

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
Monday 30 November 2009

INTERNATIONAL TRIO PERFORMS IN AUSTRALIA FOR FIRST TIME

Judith Wright Centre presents

VEHERE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY MACKLIN & NEWCOMB

Touring Australia for the first time and starring Brisbane's own multi award-winning pianist and composer Sean Foran, international trio **Vehere** will perform for one-night-only at Judith Wright Centre on Saturday 19 December 2009.

Audiences can expect to be "mesmerised" by the gentle vocal melodies and emotive ballads of **Vehere** says pianist Sean Foran, who joins Belgian clarinet player Joachim Badenhorst and Norwegian vocalist Kari Bleivik.

"Our music echoes the sounds of classic ECM releases but with a fresh approach as we re-imagine the standards with soothing melodies and sensual ballads," Foran said.

"Audiences can expect to be taken on a journey through a haunting and mesmerizing jazz soundscape," he said.

Between them, **Vehere** has performed at large venues and major festivals across the UK, Norway, Japan, Sweden, USA, Mexico, Canada, France, Belgium and Australia.

Sean Foran is well-known to Brisbane audiences as a member of critically acclaimed jazz trio Misinterprotato, who recently performed at *Wangaratta* and *Brisbane Jazz Festivals*.

With Misinterprotato, Foran has been billed with the likes of Vince Jones, Megan Washington and international ensemble EST.

Sean Foran was the recipient of the 2009 APRA Professional Development Award (Jazz) and the winner of the QMusic Jazz 'Work of the Year' Award in 2006 and 2008.

Vehere was created during Foran's recent stay in the UK, where he studied Masters in Jazz Performance at the Leeds College of Music, worked with ECM recording artist John Taylor and toured with various ensembles.

Conceiving the idea of the **Vehere** trio, Foran enlisted a former collaborator, Norwegian vocalist Kari Bleivik, and Belgian clarinet player Joachim Badenhorst, with whom Foran worked at the Banff Workshop in Improvised Music in Canada.

At their first session the three young musicians discovered a unique chemistry and the **Vehere** trio was born.

Vehere will perform a range of self-penned compositions drawing on the influences of Scandinavian folk music, a range of jazz styles, world music, contemporary improvised music and folk traditions.

The concert will feature a special guest performance by Brisbane duo Macklin & Newcomb (vocalist Hannah Macklin and improvisational musician Steve Newcomb), who will perform original compositions combining modern jazz and heavily layered pop.

Vehere's Australian tour coincides with the release of their debut album, *Unravelling*, recorded in the UK in February 2009.

Before embarking on their UK tour, **Vehere** will perform the final show of their Australian tour at the Judith Wright Centre.

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| Date | Saturday 19 December 2009 |
| Time | 7.30pm |
| Venue | Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts |
| Tickets | Cabaret \$28, Full unreserved \$25, Concession \$22 |
| Bookings | 07 3872 9000 www.judithwrightcentre.com |

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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BIOGRAPHIES

SEAN FORAN (piano)

Sean graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium with a Major in Jazz Piano. He also holds a graduate certificate in Arts Administration from the Queensland University of Technology and a Masters of Arts in Jazz Performance from the Leeds College of Music, UK. In 2009 he was the APRA Professional Development award winner Jazz and has also won Queensland's QSong Jazz Award in 2008 and 2006. He was the recipient of the prestigious Brisbane City Council's Lord Mayor's Artist Fellowship in 2007 which together with funding from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust, enabled him to complete his MA studying with artists such as John Taylor, Lars Jansson, Tord Gustavsen and Matthew Bourne. Sean writes and performs in a variety of diverse situations and has performed at *Kutchan Jazz Festival* (Japan), *MIDEM Music Conference* France, *Calgary International Jazz Festival* (Canada), *Queensland Music Festival and Biennial*, *Pizza Express Jazz Club* London, *Birmingham Jazz Festival*, *The Castlemaine Festival*, *Wangaratta Festival of Jazz*, *Bennett's Lane*, *Melbourne International Jazz Festival*, *Out of the Box* (Children's Festival), *Woodford Folk Festival*, *Valley Jazz Festival* and many more. Sean has released three acclaimed albums with the trio Misinterpretato and also arranged and co-wrote compositions on *Nightlight*, a Sean Foran/Megan Washington release in 2006 which won the Bell Award for jazz vocal album of the year. In 2005 Sean was selected to attend the prestigious Banff Centre for the Jazz Program and studied with artists Dave Douglas, Vijay Iyer and others. Additionally he has received funding from the Australia Council for a mentorship with acclaimed pianist/composer Andrea Keller, and from Arts Queensland for writing and recording projects.

