

# MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne  
Fringe



15 August 2011

## Diana May Clark and The Sunny Set Sounds like k.d. lang with the rhythms of Rio...

**With a distinctly soulful alto voice, Melbourne vocalist Diana Clark brings her new originals project Diana May Clark & The Sunny Set to Melbourne Fringe. Launching beautiful new Brazilian Pop inspired songs on the piano, the shows will feature tight Beatles-like forms and solos, sophisticated harmonies, sun-dappled lyrics and a kick-ass rhythm section. These unforgettable gigs at the Paris Cat will open up your musical senses.**

Diana Clark's music has always been unique, and with a launch into a new style and vibe, she is bringing all her influences together. The songs speak of willing the sun into the darkest places, slowing down, family, unity, even an ode to our ever suffering, but powerful Mother Africa. As an acclaimed singer, Diana has always had an interest in Rio rhythms and her previous three CDs (released with Doug de Vries) have specialised in lending her alto vocals to Bossa nova and Samba styles, sung in Brazilian Portuguese. These jazz/world/folk offerings have seen her perform around the country and earn a strong following in jazz circles as a gifted singer who gives audiences an insight into another world.

Bringing this new band 'The Sunny Set' together to showcase her new songs, Diana has been working solidly on expanding her music to fit into another genre, stepping slightly away from the jazz origins and weaving in Brazilian Pop. She's been mentored by some of Australia's most revered songwriters such as Greg Arnold (Things of Stone & Wood), Charles Jenkins (Ice-Cream Hands), Mick Thomas (Weddings, Parties, Anything) and Lisa Miller. This song-writing mentorship program, achieved through PUSH SONGS (The Push) has enabled Diana to take a huge step forward as an emerging songwriter.

As a finalist in the 1998 national jazz competition at Wangaratta, straight out of the VCA, Diana is also a recipient of three Oz Arts Council grants. This is her premier appearance in Melbourne Fringe with three shows at the Paris Cat Jazz Club. Diana May Clark and The Sunny Set will delight as she traverses through her back catalogue and endears audiences with her new material.

"When you can sing in Portuguese, count Nina Simone and KD Lang as influences, and are backed by Doug de Vries on guitar it's hard to go wrong. It also helps that Diana Clark has an amazing voice." - The AGE, [Melbourne].

"De Vries and Clark feel the music of Brazil down to their bones. His guitar is full of romance and her voice is so intimate it could make you blush. Australia may be halfway around the world from Brazil but you'd never know it from listening to their CDs." - Cadence Magazine [USA].

"Diana's mellifluous voice perfectly complements de Vries' virtuosity on the 7 string guitar. Marrying old and new sounds, they manage to remain faithful to the 'musica brasileira' genre while retaining a strong Australian sensibility." - Lily Bragg, The AGE [Melbourne].

<http://www.dianaclark.com.au>  
<http://www.youtube.com/dianamayclark>  
<http://www.myspace.com/dianamayclark>

### Diana May Clark and The Sunny Set

VENUE  
Paris Cat Jazz Club  
6 Goldie Place  
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

DATES: 22-24 Sept  
TIME: 7.30pm, Thu 8.30pm (75min)

TICKETS  
Full: \$20.00  
Concession: \$15.00  
TO BOOK visit [melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au) or call (03) 9660 9666

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