

Sound advice

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This Carnivale has music for all.

It is one of the joys of Carnivale that its annual showcase of Sydney's vast musical diversity reminds us not only of the different cultural backgrounds Sydney is made up of, but also what we all have in common: music.

Carnivale corrals it all together every year and brings it right to our doorstep. And this year should be a bumper as Carnivale expands the program to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The reason we're having such a huge music program, says Mishlene Jammal, Carnivale's artistic director, is that music transcends cultural boundaries. Music is a language that hits the soul. And it's not only a way of bringing lightness to people, but enlightening them by bringing them into another "cultural headspace".

Jammal's ambitions for the Carnivale don't stop here.

"With the festival, we wanted to show how music is at the moment. The world is crossing all sorts of boundaries and we wanted to illustrate that through the music we've selected," she says.

Jammal, the Carnivale's first woman artistic director, and musical director Justo (pronounced Husto) Diaz have put together a mightily impressive series of different line-ups that offer punters, as Jammal puts it, "different musical windows".

"We thought there were two approaches to the festival," Jammal says. "We wanted to get in the music venues or the high art houses and go to the audiences who are really into alternative listening. But we also really wanted to reach audiences who are not considered audiences, that is, particular cultural audiences who go out to community halls and often bring in amazing artists. And enjoy wonderful nights of music."

Appropriately, it's not just the audience range that is broad for Carnivale's 25th anniversary. Last year festival audiences could only take in music at the Cafe Carnivale (a kind of new music salon in the Arts Centre at the heart of Paddington Markets) or at individual showcases at The Basement near Circular Quay.

This year, Carnivale's expanded musical program spreads over three major additional settings.

For a start, in addition to the increasingly popular Paddington original, Cafe Carnivale has spread its wings and will run a separate free program at the Parramatta Riverside Theatres on October 5, which will include must-see trip hop trio TUFA and the exceptional Chilean guitarists, Victor Martinez and the Brothers Martinez.

On October 21, Marrickville's Steel Park will host the one-day Wheels of Steel hip hop festival, featuring DJ-ing, turntablism, breakdancing and graffiti demonstrations.

And from Sunday, September 30, the rather austere Sydney Opera House halls will reverberate to the Global Sounds Series, a world music melting pot featuring fusion rhythm-masters Passionfruit, hardcore hip hop sound artist **Khaled Sabsabi** and the Spanish-German poet Jose Olivier, who will present his work with flamenco dancer Diana Reyes.

The renowned percussion group Mohata (pictured above), will perform with Epizo Bangoura at the Metro, George Street.