

# ENSEMBLE

## MUSIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Volume 2 Number 3, 28 February 2008

Having trouble reading this email? Read it on the web at <http://www.ensemble.org.au/news1080228.pdf>  
Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at [info@ensemble.org.au](mailto:info@ensemble.org.au)

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### **AMBASSADORS TO MAKE THE CALL FOR MORE SCHOOL MUSIC**

#### **'Music. Play for Life' needs your help.**

"We are developing an Ambassador program featuring Australian celebrities who are prepared to lend their name to the call for a music education for every Australian child at school.

Can you help by making suggestions about high profile Australians - they must be household names or recognised public figures - leaders and achievers in business or sport who have a passion for music?

Let's think laterally. Examples might include people such as Brett Lee (cricket), John Symonds (Aussie Home Loans) or Bill Leak (The Age's political cartoonist)... Remember that Paul Keating has a celebrated passion for music - so what about some of the other national treasures from any areas of public life, past or present. Sir William Deane? Malcolm Fraser? Peter Doherty? Barry Jones? Tim Flannery? Peter Cosgrove? Tim Costello?

Can you help us build the list?

Consider this process a kind of online suggestion box. We will review all your suggestions and make contact with the proposed Ambassadors once we're ready to launch the program.

High profile musicians are easy to identify. But who are the musically-committed business leaders, sporting personalities, stars of stage and screen? "

Who do you suggest? <https://www.computerjazz.net/surveys/survey.php?sid=35>

Read more at <http://www.musicplayforlife.org>

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## THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S MUSIC FOUNDATION

The Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF) was founded by Don Spencer, OAM, in 2002. The Foundation aims to inspire and enrich the lives of all Australian children and youth, particularly the disadvantaged and Indigenous.

The Foundation provides desperately needed **music equipment, free tuition and mentoring** via its many programs with schools, and juvenile justice centres.

A team of dedicated teachers provide weekly tuition to students in disadvantaged areas, remote locations for Indigenous children, and those 'at risk' in juvenile justice centres. Programs run for a minimum of 12 months.

"We believe that every child in Australia should have the opportunity to participate in music.

Research has proven that the integration of music in a child's education reaps a range of intellectual, cultural and social benefits. Sadly, music is no longer compulsory in state schools.

The ACMF also runs the **National Songwriting Competition**, an annual competition with entry forms being sent to every school in Australia. Prizes are in the form of musical equipment for both the winning songwriters and also their school.

This year we are delighted to announce that we have engaged the services of Ian 'Dicko' Dickson as our Ambassador for the National Songwriting Competition. We are thrilled with this association as we know that this will assist in raising the profile of this great competition to even greater heights.

Another great addition to the Competition is the involvement of the Sydney Festival. On January 5, 2008, the winning songs from our 2007 competition were performed in Hyde Park. This was such a successful event that they have committed to doing this again in 2009. They will also be holding an indoor event which will be broadcast on TV and radio.

The 2008 Competition opens on April 28 so if you know of a talented young songwriter, encourage them to enter as they may find themselves on stage at the opening Sydney Festival event in 2009!

Another exciting opportunity we have for budding artists is a workshop with professional performers such as Guy Sebastian, Patrick Matthews from Youth Group and Sandi Thom from the UK.

The Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) has invited ACMF to participate in their **Song Summit** being held at the Hordern Pavilion on April 5, 2008. Students will break into small groups with 2 guest artist instructors, including a lead "star" artist. Each instrument session will focus on learning aspects of an iconic Australian song. Artists and selected students will perform the song at the end of the session.

Interested students need to be between the ages of 15-18 and be able to play a musical instrument. Cost to participate in this workshop is \$10 and places are strictly limited so contact our office on 02 9929 0008 to register.

The hope and vision of the Foundation is that these programs will stimulate learning, self esteem, memory, discipline, interaction and improved behaviour through the power of music. "

Read more at <http://www.acmf.com.au>

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## **RESOURCES**

### **Keystone Creations**

"Keystone Creations provides quality curriculum and values-based songs for the busy teacher.

Our practical, easy-to-use products, include a CD of songs with accompanying resource books. They target outcomes and learning sequences of the Primary School Curriculum documents.

The original concept had in mind the non-musical teacher, however, after extensive research, it grew to include simple music scores for the benefit of music teachers.

