

CELEBRATE THE BEAN PROGRAM

SOUTH AMERICA

11.00pm: BOSSA NEGRA

Formed in Melbourne by drummer Howard Lee, this band is dedicated to the performance of Brazilian music. After almost 2 years travelling in Brazil and studying the numerous Brazilian music styles from Recife down to Rio de Janeiro, he has compiled a repertoire that includes the styles of samba, frevo, maracatu, forro, MPB (Brazilian pop) as well as the famous bossa nova that dominated the world since the 1960's. Songs made famous by well known Brazilian composers and musicians such as; Antonio Carlos Jobim, Sergio Mendes, Jorge Ben Jor, Joao Gilberto, Elis Regina, Djavan, Milton Nascimento, Luiz Gonzaga and Pixinguinha are all included in the band's repertoire. www.myspace.com/bossanegratrio

CENTRAL AMERICA

STAGE 11.00pm: LOS ROMANTICOS

"Los Romanticos" play Mexican Mariachi songs about romance, hence their name. This ensemble has been performing since 1991. Most of the band members are from El Salvador, and all had early experience with music singing in church choirs. Although string instruments such as guitar are used on these recordings, they are not indigenous to Mexico. The conquistadors - Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru - introduced string instruments to Mexico during the sixteenth century. Los Romanticos also features trumpets, violin and acoustic bass in the Mariachi style. <http://www.jagentertainment.com.au/losromanticos.html>

ASIA PACIFIC

STAGE 2.00pm: WEST PAPUAN CULTURAL CHOIR

The West Papua Cultural Group is comprised of young talented West Papuans in Melbourne who showcase Melanesian culture through songs, stories, language and arts. They perform a cyclical cultural dance called 'Yosim Pancar' – a welcoming ceremony which represents the beauty of nature and song.

All of the instruments (Guitar, Ukulele, and String bass) and costumes used in their performances are handmade. The dancing costumes are produced from local material including root palm fibre for the grass skirts; Bird of Paradise used as head dress, sea shells as necklaces and paintings which represent the enduring culture.

AFRICA

STAGE 5.00pm: AFRO HABESHA

Afro Habesha is led by reknowned Ethiopian Australian vocalist Seble Girma. Seble's father encouraged her to sing from an early age, having noted her natural talent and the beauty of her voice. When she was eight she joined the church choir and moved people to tears with her singing. The bands songs are sung in Amharik, the national Ethiopian language, as well as different tribal songs in other dialects. The music can range in its mood from soulful and brooding to high energy, highly funky dance music – the latter being more often the case in a live show!