

WESTERN ARRARNTA • PITJANTJATJARA • AREYONGA • NTARIA • DOCKER RIVER • MUTITJULU •

10 GLORIOUS DAYS OF MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER

# DESERT SONG FESTIVAL

10TH ANNIVERSARY  
8-17 SEPTEMBER

## 2023 PROGRAM

*Take the 'Essential Australian Journey'  
this September, as we celebrate the  
10th Anniversary of the Festival*

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**friday** 08 September

**saturday** 09 September

**3pm-6pm**

**THE BUZZ! and ABC  
OUTSIDE BROADCAST**

Gather and relax with fellow artists and locals at the City Centre Festival Hub. There'll be lots happening: music, jamming, drumming. Help build the vibe to the opening night. Also, three hours of memorable radio introducing the Festival, its theme, and opening night events to listeners across the NT.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**  
\$ Free Event

**5.30pm**

**THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY 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.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**  
\$ Free Event

**6pm**

**APERTURE**

A cultural smorgasbord showcasing the theme: *'The year of the VOICE!'* '10 years Celebrating Global Musical Heritage, Cultural Diversity, the Song, the Singer, the Instrument, Lore, Languages and Culture in the Desert Heart of Australia.' On display will be the skill of the gathering choirs and musicians, the cultures, land and languages, as Festival performers from across Australia and overseas give a taste of what is to come over the next ten days in the Desert Heart of Australia. Featuring Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, Ephemera Choir, Djinama Yilaga Choir, PLEXUS, Shubhendra and Saskia Rao Duet, QVLN, Bassidi Kone, Shavings and Splinter Sisters and Central Australian Singers.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**  
\$ Free Event

**7.30pm-11.30pm**

**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 DSF atmosphere. Featuring Alison Mapleson, Paul Achee, Malarkey.

**Yaye's Café, Araluen Arts Centre, 61  
Larapinta Drive, Araluen**  
\$15 Entry

**10.30am**

**PICNIC DAY AT ILWEMPE ILWEMPE  
(WHITE GUMS)**

Connect to country and to 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 and a chair if you can, and indulge in Vibrational Yoga, music, bush walks, good food and so much more.

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

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

**7.30pm-9.30pm**

**THE DESERT SONG FESTIVAL  
10TH ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE**

A 'Blockbuster' event on the Opening Weekend, featuring The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, Shubhendra and Saskia Rao from India, QVLN, Bassidi Koné from Africa and the ground-breaking PLEXUS from Melbourne, presenting a stunning intercultural musical collaboration.

**7.30pm-11.30pm**

**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 DSF atmosphere. Featuring The Jummies', Gleny Rae Crew, Katie Harder Trio, Ruby Duo and more.

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

\$15 Entry



**Araluen Theatre,**

**61 Larapinta Drive, Araluen**

\$50 Adult/\$30 Concession/  
\$15 Child/\$120 Family

Booking:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckad2ww>

<https://tinyurl.com/yckad2ww>



**sunday** 10 September

**sunday** 10 September

2pm

**'PENTATONIC'**

A feast of musical virtuosity, PENTATONIC is an eagerly anticipated favourite of DSF – a promenade of five concerts in iconic heritage venues: the Stuart Town Gaol, the Old Law Courts, Flynn Memorial Uniting Church, the Hartley St Schoolroom, and The Residency, featuring the DSF family of global performers. Complimentary canapés to finish. Featuring Ephemera Choir, Alison Mapleson, PLEXUS, Splinter Sisters, Shavings and more.

**The Stuart Town Gaol,  
8 Parsons St, Alice Springs**

**\$35 Adult / \$20 Concession,  
students and children / \$80 Family**

**Booking:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CIGTU>



6pm-8pm

**DESERT VOICE**

A Choral Spectacular! As the sun sets on Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Range revealing the magic of the Milky Way, soothe your soul with the sounds of choirs from Central Australia, interstate and across the globe at the signature choral concert of the 2023 Festival. Shuttle service available. Bring your chair and a blanket. Featuring Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, Ephemera Choir, Djinama Yilaga Choir, PLEXUS, QVLN, Bassidi Kone, Shavings and Splinter Sisters, Gleny Rae Crew and Central Australian Singers.

