



# Festival 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargo: Thursday 16 November 2.00pm AEST**

### **Award-winning singer-songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke to perform at Festival 2018**

Multi-platinum selling artist Kate Miller-Heidke has today been announced by Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) Chairman, Peter Beattie AC as the first headline act for Festival 2018. The GC2018 multi-arts festival complements the sports program from 4-15 April 2018.

Brisbane-born Kate Miller-Heidke will feature on the Queensland Music Stage, a dedicated stage to showcase Queensland's best musical talent.

Joining the ARIA nominated artist is Queensland four-piece indie-rock band The Jungle Giants and Torres Strait Islander Hip Hop artist Mau Power.

Local musicians Austen and Karl S Williams will also get the opportunity to represent the Gold Coast community on the global stage.

Located in Surf Parade, Broadbeach for the duration of GC2018, the Queensland Music Stage is a free event that caters for all ages and musical tastes.

Both Kate Miller-Heidke and Mau Power will also perform in the Games Event City of Cairns and Mau Power in Brisbane, as part of Festival 2018.

The full Queensland Music Stage line-up will be announced in February 2018 when the Festival 2018 program is launched.

The Queensland Music Stage is co-curated by Festival 2018 and Bleach\* Festival. Festival 2018 at Broadbeach is proudly presented by The Star Gold Coast.

For the latest Festival 2018 news and updates, please visit [gc2018.com/festival2018](http://gc2018.com/festival2018) and follow our social media channels.

#### **Award-winning singer-songwriter, Kate Miller-Heidke:**

"I'm so thrilled to be performing at Festival 2018 as part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

"It's great to see such a breadth of talented artists representing Queensland on the stage across the festival.

"Queensland audiences have always been special to me, and I can't wait to play with a string quartet and share my music with local audiences as well as visitors from around the world," Ms Miller-Heidke said.

#### **GOLDOC Chairman, Peter Beattie AC:**

"It's exciting to have Kate perform her incredible new set for Festival 2018. This announcement shows GC2018 will have world class sporting performances at our venues and artists performing across the arts and culture program.

"Audiences will enjoy an incredibly strong line-up of free, quality entertainment across the 12-day festival on the Gold Coast.

"The Queensland Music Stage will showcase the State's best and emerging musical talents to a diverse global and local audience," Mr Beattie said.

### **The Jungle Giants lead vocalist and guitarist, Sam Hales:**

"We can't wait to perform, and be a part of something as huge as the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

"We've never been a part of something like this in the past, so we're keen to do and see as much as we possibly can. We've also put together a new set, so we're excited to try it out at the Games," Mr Hales said.

### **Hip Hop artist, Mau Power**

"Coming from a small community in the Torres Strait, it is very exciting to be recognised on such a grand stage.

"Traditionally we share and connect as people through music so I'm really looking forward to sharing my music and culture with new audiences, playing alongside other Queensland talent during Festival 2018," Mr Mau said.

### **Indie-pop musician, Austen**

"The opportunity to play as part of Festival 2018 will be unforgettable. I'm so excited for the platform it gives me as an artist to make new connections.

"It's awesome to have indie music represented at an event like this and it's a great chance for audiences that might not usually be exposed to this style of music to discover something new that they might really love," Austen said.

### **Gold Coast musician, Karl S Williams**

"Here on the Gold Coast I have found a wonderfully supportive community that has been kind enough to embrace my music and enable me to present it to the world.

"It is always a privilege to play hometown shows and now I am honoured to do so as part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. For this event many new eyes are turned upon us, so it is a great opportunity to grow connections with the world and celebrate our shared humanity," Mr Williams said.

### **The Star Gold Coast General Manager Marketing Queensland, Simon Proctor:**

"The promotion of Queensland and Australian talent to the world through Festival 2018 is something we at The Star Gold Coast are already taking enormous pride in supporting.

"The talent in this country across all sectors of the arts is boundless and our involvement in the Gold Coast's biggest ever cultural festival fits beautifully with The Star's reputation as a complete entertainment destination.

