

*National  
Folk Festival  
2010*



## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release.

### NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR.

**Experienced festival manager and renowned musician Sebastian Flynn has been appointed as the new managing director of Australia's premier folk event, the National Folk Festival.**

NFF President David Garrett, speaking on behalf of the Festival Board, said today that Mr Flynn was chosen from an exceptional field of candidates and would bring valuable experience, skills and a new perspective to the Festival which is held in Canberra each Easter.

"As both an experienced festival director and also a talented musician, we believe Sebastian Flynn will make an enormous contribution to what is already a successful and dynamic world-class event," said Mr Garratt.

"Our past and present staff and volunteers have done an exceptional job in building the National Folk Festival into one of Canberra's most popular annual events, and we are sure it will continue to thrive and grow under Sebastian's direction," he said.

Originally from Liverpool, England, with a background as a classically trained violinist, Sebastian Flynn has performed and recorded as a professional folk musician in Europe from 1980 -1995.

He became involved in production of world music events after arriving in Australia in 1995, and worked for 5 years as Programming and Production Coordinator for Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre (BEMAC) from 2001-2006, before becoming Director of the highly successful Queensland Multicultural Festival in 2006.

Mr Flynn said he was looking forward to building on the previous successes of the National Folk Festival and growing the scope and profile of the event.

"This year will be the 44th National Folk Festival and the longevity speaks for itself! It will be a great privilege to represent Australia's premier folk festival," he said.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the Festival's tradition of presenting a truly world class program of artists and activities that reflects the current wealth and diversity of talent throughout Australia and abroad,

"The National has built its reputation on community involvement, education and participation in music, song, dance and spoken word: these are the strong foundations upon which to grow the festival," he said. "I believe there is a renaissance of interest in folk culture as the essential expression of people from all around the world and I'm very excited by the opportunity to contribute to the progress and development of the Festival in forthcoming years," said Mr Flynn.

Mr Flynn will start as Managing Director from 15 February 2010.

The National Folk Festival will attract some 50,000 people to Exhibition Park in Canberra from 1-5 April 2010, and contributes around \$7M to the regional economy annually.

Tickets are on sale now – visit [www.folkfestival.asn.au](http://www.folkfestival.asn.au) or phone 02 6262 4792 to find out more.

~ENDS~

**Mr Flynn will be available for interviews and photographs in Canberra from Monday 15 February 2010.**

**To make arrangements or for more information, please contact National Folk Festival Publicist Jane Speechley – e-mail [media@folkfestival.asn.au](mailto:media@folkfestival.asn.au) or phone 0414 354 928.**