


MUSIC · ART · CULTURE · COMMUNITY

# DESERT SONG FESTIVAL

ALICE SPRINGS · 17-22 SEPTEMBER 2024

## 2024 PROGRAM



 [desertsongfestival](https://www.facebook.com/desertsongfestival)

[DESERTSONG.COM.AU](https://www.DESERTSONG.COM.AU)

 [desert.song.festival](https://www.instagram.com/desert.song.festival)



# MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

## THE NIGHT BEFORE

7 – 9pm

### MEDITATION

Two hours of quiet, mindfulness and music: guided meditation under the direction of international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin improvisations by international performing artist QVLN. Registration is essential!

Only 50 spaces available. Walk-ups welcome, but only if there is space. Register to avoid disappointment.

**Hartley St Schoolroom, Hartley St, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**

**Register:**



7.30 – 9pm

### THE GATHERING OF THE CHOIRS

On Festival eve, local choirs gather with visiting choirs for a meet and greet, a Big Sing, a workshop and pure indulgence! If your choir is coming from interstate, plan to arrive early and join in this mood-setting jamboree celebrating the voice in anticipation of Six Glorious Days of Music in September.

**Flynn Church, Todd Mall, Alice Springs**





# TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

3pm to 6pm

## THE BUZZ

Join the audience for the ABC Alice Springs Outside Broadcast in the Todd Mall.

Choirs, musicians, and local fans gather and relax at the City Centre Festival Hub. There'll be lots happening: music, jamming, singing, drumming, UKEs and so much more as the vibe builds to the opening night events.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**



From 4pm

continues after **APERTURE** to 8.30pm

## TODD MALL STREET PARTY

Todd Mall Traders and Alice Springs Town Council join the Desert Song Festival to enliven the CBD and create a community celebration to Open the festival. There is something for everyone with kids' activities, food trucks, Todd Mall traders, cafés, and mainstage performances from The Honeybees, The Shavings, Alice Sings, OLGA, QVLN, Julian Belbachir, Leonard Sumner, Gordon and Andrew Mullen, and so much more.



5 – 5.30pm

## THE PARADE OF PERFORMERS

Choirs and festivalgoers, singers and musicians ignite Todd Mall with sound, colour and harmony in creative movement towards the Flynn Lawns for 'Aperture' the festival opening event. On display will be the talent of choirs, the diversity of music and musicians and the excitement and enthusiasm for the next 6 glorious days of music.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**



5.30 – 7pm

## APERTURE

Opening night event –  
**CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS IN THE MALL**

A cultural smorgasbord Celebrating Global Musical Heritage, Cultural Diversity, the song, the singer, the instrument, the lore, languages and cultures in the Desert Heart of Australia. Performers from across Australia and overseas will give a taste of what is to come over the next six days: featuring interstate and international artists, the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, The Honeybees, QVLN, Leonard Sumner, The Shavings, The Splinter Sisters, Gordon and Andrew Mullen, OLGA and Alice Sings.

**Flynn Church Lawns, Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**



7.45 – 9.30pm

## ARRKANALA LYILHITJKA

The NIMA award-winning Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir in Concert presenting Arrkanala Lyilhitjika

Since presenting their first concert at Desert Song Festival in 2015, the choir has toured internationally and across Australia, including performances at the Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Concert Hall (twice), the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and the Castleton Festival in Virginia. This choir has been described as a "stunning Choir presenting a unique program that showcases language and culture of 60,000 years of human occupation of Central Australia!" The Choir has not presented a complete concert at DSF since 2015.

This return is by popular demand and promises to be a 'Blockbuster' Opening Night event, presented at Central Australia's premiere performance venue – The Araluen Theatre.

