

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 8 April 2015

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS

BABIES PROMS: COUNTRY KIDS

Golden Guitar winner **Darren Coggan** will introduce young audiences to the happiest music in the world in ***Babies Proms: Country Kids*** from 6 – 17 May.

Learning to boot scoot and the essential elements of country music; guitars, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, drums and the distinctly folk instrument, the dobro, children and families will join Darren and his five-piece band for a sing along to country classics passed down through generations, telling stories of Australian history, culture and the land. With a catalogue of Australian country songbook classics, Darren will lead children in renditions of *Give Me A Home Among The Gumtrees*, *On The Road Again*, *Boot Scootin' Boogie* and perennial favourite *Waltzing Matilda*.

Country Kids takes inspiration from a strong local country music heritage and the Australian themes given voice by icons such as Banjo Paterson.

Head of Children, Families and Creative Learning at the Sydney Opera House, **Bridgette Van Leuven**, said: "We are delighted that Darren Coggan, a celebrated artist, will share his passion for country music with our young audiences. Darren and his live band will perform historic ballads and familiar songs allowing children to explore both classic and contemporary country rhythms, tempos and harmonies. As always we aim to be interactive so families will be able to brush up on their boot scooting dance skills and sing along to some favourite tunes."

Darren Coggan is a triple threat; singing, dancing and acting both on stage and screen. Darren Coggan is a two-time Golden Guitar winner who has starred extensively in musicals including *Grease*, *Happy Days* and John Williamson's *Quambatook*. Following Darren's sold out Cat Stevens tribute *Peace Train* in the Concert Hall in 2010, Darren makes his Opera House return for an all new country music-themed Babies Proms.

Babies Proms: Country Kids is part of the Sydney Opera House [Kids at the House](#) program; a year-round series of performances and creative experiences for young people. Keep up to date with Kids at the House by joining us on our Facebook page: [Kids at the House – Sydney Opera House](#)

BABIES PROMS: COUNTRY KIDS

Dates: 6 – 17 May

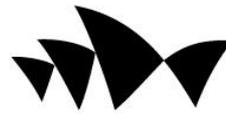
Venue: Studio, Sydney Opera House

Website: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath_2015_country_kids.aspx

Babies Proms is part of **The Balnaves Foundation Open House Program** which offers socially and economically disadvantaged adults and children \$5 tickets to selected performances. For more information please visit www.sydneyoperahouse.com/balnaves.

BABIES PROMS Tubby the Tuba 5 – 16 August

Join Tubby the Tuba on a journey of discovery as he navigates the melodies of the orchestra in search of his own unique sound. Meet different orchestral families as Tubby introduces each instrument in the nine-piece orchestra.



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



BABIES PROMS Christmas Rhythms 28 November – 20 December

Christmas gets a jazzy make-over with a fresh take on classic Christmas carols. A five-piece ensemble will lead children through traditional carols before replaying them with a calypso or jazz twist. Watch out Rudolph!

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Eli Wallis 02 9250 7834 / 0428 602 019

ewallis@sydneyoperahouse.com