

THE STRING CONTINGENT



NEW ALBUM
'FACETS'
OUT NOW

Renowned acoustic chamber-folk trio The String Contingent are headed for Scandinavia and the UK for the summer of 2015. Australians Chris Stone (violin) and Holly Downes (double bass), with Scotsman Graham McLeod (guitar), have reached 'the upper echelon of instrumental exploration, arrangement, composition and performance' (Tony Hillier, Rhythms Magazine), and are now expanding their geographical horizons.

The String Contingent have performed multiple times at all of the major folk and world music festivals in Australia, and have toured extensively in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. 2015 promises to be their biggest year yet, with over one hundred concerts planned in five countries. On the prospect of performing in Europe this coming summer, Chris says, 'We're all big fans of the Scandinavian string music traditions, and have drawn great inspiration from the subtlety and nuance of the traditional music from that part of the world.'

The String Contingent combine diverse musical backgrounds in Celtic, classical, jazz and pop into melodic, evocative and timeless musical discussions. Their music 'brings to mind the bluegrass records of Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer with elements of Bach, Kronos Quartet and sometimes a splash of Philip Glass ... they are incredibly skilled ...' (Ulf Torstensson, Lira Magazine). Through their three albums - 2010's self-titled debut, 2012's TSC II, and 2013's Talk - Chris, Graham and Holly have consistently challenged the traditional roles of their instruments. Their compositions explore a myriad of musical textures through a balance of arranged and improvised material. This approach has resulted in a musical ethos that showcases the individuality of each musician and eclipses genre, featuring bowed bass melodies, percussive violin and tight guitar grooves. The String Contingent's live performances are a joyful combination of precision, refinement and beauty, balanced with visceral energy and drive.

The String Contingent's latest album, Facets, is a collaborative expansion of this ethos, creating new music with some of Australia's most revered performer-composers. The resultant arrangements showcase the skills of their guests and the stylistic flexibility of The String Contingent. Facets seamlessly shifts through baroque, classical, jazz, Indian, Celtic and Balkan elements to create a truly contemporary sound. Now the ceaseless hunt for new and exciting musical challenges has spurred Chris, Holly and Graham on to Europe this summer - Chris enthuses, 'There is so much vibrant new music being made, which we feel mirrors our own explorations outwards from the various traditions that each of our playing stems from. We can't wait to present our music to such a broadminded and sympathetic audience!'

The String Contingent are available for festival and concerts bookings, reviews and interviews in Europe/UK from July to September 2015.

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