**Araluen Theatre, 61 Larapinta Drive, Araluen**

**\$45 Adult / \$30 Concession / \$20 Child**

**\$120 Family / \$350 group of 10**

**BOOK:**





# WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

10am – 4pm

## ALL DAY WORKSHOP FOR CHOIRS

An all-day workshop like you've never ever experienced, curated by Morris Stuart and shared with local and visiting Choir Directors. A must for visiting choirs and singers and open to local community and school choirs. There will be a leisurely lunch break. BYO water.

**Alice Springs Anglican Church, 18 Bath St.**

**Free to Festival choirs,  
\$10 General Admission**

**Register:**



5 – 6pm

## THE GOLDEN HOUR (1)

THE GOLDEN HOUR: dusk, that magical time! As day gives way to night, we invite you to 'chill', enjoy some music, meet and greet, maybe enjoy some jamming, yoga and hors d'oeuvres.

Today: Join Emma Trenorden, Musical Director of The Splinter Sisters, to celebrate the release of her new single, Radical RE from her debut EP reWILD. Emma invites you to an hour of uplifting music-making and REjoicing in harmony in a workshop to learn the music and lyrics of Radical RE.

**The Hartley St Schoolroom, Hartley St, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**



12noon – 2pm

## MIDDAY IN THE MALL (1)

### UKEs IN THE MALL WORKSHOP

Three workshops: Wednesday 18, Thursday 19, Friday 20 (and if needed Saturday 21 at Picnic Day at White Gums)

Join Ukulele whisperer Dave Parker over 3 days for a 'Walk-up' Ukulele Workshop for both beginner and experienced players.

Experienced players need to pre-register for participation in a 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir with an opportunity to perform at Picnic Day at White Gums and Music in the Park at Ormiston Gorge.

**Flynn Church, Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**

**Register for 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir – for experienced players:**



7.30 – 9.30pm

## DSF CONCERT HALL

'Babdoukkala' by Julian Belbachir, and OLGA

Two stunning acts in our smaller theatre, known for delivering 'the different': a DSF 'must' for music lovers.

Julian Belbachir collaborates with Quetzal Guerrero ('Q') and Moussa Diakite for the DSF Launch of his highly anticipated debut album 'Babdoukkala': a melodic and rhythmic journey; a voyage through traditional sounds of music from North-Western Africa with a modern influence; a fusion of traditional folkloric African music with contemporary influences and modern production. Julian first visited DSF in 2022. [julianbelbachir.com](http://julianbelbachir.com)

The a cappella vocal sensation OLGA makes its Australian debut at the 2024 Desert Song Festival. Based in Utrecht, the Netherlands, its singers are Dutch, Icelandic, English, and Russian-American. Formed in 2012, OLGA made its debut in the Netherlands and conducted its first tour of Iceland in the summer of 2013. OLGA has recorded 5 albums, toured Europe and the United States, and performed in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Harpa in Reykjavik, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where the ensemble forged a connection with the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir at the 2018 'Serenade' International Festival. OLGA has collaborated with composers and international artists, formed a foundation, created a virtual singing festival, and also performed in the DSF 2020 online festival during the pandemic lockdown. Its mascot, a red kettle named Ketill Olguson, accompanies the group on all its adventures: [olgavocalensemble.com/about](http://olgavocalensemble.com/about)

**Centralian Senior College Theatre,**

**10 Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs**

**\$35 Adult / \$20 Concession / \$15 Child / \$80 Family**

**BOOK:**





# THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

10am – 4pm

## DSF 2024 MOVIE MARATHON

A day at the cinema: features, documentaries, stories and clips from the Desert Song Festival digital archive. Includes Q&A and Singing Workshop....again!

This event is a cinematic journey celebrating the contribution that Central Desert choirs have made to music practice in the NT and beyond. Travel with the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir to Germany, to the USA, and across Australia, and take in the Desert Song Festival journey across 11 years. Experience the Q&A with Morris Stuart and a panel: 'Soundtrack for a Revolution', and singing, lots of singing! A must for festival choirs, artists, musicians, singers, and the wider community of festivalgoers.

