

FIDDLERS FEAST

By Marcus Holden



*from left to right:
Caroline Trengove, Marcus Holden, Garry Steel, Mark Oats, Rodney Ford,
John Coker]*

PRESENTER'S INFORMATION



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COMPANY PROFILE

Marcus Holden has been director of FIDDLERS FEAST since it first began in 1996. He is a record producer, multi-instrumentalist, arranger, composer, teacher and session musician. Apart from well 600 appearances on recordings he is an active member of many high profile bands such as Mic Conway's National Junk Band and records and produces music for the likes of the legendary Warren Fahey. Fiddlers Feast has been a collaboration between Marcus and many of the top fiddle players in Australia and he continues to push the boundaries of this uniquely Australian fiddle group.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

FIDDLERS FEAST is a group of musicians (fiddlers and rhythm section) that have been entertaining audiences in Australia and overseas for 18 years. They have performed at major festivals both in Australia and overseas, toured for the Australia Council, appeared at 2 World Expos and government and corporate events. Their most recent performances have seen them perform at festivals in Germany and Denmark as well as guests of the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan for official promotional functions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIOGRAPHIES

Marcus Holden: Violin, Mandolin, Vocals

Trained as classical violinist from the age of 8, Marcus has developed skills as a multi-instrumentalist, playing mandolin, guitar, banjo, cittern, tenor guitar, dobro, all the members of the bowed string instrument family and even the saw. He has appeared at major festivals around the world, major events such as World Expo and venues such as the Lincoln Centre in New York and the Sydney Opera House..Marcus plays many styles of music including Jazz, Folk, Country, Blues, Classical as a soloist and as a member of many groups.

Mark Oats: Violin, Vocals

Member of the Legendary Bushwackers, Mark has been one of Sydney's outstanding Irish Fiddlers for more than 20 years. His unique fiddling style and antics help create FF's memorable performances.

Caroline Trengove: Violin, Vocals

Long time member of popular group Jigzag, Caroline brings a wonderful fresh sound to Fiddlers Feast with her lyrical fiddling, expressive singing and poignant songs

Garry Steel: Keyboards, Accordion

With countless recording and performance credits, Garry, a founding member of FF, is one of this country's most sort after musicians bringing his individual style and sound to everything musical he touches.

Rodney Ford: Drums, Vocals

With a lifetime of performances with many well-known overseas artists such as Barney Kessel and Herb Ellis, as well as local acts too numerous to mention, Rod not only brings his unique drumming and singing style to FF, but always a very witty sense of humour.

John Coker: Electric Bass

John has been the “in-demand” bass player around since arriving from New Zealand with Ricky May in the early 80s. A veteran of many touring shows including John English, Marcia Hines and a host of overseas acts, John is also writes musical charts for many of the club acts around Sydney

SPECIFICS

DURATION

Act 1 – 50 minutes

Interval – 20 minutes

Act 2 – 50 minutes

SUITABLE VENUES

FIDDLERS FEAST is suitable for most venues though cabaret styleones are preferred.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

6 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

60 minutes

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Normal use of material, mainly our material is traditional or out of copyright.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 8 people.

Name	Role
MARCUS HOLDEN GARRY STEEL MARK OATS CAROLINE TRENGOVE RODNEY FORD JOHN COKER	MUSICIAN
	TOUR MANAGER
	PRODUCTION (AS REQUIRED)

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14	Tamworth Country Music Festival	90
99 04 06 11 12	Port Fairy Folk Festival	15
05	Playing Australia National Tour NARPACA Regional Tour	20
13 14	Skagen Music Festival Denmark	5

There are too many performances to list please visit <http://www.fiddlersfestival.com/performances.html> for more details.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Fiddlers Feast engages the community on several levels. As versatile musicians we are able to run workshops on the many skills needed to pursue musical careers. An ongoing commitment to developing community groups focusing on musical participation is part of the FF's tradition. We have conducted workshops all over Australia as part of previous funding by the Australia council, including places such as Alice Springs and UQ. Our upcoming tour of Europe features several workshops. Marcus is a contemporary violin teacher at AIM and has taught at Celticanz Fiddle School in NZ

