



1 December 2008

Media Release – the NOW now Festival 2009

For Immediate Release.

the NOW now Festival of Spontaneous Music, now in its 8th year, will be held in January 2009. After its formative years in Sydney's inner suburbs, the festival relocated successfully to the Blue Mountains in 2008, and it seemed inevitable that the festival should return to the Mountains again.

As always, this festival highlights the strength of improvised music in Australia, covering electronic music, audio/visual projects, improvised acoustic music and various uncategorised musical forms. *Botborg*, from Brisbane, will introduce the audience to the music of the Photosonicneurokineasthograph, while Blue Mountains-based *The Spiders* use a unique blend of broken, hacked, modified and recycled guitars, keyboards, effectors, mixers, etc all played simultaneously. *The Prophets*, who open the festival, have a saxophone and percussion culture all of their own.

The festival is now well established as one of Australia's important annual contemporary music festivals, and a magnet for overseas musicians. This year's festival features Eugene Chadbourne, a unique American musician with a long history blending country and experimental music. The way he challenges conventional musical taste once prompted a bizarre statement by the White House spokesman for President Reagan, that Chadbourne is 'a direct threat to the American way of life.'

Another international component of the festival will be a contingent of musicians based in Berlin, including several Australians. Clayton Thomas and Clare Cooper, who initiated and ran the NOW now for its first six years, will return from Berlin where they have been based for the past two years. With them will be an outstanding German pianist, Magda Mayas, and fellow ex-pat, percussionist Steve Heather.

the NOW now Festival program reflects a desire to present this music in a variety of conventional and unconventional environments. Besides the evening concerts at Wentworth Falls School of Arts, generally seen as a 'centrepiece' of the program, there are daytime events suitable for families, late night events, even a 6am outdoor concert. *Akemi*, a small artist-run space in Medlow Bath, will be an important venue for the late night program and final concert as well as outdoor spaces and a bookshop in Wentworth Falls.

What: THE 8th NOW now FESTIVAL of Spontaneous Music

When: 16th - 18th January 2008

**Where: Wentworth Falls School of Arts, and other venues
Blue Mountains NSW**

Tickets: Festival passes \$50 / \$40 (concession)

Single session tickets available

Tickets available at www.moshtix.com.au, 1300 GET TIX (438 849), on your mobile www.moshtix.mobi and all moshtix outlets.

For more information see www.thenownow.net or contact Alex Masso

Images available at <http://thenownow.net/2009-festival/media/>

Ends.

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