

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Festival season**

From Cottesloe Beach to the Albany foreshore, festival time is here.

The 2012 Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) will be launched at Cottesloe Beach at 7am on Friday 10 February and 12 hours later Premier Colin Barnett will do the same for the Great Southern Festival, at 7pm at the Albany foreshore.

The Great Southern ceremony will be conducted on the steps of the Albany Entertainment Centre and is a free public event that will feature entertainment and fireworks.

A massed choir of about 100 singers combined with some of Albany's brass band musicians will perform a commissioned work from Australian composer Iain Grandage.

Festival events kick off the next day, Saturday 11 February, with warm-hearted theatre in Jack Charles v the Crown at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$225,000 over three years supports the Great Southern Festival, initiated in 2003 in a partnership between PIAF, the University of Western Australia and the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

Now in its tenth year, the Great Southern Festival has brought hundreds of artists and performers to the region in the past decade, and has entertained and intrigued thousands of audience members.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the festival was attracting increasing numbers of people.

"Many Great Southern Festival events sell out and people are starting to get used to the idea that you need to book early," Mr Manning said.

"Over the decade that the GSDC has supported the festival, Great Southern people have embraced the cultural enrichment it brings to the region.

"Audiences have relished the opportunity to see world-class performers and local performers have had their skills sharpened in the process.

"The festival strengthens cultural life in the region and brings visitors," Mr Manning said.



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Great Southern Festival venues range from Denmark to Katanning, and a bus service will operate for people from outer areas of the Great Southern attending Albany events.

View the Great Southern Festival program at [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au).

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