

27-29 MARCH 2026

playmakers

FAIRBRIDGE VILLAGE, PINJARRA



Event Prospectus

A three-day music festival in the magical bushland setting of Fairbridge Village

WORKSHOPS | CONCERTS | SESSIONS | JAMS | CAMPING

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Background

Celebrating craft and composition over the years...

Since its inception in 2002, Playmakers flourished for eight highly successful years as part of the Perth International Arts Festival's *Great Southern Program* in Albany, Western Australia.

A cherished event by the community, Playmakers has brought world-renowned instrument makers and musicians together with passionate local crafters, players, and music enthusiasts.

Esteemed alumni of Playmakers include Joe Filisco (USA), Mike Compton (USA), Kristina Olsen (USA), Portico Quartet (UK), and Azo Bell (AUS).



Endorsements

"Playmakers is such a vital festival! So needed, so important! Instrument builders toil away, often in isolation creating magical tools that musicians use. We musicians' interactions with the builders are often brief and rushed, then most communication is done through email. At Playmakers we got to really play with the people who created our instruments. Not just the important working dialogue of 'What do you like about this, what don't you like about that' but to actually play together, musically, creatively, and socially. The Playmakers festival that I attended stands out as a high point in my long career."

Kristina Olsen (USA)

**SONGWRITER, MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST,
COMPOSER, MUSIC TEACHER & AUTHOR**

"The day [at Playmakers] could not have been better spent than in the company of old friends and several of the best luthiers on the planet present and comparing notes on their craft and it's many facets. The instruction, the company, the music, the day in general was a lovely relaxed time and I enjoyed having a go at a few tunes myself. I've become quite fond of this little corner of the planet and go back every chance I get. Save me a spot!"

Mike Compton (USA)

**MASTER MANDOLINIST & MENTEE OF "THE
FATHER OF BLUEGRASS" BILL MUNROE**

"Engaging with the creators of these tools used by musicians and following the processes required to create specific tonal qualities will provide an entirely new experience for audiences and participants in this festival... I, for one can't wait to have the opportunity to participate in the experience once again."

Paul Duff (AUS)

DUFF MANDOLINS & GUITARS

"The Playmakers festival is both fun and informative. My part in it was workshopping with children and adults, making basic musical instruments out of everyday objects like drinking straw flutes, rubber glove bassoons and tin can banjos. They were fun to play and easy to make and a good time was had by all."

Mic Conway (AUS)

**ARIA AWARD WINNING MUSICIAN &
VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINER**

"I had the unforgettable pleasure and honor to participate in the Playmakers festival with my duo partner Eric Noden. It was a great festival hosted by Rod Vervest. I highly recommend checking it out if you can."

Joe Filisko (USA)

**MASTER HARMONICA PLAYER & LEADER
OF THE HOHNER AFFILIATED
CUSTOMIZER PROGRAM (HAC)**

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Playmakers as a three-day festival

Amongst the magical bushland setting of Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra, festival attendees enjoyed hands-on workshops, inspiring talks, and world-class concerts.

The line-up included highly-regarded instrument makers and players from the Australian acoustic music scene and beyond, covering a range of genres from folk to classical – all carefully curated to educate, inspire, and entertain punters over the weekend.



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Why and how?

Engagement in music is unequivocally linked to positive lifestyle outcomes.

Playmakers provides an opportunity to learn alongside master musicians, meet like-minded people and instigate new musical projects. It also serves to acknowledge and celebrate Western Australia's unique position as a place of extraordinary talent in the field of instrument making.

Playmakers brings together the resources and experiences of three other festival organisations to assist delivery. Little Folk Inc, Albany International Folk 'n' Shanty Festival and The National Folk Festival (Canberra).



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2025 Audience Feedback

Thanks for an amazing weekend! I loved the boutique feel of the festival 💕. So wonderful to have such intimate performances with such talented artists!!! It was so nice to get to meet the performers in the workshops and to hear answers to questions I didn't even know I had. It was also lovely to meet other festival goers and make new friends. My cup runneth over. Thank you. (You may want to tell people to pack a cushion for their tush for the Chapel performances. Great acoustics but very hard seats.



