

Hamoris Lian Timor

Reviving the sound of Timor

2024-2026

Hamoris Lian Timor (Reviving the Sound of Timor) is an innovative new music and culture project facilitated by the Wantok Musik Foundation, led by Australian-Timorese musicians and implemented alongside Timor Leste communities.

The project is deeply grounded in place, culture, history and language. It aims to create links and share skills between artists in Timor Leste, artists from the Australian-Timorese community and the broader Australian artistic community. The project draws on leaders with significant familial and cultural links to Timor Leste and is supported by the strength of the Wantok Musik Foundation's sustained and longstanding relationships with the Timor Leste artistic community. It follows on from a collaboration by the same partners- Maubere Timor- which involved the recording, release and performance of important historical resistance songs by Timorese veterans.



Aims

- Strengthening the linkages between Timorese community members in Timor Leste and Australia.
- Collaboration between Timorese artists and other musicians (emerging and established)
- Capacity building of Timorese artists in music industry skills towards sustainable careers
- Preserving and sharing traditional songs and stories that are at risk of being lost.
- Providing Australian audiences with access to unique cultural expressions from Timorese artists
- Promoting the rich culture of Timor Leste

Summary of activities



The activity has 3 stages which will be conducted in 2024-26, New participants will be involved as the stages repeat, while previous participants will continue to be supported and relationships with communities will continue to be nurtured.

Stage 1. Workshops in 4 communities in Timor Leste

Led by musicians from the Victorian Timor Leste community and local cultural advisors, Wantok staff, audio engineers, filmmakers will spend time in Timor Leste communities, hearing cultural songs and stories and following appropriate protocols to record and film them. The team will assist elders to collaborate with young artists, incorporating dance and spoken word into the recordings. All recordings made in communities will be the property of the community.

Stage 2. Mentoring, collaboration and recording in Victoria

During the time in Timor Leste, the team will identify emerging artists to come to Victoria to participate in an intensive music industry development program. Early career female artist will be prioritised. The artists will collaborate with musicians based in Australia (including First Nations artists, artist from the Timor Leste diaspora and artists from a range of Oceanic backgrounds). The collaborations will involve writing new songs and professionally them. Songwriting in language will be encouraged. Participants will also take part in advanced music industry skill building, including workshops and training on song writing, performance, recording, promotion, touring and copyright.

Stage 3. Release, promotion and performance

The audio and video recordings made with communities in Timor Leste in Stage 1 and the new works developed in Stage 2 will be released and promoted by Wantok Musik. Wantok will make use of its 20 years of experience releasing music and its existing relationships with distributors, booking agents, festival directors and media to gain widespread attention for the releases. The releases will be used to drive performance opportunities at renowned festivals, including Port Fairy Folk Festival, Queenscliff Music Festival, Brunswick Music Festival, WOMADelaide, and Woodford Folk Festival. Through release on radio and digital platforms and performances, the music will be shared with the Australian public, providing rich connection with Timor Leste culture.

The Wantok Musik Foundation will continue to support and mentor emerging Timor Leste artists into the future as they build careers in the music industry, as it has for many Oceanic and First Nations artists over its 20-year history, including George Telek, Uncle Frank Yamma, Ngaiire, Emily Wurramara, Charles Maimarosia, Kutcha Edwards and many more.

People

- Project leads: Paulo Almeida, Jose Mesquita (Dili Allstars)
- Artistic project advisor: David Bridie
- Cultural advisors: Ego Lemos, Dulce Soares, Ines Almeida
- Australian Timor Leste community partner: Timor OanS
- Sound engineer: I Made Budalasia
- Film maker: Zinnia Scarlett
- On ground support and logistics: Eddie Pina



Current funding

- Federal Government's Office of the Arts : International Cultural Diplomacy Arts Fund
- Creative Victoria Creative Ventures grant