

10 GLORIOUS DAYS OF MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER

# DESERT SONG

FESTIVAL

ALICE SPRINGS • 7-16 SEPTEMBER 2018

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!  
CELEBRATING  
GLOBAL MUSIC HERITAGE



# 2018 PROGRAM

[WWW.DESERTSONG.COM.AU](http://WWW.DESERTSONG.COM.AU)



**FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM:  
THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs



**'Play me!'** Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody...

Public street art – the piano

**FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM  
PARADE OF PERFORMERS - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall, Alice Springs

**"Oh! What a Wonderful World"**: Choirs, singers and musicians ignite Todd Mall with sound, colour and harmony in creative movement towards the Flynn Lawns for 'APERTURE' - the Festival opening event.



**FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 6.00PM**

**APERTURE – Festival Opening Event**

Venue Details: Flynn Church Lawns Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$ Free event



The Desert Song Festival 2018 Opening night event: a rousing community celebration in the heart of the Alice Springs CBD, staged on the Lawns of the John Flynn Memorial Church. APERTURE introduces some of the festival's signature acts- the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, Asante Sana, visiting musicians from Africa, India and North America. Experience a captivating preview of the kaleidoscope of talent awaiting festivalgoers over the next ten days.

**FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 7.45PM  
'DESERT SONG CENTRAL'**

**The Festival Club at The Watertank Café**

Venue Details: 16 Wilkinson St, Ciccone NT 0870

\$10 door entry

**FEATURED ARTISTS: Ruth Apelt; Festival Headliners**

Excellent food, quality musicians and the great Desert Song Festival atmosphere.



**SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 10.30AM**

**SOIREE AT WHITE GUMS – all day commencing at 10.30am**

Venue Details: White Gums, Lot 4012, Bullen Road, Honeymoon Gap NT 0870

Site Entry: \$10 Adult/\$20 Family



Enjoy a Picnic Day at beautiful White Gums – the rural retreat for Desert Song Festival 2018. Share in a day of activities including walks, guided cultural journeys, traditional Central Australian cooking by the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, an Aboriginal Art market, and a 'wellness' workshop comprising Yoga accompanied by some excellent music and food stalls.

**SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM  
THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

**'Play me!'** Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody...

Public street art – 'The Piano'



**SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM  
'DESERT VOICE' AT WHITE GUMS**

Venue Details: White Gums, Lot 4012 Bullen rd, Honeymoon Gap

\$30 Adult/\$15Concession /\$10 Child/\$65 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBOD>

The signature choral concert of the festival- 'Desert Voice', finds a new home in the shadow of the Yeperenyne Range at Honeymoon Gap, bringing the voices of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir 'home' to Aranda country - Tjoritja/West Mc Donnell National Park. The program will also feature the voices of Asante Sana, The Zimbabwe Ladies Choir and Taiwanese Indigenous vocalist Sang Mei-Chuan and other visiting choirs and musicians.



Sang Mei-Chuan



**SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 8.00PM**

**'DESERT SONG CENTRAL'**

The Festival Club at The Watertank Café

Venue Details: 16 Wilkinson St, Ciccone NT 0870

\$10 door entry

**FEATURED ARTISTS: FIDDLESTICKS AND ROSS MUIR AND BB SABINA**

**SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2.00PM- 4.45PM**

**PENTATONIC**

Venue Details: The Stuart Town Gaol 8 Parsons St, Alice Springs NT 0870

\$20 Adult/\$10 Concession, students and children /\$40 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBQL>

A promenade concert in 5 heritage places: the Stuart Town Gaol, the Old Law Courts, Flynn Memorial Uniting Church, the Hartley St Schoolroom and the Residency:

A two-and-a-half-hour feast of Masterworks, Guitar, Cello, Vocal virtuosity, Fiddlesticks presenting "Heritage Fiddlers" and more...

Complimentary canapés to finish.



**SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 5.15 PM**

**SACRED SONG**

Venue Details: Flynn Church Lawns Todd Mall

\$ Free Event



Sacred Song celebrates sacred music from a diversity of traditions: Samoa, Africa, Pitjantjatjara, Western Arrarnta, Maori, Buddhist Kirtan, Christian Traditions and many others. Come at 5.00pm. Sit on the Lawns and experience the moving sacred music from local communities as the sun sets on another beautiful Central Australian spring day.



**SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**

**'THE SONG KEEPERS'**

Venue Details: Araluen Arts Centre

61 Larapinta Dr, Araluen NT 0870



A Festival premiere of the Documentary 'The Song Keepers'. This moving record of the story of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir and their historic tour of Germany in 2015 comes home to Central Australia and to the Desert Song Festival, after record-breaking seasons at the Melbourne and Darwin International Film Festivals, and popular screenings across Australia. Screening followed by brief performance and Q&A with Producers and cast!

Adult\$20 /Concession\$15/ Child\$10/Family\$50/ Group 10+-\$175

Booking: <http://araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au> or at the Araluen Box Office

**MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 11.00AM TO NOON**

**THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

'Play me!' Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody... Public street art - 'The Piano'



**MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2.00PM**

**'MIDDAY IN THE MALL'**

Live Vibrational Yoga in the Mall with Sunshine Zerda and QVLN :

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$Free event



New to Desert Song Festival and a first for the CBD, this unique combination of movement and music is designed to bring mindfulness and physicality together into the present moment. Participants can expect a well-rounded class that will challenge your core, focus your breath, and soothe your senses with vibrational frequency healing.

The program incorporates a gentle contemporary Vinyasa meditation flow guided by international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin improvisations by international performing artist QVLN.



**MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 6.00PM**

**YOUNG FIDDLESTICKS**

A recital with 'Q' and a specially created Desert Song Festival workshop ensemble

Venue Details: Hartley St Schoolroom -39, Hartley St Alice Springs

\$20 Adult/\$10 Concession/\$7.50 Child/\$40 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBQM>

Young Fiddlesticks is a specially created Desert Song Festival workshop ensemble under the guidance of 'Q'. Tutored by Karen Jackson, this ensemble of young strings players makes its first appearance at the Desert Song Festival. A boutique concert in a wonderful acoustic space.

**MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 6.00PM**

**CHORAL MASTER CLASS – Flynn Church**

Venue Details: Flynn Church Todd Mall Alice Springs.

\$ 5 door entry



Discover your hidden chorister! Join Morris Stuart and Asante Sana in their weekly rehearsal. Experience a choral work-out and become a choir in one evening.

**TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM**

**'MIDDAY IN THE MALL'**

King Marong Drumming Circle. Drumming in the CBD like you have never ever experienced! Join the Maestro and some special guests for today's sensational main course performance to accompany your lunch. The best hour of your day!

Venue Details: Flynn Lawns, Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$ Free Event



**TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2PM - 3PM**

**THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

'Play me!' Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody... Public street art – 'The Piano'

**TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**

**THE FESTIVAL RECITAL**

Venue Details: CSC Theatre Grevillea Dr, Alice Springs

\$40 Adult/\$20 Concession/\$15 child/\$75 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBQN>

The International Musical Showcase featuring our visiting artists from Taiwan, India, Africa and North America (via Sydney): Basidi and Khakilfa Koné,

Shubhendra Rao, Saskia Rao De Haas, Zuheb Khan, 'Q', Sang Mei-Chuan.

Booking essential!



**WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM**

**'MIDDAY IN THE MALL'**

Venue Details: Flynn Church , Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$Free Event

School groups, pop-up choirs and musicians: main course performances to accompany your lunch in the CBD

**WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**

**THE KONZERTHALL 1 Hartley St. Schoolroom**

Venue Details: Hartley St Schoolroom- 39, Hartley St Alice Springs

\$25 Adult/\$15 Concession/\$7.50 Child/\$45 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBQU>

**Tonight: A beautiful 'concert in the round' presented by 'The Abernathy Quartet'.**

Four excellent young musicians from one family present an exquisite concert in this wonderful acoustic space. Chopin, Bach, and much more.