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

The workshops focus on the development of several aspects of playing. For beginners to intermediate players and community groups there is an emphasis on basic repertoire and technique (simple fiddle tunes and exercises). For more advanced students etc simple improvisation techniques,

COST

A one off fee to the presenter versus a fee to the participant would be a desirable.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Marcus current teaches violin in primary schools as an introduction to the instrument for 8 year olds as well as adult students privately and at AIM. All levels of musicians can be catered for.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

Australia's iconic Fiddle Band in Concert.

Short

Drawing from the depth of Australia's fiddling talent, Fiddlers Feast brings together the unique elements of Australia's fiddle style with its blend of Traditional Folk, Blues, Jazz and Classical sounds combining them with breathtaking musical wizardry and quirky humour. As a small or large group, FF is full of fun and energy, with an ability to engage audiences of all ages with dazzling fiddle virtuosity and sound that is all their own.

Extended

In 1986 four crazy fiddlers got together with the idea of performing on a National Talent Quest called "RED FACES". With only a few photos of the tallest, shortest, skinniest and dare we say most rotund fiddlers in Australia this quartet of crazy fiddlers was only a dream until.....in 1996 at the annual Tamworth Country Music Festival, as a result of a impromptu "Jam" the Fiddlers Festival was formed, the brainchild of Ray Schloeffel, Marcus Holden, Paul (Pixie) Jenkins, Garry Steel and Andrew Clermont.

After years of countless gigs, 3 CDs and a stack of touring around OZ and Overseas, the group's name was changed to reflect the evolving nature of the ensemble. Enter FIDDLERS FEAST!

Fiddler's Feast not only performs but is dedicated to developing all aspects of Australian fiddle playing through education, composition, school development and international touring. Over the past 17 years, under the musical directorship of Marcus Holden, FF has performed at major venues and festivals both locally and overseas, setup fiddle tuition courses and schools, conducted master classes and inspired a whole generation of musicians, Australia wide.

MARKETING SUMMARY

Social Media, Email lists, Posters for local venues, Local press and Radio, flyers where needed, promo clips for YouTube.

MEDIA QUOTES

The "**perfect festival band**".(Blue Mountains Folk Festival, 2011)

AUDIENCE REVIEWS



"We could not have realised these event in such splendid style without your support. You projected a very positive and happy image of Australia" (Tim George, Australian High Commissioner, Pakistan 2012)

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

"a powerhouse of Australian Celtic music that flies down bush tracks, over blue mountains". Warren Fahey AM

VIDEO LINKS

http://www.youtube.com/user/fiddlersfeast?feature=results_main

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPb-WfHITuU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzsGIlvNhy8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD5SP01MM5k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moVvHabtXZo>

IMAGES

<http://www.fiddlersfestival.com/presskit.html>

MARKETING MATERIALS

Posters, a large social media presence, etc.

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

We have a large amount of violin tuition material available to teachers.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

PA: FOH, 4 FOLDBACK SENDS (front line, piano/accordion, drums, bass) 4 vocal mics, 4 DIs, 240 power as required.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

2 hours.

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

If in house PA, knowledge of equipment, one PA operator, one lighting operator.

STAGE

Minimum stage size 8 x 6 metres.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

3 fiddles, mandolin etc, 4 vocals, accordion, piano, bass, drums.

All other instruments provided by company. Violins, mandolin, bass guitar, accordion

Venue to supply

Sound equipment (PA), lighting and operator(s), piano (acoustic where available), bass amp (where available), drum kit (where available)

Where necessary and with prior arrangement piano, bass amp, drum kit. PA system.

FREIGHT NOTES

Depending on what the venue supplies, the touring party will be in either a 12 seater bus or two smaller vehicles. Where PA and stage equipment is required the company will be travelling via truck and large van. In the case of air travel, all PA and Stage gear should be supplied by venue as well as operators.

CRITICAL ISSUES

CONTACT

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