

**TEENAGE SUPERSTAR STRAALEN MCCALLUM EMBARKS ON FIRST NATIONAL TOUR  
AS IRISH SWEETHEART MARY DUFF'S AUSTRALIAN TOUR SPECIAL GUEST  
JULY & AUGUST 2011**



As the youngest artist ever signed as a solo recording artist to mega company Sony Music Australia at age 12 years, now 13-year-old Straalen McCallum is about to begin his musical journey that critics say “the sky is the limit”. Straalen is about to head off around Australia on his first national tour. Of course, this wouldn’t be just any tour. Straalen is touring in support of Irish music sweetheart Mary Duff as she embarks on her new Australian tour. It shouldn’t come as any surprise to those who are familiar with Straalen’s music that these two artists will deliver a show to remember for many years.

The dream started for this youngster when he performed the national anthem in front of 53,000 rugby fans (and even more watching on TV) at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane for the 2010 State of Origin. Hand-picked, and personally offered a record deal by Sony Music Australia CEO Denis Handlin when he was only 12-years-old, mentored and supported by manager Steve White (Lee Kernaghan, The McClymonts, Leo Sayer) and taken under the wing former Sherbet member and now acclaimed music producer and songwriter Garth Porter, Straalen went from being an unknown talent to a young superstar. Fast forward to the end of last year, and Straalen released his debut

album *A Little Faith* and is now preparing to take to the road on his first tour.

His album, which features 13 songs of inspiration and faith, showcases Straalen’s amazing vocals perfectly. With tracks like *Angel*, *How Great Thou Art*, *Hallelujah* and *Over the Rainbow*, the album is one of those stunning albums that only come along once in a while. It also features *Wiyathu*, a track written and originally recorded by Geoffrey ‘Gurrumul’ Yunupingu and sung in the original Aboriginal language. Straalen received the blessing from the famous Indigenous singer songwriter to record the song and has personally endorsed Straalen’s version.

Straalen started singing at the age of three and is now taught by one of Australia’s finest singers and vocal coaches, Venetta Fields. In an illustrious career that spans several decades, Venetta has worked with the biggest names in music including The Rolling Stones, Barbara Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Ike & Tina Turner, Boz Scaggs, Pink Floyd and John Farnham. She began working with Straalen at the age of nine and now, three years later is affectionately referred to as his ‘2<sup>nd</sup> mum’ by her young protégé.

Straalen is overwhelmed by the opportunities that have come this way and is looking forward to meeting people on the road as he embarks on his first national tour. “Oh my gosh, it is totally unbelievable!” he says. “I feel oh so privileged and incredibly lucky. It still feels surreal and I’m totally thankful for the opportunity.”

He hopes the songs from the album will resonate with people of all ages. “I chose songs that I really connect with, and I think that if someone really believes something - really connects with something - then others pick up on that and sort of feel it too,” he says. “So I’m honestly just really looking forward to people just enjoying it. The songs on the album are truly beautiful songs, and in one way or another all convey a message of faith – faith in yourself, faith in your family, or faith in whatever you hold dear. And

because I'm 'little', I thought I should include that in the title, too! I reckon everyone should have a little faith."

Straalen will open for Mary Duff on all her Australian tour dates. Mary, an award-winning Irish vocalist earned acclaim as the 'special guest' for Daniel O'Donnell's first UK concert tour, and has been establishing herself a formidable presence in the international music scene ever since.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 | 8pm  
**Caloundra RSL Club, Caloundra QLD**  
[www.caloundrarsl.com.au](http://www.caloundrarsl.com.au)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011 | 8pm  
**Twin Towns Services Club, Twin Towns NSW**  
[www.twintowns.com.au](http://www.twintowns.com.au)

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 | 8pm  
**Oakey Cultural Centre, Oakey QLD**  
(07) 4691 1388

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 | 2pm  
**Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside QLD**  
[www.kedron-wavell.com.au](http://www.kedron-wavell.com.au)

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club, Coffs Harbour NSW**  
[www.cex.com.au](http://www.cex.com.au)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Wests Leagues Club, Newcastle NSW**  
[www.westsnewcastle.com.au](http://www.westsnewcastle.com.au)

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Tamworth Wests Leagues Club, Tamworth NSW**  
[www.wtlc.com.au](http://www.wtlc.com.au)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Club Forster, Forster NSW**  
[www.clubforster.com.au](http://www.clubforster.com.au)

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Smithfield RSL Club, Smithfield NSW**  
[www.smithfieldrsl.com.au](http://www.smithfieldrsl.com.au)

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 2.30pm  
**Campbelltown Catholic Club, Campbelltown NSW**  
[www.kingofclubs.com.au](http://www.kingofclubs.com.au)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Goulburn Workers Club, Goulburn NSW**  
[www.goulburnworkers.com.au](http://www.goulburnworkers.com.au)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Dubbo RSL Club, Dubbo NSW**  
[www.dubborl.com.au](http://www.dubborl.com.au)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Griffith Arts Centre**  
(02) 6962 8100

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Geelong Playhouse Theatre, Geelong VIC**  
[www.gpac.org.au](http://www.gpac.org.au)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Albury Commercial Club, Albury NSW**  
[www.commclubalbury.com.au](http://www.commclubalbury.com.au)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 3pm  
**Bendigo Capital Theatre, Bendigo VIC**  
[www.thecapital.com.au](http://www.thecapital.com.au)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Shepparton Eastbank Centre, Shepparton VIC**  
(03) 5832 9511

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Burnie Arts Centre, Burnie TAS**  
[www.burniearts.net](http://www.burniearts.net)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Wrest Point Entertainment Centre, Hobart TAS**  
[www.wrestpoint.com.au](http://www.wrestpoint.com.au)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Launceston Country Club, Launceston TAS**  
[www.countryclubtasmania.com.au](http://www.countryclubtasmania.com.au)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011 | 3pm  
**West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul VIC**  
[www.wgac.org.au](http://www.wgac.org.au)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Ballarat Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat VIC**  
(03) 5333 5800

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 | 2pm  
**Frankston Arts Centre, Frankston VIC**  
[www.artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au](http://www.artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Warrnambool Kings College, Warrnambool VIC**  
(03) 5562 0147

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011 | 8pm  
**Adelaide The Capri Theatre, Adelaide SA**  
[www.capri.org.au](http://www.capri.org.au)

[www.straalenmccallum.com](http://www.straalenmccallum.com) | [www.maryduff.net](http://www.maryduff.net)