Booking essential – limited capacity



**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM**

**'MIDDAY IN THE MALL'**

Venue Details: Flynn Church Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$ Free Event

School groups, buskers, pop-up choirs and musicians: main course performances to accompany your lunch in the CBD

**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2PM - 3PM**

**THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

'Play me!' Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody... Public street art – 'The Piano'

**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM**

**TÊTE-A- TÊTE at Flynn:**

**Sound track for a Revolution**

Venue Details: Flynn Church, Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$ Free Event



'Sound Track for a Revolution' – a conversation with Morris Stuart – the Festival Director

\$Free Event



**THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 8.00PM**  
**BEFORE THE HEAVENS**

Venue Details: Honeymoon Gap Bullen road

\$20 Adult/\$10 Concession, students and children /\$40 Family



A performance of musical and poetic musing presented by Tim Coghill and Amy Dwight. Explore creation! Lie in the sand, nestle in your swag, rug pulled up to your chin, eyes upon the Milky Way. Surrender, as you allow yourself to be transported by the surrounding sounds of time and space.

Booking is essential!

**FRIDAY 14 SEP 11.00AM TO NOON**  
**THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

'Play me!' Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody...

Public street art – 'The Piano'

**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM**  
**'MIDDAY IN THE MALL'**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

\$ Free Event

School groups, buskers, pop-up choirs and musicians: main course performances to accompany your lunch in the CBD

**FRIDAY 14 SEP 5.30PM**  
**YOUNG DESERT VOICES**

Venue Details: Flynn Church Lawns, Todd Mall, Alice Springs

\$Free Event

A schools' event – a parade of choirs and dance ensembles from Alice Springs Schools and youth clubs. Come and be entertained by the best young talent in town!

**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM**  
**VIBRATO BAR**

Venue Details: Totem Theatre Anzac Oval reserve, Undoolya Rd.

\$10 Entry

'Vibrato Bar' is the Festival venue for emerging local artists– taking risks in performance and with the audience!



**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM**  
**KONZERTHALL 2**

Venue Details: 39, Hartley St Schoolroom, 39 Hartley St Alice Springs

\$25 Adult/\$15 Concession/\$7.50 Child/\$45 Family

Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBRE>



Another evening of very fine music: Bach, Mozart, Haydn and more

Booking essential – limited capacity

**FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**  
**'DESERT SONG CENTRAL'**

**The Festival Club at The Watertank Café**

Venue Details: 16 Wilkinson St, Ciccone NT 0870

\$10 door entry



**FEATURED ARTISTS: KATIE HARDER AND THE ARTFUL DODGERS**

Excellent food, quality musicians and the great Desert Song Festival atmosphere.

**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 12 NOON - 2PM**  
**THE PIANO - TODD MALL**

Venue Details: Todd Mall Alice Springs

'Play me!' Desert Song Festival invites you to excite 'ebony and ivory' and enliven the CBD with harmony and melody... Public street art – 'The Piano'



**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 5.00PM**  
**THE PUBLIC LAMENTATION FOR PEACE**

Venue Details: Anzac Hill, Alice Springs

\$ Free event



A musical event in which choirs will present soliloquys for peace accompanied by readings of poetry and prose. A gentle way of staging a creative Vigil for peace in a fractured world, focusing on love, peace and a welcome for refugees from war-torn places - a small contribution to creating a harmonious and humane society.



**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM**

**THE FINALÉ CONCERT**

Araluen Theatre

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!**

Venue Details: Araluen Arts Centre,  
61 Larapinta Dr, Araluen NT 0870

\$40/\$20/\$15/\$75

Booking: <http://araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au> or at the  
Araluen Box Office

The 2018 Desert Song Festival comes to an exciting climax with a Finalé concert “Celebrating Global Musical Culture” featuring an impressive line-up of Festival artists in a unique collaboration.

This final fanfare to our theme ‘What a wonderful World’, will feature musicians from 4 continents together with Western Arrarnta and Pitjantjatjara voices in a musical celebration of exquisite artistic quality, as they present a new work showcasing their collaboration and featuring the Central Australian Aboriginal Women’s Choir, Shubhendra Rao, Saskia Rao De Haas, Zuheb Khan, Basidi and Khalifa Kone, ‘Q’ and a clutch of Alice-based musicians.

