

WORLD MUSIC SUPERGROUP TO PERFORM IN BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre and Top Shelf Productions present

DJAN DJAN

FEATURING MAMADOU DIABATE (KORA, MALI)

BOBBY SINGH (TABLA, INDIA)

JEFF LANG (GUITAR, AUSTRALIA)

"... sparkling technique... compelling rhythmic groove... flair for making this ancient instrument sound as though it was invented yesterday... *RootsWorld* on Mamadou Diabate

"In Singh's hands the tabla was capable of an almost contrapuntal effect..."
Sydney Morning Herald on Bobby Singh

"Jeff Lang is one of those people who has music dripping from his fingers." *Courier Mail* on Jeff Lang

Brisbane audiences will be treated to an "intoxicating" fusion of Indian, Australian and African world music when virtuosic trio **Djan Djan** launches its new self-titled album at Judith Wright Centre on Friday 19 March 2010.

Embarking on a month-long tour of Australia and New Zealand (including performances at WOMAdelaide), **Djan Djan** comprises Mali's Mamadou Diabate (kora), India's Bobby Singh (tabla) and Australia's Jeff Lang (guitar).

World renowned tabla player **Bobby Singh** (also a member of The Bird and Circle of Rhythm) says **Djan Djan** creates a "groove-based and melodically rich" sound that represents the music of Australia.

"The music of **Djan Djan** crosses all borders; it doesn't have a particular sound that is true to one place, it's true to the world. To me this is the music of Australia," Bobby said.

"With deep love and respect for tradition, culture and our audience, we blend the music of Africa, India and Australia and then use improvisation to create a contemporary and intoxicating sound that echoes all three of these continents," he said.

"Our music is a mix of folk, blues and world music; it's groove-based and laid-back, but at the same time melodically rich and uplifting. And because we use a lot of improvisation, the music is also very fun," he said.

Bobby Singh spent his childhood in Mumbai studying tabla and is a disciple of maestro Aneesh Pradhan. Celebrated in both classical and contemporary circles, Bobby has performed and recorded with John Butler Trio and Cat Empire among others.

Winning a Grammy for his latest album, *DOuga Mansa*, **Mamadou Diabate** is a world renowned master of the kora (a 21-string West African instrument that sounds similar to a harp). Cousin and student of legendary kora player Toumani Diabate, **Mamadou** was raised in the griot tradition of Mali, using music and oratory to preserve his peoples' history and culture.

ARIA Award winner **Jeff Lang** has earned worldwide acclaim as a guitarist, dynamic songwriter and live performer, expanding the boundaries of traditional folk, country and blues.

All regular performers on the Australian festival circuit, the members of **Djan Djan** met at different festivals and, after hearing each other play, decided they wanted to play together. The trio formed in 2008 and headed straight into Melbourne's 30 Mill Studios to record their debut self-titled EP, which they accomplished in just two hours.

After touring the music from their first EP (now out of print), **Djan Djan** entered the studio again to record another five tracks (this time in less than two hours) to expand their EP into the full-length self-titled album.

Djan Djan will launch their 10-track album (ABC/Universal) at the Judith Wright Centre on Friday 19 March 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Friday 19 March 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Reserved Cabaret Seating Full \$35, Reserved Theatre Seating Full \$30, Concession \$26
Bookings	judithwrightcentre.com or 3872 9000

