



2023 PERFORMER APPLICATION INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES COBARGO FOLK FESTIVAL Friday 3 March – Sunday 5 March 2023



The Yuin Folk Club acknowledges the Djiringanj people of the Yuin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land on which the festival is held.

We acknowledge the living culture of the Yuin people and their unique role in the life of the region. Permission to use the name "Yuin" for our club was received through the support of Yuin Elder, Aunty Eileen Morgan (dec), when the Club was established in 1995.

The Yuin Folk Club accepted the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2019.

General Information

The Cobargo Folk Festival is a not-for-profit music, arts and cultural event held annually on the first weekend in March at the Cobargo Showground.

Produced by the Yuin Folk Club Inc., the Festival is co-created by volunteers, is non-commercial and aims to be financially self-sustaining. Profits from the Festival are used to fund future festivals, to support Yuin Folk Club music education and development work, and to assist local community projects.

A wholly community-owned and managed event, the Festival features folk music, dance, song, comedy, spoken word, street performance, plus themed presentations. The Festival's First Nations program features local and national performers from across the country.

The Festival attracts thousands of visitors to the historic village of Cobargo in the Bega Valley, on the Far South Coast of New South Wales. This is Yuin Country, one of the most beautiful regions of Australia and just ten minutes from some of the best beaches and National Parks in the world.

We believe that music, dance, art and culture is for everyone. We have a deep respect for folk music traditions of all cultures and we create opportunities for trad music to be handed on through generations. Our definition of "folk music" is broad and fuzzy - a starting point is whether it tells a story.

Our Festival programs artists from all stages of the musical and artistic journey - beginners to professionals. We are particularly interested in acts where the "carrying stream of continuity and tradition meets contemporary innovation and experimentation".

We are advocates for community music-making, and our

workshops and sessions are designed to offer everyone the chance to learn new skills, particularly musical and performance skills.

See the Festival website www.cobargofolkfestival.com for more details.

Completing your Performer Application

Applications close on 7 August 2022.

By completing our Performer Application, the person doing so acknowledges that they are the designated contact person and have permission to represent the artists/acts in all dealings with the Cobargo Folk Festival.

The application process is open from 7 July – 7 August 2022

How We Assess Your Application

We program around 30-40 acts each festival, depending on our budget.

Programming decisions include the following considerations: our performer budget; the overall balance of the music and performance offerings that are presented; the balance of singer- songwriters/duos/trios/bands/large group performances; local/national/international representation; gender issues; cultural diversity; demographic appeal, the last time the act appeared at our festival, just to name a few.

Points to help you prepare your application:

- Artistic contribution - will the act add to the artistic merit and the overall objectives of our festival? Artistic excellence and creative originality are key considerations, but we also value the contribution that performers can make to sustaining and growing traditions, sharing musical skills, mentoring emerging artists, supporting community music-making etc
- Overall artistic mix - Does the act fit our commitment to folk and roots? How does the act rate against other acts applying in the same genre? Does the act fit our artistic mix for the year? As performers know, we have many competing applications in some genres, eg solo singer/songwriters etc. Are there points of difference?
- Does the act help our commitment to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion?
- We are committed to paying artists what they ask for, within our limited budget. But, as you'd expect, we assess whether an act will put bums on seats for an audience that we understand very well. We will generally only enter into fee negotiations if the applicant indicates the fee is open for negotiation.

Type of Acts Sought

We are looking for acts that represent folk/roots music, dance and culture in all its diversity. For our festival, "Folk Music" covers a broad spectrum of music styles, both traditional and contemporary. Here are a few things to consider:

- Past programs have included contemporary and traditional elements of Australiana, Asturian, Breton, Celtic, English, First Nations (including Yuin, Mutti Mutti and Noongar) French-Canadian, Irish, Italian, Mongolian, Scottish, Americana, acoustic blues, alt-country, bluegrass, contemporary folk, indie folk, folk-rock, Old Timey, other world music, bush poetry, theatrical/cabaret, comedy, street performers and yarn telling etc.
- Acts who present as pop, rock, heavy metal, purely country/cover/tribute bands or other genres that don't have a "folk" element to their performance are unlikely to be successful.
- We prefer performers who do not place restrictions on their availability for the entirety of the Festival period and will participate in sessions and the general Festival atmosphere.

Performances for Children's Program

Acts that have performances suitable for young children (e.g., children's music, clowns, magic acts, puppeteers, kids crafts, etc) are sought for our children's program. Street performers and buskers are welcome to apply.

Special Note for International Performers

The Festival usually books international artists each year who are touring Australia at the time. As a small festival, we are not in a position to sponsor acts or arrange tours. We do not provide airfares.

