

Trio's tribute to kings of country

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT 26 APR 10 @ 07:15AM BY OLGA GERLOFF

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Phillip Bauer is a Johnny Cash impersonator

AN unforgettable tribute show to country music legends Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Kenny Rogers is coming to Wenty Leagues direct from the US.

Straight from sellout shows in North America, the Kings of Country tour features Phillip Bauer as Johnny, Marion Deaton as Willie and Marty Edwards as Kenny.

Edwards is no stranger to Australia, having toured twice before to enthusiastic audiences.

“I come back to Australia for the wonderful audiences and first-rate musicians,” he said.

“Australians seem to go out of their way to make you feel welcome.”

He said his history as a performer started off in the late-1960s as a lead singer and guitarist in a three-piece country band, performing some of Kenny Rogers’ songs.

“In 1998 I put together a benefit show and we ended up one act short,” Edwards said. “I debuted my tribute to Kenny as a one-time-only fill-in performance, and it mushroomed from there.”

He said he first met the country music icon in Billings Montana.

“Kenny was having supper at a restaurant across the street from where I was performing and so I arranged to see his show and met him backstage,” Edwards said. He said the Kings of Country tour was the brainchild of Roy Ortuso, with Abstract Entertainment.

“The Kings of Country tour has become so popular because of the characters we portray; they are icons in the country music,” Edwards said.

“Johnny Cash is no longer with us, but the fans still want more of him.

“Willie and Kenny are still so popular with such a huge fan base that fans can’t get enough of them either.”

He said Australian audiences could expect to hear the big hits and a few surprises.

“If you are a Johnny, Willie, or Kenny fan you won’t be disappointed,” he said.

Details: Kings of Country will play at Wentworthville Leagues Club on Sunday, May 9.

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All times AEST