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

BOBBY SINGH

Born and raised in England, Bobby spent a great deal of his childhood in Mumbai studying at Sangeet Mahabharati an institute of music started by the great tabla maestro Pandit Nikhil Ghosh. Recognised with a great talent at a young age, Bobby became a student of Pandit Nikhil Ghosh's senior disciple Aneesh Pradhan, now one of the most sought after tabla players in the world. Through Aneesh's guidance Bobby was nurtured into a mature internationally renowned tabla player, both in traditional Indian classical music and cross cultural genres. Now a resident of Australia, he still spends most of his time between India and Australia. Bobby has received numerous awards and accolades and has performed with some of the finest musicians in Australia and overseas including Slava Grigoriyan, Greg Sheehan, Ben Walsh, David Hirschfelder, John Butler Trio, Sandy Evans, Pandit Ashok Roy, Aneesh Pradhan, Shuba Mudgal, Purbayan Chatterjee, Joseph Tawardros, Kim Sanders, Ian Dixon, Charlie McMahon, Jeremy Allsop, Sandipan Samajpati, Partho Sarathy, Tony Gorman and Adrian McNeil amongst many others. He has performed at many festivals including Womadelaide, Woodford Folk Festival, Bellingen Global Carnival, Sydney Festival, Hyde Park Festival, Worlds Fair Bonn, Livid, Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony Melbourne, Perth International Arts Festival, Singapore Arts Festival and Arts on the Move, amongst many others where the demand for his exciting, soulful and inspiring playing has become a highlight in many consecutive years. Outside of the milieu of Indian classical music, his projects have included the formation of his own fusion group DHA, becoming a permanent fixture in the hugely popular and highly acclaimed electronic/fusion group "The Bird" and most recently a member in the high energy percussion trio the Circle of Rhythm. Bobby is considered one of the most experienced tabla player's and is a highly respected musician in the World Music Scene in Australia. Most recently a documentary on his musical life was recorded and shown on SBS titled "Viva, I Belong Everywhere".

Bobby has recorded many classical and fusion cd's featuring some of the most exciting performers in the land. Amongst his recent CDs are "Ishq" with Circle of Rhythm, a recording with jazz fusion band "Passionfruit", "Aasha" an Indian classical music recording with Sarod player Adrian McNeil, Ruhani a duet with oud player Joseph Tawardros, Birdville Sessions with The Bird, a DVD, Live at the Studio Opera House with 'The Bird', featured guest on Cities with The Cat Empire, and John Butler Trio's latest recording Grand National.

www.bobbysingh.com.au

REVIEWS

"Bobby Singh's percussion provided the fundament for the whole musical endeavor..." **Frankfurter Rundschau, Germany**

"... The vocalists were supported and carried by the tabla playing of Tarlochan (Bobby) Singh. The instrumentalist demonstrated in his solo improvisation a transparent virtuosity and a vast and inexhaustible capability of rhythmic variations." **Wetterauer Zeitung, Germany**

"Tarlochan Singh demonstrated his virtuosity in a brilliant solo." **Mittelhessische Presse, Germany**

"Bobby Singh simply blew everyone away with his masterful playing..." **Revolver, Sydney, Michael Smith.**

"In Singh's hands the tabla was capable of an almost contrapuntal effect....." **John Shand, Sydney Morning Herald**

"Singh has built a solid reputation as a diversely interested musician who quite obviously gets his thrills messing with musical play dough. Who better to present an evening of world beats promising its audience a journey so geographically diverse that whiplash is not so much a risk as an inevitable?" **www.inthemix.com.au/reviews/events/20203/**

"This show was a masterpiece. This was fantastic. The fusion of old and new in such an original way. Bobby Singh is such an extraordinary tabla player, beyond belief." **http://www.theprogram.net.au/reviewsSub.asp?id=2220**

Recent Recordings include: *Nirmana* with Ben Walsh, Groovelands.com; *Groovelands Soundsystem: Self Titled* with Groovelands.com; *Kim Sanders and Friends*, Bent Groove's; *The Bird*, Re-invention's remix album; Foreign Dub & MGM. Circle of Rhythm: *Metrical*, Groovelands.com. The Bird: Birdville Sessions, Valve Records. Circle of Rhythm: *Ishq*, Groovelands.com. Ruhani: Duet with Joseph Tawardros, ABC classics. Random Factors: remix with Bill Laswell, on Sonic Arcana. Penguin Suit: with Slava Grigoriyan and Nigel Westlake, on ABC Classics.

