



SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG

ARTIST BIO

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Small Island Big Song is a multi-platform project uniting the seafaring cultures of the Pacific and Indian Oceans through songs, a contemporary and relevant musical statement from a region at the frontline of the Climate Crisis.

Founded by Taiwanese producer BaoBao Chen and Australian music producer and filmmaker Tim Cole in 2015, the two have been recording and filming with over a hundred musicians in nature across 16 island nations of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The outcomes include an award-winning album, a film, an online platform, an education package, and a live concert that has toured around the world.

Small Island Big Song explores the Austronesian migration theory that many present-day Oceanic cultures originated in Taiwan and seeks to establish musical links between cultures as far afield as Hawaii, Madagascar, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Borneo, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Guam and Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The producers fused the individual performances into a brilliant smorgasbord of overlapping and inter-connected styles, accentuating both the similarities and regional differences of traditional instruments, voices, language and rhythm.

Small Island Big Song's music features an intriguing range of sounds: from the Dayak people of Borneo's *sapé* (lute) recorded in the rainforests of Sarawak with a Papua New Guinean bamboo ensemble on a remote Bougainville beach, from the traditional Maori instruments the *taonga puoro* recorded in the last strand of Aotearoa's (New Zealand) native forest mixed with Taiwanese indigenous harmonies, from Rapa Nui's (Easter Island) Jaiwaian (Hawaiian style) reggae set amongst standing stones playing with the uplifting traditional komping drums of Singapore and a rapper from the Vezo people (amongst the last sea nomads in the world) of Madagascar! United these varied cultural musical styles create a contemporary and relevant musical statement from a region at the frontline of cultural and environmental challenges.

The group has toured Australia, Europe (Germany, Spain, France, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the UK), Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Vanuatu. In addition, they have performed at the prestigious SXSW 2018 music festival in Austin, Texas. Furthermore, they are winners of a German critics' award 2019 for Album of the Year and from the UK, the Songlines Music Award 2019 for Best Asia/Pacific album and nominees for the Independent Music Awards 2019 for Best Concept Album and Best Music Website, **Small Island Big Song** creates soulful uplifting music for environmental awareness. Just as music critic Tom Orr noted in the RootsWorld review "...sound like one very big, very happy family doing what they do best while helping get the word out on a most serious issue."

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<https://www.smallislandbigsong.com/>

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