**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 8.30PM**

**‘DESERT SONG CENTRAL’**

The Festival Club at The Watertank Café

Venue Details: 16 Wilkinson St, Ciccone NT 0870

\$10 door entry

**FEATURED ARTISTS: FESTIVAL HEADLINERS**

**TONIGHT: THE LAST HURRAH!**

Excellent food, quality musicians and the great Desert Song Festival atmosphere.



**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**

**VIBRATO BAR**

Venue Details: Totem Theatre Anzac Oval reserve,  
Udoolya Rd.

\$10 Door Entry

‘Vibrato Bar’ is the Festival venue for emerging local artists– taking risks in performance and with the audience!

**SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 3.45PM**

**A CAPPELLA IN THE GORGE – ORMISTON GORGE**

Venue Details: Ormiston Gorge, Mount Zeil NT 0872

Booking: none required

\$5 suggested donation

A cappella in the Gorge - the Festival-ending outdoor concert set against this Majestic Central Australian backdrop gives the visitor a unique experience of the ancient Central Australian landscape. Featuring Asante Sana, the Central Australian Aboriginal Women’s Choir, Basidi and Khalifa Koné, ‘Q’, Sang Mei-Chuan and more... this is one for the bucket list... not to be missed!





# DESERT SONG FESTIVAL ARTISTS

## ASANTE SANA

Asante Sana is an Alice Springs community choir. Established as a seasonal choir in 2006, it has reconvened every winter since for an annual season of rehearsals and performances.

Asante Sana has been a regular and popular performer at the Desert Song Festival, anchoring 'Desert Voice' and featuring in A cappella in the Gorge - the popular season-ending concert staged in Ormiston Gorge, West Mac Donnell Ranges to the delight of festival audiences. The choir has also regularly performed at Civic events, conferences and local institutions (the Alice Springs Hospital, the Jail, the Old Timer's annual Fete).

## BASIDI KONE

Basidi Kone is a Griot from the Segou region in Mali. A gifted Balafon player, he is driven by a passion to carry on his family's musical heritage. He tours internationally, collaborating with musicians from varied musical backgrounds. In Australia, he has collaborated with students from the Australia National Academy of Music (ANAM), and with Asanti Dance Theatre - Australia's leading Afro-contemporary dance company. A brilliant drummer, Basidi is guaranteed to dazzle festival audiences!

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CHOIR

The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir has become a musical 'Tour de Force' since their historic and successful concert tour of Germany in 2015. Their acclaim has recently been boosted by successful appearances at Melbourne's Hamer Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Serenade International Choral Festival in Washington DC. Presenting sacred music in two living languages of the Northern Territory and South Australia- Western Arrarnta and Pitjantjatjara- the choir is a stunning festival drawcard!

## QUETZAL GUERRERO ('Q' OR QVLN)

Quetzal Guerrero, the 'Artist in Residence' of the 2017 Desert Song Festival, returns to Desert Song Festival 2018 as Associate Musical Director for the Global Musical Collaboration series. Originally from Los Angeles, but now resident in Sydney, Quetzal is a prodigious genre-hopping artist whose virtuosity on his trademark electric-blue violin reflects his Mexican/Brazilian and Native American Indian roots.

In 2017 'Q' captivated audiences with his skill and charm, delivering memorable performances and contributing skills to the local musical sector. In 2018 he adds to that capacity in his new role of Associate Musical Director.

## SHUBHENDRA, SASKIA AND ZUHEB

At the 2016 Desert Song Festival, these two artists with their combination of Sitar and Indian Cello, brought a new artistic experience to Festival audiences. Ably supported by their Tabla player Zuheb Khan they collaborated with the Confluence Quartet and the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir to present 'The Godanya Variations' - a unique musical collaboration that brought together the haunting and captivating choral harmonies of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir with the Sitar and the Cello in a virtuoso performance. They return to Desert Song Festival in 2018 to reprise and expand this musical collaboration together with the visiting musicians from Africa and North America.

## SUNSHINE ZERDA

Sunshine brings something entirely new to Desert Song Festival 2018: Live Vibrational Yoga in the Todd Mall! Fresh from her exposition of this in the Pitt Street Mall, in Sydney, she brings her passion to Central Australia, delivering positive transformation for body and mind.



# DESERT SONG FESTIVAL SPONSORS



Desert Song Festival 2018 - Proudly presented by Central Australian Singing

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