If you have organised a tour in Australia that coincides with the date of our Festival, we welcome an enquiry or application from you or your agent/manager. (Please contact Peter Logue, YFC President 0402067614)

International acts must arrange their own visas. We recommend that international artists intending to tour Australia engage an Australian agent with knowledge of the complex Australian visa system and touring opportunities, as early as possible. The Australian Government's visa application process is complex and difficult to navigate without such support.

Performer Fees

The Festival is a small, not-for-profit event with a limited budget, run by volunteers, so please take this into consideration when quoting a fee. The Festival is located in a small rural area and cannot provide meals or any hospitality or performance riders. This also applies to international performers. This is not negotiable.

The festival expects that every act will take responsibility for arranging their own insurance, tax and superannuation contributions, and APRA returns.

The Festival does its best to meet the fee that is requested. If you have indicated that your fee is negotiable, we may contact you to discuss your quote. If successful, please provide us with an invoice, including your act name, contact person, billing address and ABN if you have one. Yuin Folk Club's ABN is 91 772 762 752.

Performer Passes

The Festival provides free weekend tickets for one partner and two dependent children under the age of 18 (additional dependents by negotiation) for every performer engaged for the full three days of the Festival.

A maximum of 16 weekend tickets will be provided to choirs, big bands, dance and street performing groups attending the Festival for the full three days.

If a performance is on ONE day only, a day pass for that day will be provided. Performers then have the option to upgrade to a weekend pass by purchasing the balance.

We do not provide additional tickets for other guests (agents, tour managers etc) unless agreed to in advance with Festival management. We require that all names of additional personnel be supplied in advance.

Volunteering

The Festival welcomes, performers (and their partners) to volunteer if they wish to do so.

About Your Act

Act contact person

It is the responsibility of the representative for the artist/act to pass on all the information provided by the Festival to all members of the act. Similarly, it is also the responsibility of the representative of the act to inform the Festival of any changes to the information provided in the application. Such changes may have implications with regard to the outcome of the application. It is also the best way to ensure that problems later on with regard to performers' ticketing, admission,

accommodation, and performance scheduling are avoided.

Act Name

This is the name that will appear on the Festival website, in promotional material and in the Festival program book. PLEASE NOTE: A change of title of your act will not be accepted after Contracts have been signed.

Bios etc

Please provide a brief overview of the type of performance offered, instruments played, special features or skills for the purposes of our application assessment. Please also provide a short (under 100 words) description of your act, suitable for our website/social media/program book. Please provide media links to assist in assessing your application. If you are successful, we may use these as additional promotional material (sharing on social media, websites etc). Please find more information about promotional material under 'Support Material' below.

Members of your Act

Please provide the names and ages (if under 18) of all proposed members of your Act. We appreciate that line-ups may change in the lead up to the Festival depending on individual circumstances. Any minor changes in your line-up should be conveyed to the Program Manager as early as possible. The Festival reserves the right to refuse the additions or nullify the contract if the act is deemed to be different from what was originally agreed.

Availability

Are you available to participate in activities other than a concert – such as workshops, session, kids program etc? Please indicate all categories that apply to you and your Act. Performances commence on Friday afternoon (usually from 4:00pm) and finish on Sunday afternoon (around 6:00pm). It is expected that Artists will be available for the whole festival unless other arrangements are made through the Performer Liaison Manager. Please ensure that you include in your application, your ETA and ETD, and indicate if your Act will be unavailable for any period within these days.

Workshops

Workshops are an important part of our Festival and inspire participation and skill development. If you are able to provide a workshop please provide a very brief description (under 50 words) for our Program Book.

Dance Groups, Choirs and Street Performance Acts

Dance groups and choirs must submit an application in the same way as all other acts/performers.

Dance groups, choirs, big bands and street performance acts who perform across the full Festival weekend will receive weekend tickets with camping for the Act members, their partners and any dependent children. Dance groups, choirs, big bands and street performance acts that are only booked for one day, will receive a

day pass to the Festival. Day passes may be upgraded to weekend passes at Earlybird ticket prices.

The maximum number of performers in dance groups, choirs and street performers is 16. This must include any musicians necessary for the performance. Larger groups may be accepted through prior negotiation.

Names and email contacts for all group members **MUST** be submitted at time of signing the Contract. E-tickets will be issued for entry to the Festival. A group member may be substituted if required, but no later than 3 weeks prior to the event. No changes to names will be permitted after that time without approval from Festival management.

