

# Artist Info Sheet



## Tenzin Choegyal

*Singer/Songwriter/Musician from Tibet*



Tenzin Choegyal is a singer, song writer and musician born to a nomadic family in Tibet.

He is a successful international artist showcasing traditional and contemporary Tibetan music. Apart from singing, Tenzin plays the dranyen (Tibetan lute) and Lingbu (transverse bamboo flute) and embraces opportunities to take his music into uncharted territory both in the studio and on stage.

Tenzin has released seven independent albums and performed at prestigious events, such as the WOMAD festivals and several Concerts for Tibet at Carnegie Hall, New York. He has written and performed soundtracks, for numerous TV shows, films and documentaries. Tenzin has been an avid collaborator with musicians from diverse cultures, traditions and genres, from classical, contemporary to ancient traditional.

### Background

While born to a nomadic Tibetan family, during the 1970s, he and his family escaped the Chinese occupation by moving to Dharamsala in India.

In 1997, the Tibetan singer travelled to Australia with no more than a bag and his voice full of passion for Tibet. Here, his talent soon caught the attention of the directors of Australia's largest folk festival, the Woodford Folk Festival.

In 2009 he founded the annual Festival of Tibet which showcases Tibetan culture through music, film, art and discussion.

## Mario Conde

*Musician from Bolivia*



Mario Conde is a native Bolivian Indian musician who captivates audiences with his ability to fuse traditional Bolivian and Western music.

He leads a five-piece ensemble of musicians called *Celestino*, which incorporates traditional Bolivian panpipes, quenás (flutes) and charango (string instrument) with modern technology to create memorable musical performances.

*Celestino's* contrasting modern and traditional elements connect with the audience through the international language of music. With *Celestino*, Mario has performed and toured throughout Australia, the Pacific Islands, Europe, South Africa, South America and North America.

### Background:

Mario Conde is a native Bolivian Indian who now calls Brisbane home.

In 2010, he formed the band *Celestino* which has been described as Andean Fusion.

Mario's ability to transform stories into music has mesmerised audiences all around Australia. Within *Celestino*, he plays the panpipes and flutes.

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## Noble Tichawona Mashawa

*Tabla Zimbabwean Composer/Singer/Guitarist/Player of the mbira and nyunga nyunga*



Noble Tichawona Mashawa is a new wave Zimbabwean performer who showcases full flavour and colour African culture through his music.

He is an avid player of the nyunga nyunga (thumb piano), a traditional African instrument which exudes a beautiful and unique sound.

Noble's vibrant and captivating compositions represent the Zimbabwean Mbira music and the groove and soul of the country.

### **Background:**

Originally from Bulawayo, one of the largest cities in Zimbabwe, Noble Tichawona Mashawa moved to Brisbane only a few years ago and is currently studying at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University.

His background and culture is an imperative component of his music and his life in general. This inspired him to become an ambassador for the continent of Africa's diverse rhythm and melodies.

During his ten years as a composer, singer and performer he has taught others his craft and has also collaborated with many artists.

While living in Australia, he has performed at a number events and festivals, and has been a regular artist at the Woodford Folk Festival.

## Ruth Ghee

*Indigenous Singer/Songwriter/Choir Leader*



Ruth Ghee is a passionate Indigenous singer, songwriter and choir leader who strives to keep her mother and father's native languages alive through song and dance.

She is active in local and state projects including theatre productions, choir groups and Indigenous organisations. Ruth is an active member in community choirs, and is a producer with the Brisbane Multicultural Art Centre.

### **Background**

Ruth Ghee's cultural heritage is tied to Mer (Torres Strait), Ambrum (South Sea Islands) and Kabi Kabi (Aboriginal) country.

Aside from her musical work and performances, Ruth completed a Bachelor of Arts (Languages and Linguistics) to further preserve and maintain Australia's Indigenous languages. In 2005 Ruth was heavily involved in the award-winning children's theatre production 'Kese Solwata.'

Ruth prides herself on her community involvement and was recently appointed chairperson for Ailan Traks Ltd, to ensure the organisation's cultural integrity.

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## Sudha Manian

*Indian Sitar Player/Musician*



Sudha Manian is an Indian musician who plays the traditional Indian instrument, the sitar.

Considered one of the most renowned sitar players in Queensland, Sudha is also a member of three-piece band Aaathmika, which fuses jazz, classical and traditional Indian music.

Sudha describes her music as being majorly influenced from Hindu deities and the vivid colours and heroines from her home country. Other influences include her mother and daughter.

### Background

Sudha Manian reigns from Hyderabad, India. She began learning traditional dance when she was eight years old, progressing to playing the classical sitar when she was 11 years old.

Her music is inspired from the classical and artistic Indian culture, which led her to study a degree in music in India. She is also a finance manager and chartered account in Australia, but insists that music is her original passion.