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

**Bus departs @ 5.30pm from Bus  
Bay at the Alice Springs Public  
Library**

**Leichhardt Terrace, Alice Springs**



**Event Entry only**

**\$35 Adult / \$20 Concession**

**\$15 Children / \$80 Family**

**Event Entry and Shuttle Bus**

**\$55 Adult / \$30 Concession / \$25 Child**

**\$110 Family**

**Booking:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/1059125>



# monday 11 September

12noon to 2pm

## MIDDAY IN THE MALL Today: DRUMMING

Five days of Pop-up performances by choirs and musicians, both local and visiting. Drumming, Yoga, a choral Masterclass for everyone and much more! Today: DRUMMING

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

**\$ Free Event**



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, Heritage Lecture by local archivist and a short performance by the Ntaria Ladies' Choir.

**Hermannsburg Historic Precinct**

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



**\$100 Booking:**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CIGTY>

8pm

## MEDITATION IN THE MALL

Under the stunning lighting effects incorporating patterns, colours and Arrernte words, experience the calming effect of a guided meditation under the direction of international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin by international performing artist QVLN.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**\$ Free Event**

# monday 11 September

The not to be missed **10th ANNIVERSARY** Concert Series



7.30pm

## PLEXUS

**The first of three stunning concerts by visiting Festival artists bringing music from across the world.**

Tonight, PLEXUS – Monica Curro (violin), Philip Arkinstall (clarinet), and Stefan Cassomenos (piano) – is devoted to supporting and engaging an ever-growing network of exceptional artists across a variety of disciplines: film-makers, actors, directors, poets, choirs, and visual artists, as well as instrumentalists and vocalists. Since launching in 2014, PLEXUS has commissioned over 100 new works. PLEXUS makes their DSF debut at this 10th Anniversary Festival.

**Centralian Senior College  
Theatrette**

**24 Grevillea Drive, Sadadeen**

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

**SPECIAL OFFER. Buy a ticket  
for the entire 10th Anniversary  
Concert Series. 3 Concerts. \$75  
Adult/\$170 family.**

**Booking:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CIGWD>



**tuesday** 12 September

**tuesday** 12 September

**12noon to 2pm**

**MIDDAY IN THE MALL**

Five days of Pop-up performances by artists, choirs and musicians, both local and visiting. Today, Yoga presented by international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin improvisations by international performing artist QVLN.

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

**\$ Free Event**

**5.30-6.30pm**

**THE CHORAL WORKSHOPS #1**

The first of three memorable choral workshops with Morris Stuart and directors of visiting choirs. A choral hors d'oeuvres for your dinner! Be a part of the 'A cappella in the Gorge' performance.

**Hartley St Schoolroom**

**\$ Free Event**

**The not to be missed 10th ANNIVERSARY Concert Series continues**

**7.30pm**

**SHUBHENDRA AND SASKIA RAO**

The second of three stunning concerts by visiting Festival artists bringing music from across the world. Tonight, Shubhendra and Saskia Rao bring their special gift, that unique fusion of Indian and Western classical music.

A protégé of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pandit Shubhendra Rao has established himself "not only as a master of his instrument but also as a thinking musician, constantly endeavouring to carry his instrument beyond conventional boundaries" and "a musical bridge to many cultures whose music is an experience for his audience that is not aimed at titillating the senses, but to seize the soul". Critics and connoisseurs hail him as a worthy successor to his Guru's tradition. His relentless service in promoting Indian music has made him a highly respected figure in the field of music and education across the world.

Saskia Rao-de Haas was trained as a Western cellist from a young age onwards, but changed direction when she came in touch with Indian music in 1993. She is known as a master performer in Indian classical music and hailed as the creator of a new instrument: the Indian cello. Flute Maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia speaks of his disciple Saskia as "someone who has been taught by God." and "everybody should listen to her music". Critics and audiences alike have praised her for artistic depth and technical virtuosity.



**Centralian Senior College  
Theatrette**

**24 Grevillea Drive, Sadadeen**

**\$35 Adult / \$20 Concession**

**\$15 Child / \$80 Family**

**Booking:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CIGWZ>



wednesday 13 September

wednesday 13 September

12noon to 2pm

**MIDDAY IN THE MALL**

A choral 'Big Sing' for Festival choirs, community members and the midday crowd.

