

Cygnnet Folk Festival

Performer Guidelines & General Information



How to Apply

All applications to perform at the Cygnet Folk Festival must be made via the online application form on [the Festival website](#).

Applications open - 1 March 2025

Applications close - midnight 11 April 2025

Unfortunately, we cannot accept late applications under any circumstances.

Contact Us

Programming and application enquiries

perform@cygnetfolkfestival.org

Technical enquiries

dbmanager@cygnetfolkfestival.org

Ground transport and billeting enquiries

performerservices@cygnetfolkfestival.org

Support Material

All support material must be submitted via the online application form.

The Application Process

Step 1: Application (March-April)

You will be asked to provide the minimum information required to assess your application.

Step 2: Online Contract (July)

If your act is selected, you must complete an online contract confirming acceptance of the contract terms within two weeks. A PDF copy of the contract will be emailed to the primary act contact on submission. As part of the contract acceptance, you will also need to provide confirmation that your act will be covered by public liability insurance.

Step 3: Act Advance and Logistics (July)

If your act is selected, we will ask you to complete online Advance and Logistics forms. These forms include your production requirements, stage plan, payment details, PLI insurance, Superannuation payment details, invoice, ground transport, and camping and/or billeting requirements as applicable.

Promotional Material

It is a condition of performing at the Cygnet Folk Festival that any promotional images and other promotional material provided by you may be used for Festival marketing during the year and over the festival weekend in program material and promotions in print, television, radio, internet, newspaper and newsletter media as part of promotional marketing for the benefit of both performers and the festival.

Selection Advice

1. Returning Performers

Generally we give priority to acts that have not performed at the festival more than twice in any three-year period to give an opportunity to the overwhelming number of artists who apply each year. As a rule, international and interstate acts will not be programmed in two consecutive years, but this is not a rule cast in stone. We may make an exception where an act fits a hard-to-fill niche or presents something new and innovative.

2. Type of Material

As an indication, but not a rule, we are looking for acts that cover a very broad range of 'folk' or acoustic music, which includes everything from instrumental acts, original songwriting, ballads and 'roots' music to world music, from storytelling to circus, street performance and to dance music in a variety of styles.

3. Type of Performance

We are always looking for acts that can offer something just that little bit special or extra. Virtuosity, versatility and innovation are our favourite words! Concert performances are the festival's feature, but we are always on the lookout for something more!

We're particularly interested in anyone who can cover more than one genre and may offer an unusual and interesting workshop, themed presentation or show.

In 2025 our theme for the festival was "Future Folk"

While we do not yet have a tagline for our 2026 event, we are loosely looking at issues around the theme of sustainability.

If entertaining kids is a passion, we are interested in hearing from you, particularly if you offer adult concert performances and kids' shows.

We fully encourage impromptu collaborations if our sound engineers agree and are given sufficient lead time.

Please be aware that we generally get 4-5 times more applications than we have performance opportunities. We do take note of acts that reapply, so we encourage you to be persistent if you are unsuccessful in any given year.

Unfortunately, our time pressure does not permit individual feedback for unsuccessful applicants

4. Performance Availability

Unless otherwise negotiated in writing, artists are expected to be available for the whole festival, including the Sunday night Director's Concert. The Festival doesn't provide transport until Monday.

5. Performance Fee

The Cygnet Folk Festival is a non-profit community-based organisation and registered charity. Any profits that the festival may make are applied to staging the event each year.

We are proud that year after year, visiting artists experience Cygnet as a unique, friendly and joyful event, and are keen to return, even though, as a small regional event with a limited budget, the performance fees we can offer are relatively low.

We invite you to enter your proposed fee. However, we acknowledge that we sometimes cannot pay you what you're truly worth. We acknowledge that higher fees are generally required by full-time professional musicians/artists than by hobbyists (i.e. performers with "day jobs")

The festival covers all venue, sound engineering and advertising costs. All performers are given weekend passes or day passes (generally applicable to large, local community groups who are only scheduled one day on the weekend).

Please note that we cannot offer partner passes, but we offer a reduced rate for family members.

We do not provide travel and accommodation expenses over and above your requested fee.

However, we do offer billet accommodation and local transfers from Hobart for interstate and international acts. The festival does not provide airfares. Artists and managers are responsible for arranging their own visas and transport to and from the airport.

Please note that our performer transport back to Hobart is only offered on the Monday after the festival and there is no transport to Hobart on the Saturday or Sunday unless you have your own vehicle.

We also encourage performers to stay on the Sunday night, as there are two scheduled shows (one dance and a "party atmosphere" show. We also have a cabaret-style "surprise" concert on the Sunday night that is scheduled over the weekend.

Tasmanian performers who have been assigned weekend passes are offered free camping in the Burtons Reserve campground.