## Dheeraj Shrestha

*Tabla Percussionist/Composer/Nepalese born*



Dheeraj Shrestha is an internationally acclaimed Tabla (Indian drum) percussionist from Nepal.

Having performed for more than two decades, his music is heavily influenced by jazz, blues, flamenco, folk and classical Nepalese music. His unique music style has seen him perform at prestigious international events including the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, the California World Music Festival and performing for Prince Charles at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

### Background

Born in Nepal, Dheeraj Shrestha has been performing in Australia for approximately 15 years.

Shrestha has not only produced music that captivates the world's mind and soul, he has gone above and beyond to support those less fortunate. He has partnered with UNESCO and UNWO to run workshops for blind and deaf orphans in Nepal, as well as support the 'Help Nepal Network Events' in Australia.

During his music career, Shrestha has taught music professionally, currently based in Brisbane teaching all levels of Tabla. He has previously taught at the Fine Art College, Tribhuvam University, Kathmandu, Nepal, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University.

# Artist Info Sheet



## Kiri Waiata

*Community Choir Conductor/Composer*



Based in Brisbane, Queensland, community choir conductor, workshop facilitator and composer, Kiri Waiata began singing in choirs at the age of seven in her native New Zealand.

Here in Australia, after singing with the one community choir for 15 years, she decided to start her own. In the past 5 years she has been musical director for Te Tira, a community choir based in Bardon, Brisbane, The Transformers, a Reclink Australia choir, Word of Mouth and the Hot Chilli Chicks.

With singing in her bones, Kiri has continued to sing with various community choirs and recently joined the Vernandah ChiX, an all women ensemble singing songs in the languages of the Torres Strait, Samoa, PNG and New Zealand.

A sort after facilitator, Kiri runs workshops on the power of sound and voice to improve ones' singing and speaking voice and to enhance meditation and spiritual practices.

Kiri has the knack for quickly getting people singing. An easy manner and having a varied, simple repertoire on hand is key to creating harmony within the group and individual simultaneously. At once dispelling doubt and increasing confidence.

Choral workshops on improvisation, introducing people to group singing and working with experienced choristers teaching original compositions are well received and in demand.

At the heart of the work Kiri does is a desire to "change the world, one choir at a time."

## Lana Tukaroa

*Pacific Islander/Musician/Producer/MC*



Well when it comes to Lana Tukaroa, her name has various meanings: shining light; precious; and, calm as the Pacific Island still waters. Lana personifies all those things and more. Lana is a highly sought after Pacific Islander Music artist, MC, Producer, Artswoker, Community Cultural Development practitioner. Whether she is performing live, facilitating cultural arts project, or connecting with community through her music – she does it all in her typically generous, passionate and inclusive nature.

Lana is known for her lead in all girl band Beauty and the Beats and as an MC and solo performer fusing traditional and contemporary soulful sounds. She has 8 years of experience in facilitating music projects with young people and culturally diverse communities. Lana has performed in various arts and cultural events, and theatre shows locally, nationally and overseas.



# Culture Train Dates

**13th August | Murgon and Cherbourg**

Murgon Town Hall, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

**14th August | Toowoomba (Toowoomba Multicultural Festival)**

Queens Park Toowoomba, 12.05pm – 12:45pm

**15th August | Warwick**

Oaks Nursing Home Performance Showcase, 10.30am – 12.00pm

**15th August | Goondiwindi**

Goondiwindi Waggamba Community Cultural Centre, 6pm – 7:30pm

**16th August | St George**

St George Town Hall, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

**17th August | Roma (Seniors Week)**

Roma PCYC, 12.00pm – 2.00pm

**17th August | Wallumbilla & Yuleba**

Yuleba Hotel, 7:30pm – 8.15pm

**19th August | Townsville (Townsville Cultural Festival)**

James Cook University Ground, 3.00pm – 3.50pm

**21<sup>st</sup> August | Rockhampton (Rockhampton Cultural Festival)**

Rockhampton Heritage Village ,296 Boundary Road, Parkhurst, Set times TBC

**22nd August | Blackwater (Central highlands Multicultural Festival)**

Blackwater State School, Set times TBC

**24th August | Barcaldine (School Performance & Workshops)**

Barcaldine State School, 12.00pm - 3.00pm

**25th August | Barcaldine**

Barcaldine Town Hall, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**26<sup>th</sup> August | Longreach (School Performance & Workshops)**

Longreach High School, 10:00am – 11:30am

**27<sup>th</sup> August | Emerald (Central Highlands Multicultural Festival)**

Capricorn Highway, Emerald, Set times TBC

**31<sup>st</sup> August | Ipswich**

Ipswich City Library Forecourt, 11am – 2.00pm

**31<sup>st</sup> August | Brisbane (Diversity @ Dusk)**

Queensland Multicultural Centre, 4:00pm – 8:30pm (performance time 7:00pm)

