



Jailhouse rocks to the sound of inmates' CD

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A group of burly blokes behind bars sharing their thoughts and feelings through the medium of music might seem an unlikely scenario.

But at Fremantle Prison tonight, a CD of songs written and performed by WA inmates and recorded behind prison walls will be launched alongside an exhibition of artworks produced in jails.

Fremantle mayor Brad Pettitt will open the exhibition and musician David Hyams, who runs the song-writing workshops, will perform two songs from the CD with a former inmate who helped write the album.

Mr Hyams, who has taken the classes at Hakea, Wooroloo, Casuarina, Albany and Bandyup prisons for four years, said it was sensational to see the result of years of his and the inmates' efforts.

"We have recorded 55 songs but could only pick 12 for the album, so hopefully it's not the end of the process but a significant milestone along the way," he said.

"It's really extremely rewarding to see the quality of what was produced."

The CD, *Songs from the Inside*, will be sold through the Fremantle Prison gift shop and will be available to prisoners. The art exhibition runs until July 25.

Guitar heroes: David Hyams and Brad Pettitt jam in Fremantle prison. Picture: Bill Hatto