Mark de Castro 1:29 pm
to me, joandecastro16@gmail.c...



Show images

Hi

What a great weekend – So good to be listening to great music again at Fairbridge.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen.

I'll book now for next year – if we can get the same room - #1 at Middlemore! (Jane said I should say that!)



Jane Cheffins

15 April · 🌐

Had so much fun at [Playmakers!](#) 🎵🌟 There's something magical about coming together with so many passionate music lovers, jamming, learning, and sharing those moments. It's like tapping into an amazing "collective effervescence"—that intense, shared energy and connection that lifts everyone up making you feel part of something bigger than yourself. Can't wait for Playmakers 2026! 🥳🎵🔥 [#Playmakers2025](#)
[#CollectiveEffervescence](#) [#MusicMagic](#) [#folkandworldmusic](#)



Louise Vermeulen

Wonderful weekend, beautiful people, beautiful music, fabulous skills and voices!

20w Like Reply Hide

2

I loved the official Playmakers theme song from Eddy's 3D workshop! We'll be there next year ...it was awesome 💕💕
Karen



2025 Artist Feedback

"Playmakers is where an absolute beginner, a long term enthusiast and an established professional touring musician can comfortably get their musical fix in great conversation, food and of course playing. It is rare where such varied individuals can feel at ease to connect, relax and get the creative nourishment that can often be missing in big and overwhelming events. I liked the slow pace, absence of 'festival fomo moments' and I still saw some of the best local and touring music up close and personal."

Andrew Winton (AUS)

2025 PLAYMAKERS ARTIST

"Playmakers is small festival, carefully curated by musicians, for musicians, instrument makers, and their audiences. It provides a precious opportunity to share music in intimate settings with attentive audiences in performances and workshops, forge friendships over shared meals, conversations and in collaborative late-night jams. Set in a beautiful natural environment, Playmakers Festival is enriching and inspiring... Honestly, we had the best time there!"

Jude Iddison (AUS)

2025 PLAYMAKERS ARTIST

"Performing at Playmakers Festival was an inspiring experience - a vibrant space for collaboration, learning, and community building. The warm, empowering atmosphere encouraged everyone to really listen, experiment, and share. I loved connecting with so many passionate musicians, listeners, and instrument makers."

Daniel Driberg (AUS)

2025 PLAYMAKERS ARTIST



2025 Artist Feedback

"Playmakers was absolutely incredible-I'm still buzzing from the whole experience! Huge thanks again for getting me involved. It was such a powerful, inspiring weekend, and I'm seriously grateful to have been part of it."

Andrew Ellis (AUS)

2025 PLAYMAKERS ARTIST

"Playmakers offered us a chance to play to a totally new audience in WA which was invaluable, especially as young people in the early stages of our careers. Being able to witness workshops from masters in the industry like Paul Duff was extremely insightful, especially for Lawson who ended up buying a Duff mandolin."

The crowd was super lovely, accommodating and appreciative of the artists, and performing to them definitely helped us to establish a network that we can call on for future opportunities."

Furthermore, we thought the event was very well organised and run, very streamlined from an artist perspective, and everyone involved was a pleasure to work with. Having a platform for important but niche topics to be discussed is very needed, and this festival definitely provided that. The whole festival felt like a melting pot of likeminded artists and engaged audience members. Furthermore it was just really fun, there was a great jamming culture, not only between artists, but also involving attendees as well, and the whole festival was an absolute joy to attend. We'd love to be back again in the future!"

Marcus Church (AUS)

2025 PLAYMAKERS ARTIST

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2025 Media



*Playmakers 2025 featured on the front cover of
Trad & Now Magazine*

Review Express Magazine -

https://xpressmag.com.au/review-playmakers-festival-at-fairbridge-village/?fbclid=IwY2xjawMuAVhleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHs_yB3tPprWu6r2HCIV092qiKgLwlsjp72nmn_gGLs8GbdgacUAOkdc_lro3F_aem_7ypoFleJwOhHzLsvVrDsRw

Music Feature Express Magazine -

<https://xpressmag.com.au/playmakers-an-intimate-festival-for-everyone/>

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More event photos

