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MEDIA RELEASE

BIRDS OF TOKYO ARE BACK TO HEADLINE SOTA FESTIVAL 2018

- *A FREE all-ages showcase of Western Australian talent*
- *Part of WA Day celebrations on Monday 4 June 2018*

SOTA returns in 2018 with a fully Western Australian line up designed for music lovers of all ages, with both under 18 and licensed areas. Best of all, it's FREE!

Proudly presented as part of the 2018 WA Day Festival and co-presented by WAM, the seventh annual SOTA showcase will be held at Elizabeth Quay on Monday 4 June, as part of the WA Day long-weekend festivities.

So, what does SOTA 2018 sound like?

Birds Of Tokyo

San Cisco

Mama Kin Spender

Psychedelic Porn Crumpets

Downsyde

Arno Faraji

The Southern River Band

Calmly

Carla Geneve

Sydnee Carter

John Bennett with David Hyams

Spacey Jane

With headliners that span everything from alternative rock to Aussie hip-hop, SOTA's line-up includes a mix of WA favourites, old and new. Many of these artists will be returning to home soil from international or national tours to party at SOTA Festival 2018.

Multiple ARIA award-winning alternative rock legends **Birds of Tokyo** are back on home turf and ready to hit the stage at Elizabeth Quay this WA Day. Birds of Tokyo are no strangers to major

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events, having lit up the mainstage of festivals from Splendour in the Grass to Falls and performed to millions at the AFL Grand Final and the NRL's flagship State of Origin game.

Indie four-piece pop band **San Cisco** will also bring their effortless sound and feel-good vibes to Elizabeth Quay, following a successful year for the band that's seen them release their third record *The Water*, place in the Hottest 100 with their hit song *Hey, Did I Do You Wrong* and play sets at Splendour in the Grass, Beyond the Valley and Lost Paradise.

It's a big year for folk rock duo **Mama Kin Spender** having just launched their album and touring the country, ahead of their upcoming tour to North America, playing festivals and opening for The John Butler Trio. Find out why they've been making waves with their signature soul sounds, joined by The WAAPA Gospel Choir, this WA Day.

Since forming in 2015, four-piece rock band **Psychedelic Porn Crumpets** have gone from strength to strength selling out both of their national tours and supporting the likes of King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, The Murlocs and Dune Rats. Get ready for some party punk killer tracks when Psychedelic Porn Crumpets hit the Elizabeth Quay stage!

Perth rap royalty **Downsyde** are ready to pump life into the SOTA Festival crowd with their party starters and high-energy stage presence. Having performed alongside Californian hip-hop heavyweights Jurassic Five and New York super group Public Enemy, the group has garnered a huge following on the Australian hip-hop scene since their formation in 1996. After nine years, they're back with the release of their fifth album *ClassicLL*, which was recently premiered by Rolling Stone Magazine.

Recently crowned Triple J's Unearthed High winner, up-and-coming rapper **Arno Faraji** is swiftly gaining a cult following for his future thinking tracks.

A rock and roll dance party will hit Elizabeth Quay when **The Southern River Band** take to the stage. Nominated for WAM's "Most Popular Live Act" in 2016, the four-piece are quickly becoming one of Perth's most exciting powerhouse acts.

Four-piece Indie rock band **Calmly** will bring their signature moody sound, including the hit *Hallelujah Heartache*, the most played track on RTR in 2016.

19-year-old Indie pop up-and-comer **Carla Geneve** has cemented herself as one to watch having already supported idols Abbe May and Jen Cloher. Get ready for her folk-rock sounds to shine this WA Day.

Syndee Carter will captivate Elizabeth Quay with her contemporary sound, described as a mix of indie, folk, pop and acoustic. **John Bennett** with **David Hyams** will take the audience on a journey to the Kimberley region with powerful vocals that speak to the beauty of the land and a unique mix of blues, rock and country sounds. The momentum is building for four-piece **Spacey Jane** who will be hitting the SOTA Festival stage on WA Day. The Indie rock group have released their debut EP *No Way to Treat an Animal* and have supported the likes of Alex Lahey, British India and Abbe May.



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In addition to these epic sounds we have plenty of food and drink to keep you hydrated and your energy levels high enough for dancing all day long. For the first time SOTA Festival will bring Bar Pop's *Bars, Bites and Beats* to Elizabeth Quay: featuring Insta-worthy bites that showcase incredible local produce, WA fortified and brewed beers, wine and more, *Bars, Bites and Beats* is every foodie's dream. A swathe of food trucks will take over the space, along with urban cool bars, so you can listen to the epic sounds whilst snacking on delicious bites from Westerns Australia's best food truck line-up.

For those that can't get down to Elizabeth Quay on WA Day, the sounds of SOTA Festival will be live streamed on YouTube for all to enjoy.

SOTA Festival 2018 will be held on WA Day Monday as part of the wider WA Day Festival. On Sunday 3 June, the festival will see Elizabeth Quay abuzz with a fun filled family day. Highlights include a bigger than ever, all-inclusive kids zone featuring a silent disco, gold panning from Perth Mint, a mascot race and much more to keep the little ones entertained all day. Centre Stage will also be packed on Sunday 3 June with performances all day. Concluding with spectacular Fireworks at 7pm.

Bar, Bites and Beats will transform from 3-10pm on Sunday, as Bar Pop bring you special guest DJs at the *Sunday Sessions*.

SOTA Festival is a collaboration derived from the desire to support, nurture and grow creative opportunities for local artists, and to further position contemporary music as a leading cultural identifier for WA. The popularity and awareness of SOTA continues to grow from year to year and the event is now a key feature on the WA music calendar.

SOTA

A Festival Celebrating WA Music

Proudly presented as part of the 2018 WA Day Festival, co-presented by WAM

FREE – No registration required

ELIZABETH QUAY

Monday 4 June, 12-9pm

For more information visit celebratewa.com.au/sota/

#sotafest #waday

SOTA is an all-ages event. Licensed area will also be available.

For interview requests / media accreditation / additional high-res images contact:

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