**Alice Springs Cinema,  
Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free for all accredited festival performers  
(lanyard)**

**General Admission \$15**

**BOOK:**



12noon – 2pm

## MIDDAY IN THE MALL (2)

### UKES IN THE MALL WORKSHOP

Today Thursday 19, Friday 20 (and if needed, Saturday 21 at Picnic Day at White Gums)

The second session of Dave Parker's Walk-up Ukulele Workshop for both beginners and experienced players. Experienced players need to pre-register for participation in a 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir with an opportunity to perform at Picnic Day at White Gums and Music in the Park at Ormiston Gorge.

**Flynn Church, Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**

**Register for 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir –  
for experienced players:**



5 – 6pm

## THE GOLDEN HOUR (2)

THE GOLDEN HOUR: dusk, that magical time! As day gives way to night, we invite you to 'chill', enjoy some music, meet and greet, maybe enjoy some jamming, yoga and hors d'oeuvres.

Today, 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir rehearsal. Make sure you have registered.

An hour for those Experienced players who have pre-registered for participation in this amazing opportunity to perform at Picnic Day at White Gums and Music in the Park at Ormiston Gorge.

**The Hartley St Schoolroom, Hartley St, Alice Springs**

**Free Event**

**Register for 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir – for experienced players:**



7.30 – 9.30pm

## VOICES FROM THE DESERT

Choirs! Choirs! Choirs! DSF has been a celebration of choral practice since its inception. The festival was built on a vibrant choral movement that has been building since 2006. Tonight, choirs from the Central Desert will strut their stuff, joined by visiting ensembles from interstate and Europe. On the stage: Alice Sings, The Shavings, The Splinter Sisters and the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir. They are joined by OLGA from the Netherlands and The Honeybees from Sydney.

**Araluen Theatre, 61 Larapinta Drive, Araluen**

**\$35 Adult / \$20 Concession / \$15 Child / \$80 Family / \$300 group of 10**

**BOOK:**





# FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

8.30am – 5.30pm

## NTARIA/HERMANNSBURG CULTURAL VISIT

Immerse yourself in ancient and contemporary Indigenous Art, Culture and Language at Ntaria/Hermannsburg, the location of thousands of years of occupation by the Western Arrarnta people and the oldest post-settlement town in the Northern Territory. Ntaria is the birthplace of the iconic artist Albert Namatjira and the home of the celebrated Hermannsburg Potters. This tour to Ntaria includes transport, morning tea, lunch, Precinct Tour, a guided visit to the Hermannsburg Potters, a Music Heritage presentation by local archivist and a short performance by the Ntaria Ladies' Choir.

### Hermannsburg Historic Precinct

Bus departs at 8.30am from the Bus Bay at the Alice Springs Public Library, Leichhardt Terrace, Alice Springs.

\$100

BOOK:



12noon – 2pm

## MIDDAY IN THE MALL (3)

### UKES IN THE MALL WORKSHOP

The third session of Dave Parker's Walk-up Ukulele Workshop for both beginners and experienced players. Experienced players can still pre-register for participation in a 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir with an opportunity to perform at Picnic Day at White Gums and Music in the Park at Ormiston Gorge.

Flynn Church, Todd Mall, Alice Springs

Free Event

Register for 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir – for experienced players:



5 – 6.15pm

## YOUNG DESERT VOICES

The Desert Song Festival event that showcases the talent of Central Australian Youth – a parade of choirs, musicians and dance ensembles from Centralian Schools and the youth sector. Come and be entertained by the best young talent in town!

Flynn Church Lawns, Todd Mall, Alice Springs

Free Event



5 – 6pm

## THE GOLDEN HOUR (3)

### MEDITATION

An hour of quiet, mindfulness and music: guided meditation under the direction of international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin improvisations by international performing artist QVLN. Registration is essential!

Only 50 spaces available. Walk-ups welcome, but only if there is space. Register to avoid disappointment.