6. Superannuation

Under recent changes to ATO legislation, if you are a Sole Trader or Hobbyist, your performance fee now includes a superannuation component. If you are not based in Australia or you are a company/trust/partnership, superannuation is not payable.

7. Support Material Requirements

We look for online recordings (website/YouTube channel/Facebook page/Soundcloud/Spotify, etc) of performances that really reflect how you would sound on a Cygnet Festival stage.

Massive production or a flash backing band may make you sound great, but if you're applying as a solo performer, we need to know how you sound solo. Conversely, if you propose including accompanying musicians, please include them or similar support on the recording submitted.

Payment of Performance Fee

If you are selected to perform, you will be required to provide an invoice as follows:

- If you are registered for GST, you will provide a tax invoice showing the total amount of your performance fee and the amount of GST as a separate item.
- If you are not registered for GST but have an ABN, your invoice will include your ABN, stating you are not registered for GST, and clearly showing the agreed amount of your performance fee.
- If you do not have an ABN, you must provide a completed Statement by Supplier for the Australian Taxation Office.
- If you supply neither an ABN nor complete this statement, we are legally required to deduct 47% of your fee and remit it to the Australian Tax Office.
- Direct debit payment will be made between 7 and 10 days after the festival closing date. International payments may take up to 30 days, but we endeavour to make payments as soon as possible.

Public Liability Insurance

All artists and presenters of acts must have public liability insurance coverage. This is a requirement for all Australian Festivals. When performing, you are a Festival “service provider” and, as such, are not covered under the Festival’s public liability insurance. You will need either an “act” policy, which clearly states that all members of the act are covered, or each member of your act must have their own insurance cover. Proof of current public liability insurance will be required as part of the contract acceptance process. The minimum required level of indemnity for any one occurrence is AUD\$20,000,000.

If you do not already have insurance cover, you can provide short-term options from [Folk Alliance](#), [Duck for Cover](#), or [Marsh](#).

Exclusivity

Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Festival organisers, interstate and international performers agree not to accept any performance engagements within a 100km radius of Cygnet during the period 31 December up to, and including the final day of the Festival.

Merchandise

- Performers are welcome to sell and sign their CDs at performances. We do provide a tent for you to sell your merchandise from.

International Acts

As much as we would love to bring performers from overseas, our budget simply won't stretch to international airfares. However, if you are planning to tour in Australia in January, please contact us as we would love to hear from you. We are fortunate that as our Festival is in the Australian summer which is often a peak touring time for international artists.

Festival Passes

Free passes are offered to performers only. We can't **provide free passes to partners, children, band managers or entourage.** (The Festival provides venue coordinators, MCs, sound engineers and operators.)

IMPORTANT: *The number and type of passes available to each act is at the discretion of the Committee, based on the number of performers in the act, the availability of passes, and the number of performances by the act at the Festival.*

Partner/Child Tickets:

- A discounted ticket for your spouse/partner may be purchased via Performer Services at the current concession price at the time of purchase. Tickets are available from 1 August.
- Children 0-5 are free.
- For children 6 to 15, please refer to the Festival website for details of ticket prices.

Performer Names

Please list all performers in your act in the performer section of the application. Any names not included in the application may not be eligible for Festival passes. If you are offered and accept a contract, you will be required to provide full contact details of each performer. Any changes to your line-up will not be accepted after 30 November 2025.

Ground Transfers (International and Interstate Performers only)

The festival does not pay travel costs.

The festival provides free bus services for arrival transfers from Hobart Airport or Hobart CBD to Cygnet and departures to Hobart CBD or Hobart Airport. The festival bus timetable will be advised in August, with coaches taking around two and a half hours for the journey between the airport and Cygnet.

We recommend you book flights early and take advantage of discounted airline fares, which could save you hundreds of dollars. Please take coach transport times into consideration when booking flights.

1. To Cygnet from Hobart Airport or Hobart CBD on Arrival

On the Friday of the festival, free festival buses will depart from Hobart airport, and the Grand Chancellor Hotel bus stop is on Campbell St, near Davey St, in Hobart.

2. To/from Festival Venues

For performers billeted in homes not within walking distance of Festival venues, transport will be provided by the billet host or by a festival minibus. In December, itineraries will be emailed to all acts, which will include details of the transport options available for each billet home.

3. From Cygnet to Hobart CBD or Hobart Airport on Departure

On the Monday following the festival, free bus services will run between Cygnet and the Grand Chancellor Hotel bus stop on Campbell St near Davey St, Hobart and the airport. Buses will depart from George Street Cygnet behind St. James Catholic College as per the bus schedule.

Important Note: Please be aware that the festival cannot provide departure transport other than the scheduled Monday buses.

There is no festival transport available to Hobart on Sunday. Any act members leaving the festival at other times must make their own transport arrangements at their own cost. Uber does not operate in Cygnet, and while there are a couple of taxis in the next major town, these might not operate on Sundays. The journey to Hobart airport takes between one and a half to two hours by private transport and is very expensive.

