

WORLD RENOWNED CHILEAN ARTIST TO SERENADE BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre, BEMAC and Kultour present

NANO STERN

**"...exudes authenticity and the sheer love of making music... one of the concert highlights of the year so far."
The Age, 2009**

Direct from Chile, where he has been lending physical aid and performing at benefit concerts in the wake of the country's devastating earthquake, world-renowned singer songwriter **Nano Stern** will play the Judith Wright Centre for one-night-only on Wednesday 7 April 2010.

Performing in Brisbane for the first time, **Nano Stern** is touring Australia to launch his third self-produced album, *Los Espejos*, which was ranked #3 by *Rolling Stone* Chile in their top 100 albums for 2009.

Nano's Australian tour follows a spate of benefit concerts at which he has played across Chile in an effort to rebuild his country and bring hope to the Chilean people, Nano says.

"I consider myself one of the lucky ones; my house is still standing and my family are all alive and well. So the least I can do is help as much as possible in rebuilding our country," Nano said.

"We musicians have two main ways of helping. On the one hand, we can help by gathering large amounts of people to donate large amounts of aid. But, more importantly, we can put a smile on the faces and warmth in the hearts of people who are suffering deeply, either from material or human loss. All of us have been deeply changed by this catastrophe and more than ever, music, sweet music, is needed," he said.

Since launching onto the Australian stage at Woodford Folk Festival in 2007/2008, **Nano Stern** has attracted critical acclaim across the country for his blend of traditional Latin American, European folk, rock and jazz music.

Nano Stern returned to Australia in 2009, where he was the featured act of the Port Fairy and National Folk Festivals and was broadcast live on ABC Radio's Music Deli.

During Nano's first visit to Australia when he stayed in the Kalang Valley (near Bellingen), he wrote *Optical Ilusiones*, the first track from his latest album, *Los Espejos*.

Picking up violin at age three and guitar at age six, **Nano Stern's** music incorporates guitar, violin, Swedish flute and lyrics written in Spanish, Latin American, Macedonian, Italian, Swedish and English.

In 2004, at age 18, **Nano Stern** packed his bags and moved to Europe to explore the continent's jazz and gypsy music scene, during which time he worked with producer Tato Gomez and achieved a strong European following.

Despite a busy international touring schedule, Nano continues to devote time working with the Chilean government to perform free concerts in the slums of his country, which he views as "not only necessary, but also very enriching".

"I am very frustrated when I start seeing the same kind of people over and over again in 'cultural' spots, because I think that 'culture' easily gets used by elites in a very snobbish way. A true artist must be able to perform both for demanding, pseudo-intellectual audiences and for marginal people of the slums," Nano said.

"I learn more about music when performing in a dirt field in a slum in Valparaíso as I do performing in big international festivals. And my soul smiles by knowing that we are giving something to people who are not able to afford it otherwise. And it is always so that people, who have less, give more in return," he said.

-ENDS-

Date	Wednesday 7 April
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Performance Space, 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
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

NANO STERN – BIOGRAPHY

Nano Stern from Chile started playing music before he can actually remember, picking up and playing many instruments; embracing and re-interpreting the songs and sounds he encountered along the way. At just 24, this writer, multi-instrumentalist, performer and producer is a creator of the new Chilean sound. His is a unique, eclectic fusion of traditional Latin American and European folk music, with modern rock, folk and jazz. He was a school-age member of Matoral and Mecanica Popular, two of Chile's leading rock and folk bands of the time. After moving to Europe in 2004 he collaborated extensively with producer Tato Gomez, with whom he recorded most of the songs on his self-titled solo debut album.

Hitch-hiking on a European road in 2005, Nano Stern was picked up by young musicians on their way to an Ethno gathering; collections of young and talented artists from all over the world, sharing their knowledge and coming together for performances. Nano's world changed forever. Soon after in Amsterdam, he met Philippe Lemm and together they founded Wazabe, a band that for Nano was more like a family. After that, Nano moved to the Dutch capital and spent a year playing with many different bands, across many styles; from the Colombian Cumbias and Vallenatos of *La Parranda* to the gypsy swings of the *Caspian Hat Dance*. He studied at the Jazz department of the Amsterdam conservatory. He also co-produced Indo (cumentados)'s debut album, *Reciclaje Latinoamericano*.

In Chile in 2007, Nano Stern recorded and released his second solo album, *Voy y Vuelvo*. Wazabe released its debut album in Amsterdam and did a second European tour. Nano produced the recordings of Gavin Mee's second album *Mee Mantras* and collaborated with Manuel García and Catalanian musician Guillamino in *eXile*, a multicultural project which explored the poetry written while in exile by Pablo Neruda and Pera Cuar. 2008 started for Nano at the five-day Woodford Folk Festival in Australia. English speaking audiences were drawn together as one and left on their feet. Back home in Chile, fans were singing along to his songs on the radio. *Voy Y Vuelvo* won the 2008 APES award for best album. Nano toured Chile with his band and solo, supporting and performing with Chico Cesar (Brazil), Jorge Drexler (Uruguay), Paulinho Moska (Brasil) and Alejandro Filio (Mexico). He returned to Europe for the northern summer and led the Ethno gathering in Estonia. He also played at the Viljandi Festival. Ethno-in-Transit wended its way through India. Before returning home to a guest performance in honour of Salvador Allende at the National Stadium in Santiago, Nano recorded an instrumental guitar album with Swedish folk guitarist Mattias Perez, exploring the fusion of Chilean and Swedish traditional styles.

Back home again in Chile, Nano recorded his much-anticipated third album with what was set to become the core of his new band. But he wasn't home long before he headed over the equator again to play at the Umea Folk Festival in Sweden and also to play his first shows in London. *Voy Y Vuelvo* was released in Australia in February 2009 and was followed by a six-week Australian tour where Nano was the stand out performer of the Port Fairy, Brunswick and National folk festivals. ABC Radio's Music Deli program recorded and broadcast nationally the his first gig of the tour. *Los Espejos*, his third album, was released in Chile in May 2009 with a performance of Banda Nano Stern to a packed theatre in Santiago. The show and album received critical acclaim and wide media coverage, from national television and newspapers to a feature story in *Rolling Stone Chile*. With just his guitar and voice, he had tens of thousands of people singing along with him at Chile's leading rock and pop music festival.

As the 2009 northern summer approached, Nano returned once more to Europe for his first shows in Hungary, a return to Viljandi as their favourite foreign son, as well as wide ramblings with his Ethno brother, Matija Solce and their improvised, polk/funk duo Folkoholics. Together they led Ethno gatherings and performed in the Balkans and Siberia. At the end of 2009, Nano returned to Australia to release *Los Espejos* with festival and club performances. He stayed on in Australia and was joined by his Ethno partner, Matija Solce (Slovenia), Europe's award winning young master of puppet theatre. The two of them presented three separate acts; the Nano Stern solo show, their improv-punk-folk duo, Folkoholics and Matija's award winning puppet theatre for adults and kids. Their headlining tour from the famous Woodford Festival and down the Australian east coast to sell out shows in Melbourne and Sydney was met with public and critical acclaim. Nano returned to Chile to play on national television to more than a million people. *Rolling Stone Chile* rated his album, *Los Espejos* as #3 in their top 100 albums for 2009.

2010 is another busy and exciting year for Nano, playing his first shows in North America and Ireland, as well as returning to Sweden and Germany. Back in Chile, he will continue to relish his role as a mentor and producer of young musical acts and also roam the Chilean countryside, performing in small villages and learning more of his traditional music.

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