Hartley St Schoolroom, Hartley St, Alice Springs

Register:



Free Event



6.30pm 'til late

## VIBRATOFEST

The usual edgy, exceptional musicianship that this Desert Song Festival event has become known for, featuring local and interstate acts including Mulga Bore Hard Rock - that has taken Australia by storm; The Williams Family; Silvia and friends (NAARM); 'The Holy Dimes' and Alice Sings.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden, 27 Tuncks Rd, Alice Springs

\$20 online

BOOK:



\$25 at the door



# SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

10.30am – 4pm

## PICNIC DAY @ WHITE GUMS

Connect to country and with the NIMA Award-winning Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir. Watch them paint, make bush medicine and cook traditional Central Australian bush tucker. Bring water, a rug and a chair if you can, and indulge in Vibrational Yoga, music, bush walks, UKEs, good food and so much more.

**Ilwempe Ilwempe (White Gums),  
274 Bullen Rd, White Gums**

**Pay on Entry: \$15 Adult / \$25 Family**



7.30 – 9.30pm

## MEN ALOUD

For the first (and last) time in the history of DSF events, 'MEN ALOUD' will be a spectacular Araluen showcase concert: a fitting in-town Finalé for the 2024 festival featuring male voices only! Featuring The Shavings, OLGA and The Australian Welsh Male Choir.

**Araluen Theatre,  
61 Larapinta Drive, Araluen**

**\$45 Adult / \$30 Concession**

**\$20 Child / \$120 Family / \$350 Group of 10**

**BOOK:**



7.30 – 11pm

## FESTIVAL CLUB at Yaye's Café

Find yourself amongst DSF's finest acts at Yaye's Café: excellent food, great music and the usual good-humoured atmosphere.

**ARTISTS INCLUDE:** Leonard Sumner, Gordon and Andrew Mullen, Emmy Ryan, and the best local artists that Alice can offer.

**Yaye's Café, Araluen Arts Centre, 61 Larapinta Drive, Araluen**

**\$15 door entry**





# SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

11.30am – 3pm

## MUSIC IN THE PARK

Featuring Festival Artists: 'Sing&Strum' Uke Choir, The Australian Welsh Male Choir, Gordon and Andrew Mullen, OLGA, The Honeybees, QVLN, Lionel Sumner and Julian Belbachir.

**Kwartatuma/Ormiston Gorge, Mt Zeil**  
**Free Event (donation)**



3.45 – 5.15pm

## A CAPPELLA IN THE GORGE

Take a plunge in the icy waters of Ormiston Gorge at 'A cappella in the Gorge' – the festival-ending outdoor concert set against this Majestic Central Australian backdrop. Featuring local and visiting choirs and musicians: The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, The Australian Welsh Male Choir, The Honeybees, The Shavings, The Splinter Sisters, Alice Sings, The Central Desert Harmony Choir, OLGA, Siennah and Friends, a Grand Finale and so much more. This is a celebration of music and 'place' like no other. One for the bucket list!

**Kwartatuma/Ormiston Gorge, Mt Zeil**  
**Free Event: (Donation)**

## Bus ticket to 'A cappella in the Gorge'

12noon - 12.30pm

Bus ticket to 'A cappella in the Gorge' Sunday 22 September

To ease the pressure on car parking, Desert Song Festival is providing a bus charter service from Alice Springs to Ormiston Gorge for up to 600 passengers to attend A cappella in the Gorge, and we are encouraging patrons to choose this as their preferred option for transport. The bus departs from the Bus Bay at the Alice Springs Public Library, Leichhardt Terrace, Alice Springs between 12noon and 12.30pm on Sunday 22 September 2024. Buses will return to Alice Springs after the event, leaving Ormiston Gorge at 5.15pm. Booking is essential! This booking window closes at 4pm on Thursday 19 September. Walk-ups are discouraged as this is a charter.

**\$30 Return ticket / \$90 Family Return Ticket BOOK:**





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