Accommodation

Festival Campground – Burtons Reserve

All performers with **weekend passes** are welcome to bring a tent and camping gear and camp free of charge in the Burtons Reserve Festival campground. Burtons Reserve is located on the edge of the Cygnet waterways and is within easy walking distance to all venues. For interstate or international performers, we do have a limited number of on-site tents available.

Camping in the Festival campground is available from 9 am on the Thursday before the Festival until 1 pm on the Monday immediately following the Festival. It cannot be extended beyond these times.

Please note that free camping passes for spouses/partners are not available. See the website for further information on camping ticket prices and camping facilities.

IMPORTANT: The Festival receives special permission to use the Burtons Reserve bird sanctuary for camping. The whole of Burtons Reserve has been declared a prohibited area for dogs under section 22 of the Dog Control Act 2000 to protect sensitive habitat for native wildlife.

Commercial Accommodation

The festival cannot cover the cost of commercial accommodation. If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, there is limited commercial accommodation available close to the festival, which you can browse on the festival website. We strongly recommend you book early.

International and Interstate Performers – Billet Accommodation

If you do not wish to camp in our beautiful Burtons Reserve Festival campground on the edge of Port Cygnet Bay, there is limited **bed and breakfast billet accommodation** available for international and interstate performers only through the hospitality of local residents.

Where possible, this may include partners and dependent children. Billet accommodation is available for a maximum of 3 x nights, which are the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights of the festival. (Note: Friday Master Class facilitators can be accommodated starting Thursday night.)

If you are an interstate performer and organising for friends to accommodate you, they will still need to register as a billet host through our website and make a note of whom they wish to offer accommodation for to receive their festival pass.

IMPORTANT: If you require accommodation for additional nights, you will need to make your own arrangements at your own cost.

No dogs or other pets are allowed.

Performing at the Cygnet Folk Festival

None of our venues have a capacity greater than 500 people, so if you are more accustomed to packing out Carnegie Hall or the Grande at Woodford, then performing in Cygnet will be a very intimate and personal experience.

You'll find that while our audiences may be smaller, they make up for it in warmth and responsiveness.

Stage Information

- Each venue is assigned a venue coordinator and MC.
- All amplified venues have Festival technical staff, so you do not need to bring your own sound crew or front-of-house staff.
- It is not possible to do an extensive sound check before performances. Our experienced sound crews will carry out line checks and provide their expertise during your performance.
- Backline equipment consists of a drum kit, a guitar amp (fender twin or similar), a bass rig and a weighted keyboard, but is not available in all venues. If you are a Tasmanian act, we ask you to bring your own backline if possible.
- Power is supplied on all stages, but you must bring your own Tested and Tagged power supply and cables for electronic gear, pedals, etc., as well as international power converters if required.
- Performers need to supply their own jack-to-jack leads for guitars and fresh batteries.

Concert Scheduling

Our MCs run each concert tightly to the program schedule. Most performances are 40 minutes, although some special shows may run to 60 minutes. This means that you must:

- Check in with the venue coordinator or MC at least 30 minutes before you are due to perform.
- Be prepared for an efficient change-over. If you tune up on stage, you will be eating into your own performance time.
- **All performances must finish at the scheduled time** to avoid cutting into the next act's time. If you want to do an encore, finish your set early to fit it within the allocated time.

Registration

As soon as you arrive in Cygnet, please register at the Performer Registration Centre open at the following times:

Thu	Fri	Sat
2pm - 5pm	9am - 9pm	9am - 1pm

Act leaders should collect their information pack at this time.

Each act will receive a program guide which includes a map of the town to help you find your way around.

All performers will be given their festival wristbands at registration and if you are camping you will also receive a camping wristband.

Partners who are buying their weekend pass must do so through Performer Services. However, we advise pre-purchasing these online to avoid disappointment in the case of the event selling out. Camping tickets will likely sell out in advance, and if this occurs, we cannot sell any extra tickets so please make sure to book early.

Camping is permitted in authorised areas only. Please book your tickets through the festival website at <http://cygnetfolkfestival.org/>

Instrument Lockup

This service is free of charge on the basis of "all care, no responsibility". Opening hours are:

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
5pm - 7pm	9am - midnight	9am - midnight	9am - midnight	6am - 10am

Box Office Hours

The Festival Box Office at St James College opening hours are:

- Friday & Saturday - 9am to 9pm
- Sunday - 9am to 5pm

APRA AMCOS Forms

You must complete an APRA (Australian Performing Rights Association) performance online form – a QR code will be provided at all venues.

Emergencies

Ambulance volunteers are on hand throughout the Festival and are in a St James College classroom off Tin Pan Alley.

Meals

There are restaurants, cafes and food stalls located around Cygnet.