Integrated Curriculum These resources aim to make learning an enjoyable experience for students and teachers alike.

This unique concept teaches 'a lesson in every lyric', ensuring that, through the meaningful, values-based lyrics and catchy melodies, students will be learning, without even realizing it!

Integrated Curriculum Each song comes packed with ideas, which not only enhance the classroom experience, and address specific curriculum unit content, but also provide suggestions for performance pieces and the all-important school assemblies. "

Read more at <http://www.keystonecreations.com.au/index.html>

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### **Naxos Music Library**

The Naxos Music Library is the world's largest online music library, containing recordings from the Naxos catalogue as well as from over 50 independent labels.

It offers streaming access to more than 265,000 music tracks. Genres range from classical, jazz and world music to rock, metal and pop.

Now, Naxos this into your classroom with specially-created Australian secondary student study areas.

Designed with teachers and students in mind, the Naxos Music Library is fast becoming an indispensable resource for Australian education institutions.

The Naxos Music Library's Australian secondary study area is written by professional music academics, and includes topics brimming with music examples, such as Music of the Baroque, Romantic and Twentieth Century, Binary Form, The Orchestra, Electronic and Experimental Music, and The Opera.

In addition, the Naxos Music Library contains many useful extra resources. There are synopses of over 700 operas, a pronunciation guide, glossary of music terms, and composer and performer biographies.

Read more about NML at <http://www.naxosmusiclibrary.com>

For information regarding subscriptions and a special school pricing structure, please contact Dianne Johnston, Select Audio-Visual Distribution (Naxos Australia) on 02 8966 3303.

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### **VAM Music Stamps**

VAM Products is an Australian family owned small business operating from Sydney, Australia.

"Our focus is to provide our customers with a Variety of Affordable Music products. As Musicians ourselves we understand the need for musical items to be of a quality that is above what is reflected in its price, so we have sourced and continue to source goods that perform well while remaining within the reach of students, beginners and the professional musician alike."

Among the many musical products offered by VAM is what may be a boon to many music teachers and students.

The Music Stamp® Series is a new line of innovative, self-inking stamps, each of which depicts the playing area of a guitar or bass fretboard, the keyboard of a piano or an oboe, clarinet, trumpet or saxophone's fingerings.

A simple idea, meant to take some of the pain out of drawing fingering diagrams by hand, also serves to enhance the learning process by its standard, accurate format.

Read more at <http://vamproducts.com.au/musicstamps.htm#musicstamps>

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### **Why Music?**

The "Why Music?" feature on the MENC Website provides an expanding series of podcast testimonies by celebrated musicians, about the importance of music in everyone's life and development, and just why "every kid deserves to learn music at school"

The National Association for Music Education, the world's largest arts education organization, marked its centennial in 2007 as the only association that addresses all aspects of music education.

The well-known individuals and groups featured span a range of genres; pop, country, classical and jazz

Designed and produced to be freely available to radio stations as community service announcements, these may be useful advocacy resources for teachers and parents in Australian school communities.

See: <http://www.menc.org/information/advocate/psa/08psaclassical.html>

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### **Stickers for Young Musicians in Your School**

FREE 'Music Play for Life' and 'Sing for Life' stickers are available for all schools on request - to go on kids' music cases, books and foreheads.

They're very popular and help build a music/classroom teacher's armoury of rewards!

Requests by email to [emma.mpfl@mca.org.au](mailto:emma.mpfl@mca.org.au). Include in your email:

- Numbers wanted of "Music Play for Life" Stickers
- Numbers wanted of "Sing for Life" Stickers
- School name
- Contact name
- Mailing Address

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### **AWARDS**

#### **National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education**

The 2008 National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education Project is funded by the Australian Government under the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme.

The awards are in response to Recommendation 1 from the 2005 Report on the National Review of School Music Education: To enhance the status of school music education.

They are administered by the Australian Society for Music Education.

Up to thirteen awards for excellence and leadership in school music education will be awarded to teachers and school leaders each year.

The awards will recognise the recipients' exceptional contribution to enhancing the status and quality of music education in their schools.

Up to eleven teachers will receive an Excellence by a Teacher award for their:

- success as teachers in enabling the development of new musical understandings that build on and enrich students' knowledge and skill in music;
- ability to use a range of approaches to learning and to use creative and innovative ways to arouse curiosity, challenge students' thinking and engage them actively in learning; and
- ability to articulate a vision for their school music programme including proposed future directions.