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

**\$ Free Event**



8pm

**MEDITATION IN THE MALL**

Under the stunning lighting effects incorporating patterns, colours and Arrernte words, experience the calming effect of a guided meditation under the direction of international instructor Sunshine Zerda together with live looping electric violin improvisations by international performing artist QVLN.

**Todd Mall, Alice Springs**

**\$ Free Event**



5.30-6.30pm

**THE CHORAL WORKSHOPS #2**

The second of three memorable choral workshops with Morris Stuart and directors of visiting choirs. A choral hors d'oeuvres for your dinner! Be a part of the 'A cappella in the Gorge' performance.

**Hartley St Schoolroom**

**\$ Free Event**



**thursday** 14 September

**thursday** 14 September

12noon to 2pm

**MIDDAY IN THE MALL**

**Q&A WITH FESTIVAL DIRECTOR AND PANEL**

'Soundtrack for a Revolution'. Where is the 'revolution' taking us over the next 10 years?

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

**\$ Free Event**

5.30-6.30pm

**THE CHORAL WORKSHOPS #3**

The final of three memorable choral workshops with visiting directors of visiting choirs. A choral hors d'oeuvres for your dinner! Be a part of the 'A cappella in the Gorge' performance.

**Hartley St Schoolroom**

**\$ Free Event**

The not to be missed **10th ANNIVERSARY** Concert Series continues

7.30pm

**QVLN AND BASSIDI KONE**

The final of three stunning concerts by visiting Festival artists bringing music from around the world. Tonight, Festival favourites QVLN and Malian percussionist Bassidi Kone are joined by other musicians from the Desert Song Festival 'family' of Artists to present a 'World Music' feast.

**Centralian Senior College Theatrette  
24 Grevillea Drive, Sadadeen**

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

**Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CIICI>**



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 comfortable transport, morning tea - the best Apple Strudel in Central Australia, lunch, Precinct Tour, Heritage Lecture by local archivist and a short performance by the Ntaria Ladies' Choir.

### Hermannsburg Historic Precinct

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

\$100

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



12noon to 2pm

## MIDDAY IN THE MALL

The 5th day of Pop-up performances by choirs and musicians, both local and visiting. Today, a showcase of young local artists and musicians, singer/songwriters and school groups.

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

**\$ Free Event**



2pm - 6pm

## THE FESTIVAL CHOIRS WORKSHOP

A choral workshop like you've never ever experienced that will include two amazing hours with the multiple Grammy-award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir. Open to singers, visiting choirs, local choirs and school choirs. BYO water. It is essential to register your choir to attend.

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

**\$ Free Event**

Booking Essential:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CIIG>



6.30pm - 11pm

## VIBRATOFEST

The usual edgy, exceptional musicianship that this Desert Song Festival event has become known for. Local and interstate acts. Carpool. Bring your picnic, your rug, your chair and enjoy the beautiful Ilwempe Ilwempe (White Gums) by Honeymoon Gap. Featuring MULGA BORE HARD ROCK, Williams Family, Sylvia and Friends, Faggot Mafia, Ceenah and Caleb Goman.

**Ilwempe Ilwempe (White Gums) by Honeymoon Gap. 274 Bullen Rd**

**\$20 (\$25 at the Door) Event entry and shuttle bus \$30**

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





**saturday** 16 September

**saturday** 16 September

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT - TWO AMAZING CONCERTS**

**3pm and 7.30pm**

**SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR**

The three-time Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir has been spreading sheer joy to audiences across the globe for nearly two decades! Hailing from the town of Soweto, the birthplace of South Africa's democratic movement's struggle for freedom, Soweto Gospel Choir continues to inspire audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs, and international classics.

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

**\$79.90 Adult / \$72.90 Concession  
\$69.90 Student / \$49.90 Child  
\$250 Family**

**Booking:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ye2a3tva>**



**7.30pm-11.30pm**

**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. Featuring Stuart Nuggett, Barry Skipsey and Katanga Junior.

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

**\$15 Entry**



**sunday** 17 September

**sunday** 17 September



**ORMISTON DAY OUT &  
A CAPPELLA IN THE GORGE**

**11.30am**

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**

Featuring Ephemera Choir, Little Things, Gleny Rae Crew and more.

**3.45pm**

**A CAPPELLA IN THE GORGE**

Take a plunge in the icy waters at Ormiston Gorge at 'A cappella in the Gorge', the festival-ending outdoor concert set against this Majestic Central Australian backdrop.

