great Guitarists.'

Lucky plays many styles of music - jazz, blues, country, western swing, folk, bluegrass - but gets truly interested when the boundaries come down and pure music is being made in the moment. He is a proponent of true improvisation and hosted a TedX talk to explain it. Having experienced a stunningly wide range of music as a radio presenter and as a musician, he is involved in music at a high level in many different contexts and styles, but always with warmth, wit and erudition.



The Freedom Collective - Songs of Freedom (ft Fred Ryan) (Music Video)



(Joseph Penipe Photography)

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