



Vibes Virtuoso

Nick Parnell

National tour (opens 26 April) and CD release



MEDIA KIT

MEDIA: for information, interviews, images and CD's contact: Trudy Johnston

0402 485 902, trudy@vimandzest.com.au

www.nickparnell.com



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MEDIA RELEASE

Old music made new again with masterful mallets of steel played by Nick Parnell, one of the world's foremost vibraphone players. A new CD release and a dazzling national 32 concert tour - opens 26 April 2014.

"Dazzling dexterity... balanced with supreme delicacy." The Advertiser

Award-winning vibraphone player Nick Parnell is set to entrance audiences from around Australia with his mallets of steel. Launching his new CD release, *Vibes Virtuoso*, his tour opens on 26 April and sees him play in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and many regional centres. He will collaborate with stunning pianists including Amir Farid (2006 Australian National Piano Award winner) & Michael Ierace (2008 Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition winner).

Nick Parnell's CD launch and Australian tour sees music's greatest 'hits' re-imagined by one of the world's foremost vibraphone players. This stunning musician makes old music new again, injecting energy into repertoire that might be familiar to some, but definitely inspirational to all, as evidenced with his latest album release, *Vibes Virtuoso*.

"I am passionate about showing audiences what can really be done with a vibraphone. When played well, it has the most amazing and beautiful sound that transports audiences to a heavenly place. The vibes combined with piano accompaniment makes for a completely unique concert experience for the listener," says Nick Parnell.

Favourites from an internationally classic music repertoire – such as Gershwin's *Summertime*, Albeniz's *Tango*, Ravel's *Alborada del Gracioso* and Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* – have been cleverly re-imagined by Parnell to create a whole new, vibrant listening experience despite the familiarity of the melodies. Most importantly, the vibraphone superbly melded with piano gets its moment in the spotlight, ranging from the technically challenging to sheer lyrical beauty in the space of a heartbeat.

Born in the Australian outback, Nick Parnell started teaching himself drums in his parents' sheep shearing shed at the age of ten. Such humble beginnings ignited a passion in Parnell that has led to industry acclaim, such as the *Centenary of Federation Medal* awarded by the Australian Government and appearances with the likes of David Helfgott, Simon Tedeschi and the Australian String Quartet.

As one of the first musicians to bring the vibraphone to the attention of the classical world, Parnell's ongoing ambition is to break down the elitism of classical music and make it available for everyone to enjoy – something he achieves with enviable mastery through *Vibes Virtuoso*.

"With the new *Vibes Virtuoso* project, I wanted to push myself to the limit not only technically, but also musically. The new album and show therefore contain some 'chop burning' repertoire as well as some simply beautiful melodies," says Parnell.

Winner of the International Melbourne Percussion Competition (2001), Parnell is releasing his third album (previous 2 albums released in Europe in 2012) and is embarking on his seventh year of national touring following collaborations with pianist Simon Tedeschi and performances at the Australian High Commission in London. Parnell's innovation and precision playing heralds him as one of a new generation of Australian musicians stepping into a glittering career as a master of the vibraphone.

CDs available for purchase at www.nickparnell.com, RRP \$30
www.facebook.com/NickParnellVibes and @NickParnellVibe

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VIBES VIRTUOSO CONCERT SCHEDULE

DATES	VENUE	LOCATION
26-27/4	Mount Beauty Music Festival – Community Centre	Mount Beauty
2/5	Adelaide Festival Centre – Space Theatre	Adelaide
3/5	Adelaide Festival Centre – Space Theatre	Adelaide
9/5	Northern Rivers Conservatorium	Lismore
10/5	Clarence Valley Conservatorium	Grafton
12/5	Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music	Muswellbrook
13/5	Macquarie Conservatorium of Music	Dubbo
14/5	Mitchell Conservatorium of Music	Bathurst
15/5	City Recital Hall Angel Place	Sydney
16/5	The Street Theatre	Canberra
17/5	Memorial Hall	Yass
18/5	Community Centre	St Georges Basin
20/5	Melbourne Recital Centre	Melbourne
4/ 10	Clare Uniting Church	Clare
5/10	Blacksmiths Chatter Function Centre	Orroroo
9/10	Burdekin Theatre	Ayr
10/10	Riverway Arts Centre	Townsville
11/10	Centre of Contemporary Arts	Cairns
13/10	The Arts Centre Gold Coast	Gold Coast
13/10	QUT Theatre	Brisbane
14/10	Redland Performing Arts Centre	Cleveland
15/10	Maleny Community Centre – Main Hall	Maleny
17/10	Centenary Hall	Goolwa
18/10	Venue TBA	Adelaide
31/10	Colac Otway Performing Arts Centre	Colac
2/11	Eastbank Centre	Shepparton
6/11	EBBW Entertainment Centre	Sale
7/11	West Gippsland Arts Centre	Warragul
8/11	Forge Theatre	Bairnsdale
10/11	Portland Arts Centre	Portland
14/11	Riverina Conservatorium of Music	Wagga Wagga
15/11	Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium	Coffs Harbour