This is one for the bucket list! Featuring Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, Ephemera Choir, Djinama Yilaga Choir, PLEXUS, Shubhendra and Saskia Rao Duet, QVLN, Bassidi Kone, Gleny Rae Crew, Shavings and Splinter Sisters and Central Australian Singers.

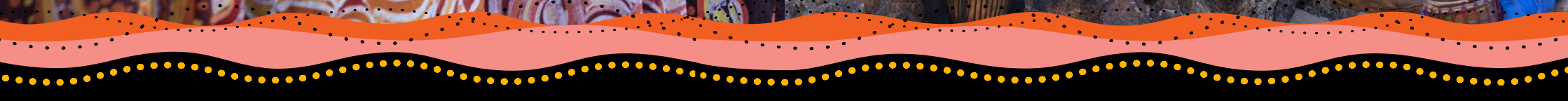
**Ormiston Gorge, Mount Zeil**

**The bus departs from the Bus Bay at the Alice Springs Public Library, Leichhardt Terrace, Alice Springs between 12noon and 12.30pm on Sunday 17 September 2023.**

**Buses will return to Alice Springs after the event, leaving Ormiston Gorge at 5.15pm.**



**Booking:**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BXVII>



## Happy 10th ANNIVERSARY Desert Song Festival!

Hail to the attendees, all 70,000 + of you  
across the decade

Hail to the on-line viewers, all 80,000 + of you  
(that we know of!)

Hail to the interstaters, who made  
the Essential Australian Journey once, twice,  
three times over and more!

Hail to the 1500 performers

Hail to the international artists who came from Africa,  
India, the Pacific, Europe and Taiwan

Hail to the teams of passionate arts workers  
who gave more than everything year on year

Hail to the Management Committee of  
Central Australian Singing who experienced the birth  
pains and shouldered the legal burden - unnoticed  
and unheralded

All of you have built a beautiful and brilliant event!

This 10th Anniversary is a tribute to all of you.

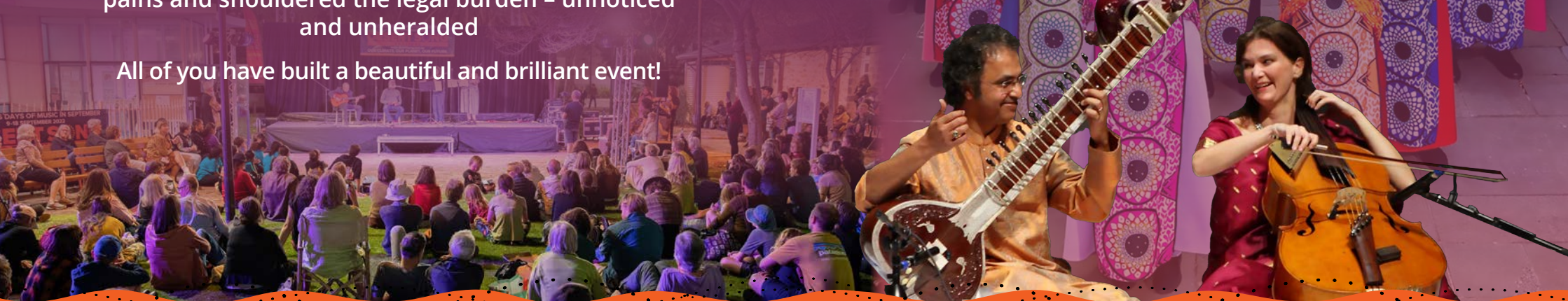
And after you have drunk deep of the music and 'spirit'  
of DSF 2023...

Take away the program and frame it as a souvenir so  
your circle could hear you say "I was there!"

Take away a t-shirt to prove it, and a tote bag to remind  
you of '10 days of musical joy' every time you fill it with  
shopping, with bathers or with better things.

And take away the memories of the music, the  
languages, the lore, the Country and the knowledge and  
wisdom of 65,000 years of human occupation of these  
Central Lands and in this 'Year of the Voice' let us open  
our hearts and say YES to *their* voice.

Fill up our hearts and heal our country with memories  
that will not just last a festival or two, but for  
generations to come.



## Sponsors



Desert Song Festival 2023  
Proudly presented by Central Australian Singing

**DESERT  
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FESTIVAL**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
8-17 SEPTEMBER 2023