

AKOUSTIC ODYSSEY

Artist Information

July 2008

About Akoustic Odyssey

Akoustic Odyssey are Adelaide's own original, instrumental and eclectic seven piece band. Their rich and eclectic tapestry of music is a feast for your musical soul. With an original blend of instruments and musical flavours, they will take you on a journey, an odyssey, through rock baroque, Latin jazz, Mediterranean and medieval dances.

Comprised of Joshua Tsounis' and Stephan Richter's original compositions, Akoustic Odyssey's music has built the septet a solid fan base in their home town of Adelaide, South Australia.

Their live performances and original CD releases have been met with high praise and critical acclaim. The band received a nomination for the "Most Outstanding Group" in the 2008 SA Folk Federation awards and in 2006 were awarded the "People's Choice" award for their successful performances during the 2006 Fringe.

Musician Biographies

Joshua Tsounis (Composer/Guitars)

Joshua is a performer and guitar teacher and holds a bachelor of Music Teaching and a Diploma of Music Performance, majoring in guitar. Josh is also a composer of music featuring guitars as a duo and as an ensemble instrument. He is experienced both as a soloist and as a member of various ensembles including classical duos, Greek and world music.

Stephan Richter (Composer/Cello/Bass)

Stephan has been playing and performing professionally since a young age. He studied the cello at the Zurich Conservatory and completed with a bachelor in teaching and performance.

After some studies on electric bass in New York in contemporary music styles he went back to Switzerland to do some postgraduate studies on cello again. He performed regularly as a cellist in orchestras as well as in contemporary settings.

He has recorded and toured with various ensembles covering a large range of musical styles. His skills as a bass player and teacher are reflected in the successful publication of many bass tuition books distributed worldwide through an international publishing company. He also composes music for Akoustic Odyssey.

Alex McFarlane (Guitars)

Alex has been studying the guitar since he was 10 years old. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Elder Conservatorium and a Diploma in Music Industry (Technical Production) from the School of Audio Engineering in Adelaide.

Alex has been performing music of many styles since he was 13 years old and achieved critical acclaim in the '90's with the original contemporary rock band, 'Puck', including a nomination for 'Most Outstanding Guitarist' at the 1996 SAMI Awards.

Alex also teaches both guitar and electric bass in schools and is a regular broadcaster on Radio Adelaide 101.5 FM. He is the executive producer and coordinator of a weekly program called 'The Piping Shrike Hour' which showcases South Australian classical performers and can be heard every Friday at 11am.

Emma Luker (Violin)

Emma is a performing violinist, session player and teacher, in a range of different styles from contemporary and original recordings, to Classical and Baroque. Emma completed her violin studies at the Elder Conservatorium in 2003.

Emma has toured and recorded with many artists including Eric Bogle, Judy Small, Soursob Bob, and Bosnian guitarist Dido Durmanovic. As a session musician, Emma has appeared on over 30 albums, including The Huckleberry Swedes album produced by Jim Moginie (Midnight Oil). Emma won the SA Folk Federation's Best Instrumentalist of the Year award for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Talitha Best (Oboe/Cor Anglais)

Talitha is a freelance artist in both classical orchestras and popular musicals. In hot demand playing and teaching oboe and cor anglais, Talitha's professional engagements include performances with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys the music and the challenge of performing the compositions of Akoustic Odyssey.

Anne Harrington (Percussion)

A respected and highly regarded doyen of Adelaide percussion, Anne enjoys a successful career teaching and playing hand percussion.

Akoustic Odyssey's breadth of musical genres and influences suits Anne right down to the ground. Her mastery of a range of hand percussion instruments and playing styles is a solid foundation for Akoustic Odyssey's sound.

Matt Davies (Percussion)

Matt is a hardworking and respected Adelaide percussionist and drummer. Playing a range of percussion instruments in various ensembles and styles, he is sought after for both playing and teaching engagements.

For Akoustic Odyssey, Matt displayed his originality and creativity putting together odds and ends to make a drum kit of junk, for a piece featuring percussion called "FUNK Metal Junk".

Press

Akoustic Odyssey - Live at the German Club Adelaide Fringe 2007

The complex string compositions of Michael Nyman and Bernard Hermann came to mind more than once during this excellent program. Although it was an informally relaxed concert and CD launch at the German Club the band were presenting material of the highest quality.

Akoustic Odyssey are crucial evidence of the treasure trove of musical genius we are

blessed with in South Australia. Each of the vigourous compositions displayed fine balance and highly enjoyable melodies. If you missed out on all of this I suggest you purchase the CD of the same name, it's a detonating experience for everyone into original neo-gypsy-fusion.

David Jobling, Independent Weekly

Akoustic Odyssey

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