NICK PARNELL – VIBES VIRTUOSO



Celebrated as one of the most exciting vibes players in the world today, Nick Parnell makes old music new again, injecting energy into a repertoire that might be familiar to some, but definitely inspirational to all. With a spirit of recklessness, Parnell takes one of the newest of classical instruments and gives it a genre-bending makeover.

Steel yourself for his mallets of musical mastery.

Vibraphone/noun.

A musical percussion instrument with a double row of tuned metal bars each above a tubular resonator. Contains a pedal to control sustain. Most impressively (and physically) played with four mallets. Emits a mellow and smooth singing tone.

Born in the Australian outback town of Orroroo, Nick Parnell began teaching himself drums in his parents' sheep shearing shed at the age of ten.

Such humble beginnings ignited a passion in Parnell that has led to accolades including first place in the International Melbourne Percussion Competition, the Centenary of Federation Medal awarded by the Australian Government (for contribution to the arts) and the Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship.

Parnell underwent formal training at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide (Australia), where he completed his PhD. During this period he also studied and undertook master-classes with many of world's great percussionists including Uffe Savery from the famed Safri Duo, Evelyn Glennie and Gary Burton.

A creative spirit who believes a greater level of artistry is possible, Parnell very quickly became attracted to the musicality, subtlety and beauty of the vibraphone, to which he has applied his dexterity to become one of the world's great vibraphone virtuosos. However, his talents extend across a range of percussion instruments – 50 at a guess – including marimba, tuned gongs, bamboo chimes, cymbals and various exotic ethnic drums.

Parnell continues to strengthen his performing skills with a cache of international ensembles – including the English National Ballet, Russian Ballet Company, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Australian String Quartet. He has appeared at the Australia High Commission (UK & KL), Melbourne Recital Centre, Sydney's City Recital Hall, and was the first solo percussionist to play in the Art Gallery of NSW's prestigious *Resonate* concert series.

Festival appearances include Adelaide and Melbourne International Festival of the Arts, International Canberra Chamber Music Festival, Musica Viva, Adelaide Contemporary Music Festival, International Barossa Music Festival, Womadelaide and Australia's first International Percussive Arts Society Festival.

Over the years, Parnell has proudly shared the stage with a number of inspirational artists, the likes of concert pianists Simon Tedeschi, David Helfgott (as immortalised in the biopic *Shine*) and Michael Kieran Harvey (1993 Ivo Pogorelic Piano Competition joint winner), shakuhachi grand master Riley Lee (TaikOz), didgeridoo virtuoso Mark Atkins (Led Zeppelin/Philip Glass) and marimba soloist Bogdan Bacanu (Austria). He has worked with many distinguished conductors including Gunther Schuller, Lorraine Vaillancourt and Olari Elts.

A renegade on many fronts who actively embraces the crossover between different music genres, Parnell was the featured soloist in the ASO's 2006 *Edge* series where he performed orchestral versions of rock songs. He has given numerous performances for ABC Classic FM's National *Sunday Live* programs and made Australian premieres of new compositions including Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür's percussion concerto, *Magma*.

Parnell attracted world-wide attention by recording one of the world's first solo classical vibraphone albums, *Classical Vibes*, for ABC Classics in Australia, which followed his debut album, *Generally Spoken It's Nothing but Rhythm*. His subsequent performances were met with critical acclaim. Also a passionate educator, Parnell has presented hundreds of master-classes from schools to universities including the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Elder Conservatorium of Music, West Australian Academy of Performing Arts and University of Melbourne.

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