Accommodation

The Festival offers accommodation for performers and on-site camping for those who wish to camp. Powered sites are limited, so you should indicate if this is a requirement as early as possible. If camping is not possible for you, we have limited billet spaces which are provided by the generosity of our local community, most of whom have hosted our performers for many years. We have access to limited commercial accommodation, which we use sparingly, but regret that we are generally unable to assist performers with this type of accommodation.

The Festival website includes a list of local accommodation providers, should you wish to make your own arrangements at your own expense. From Friday afternoon, food stalls will be open on-site offering a wide range of meals and refreshments for purchase.

Insurance

The Festival carries its own public liability insurance that requires that all performers carry their own insurance. If your requested fee is \$300 or less, you can be covered under our Volunteer Insurance Policy, however, it is in the best interests of all performers to carry their own public liability insurance. If your Act is selected, you will be required to forward proof of public liability insurance as part of the contract acceptance process.

Support Material

We require promotional material to be of a certain standard in order to adequately advertise the Festival. Preference will be given to applications that supply up-to-date support materials to help our assessment of your application. Please note the following requirements:

- Please provide a link to sound files/CD recordings/video recordings where available. Recordings of live performances are preferred. If you are applying as a solo act, a recording of you with a backing band would not be representative of

your act. We would rather hear a poor-quality recording of you solo than a slick, commercially produced CD of you with a number of backing musicians. Similarly, if you are proposing to have some accompanying musicians, please endeavour to include them on the recording submitted.

- Please supply photos in appropriate formats and dpi resolution. You will need to provide at least one high resolution photo (300dpi) if your application is successful. Colour photos are preferred. If the photographer needs to be acknowledged, please ensure that acknowledgement text is included (discreetly) on the photo image.
- Please provide bio information in the prescribed formats. Biographical information is used for our website, external marketing/promotion, book program information, stage managers etc. We need this information in more than one format so that we don't have to spend time rewriting for different purposes so, please provide bio info in the following formats:
 - Program/website act description – *MAXIMUM 100* words please
 - Workshop description - *MAXIMUM 50* words please
- Please supply links to your social media sites and your website if you have one.

If you do not have any sound samples or video clips available to be viewed on the internet, then please mail a CD or DVD (either a commercially available disk or a demo that is representative of the act applying - NOTE: CDs or DVDs will not be returned).

Programming

In general, the Festival will program up to four performances per act, usually a combination of concerts, workshops and themed concerts over the three days of the Festival.

If your act has material suitable for a themed concert (e.g.), you may be asked to contribute a couple of songs in one of those. We may also invite one or more of your members to contribute to our instrumental forum concerts (e.g. "Guitar Concert", "Fiddle Concert", etc). These will be in addition to your main performances.

Concert performances per act vary between 45 minutes to 75 minutes (usually 60 minutes), workshops 60 to 90 minutes, dance demonstrations 30 to 60 minutes. We run our stages on schedule so please keep within your allocated time or face the wrath of the stage managers and every act coming on after you!

Setup time is usually included within the performance time (e.g. a 60 min spot equates to 50 minutes performance time and 10 minutes set up time). If your act has special requirements that will necessitate a longer set up time, you need to let

us know so that we can schedule your performances at times that will allow this and minimise the effect on the rest of the schedule.

Selection and Acceptance of your Application

Please assist us by submitting your application as soon as possible. It helps us by spreading the workload involved in assessing applications.

The Festival will endeavour to advise applicants within two months of the receipt of the application as to whether or not they have been successful. Please do not contact the festival prior to this time to find out if you have been successful. We will contact you regarding your application status. All applications will be acknowledged.

In very rare cases when the follow up information conflicts with or has changed significantly from the initial application, or the information provided raises problems with the scheduling of the Act, the Festival reserves the right to reverse its acceptance of the application.

An offer letter and contract will be emailed to successful applicants and, once signed, are binding. The Contract will include any specific expectations regarding an act's performance requirements.

The Festival receives many times the number of applications than we can book. There are always many disappointed acts. If not successful one year, please consider reapplying for another year. Unsuccessful applicants are also reminded that the Festival has blackboard-concert type venues and you are welcome to attend and participate in such concerts, sessions, etc. Our Festival organisers often "talent-scout" such venues for future festivals or folk club concerts throughout the year. Please be assured that rejection of an application does not reflect lack of quality.

The Festival Organising Committee hopes that the above information has been helpful.

*Do contact us if you have any questions regarding the guidelines or application.
Good luck with your application!*

CFF Contact Information

Carolyn Griffin (Performer Liaison Manager): 0400 391 324

Email: performers@cobargofolkfestival.com

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ABN 91 772 762 752

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