*"Each Belle is a successful artist in her own right, but their communion of voices is a joy in itself. Close your eyes and you could be in Preservation Hall or front row in a southern church..." - Forte magazine*

**MEDIA RELEASE - for immediate release**

**Victoria’s own Gospel Belles will be singing, swinging and ringing on Saturday 12 October when they appear at St Margaret’s Anglican Church in Cobram.**

The Gospel Belles — Kerri Simpson, Kelly Auty, Marisa Quigley and Diana Wolfe — are renowned for their power-packed vocals, earthy humour and captivating stage shows.

They deliver gospel and blues songs in the African-American tradition, and their interpretations of the genre are rousing, authentic and ever-so-slightly irreverent.

Each accomplished performers, singers, songwriters and musicians in their own right, the Gospel Belles come together on special occasions to share their joyous music with audiences of all ages.

**About the Gospel Belles**

Award-winning Australian blues and gospel singer Kerri Simpson, with Kelly Auty, Marisa Quigley and Diana Wolfe, created the Gospel Belles in 2006 to perform swinging interpretations of their favourite gospel and blues songs in the African-American tradition.

In 2011 they released their debut self-titled CD, which was later voted in the Top 10 Albums for the year by Chris Lambie in the Rhythms Magazine Writer's Poll and featured renowned Melbourne pianist, Andrew ‘Big Boy Lemonade’ Ogburn.

This vocal ensemble combines the significant talents of these outstanding singers and big personalities, and the result is a musical treat, with charm galore and more than a dash of dry wit thrown in.

The Gospel Belles have delighted audiences at the BMW Edge Theatre Federation Square, the Palais Hepburn Springs, Way Out West Blues & Roots Club, Kingston Harvest Festival, the Limelight Lounge, the world-famous Speigeltent, Queenscliff Uniting Church, the Australian Blues Music Festival, Thornbury Theatre and most recently, the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues.

In 2014 and 2016, The Rev’d Maryann Leonard had the Gospel Belles “Rocking the White Church” at Christ Church Seymour bringing audience members from all walks of life and location. The Belles, along with pianist Boris Conley, are delighted to be performing at Maryann’s new parish in Cobram.

**Show Details: Gospel Belles**

Date: Sat 12th October 2019

Time: Doors at 7pm, 7:30pm start.

Cost: $25-30

Venue: St Margaret’s Anglican Church

Tickets:

***Kerri Simpson***

Kerri Simpson is without a doubt one of Australia's most versatile and accomplished vocalists. She has made her mark in a range of genres, but to many her star really shines when she is singing blues and gospel – as evidenced on her critically acclaimed album **SUN GONNA SHINE**.

Kerri is constantly drawing on life experiences, and this album is no different – it is a great combined successor to the ARIA nominated Confessin’ The Blues, and also the ambitious and critically acclaimed Vodou Songs Of The Spirits recorded in New Orleans & Haiti.

Among the highlights on **SUN GONNA SHINE** are ***We Will Fly Away***, a song Kerri penned with **New Orleans** songwriting team Norman Caesar and Jason Neville, and which won her 2005 Female **Blues Singer of the Year** at the Australian Blues Music Festival Awards.

***Kelly Auty***

Kelly Auty is a powerhouse performer, switching from fiery passion to a haunting lullaby voice. Kelly sings with her **Wild Women** show at festivals and major venues, and has supported International Artists such as **José Feliciano**, **Janis Ian, John Rowles** and, most recently, **Manhattan Transfer**. Recently Kelly released her **Wild Women** CD, her sixth independent release.

***Marisa Quigley***

Described by Forte music magazine as “Possibly the blackest white woman since Janis Joplin”, Beechworth-based singer/songwriter Marisa Quigley is a voice to be reckoned with. Co-founding member and front-woman of award-winning rhythm and blues band Chubby Rae & the Elevators, Marisa was awarded Female Vocalist of the Year at the 2007 Australian Blues Music Awards. She has released 2 albums with Chubby Rae and the Elevators and 2 solo albums, and was a semi-finalist in the 2012 International Songwriting Competition for her track Sing Me A Lullaby, from her debut self-titled album.

***Diana Wolfe***

Described by Forte magazine as “one of the unsung heroines of the Victorian music scene”, Diana’s unadorned vocal style belies her uplifting, joyous and beautifully crafted songs and performances. Her eclectic influences (blues, African-American gospel, cabaret, glam-rock and comedy) give her a unique sound and captivating stage presence; funny, poignant, heartfelt and always entertaining.

Best known for her work as co-founder of ‘Play Like A Girl’, a regular jam session, open mic and network for women musicians, she has released two studio albums, a live recording, and a number of EPs with various line-ups. In 2012 she wrote, produced and co-starred with Sweet Felicia and Alison Penney in the Darebin Music Feast show, ‘Little Miss Rhythm - A Tribute to Ruth Brown, the Queen of R&B’.