

# The Black Arm Band

## Vancouver Winter Olympics Cultural Program February 2010

### HIDDEN REPUBLIC

For the first time in the Games history, the 2010 Cultural Program of the Winter Olympics focuses on Aboriginal programming and features many high profile Indigenous artists from around the world.

**The Black Arm Band** has been invited to perform *Hidden Republic* with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Canada. This performance will be offered to the large First Nations community in the Vancouver area as a free concert and gift to the people of Vancouver.

**11 February 2010**

**Orpheum Theatre**

**Vancouver, British Columbia CANADA**

**Four Host First Nations, Aboriginal Pavilion  
2010 Olympic Winter Games**

*Hidden Republic* is an intercultural contemporary musical presentation between **The Black Arm Band** Indigenous musical ensemble and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, representing a collaboration between contemporary Australian Indigenous artists and an internationally acclaimed Symphony Orchestra.

This presentation of *Hidden Republic* with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for the 2010 Winter Olympics is essential in continuing to build accurate perceptions about Aboriginal Australia, promoting positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures across the globe.

Comprising a touring party of 24, including Mark Atkins, Ursula Yovich, Emma Donovan and Stephen Pigram, **The Black Arm Band** is proud to represent contemporary Australia as both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous artists to the international cultural, athletic and political communities in attendance and around the world.

In this prestigious and high profile international environment, *Hidden Republic* showcases, celebrates and shares the contribution of music to Indigenous cultural and political life and deliver positive social messages from contemporary Australia to the international community.

Parallel to the performance, **The Black Arm Band** will participate in music/skills exchange workshop program with other participating Indigenous artists that not only deepens the residual impact of *Hidden Republic*, but also inspires two-way dialogue between the cultures – one creatively feeding the other.

The link between **The Black Arm Band** artists and Indigenous communities nationally and internationally is vital. It is important to harness this opportunity for **The Black Arm Band** to mentor and be mentored by international artists and is an essential part of **The Black Arm Band's** development and on-going relevance.

Developed and Produced by Arts House, a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

Supported by the Australian Government through the Australia International Cultural Council, an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria.

**Hidden Republic** was developed with support from the City of Melbourne, Arts Victoria, the Melbourne International Arts Festival and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body through the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Arts Board and the Music Board, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Besen Family Foundation, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Annamila Pty Ltd, VicHealth and Andyinc Foundation.

For further information visit [www.blackarmband.com.au](http://www.blackarmband.com.au) or contact **Jude Gun** [info@blackarmband.com.au](mailto:info@blackarmband.com.au)