Up to two school leaders will receive an Excellence by a School Leader award for their explicit support for music education, demonstrated through:

the schools' policy, curriculum documents and practices;  
their role in valuing, sharing and celebrating music with the school community; and  
their ability to articulate a vision for their school music programme including proposed future directions.

Each recipient will receive a certificate and a cheque for \$5,000, which is intended to be used to further their professional learning related to music education. This may include activities such as attendance at conferences, study tours, or a chosen project in the recipient's school or wider community.

One recipient from each category will receive a 'Highly Commended' award and be invited to attend a presentation event in mid 2008.

The closing date is April 8, 2008.

Read more at <http://musicawards.asme.edu.au/>

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## **EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Making Music Being Well 2008**

Registrations of Interest are still open.

The Australian Music Therapists Association (AMTA) and Music. Play for Life are calling on all music therapists to plan an event for the week of May 12th-May 18th 2008 to promote active music-making for wellbeing.

"We would like to hear about all events that make that connection between music making and healthy living and well-being!

Last year we celebrated with over 50 events in 6 states. In 2008 we are hoping build on this great start to celebrate in all states and territories

Being part of this national event is a great opportunity to promote your workplace or practice, as well as contributing to community awareness about the links between active music-making and wellbeing.

If you would like to receive an official registration pack please complete and return a registration of interest form as soon as possible. You can download the form from here:

Making Music Being Well 2008 Registration Form

<http://www.austmta.org.au/Downloadabledocs/2007%20MMBW%20Registration%20of%20Interest%202008.doc>

Queries and all completed registration of interest forms can be forwarded to Catherine Threlfall  
(<mailto:paulandcath@iinet.net.au>)

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## **RESEARCH**

## **2007 Harris Interactive Poll of People Involved in Music**

In an earlier edition of ENSEMBLE we ran an article on the 2007 Harris Poll; and can report that the Executive Summary is available online.

These findings make very interesting reading. For example, there are high levels of agreement that the learnings and habits from music education:

- Equip people to be better team players in their careers;
- Provide a disciplined approach to solving problems
- Prepare people to manage the tasks of a job more successfully
- Help build long lasting relationships that could help a career.

It is also of considerable interest that these views are far more strongly expressed by those who have actually had music education at school – their perceptions validated by their own life experiences.

These findings will be used to inform the design of the next iteration of the Harris Poll process.

You can read the Executive Summary at <http://www.menc.org/unlinked/HarrisPollOmnibusResults.pdf>

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## **CONFERENCES**

### **Australian Music Therapy Association National Conference 2008**

PDS: 18-19 September 2008, Conference 20-21 September 2008

Mercure Hotel, North Quay, Brisbane Queensland

The 34th National AMTA Conference is calling for papers related to the conference theme of Gender, Age and Ethnicity in Music Therapy.

In today's society, music therapists are exposed to situations where our own and our clients' gender, age, and ethnicity impact on personal, professional and therapeutic experiences.

Age, gender and ethnicity impact on therapist-client relationships, therapist-other team member relationships, therapist-student relationships and peer relationships, and the music that is created or recreated through these relationships.

This year's conference theme aims to tease out some of these issues as experienced and researched by music therapy practitioners. We invite you to reflect on issues and experiences you have had or research you have undertaken and submit an abstract.

Expressions of interest for panel presentations on specific issues (2-4 short presentations followed by discussions including input from attending delegates) are also invited.

Those interested should contact the chair of the Scientific Committee, Felicity Baker (<mailto:f.baker1@uq.edu.au>) to discuss your ideas.

Further information will be published shortly at <http://www.austmta.org.au/>

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**MUSIC COMPETITIONS**

**NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition**

Entries are invited in the 25th annual NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition, organised by the Kuring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra.

Open to young musicians throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, winners are in line for significant cash prizes.

The prize for the Outstanding Performer is \$5,000 and an invitation to perform with the KPO in 2009.

Every entrant receives a written appraisal from the adjudicators. There are special 25th Anniversary packs for all entrants too, including free admission to a future concert by the SSO.

Closing Date is Friday 14 March 2008.

Details: <http://www.kpo.org.au>

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