



MEDIA RELEASE

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Katie Noonan and Paul Brady to headline 2012 National Folk Festival

The National Folk Festival has announced Katie Noonan and Paul Brady will be performing as headline acts at the 2012 National Folk Festival.

The Festival made a big statement with the latest additions to their diverse line up, with two artists that come from very different ends of the traditional folk spectrum.

These two are music royalty, each reigning over a surprising spread of musical genres.

Paul is famous for music that shifts effortlessly between pop, rock and folk, while Katie – who trained as an opera singer like her mother Maggie - is known for her strong jazz, pop, rock and dance influences.

Both are sublime storytellers, each using their uniquely beautiful voices to tell their musical tales.

Managing Director of the Festival, Sebastian Flynn, said he was excited to announce Katie and Paul amongst the headliners.

“Katie and Paul are outstanding modern musicians, who will join Harry Manx, Jeff Lang, Zulya Kamalova, Johnny Moynihan, Shooglenifty and the Battlefield Band in headlining the 2012 Festival.

“Given the strength of the 2012 line-up, we are anticipating a big reaction to the second round of Early Bird tickets, which went on sale at the beginning of November.

“The response to Early Bird tickets is the best it has ever been, which is very exciting.”

Paul Brady’s early career saw him with influential Irish folk band, The Johnstons, before joining Planxty, the premier Irish folk band of the early '70's, alongside Andy Irvine, Liam O' Flynn, Johnny Moynihan and Christy Moore. From '76 to '78 he played as a duo with Andy Irvine, a relationship which produced the album “Andy Irvine and Paul Brady”, regarded now as a folk classic. It’s going to be a great festival for fans of Celtic music with Johnny Moynihan, the Battlefield band and Shooglenifty all headlining at the 2012 Festival – and we all know that Andy Irvine likes to spend summer in Australia, who knows what might happen!

Equally renowned as a gifted contemporary songwriter, Paul’s songs have been covered by such luminaries as Cliff Richards, Brookes and Dunn, Bonnie Raitt, Ronan Keating, Tina Turner and Art Garfunkel. Paul has also collaborated with a wide range of songwriters, including John Prine, Carole King, Roseanne Cash and Nashville singing sensation, Sarah Siskind.

A six times platinum selling artist, Katie Noonan will be appearing alongside her band of 14 years, Elixir, which has released its second album titled First Seed Ripening. Katie has received four ARIA awards, including ARIA’s Jazz Album of the Year for First Seed Ripening.

With First Seed, Katie and Elixir have created what they describe as a “mesmerising soundscape inspired by the words of legendary Australian poet Thomas Shapcott”.

“Our aim was to make gentle, intimate music, and it was all about freedom and spontaneity,” Katie said. The album also features several covers, all climaxing in a version of Split Enz’s ‘I Hope I Never’,

composed by Katie's song writing collaborator Tim Finn, which makes for a particularly moving conclusion to the album.

The two will be performing at the National Folk Festival, which will run over the Easter long weekend in 2012. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.folkfestival.org.au/>.

Photos of Katie Noonan with Elixir and Paul Brady are available on request.

Please note: To hear the talented Paul Brady perform his classic Lakes of Ponchartrain (http://www.paulbrady.com/?page_id=823) and Elixir's cover of Elton John's Goodbye Yellow Brick Road (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIPP0ep9O_Q) follow the links.

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