

AMERICAN MUSIC MAESTRO RETURNS TO OZ

Judith Wright Centre and Topshelf Productions present
BOB BROZMAN

"The playing is dazzling, the dexterity and complexity is without parallel in this genre... every piece is packed with a compelling, humorous quality... It's what he does with his damn hands that had the audience in hysterics!" - Folk Roots Magazine, London

Internationally acclaimed world music virtuoso and slide guitarist **Bob Brozman** will embark on his next Australian tour, including a one-off Brisbane performance at Judith Wright Centre on Thursday 29 April 2010.

Well-known to local audiences from highly acclaimed performances at Judith Wright Centre, *Byron Bay Blues and Roots* and *Woodford Folk Festival*, **Bob Brozman** says he is looking forward to returning to Brisbane with his latest show.

"This concert will be a heartfelt, passionate and energetic musical journey across many parts of the world, suffused with a blues feeling, and carried out with a slew of instruments and some improvisation," Brozman said.

"My shows are never planned exactly, but I will touch on recent albums and collaborations that draw from blues, jazz, Hawaiian, Calypso, creole as well as elements of African and Indian music," he said.

"I'm really looking forward to playing in Brisbane again; the city seems vibrant, modern and livable, and the JW provides such a great atmosphere for playing as the welcome and the sound are always so perfect!" he said.

Since 1981, **Bob Brozman** has released 27 recordings including 10 solo projects and more than a dozen international collaborations, the latter of which landed Brozman in the European Top 10 for World Music an unprecedented five times from 2000 to 2005.

In 2002, Brozman collaborated with Australian slide guitarist Jeff Lang on a CD, *Rolling through This World*, which earned the duo the 2002 ARIA Award for Blues Album of the Year.

Brozman has also teamed up with musicians from India, Africa, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Reunion Island, and cites his collaborations as a career highlight.

"The best part of my career is the great friendships and memories formed by collaborating with musicians from all over the world," Brozman said.

"The highlight has been bringing these exotic musicians on tour around the world with me, exposing them to new cultures and exposing audience to some really exciting music," he said.

Hailed by critics as a master of slide, finger-style, and percussive guitar, and acclaimed the world over for his energetic and witty live performances, Brozman describes how he "fell in love" with the guitar and a career in music.

"I fell in love with the relationship of sound and touch on the guitar; there was no way to separate me from it!" Brozman said.

"I had no choice about my career in music; it just forced itself upon me, through sheer love of making sounds. I need music to survive, like the need for air and water," he said.

Bob Brozman will play the Judith Wright Centre for one-night-only on Thursday 29 April 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Thursday 29 April 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Reserved Cabaret \$37; Theatre Full \$32, Theatre Concession \$28
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

**For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
Judith Wright Centre Senior Marketing Coordinator Dorothy Farrell
p 07 3872 9005 f 07 3872 9001 e dorothy.farrell@jwcoqa.qld.gov.au**

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

BOB BROZMAN – BIOGRAPHY

Bob was born in New York in 1954 and has been involved in music since early childhood. A guitarist since age 6, Bob discovered National guitars at age 13. In their unique sound, the young Bob found his musical calling. He studied music and ethnomusicology at Washington University with an emphasis on the earliest roots of Delta blues. He has since also become a respected authority on historical Hawaiian music, publishing articles and amassing a large collection of 78rpm records. He has produced five re-issue albums from this collection on the Rounder and Folklyric labels, documenting the best of Hawaiian music from 1915 to 1935.

In 1988, Bob rediscovered the legendary 1929 Hawaiian recording artists, the Tau Moe Family. Together they recorded a landmark album, *Remembering the Songs of Our Youth*, a historic re-creation of the family's genuine Hawaiian music from 60 years prior. The album was released in 1989 to rave international reviews, including the Library of Congress Select List Award. With N.E.A. funding, Bob began production of a feature-length documentary film about the Moe family and their amazing 54-year-long world tour.

Over the years, Bob's passion for National Guitars led him to build a large collection of these fascinating art-deco era instruments. After receiving a letter from the then-88-year-old inventor John Dopyera, Bob visited and became good friends with John and his family. This led to further research, and in 1993 Bob's massive work *The History and Artistry Of National Resonator Instruments* was published internationally. He has also written for several music magazines concerning historical and instructional subjects.

Since his first solo album in 1981, Bob's repertoire of recordings has grown by 26 titles to include 10 solo projects and at least a dozen collaborations with international friends. His ability to use the guitar as a portable translator of culture - coupled with his empathetic nature (through music, culture, and language), and seemingly boundless energy - enables him to establish genuine musical friendships based on respect and love of music. Bob's deep knowledge of musical history and arranging has enabled him to create large band arrangements and direct music for film, radio, television, and stage. In the last year, Bob produced albums for Ledward Kaapana and the Asylum Street Spankers; he also continues to generate educational and concert videos for Homespun Tapes and Vestopol Videos, respectively.

In 1999, Bob and Woody Mann co-founded International Guitar Seminars, which hosts over 120 students annually at sites in California, New York, and Canada. The team has pioneered a week-long, deluxe workshop in which students study day and night with a faculty that includes Bob, Woody, John Cephas, John Renbourn, Orville Johnson, Michael Dunn, Mary Flower, Mike Dowling, Jim Nichols, Pat Donahue, and more.

In addition to his rigorous touring and recording schedule, Bob is also a former adjunct Professor at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, where he lectures on ethnomusicology and is beginning research on string music in Papua New Guinea and the tremendous number of islands around New Guinea and in the western South Pacific Ocean. Through the auspices of the University, Bob will be recording and collaborating with a wide variety of musicians from these interesting locales. He is also working toward the creation of a foundation to help third-world musicians to obtain the musical basics that western musicians take for granted, such as playable instruments, strings, tuning gears, and basic recording equipment.

Bob maintains a nearly superhuman tour schedule throughout the year, every year. Live performance tours are a vital part Bob's activity, in addition to his collaborations. He tours constantly throughout North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa.

As Bob says, "There's so much music out there...I guess I'll get some sleep in the next life!"

www.bobbrozman.com

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