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JEFF LANG

Australian-based musician Jeff Lang has earned worldwide acclaim as a virtuosic guitarist, a dynamic songwriter and a startlingly unique live performer. Jeff has a back catalogue of 14 studio albums and has been featured at major festivals, pubs, clubs, arts centres and venues internationally for the past decade. Blending rock, roots, folk, blues, ballads, instrumentals, improvisation and a devastatingly high level of musicality, Jeff Lang is a singularly unique performer in our world. Jeff has been showered with many achievements and awards in his life, the most outstanding would be his six Aria award nominations as well as his win in 2002. Jeff Lang is currently signed to ABC/Warner for Australia to represent his recordings and Shock Music Publishing worldwide to represent his publicity interests. Jeff's recordings have been released worldwide by: Proper Music (UK), Telarc (International), Rounder (International). He currently has releases slated for Japan (P-Vine) and France (Lickshot/Wagram). Lang has built up a devoted almost cult-like following with his live performances. Working without a set list, allowing the unique energy in each night to shape the songs and taking the audience along for his ride has seen word of mouth bloom into a successful career for Lang. It's been widely acknowledged that Jeff Lang is an extraordinarily individual musician. What enhances his unique nature is his steadfast adherence to a prolific and diverse musical palette and output. A songwriter, a collaborator, a virtuosic guitarist and a stunning lyricist; Jeff Lang crafts songs as novellas... rich with depth and vision, yet with an open breath for individual interpretation. 2007 was an action packed year for Jeff Lang. Three albums licensed worldwide, two released in Australia, too many local and overseas tours to count, Aria nominations and the honour of being the Artist in residence of the inaugural Adelaide International Guitar Festival. In 2008 Jeff Lang released the album, *Half Seas Over* (ABC, Warner).

www.jefflang.com.au

REVIEWS

"Jeff Lang is one of those people who has music dripping from his fingers." **Courier Mail, Australia**

"He explores sonorities as eclectic as they are stunning...Lang's only reference point is himself, a unique singer-songwriter-guitarist who follows his own path." **Le Soleil, Quebec.**

"Jeff Lang is, in my humble opinion, a national treasure. A truly gifted songwriter and an outstanding guitarist. He has been inspiration to countless Australian and internationally renown roots artists and surely has a place in history as one of this generations finest.

"He has really touched me and musically, I had a kind of revelation..." **John Butler**

"We're treated to moody atmospheric textures, ripping electric lap-steel riffs, delicate acoustic picking, trippy backwards leads, oddball percussion, throbbing tremolo, and unconventional lyrics – all of which Lang blends like some crazed sonic alchemist. **Andy Ellis, Guitar Player Magazine, USA**

MAMADOU DIABATE

Mamadou Diabate was born in Kita, a Malian city long known as a center for the arts and culture of the Manding people of West Africa. Mamadou comes from a family of griots, or jelis as they are known among the Manding. Jelis are more than just traditional musicians. They use music and sometimes oratory to preserve and sustain people's consciousness of the past, a past that stretches back to the 13th Century. Mamadou began learning the Kora from his father at the age of four. In Bamako, Mamadou studied with his famous cousin, Toumani Diabate who gave Mamadou the nickname "Djelika Djan" meaning "Tall Griot," a reference to Mamadou's impressive physical stature. The name has stuck.

Mamadou has played with the greatest world and jazz musicians in the world on stages across the globe including jazz luminaries Donald Byrd and Randy Weston, Zimbabwean legend Thomas Mapfumo, and blues masters Eric Bibb and Guy Davis. Mamadou's first solo album was nominated for a Grammy. He proudly released his next solo album, *DOUGA MANSA*. Diabate says: "Dougga Mansa means King Vulture. The symbol of the vulture in my culture means patience. The West African vulture doesn't kill; it waits patiently for death to come, then it is rewarded. Dougga Mansa also refers to recycling of the life that was lost, a necessary and healthy process. This purifies life. This song was influenced by my father, Djelimory N'fa Diabate." Dougga Mansa recently won a Grammy for Best Traditional World Music album.

A kora is a 21-stringed West African instrument, producing a sound similar to a harp.

REVIEWS

"...sparkling technique... compelling rhythmic groove... flair for making this ancient instrument sound as though it was invented yesterday..." **RootsWorld**

"Diabate never lets his flying fingers get in the way of the melody. He's a master at marrying the music of several different cultures..." **Bob McMullough, The Boston Globe**

"Mamadou Diabate just makes brilliant music... beautiful, soulful precision... exceptionally creative..." **Miami New**

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