

# PARTY SPOT PICK



“Live the Venue in Durban is a purpose-built music venue with a fantastic stage, sound and lighting and is a really great place to watch South African bands.”

– Greg Carlin, Zebra & Giraffe.

166 Stamfordhill Rd,

tel: 082 967 2179.

• See page 138 for the full interview.

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE LUMINEERS

Neyla Pekarek, cellist and vocalist for The Lumineers, talks about their music and their plans for 2015. By Eugene Yiga

**T**he Lumineers, a folk rock band based in Denver, Colorado, USA, scored a big hit with their eponymous debut album. Not only did it peak at No 2 on the *Billboard* 200 chart in January 2013, but the album was certified platinum in the USA. The band was also nominated for Best New Artists and Best Americana Album at the Grammy Awards in 2013, while their single, *Ho Hey*, currently has over 100 million YouTube views.

**Your sound mixes genres such as folk, alternative rock, Americana and indie. How would you describe it?** It's primarily an acoustic sound. We use guitar, cello, piano, bass and drums, with gang vocals and shouts that make people want to clap their hands and stomp their feet.

**Are there any common themes in your music?**

Wesley [Schultz, lead vocalist and guitarist] is a great storyteller. All of our songs have that in common. They paint a story.

**Are there any messages you're trying to impart?**

There's a message of hope in our music – that things do get better and that pushing through with that in mind can make a situation better.

**What do you love most about being on the road?** It's been amazing visiting so many parts of the world that I never imagined I'd see. I love trying the local cuisine and seeing the sights.

**What do you miss most when you're away from home?** I miss my friends a lot and the

consistency of sleeping in the same bed every night. I love my home much more because I've been able to explore the world.

**What's been your favourite place to perform?** I love playing the big cities – New York, London and Paris – because there's always the added thrill of being in a big, exciting place. But all the places we've performed in have been special in their own way. It still blows my mind that we're able to fly across the world and people know the words to our songs.

**Do you have any unusual backstage or pre-performance rituals?** I have a child's play tent in my greenroom. It started as a joke, but I like to relax in there before or after a show – often while wearing a fancy wig.

**And how do you feel about performing in SA for the first time?** I'm very excited! I'm absolutely stunned that we've sold so many tickets. We couldn't be more pumped for these shows.

**Do you have any other plans for your time in the country?** We've all agreed we'd like to go on safari while we're there.

**What's next for you in 2015?** A lot of writing and studio time. We hope to get a second album out soon.

*The Lumineers perform at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town on 4 and 5 December and at Emmarentia Dam in Johannesburg on 6 December.*

www.webtickets.co.za

## HOT EVENTS



• **For a dose of classy classical**, catch *Christmas With Richard Cock*, in which the maestro conducts the

Symphony Choir of Johannesburg, with soloists from the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. 6 December, Linder Auditorium, Parktown, Johannesburg.

• **For a dose of retro razzle**, get ready to sing along to all the hits from Swedish supergroup Abba, courtesy of Australian tribute group ABBAolutely FABBAulous. 11 December, Sibaya Casino, Durban.



• **For a dose of glorious gospel**, in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Boniface Anglican Church, Vosloorus,

Rebecca Malope and other stars will be performing. 14 December, Carnival City, Brakpan.

Tickets for all these shows from:

www.computicket.com