"Festival 2018 will be a moment in time for our city as amazing talent is discovered, presented on an international stage and celebrated like never before," Mr Proctor said.

### **GOLDOC CEO, Mark Peters:**

"Local, Indigenous and Queensland musicians among Australia's most talented up and coming artists, will have the opportunity to play alongside headline talent.

"There is an incredible amount of local talent and every night the Queensland Music Stage will feature local musicians playing to an expected audience of 5,000 in an internationally significant festival," Mr Peters said.

### **Background**

### **Kate Miller-Heidke:**

Kate Miller-Heidke is bringing her classically-trained vocals and alternative pop sounds to venues around the country in early 2018, armed with an incredible set of brand new arrangements and backed by a string quartet.

Kate is an award-winning singer-songwriter whose style crosses contemporary pop, folk and opera. She has released four studio albums in Australia, including the top 5 albums *O Vertigo!*, *Nightflight*, and *Curiouser*, which spawned the multi-platinum hits *The Last Day On Earth* and *Caught In The Crowd*. Her songs are stamped with witty humour and poignant insight – always touching.

Beyond her recorded music career, Kate Miller-Heidke has recently made forays into the world of music theatre, composing an opera *The Rabbits* in 2015. She has recently finished work with her collaborator Keir Nuttall on composing the music and lyrics for *Muriel's Wedding: The Musical*, premiering at the Sydney Theatre Company in November 2017.

In 2016-17 Kate performed a suite of her songs with symphony orchestras around the country to huge acclaim, winning the Helpmann Award for *Best Australian Contemporary Concert*, and seeing her performance with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra released as a new album, the ARIA-nominated *Live At The Sydney Opera House*.

### **The Jungle Giants:**

Indie-rock band, The Jungle Giants first met in Brisbane at Mansfield State High, and since their first performance in 2011, have released two EPs and three studio albums.

The Jungle Giants are at the top of Australian indie-pop, selling out their nation-wide tours and headlining all major national festivals. They've also played internationally in the United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia and racked up over 26 million Spotify streams.

The band features Sam Hales on vocals and guitar, Cesira Aitken on lead guitar, Andrew Dooris on bass guitar and backing vocals and Keelan Bijker on drums and trombone.

### **Mau Power**

Driven by the passion for storytelling, inspired by the culture of Hip Hop, Mau Power is a lyrical storyteller from Thursday Island in the Torres Straits. For many years he has been guided by two cultures, Indigenous culture and Hip Hop culture.

With a proud heritage from the *Dhoebaw* Clan of the *Guda Maluilgal* nations, Power is the first rapper to emerge out of the Torres Strait and break out on the Australian music scene. Power was born, raised and is still living in the Aylans (Islands).

It is the art of storytelling that embodies the connection of two cultures that makes Mau Power a unique Australian artist with universal appeal.

In recent times Power has performed at countless shows across the country, as well as in London and Guam. He completed his first Australian east coast tour to celebrate the release of his *Island Home* single and video.

### **Austen**

Blending alternative writing roots with spacious synths, Austen's hook-laden art pop creates a sonic atmosphere that draws comparisons to contemporaries like Broods, Alison Wonderland, Halsey, Banks and Flume, housing a writing style that plays between introspective and surreal.

With two acclaimed singles, multiple collaborations, and a national tour under her belt already, Austen is set to be one of the most promising rising voices of her kind.

### **Karl S Williams**

Self-described as "a guitar-slinging, banjo-wielding vagabond with a penchant for hell fire, heavenly salvation, and writing about himself in the third person", Banjos Blues player Karl S Williams is an experienced performer with a number of national and international tours under his belt.

He released his album *Heartwood* in 2014 and recently finished a coastal tour after releasing his most recent single '*Blood to give*'.

## **Festival 2018**

Festival 2018, supported by the Queensland Government is the multi-arts program for GC2018 with twelve days of free performances, activities, public art and other family-friendly events throughout the Host City of Gold Coast and Event Cities Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville.

## **ENDS**

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