



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

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### **Airlie's music festival smashes out headline acts**

Airlie Beach Festival of Music fans will be "Walkin' on the Sun", with the announcement of Smash Mouth for the 2018 line-up.

Household names by the late 1990's with their top 10 tracks *All Star*, *Then the Morning Comes*, and *Can't Get Enough of You Baby*, the real smash hit was in 2001 when *I'm a Believer* became the beating heart of the soundtrack to 'Shrek'.

Fast-forward to 2018 and for the first time in nearly a decade, all five members of what is widely considered the 'classic' Smash Mouth line-up have reunited and are heading to Airlie Beach.

Airlie Beach Festival of Music founder Gavin 'Butto' Butlin said to have an international act of this calibre on the line-up this year was "huge".

"These massive bands wouldn't normally come to small towns like this, so we are very lucky to have secured such a world-renowned act," he said.

"Everyone watched Shrek, and Smash Mouth had the number one song from that movie as well as a bunch of other massive hits."

Joining Smash Mouth in Airlie Beach from November 9-11 are rock 'n' roll legends Frankie J Holden and Wilbur Wilde, alternative singer/songwriter Diana Anaid and the 25-piece Melbourne Ska Orchestra (MSO), led by Nicky Bomba, formerly of the John Butler Trio.

Describing his ARIA award-winning orchestra as "well-orchestrated mayhem", Bomba said his aim was for everyone to walk away thinking 'that was fantastic'.

"From a visual perspective you won't see a band with that many people on stage and that much energy – we're not your average staged orchestra and it's a foregone conclusion that you can't help dancing," he said.

With their Caribbean style of ska, Bomba said MSO and the Airlie Beach Festival of Music were a "magnificent combination waiting to happen".

"Our music is based around water and sunshine so it's a perfect fit," he said.

"And the exciting thing about this is it's not just a festival out in a field somewhere, it's in the middle of the town and the whole town comes alive."

Mr Butlin said this second line-up announcement, also featuring Townsville's King Social, Rockhampton's Innocent Eve and Matty Rogers from northern New South Wales, would complement the first line-up announced, including headliners Killing Heidi, Ash Grunwald, Dave Dobbyn and The Church.

"Each year we try to make it bigger and better but honestly we're getting to the stage now where people are booking tickets without even waiting for the line-up to be announced," he said.

"They know from previous years and they trust us that it's going to be a great event."

Tourism Whitsundays General Manager Tash Wheeler said with this kind of line-up, music fans needed to book their tickets now.

"Congratulations to the music festival team on securing such diverse and world-renowned artists along with some really fantastic and quality acts from regional Australia and particularly King Social from our backyard," she said.

"The music festival has continued to deliver growth in visitation year-on-year since its inception and we are positive this will continue.

"Major events play a vital role in attracting visitors to the Whitsundays and supporting the region's tourism industry.

"The Airlie Beach Festival of Music certainly ticks all the boxes in contributing to the local economy, bringing visitors to the Whitsundays, enhancing the profile of the area and fostering community pride in our region."

Festival tickets cost \$255 for a three-day pass and are available via [www.airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au](http://www.airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au) or by phoning 0408 062 816.

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