JOACHIM BADENHORST (clarinet)

At age 17, Joachim entered the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, Holland, where he studied jazz music with John Ruocco. Upon graduation Joachim entered the 'master degree program' at the same school, where he studied with John Ruocco and Michael Moore. During this period he also studied classical bass clarinet with Tom Sieuwerts. In May/June of 2005, Joachim attended the 'Jazz and Creative music workshop' in Banff, Canada where he studied with Dave Douglas, Don Byron, Greg Osby and Misha Mengelberg. Joachim is active in a wide variety of bands in different countries in Europe. He co-leads the groups *Rawfishboys* with French double bass player Brice Soniano; *Red Rocket* with Irish musicians Sean Carpio and Simon Jermyn; *Ploug/Pettersen/Badenhorst* with Danish guitarist Mikkel Ploug and Norwegian singer/saxophonist Sissel Vera Pettersen; and *Skakk* with Norwegian guitarist Juhani Silvola and Canadian violinist Eric KM Clark. All of these bands have been recording and releasing their debut albums on different European labels. Joachim has always been interested in music from all over the world and has been active in the klezmer trio 'On Fiddikn Mamzer' and the tango quartet *Lunfardo*. In April 2006 Joachim performed traditional Japanese music in Kyoto, Japan with Koto player Terumi Hirabayashi. In January 2007 Joachim was invited by legendary Dutch percussionist Han Bennink to perform two nights in the legendary club 'Tonic' in New York alongside jazz greats such as Dave Douglas, Ellery Eskelin, Han Bennink, Anthony Coleman, Brad Jones and Marcus Rojas. Joachim has recorded or performed with legendary musicians such as Chris Speed, Michael Brecker, Loren Stillman, Phil Woods, Mats Eilertsen and Andrew D'Angelo. He is also currently a member of the Han Bennink Trio.

KARI BLEIVIK (vocals)

Kari Bleivik has a BA and MA in jazz performance from the Leeds College of Music. She writes and performs with the duo *Sonic Stories* and the vocal ensemble *Royst* and has toured and performed in Norway, USA, Mexico and the UK. She has also performed at festivals such as *Moldejazz*, *Nattjazz*, *Vossa Jazz*, *Young Musicians Festival*, *FUSE Leeds* and *Bjørnsonfestivalen*. Together with *Royst* Kari has written commissioned music for a festival in 2005, recorded for radio, theatre and film, and taught vocal workshops at institutions such as the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, The Nordic Institute for Stage and Studio (NISS) in Oslo and a range of FE, HE and Community Colleges throughout Norway. In 2007 *Royst* collaborated on a project with world renowned saxophonist Iain Ballamy, Norwegian percussionist Thomas Strønen and the LIMA sax quartet. The project was supported by Leeds Jazz, LIMA, Jazz Yorkshire and The Norwegian Music Fund. Kari is a founding member of the well respected Leeds Improvised Music Association (LIMA) and is a lecturer in jazz and improvisation at Leeds College of Music, UK

MACKLIN & NEWCOMB

Two of Brisbane's most in-demand musicians, Hannah Macklin and Steve Newcomb, form the collaborative duo *Macklin & Newcomb*. With an emphasis on new sounds, improvisation and playful interaction, this new musical venture seeks to create something removed from reality and inspired by constant curiosity. *Macklin & Newcomb's* set up comprises Newcomb playing a Piano and Nord Stage keyboard and Macklin sending her vocals through a Boss Twin delay pedal, either creating rhythmically driven loops or sparkling delay effects. Continuing on the theme of new sounds, the pair also experiment with the use of melodica, music box and percussion, interweaving each spontaneously as they feel so inclined. With a repertoire that consists of Macklin and Newcomb's original compositions, modern jazz and heavily layered pop (with influence from Bjork, Rufus Wainwright, Radiohead), their music places an emphasis on spontaneity and allows one tune to morph, through walls of sound, into another.

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