



MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 20 February, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA SET TO TOUR DEBUT ALBUM



In 2003, the time was right. A world-record attempt to have the largest number of horn players on stage at the same time playing the ska-skank saw a slew of musicians take the stage at St Kilda's Gershwin Room, and although nobody remembered to check if the record had actually been set, from this sold-out performance the **Melbourne Ska Orchestra** was born. Assembled from some of Australia's preeminent names in Ska and Reggae and fronted by inimitable frontman **Nicky Bomba** (Bomba, Bustamento, John Butler Trio), the soaring popularity of the band is seeing the **MSO** fast becoming a fixture of Australia's musical landscape.

Now, after more than a decade of sold-out shows and electrifying festival appearances the **MSO** has come together to produce a different kind of record. Their self-titled debut album showcases the versatility of a genre that has influenced some of the most venerated names in music, from Bob Marley to Gwen Stefani, as well as demonstrating a uniquely Australian vision of the exuberance and freewheeling colour of contemporary Ska.

"I've always thought Ska was one of the most universal forms of music," reflects bandleader Nicky Bomba, *"I'd always had it in the back of my mind that when people heard it they would be instantly converted, but what I didn't expect – like our first Bluesfest gig, for example – was that by the time the second gig came around word of mouth had really spread, and the audience was just massive, people dancing as far as you could see. I think the combination of the joy you get from the music and the activity that happens on stage – having thirty people on stage at once is its own wonderful, uncontrollable mayhem – is quite a spectacle."*

Their performances have been described as, thrilling, a wonderful ramshackle, almighty, crazy, beyond energetic, musical madness and so much more... **MSO** with over 30 members on stage at once has to be seen to be believed. It is the culmination of years of passion and performance from one of the most energetic and inspired ensembles currently winning over audiences right across the country.

People will need to be quick to grab tickets for the album tour, because once they've wowed audiences at their upcoming **Golden Plains**, **WOMAD NZ** and **Bluesfest** performances this March, **MSO** fans old and new will be lining up to join the fun. This is music at its most entertaining; vibrant, surprising, and with a beat to shame the Devil. This is Ska.

MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA ALBUM LAUNCH TOUR

Presented by ABC DIG MUSIC & Street Press Australia

- Friday 3rd May** **The Metro Theatre, Sydney**
With AuSkas & Mista Savona (DJ Set)
Tickets \$30+bf from www.ticketek.com.au
Doors open 8pm
- Saturday 4th May** **The Forum Theatre, Melbourne**
With very Special Guests Strange Tenants & Savona Sound System
Tickets \$30+bf (inc booking fee's) from www.ticketmaster.com.au
Doors open 7.30pm
- Saturday 11th May** **The Tivoli, Brisbane**
With Cheap Fakes & Mista Savona (DJ Set)
Tickets \$30+bf (inc booking fee's) from www.ticketek.com.au & www.oztix.com
Doors open 7.30pm

THE NEW SINGLE "LYGON STREET MELTDOWN" IS OUT NOW
THE "MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA" ALBUM WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MARCH 8, 2013
AVAILABLE ON FOUR|FOUR / ABC

www.melbourneskaorchestra.com | www.fourfourmusic.com

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