

ENSEMBLE

MUSIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

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Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at info@ensemble.org.au

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- [Music. Count Us In](#): Register your school to participate on Thursday 23 October 2008
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MUSIC - COUNT US IN!

It's on again!

'Music. Count Us In' 2008 takes place on Thursday October 23rd 2008 at 11.30am.

Last year, on Thursday August 30th 2007 at 11am more than 200,000 kids from over 850 schools performed the same song together. From tiny rural schools with as few as 13 students to big city schools with many hundreds, 'Music. Count Us In' gave principals, teachers, parents and students a focal point for discussions about the value of music in our schools - and an opportunity to collectively, loudly, celebrate it.

Thanks to everyone who participated, we made history: Australia's BIGGEST-EVER simultaneous school music event!

This year - we want YOU. There is a brand new song and this time it's written by students. Called 'Sing' this joyous, upbeat song was composed by four Melbourne high school students in a songwriting workshop led by John Foreman (MD, Australian Idol). Kate Ceberano has lent her incredible voice to recording the song with John.

Listen to the song at <http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/mp308/sing.mp3>

Once again, there are arrangements of the song for your school orchestra, concert band (including an easy version), rock band, strong ensemble and choir. There's even a backing track of the recording, so you can replace Kate and John's vocals with yours!

Register and download everything you need at http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/join_in

This year there is an expanded professional development element to 'Music. Count Us In', which will be delivered in each State and Territory to help get even more schools involved.

It's designed for primary school teachers with little musical training who want some extra help in learning the song, teaching it to their students - teachers who may generally feel like they could do with some confidence-building around classroom music.

If that sounds like you, email <mailto:emma.mpfl@mca.org.au> for more info.

The idea for 'Music. Count Us In' came from the National Music Workshop held in 2006 and was a response to the first recommendation of the National Review of School Music Education: that the status and value placed on school music education needed to be raised much higher in Australian schools.

Read more at <http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/content/view/41/6>

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2008 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION

The recipients of the 2008 National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education were announced at a presentation function co-hosted by The Australian Society for Music Education and Artistic & Creative Education (Graduate School of Education) at the University Club, University of Melbourne, on Friday 22nd August 2008.

The Awards aim to:

- Recognise individual teachers and school leaders who have made an outstanding contribution to the provision of music education in Australian schools;
- Provide opportunities for award recipients to further their professional learning related to music education; and
- Raise the status of music education in Australian schools.

Special Commendation, School Leader Award

Ms Regina Byrne
Principal, Mt St Joseph Girls' College, Altona, VIC (<http://www.msj.melb.catholic.edu.au/>)

School Leader Award

Mr. Matthew Hughes
Principal, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Mirrabooka, WA <http://www.jsracs.wa.edu.au/>

Special Commendation, Teacher Award

Ms Jacquelyn Conn
Statewide Braille Music Consultant and Music Teacher
Geebung Special School, Geebung, QLD (<http://www.geebungspecs.qld.edu.au/>)

Teacher Award

Mrs. Leonie Cecich
Music Teacher East Victoria Park Education Support Centre, East Victoria Park, WA
<http://www2.eddept.wa.edu.au/schoolprofile/overview.do?schoolID=6065&pageID=SO01>

Mr. Ashley George
Music Specialist, Tara Anglican School for Girls, North Parramatta, NSW <http://www.tara.nsw.edu.au/About-Tara/index.htm>

Ms Elizabeth Harlock-Lea
Head of Music - Deputy Principal, Fremont Elizabeth City High School, Elizabeth, SA <http://www.fechshs.sa.edu.au/>

Miss Janette Kelly
Director of Music, St Hilda's School, Southport, QLD <http://www.sthildas.qld.edu.au/>

Ms Janice Leahy
Arts Coordinator, Para Hills High School, Para Hills West, SA <http://www.phhs.sa.edu.au/>

Mrs. Jennifer Meachem
Director of Music, Camberwell Girls Grammar School, Canterbury, VIC <http://www.camberwellgirls.net/>

Mrs. Mary Needham
Music Teacher - Coordinator, Elwood College, Elwood, VIC <http://www.elwood.vic.edu.au/>

Mrs. Jenny Robinson
Head Teacher Music, Randwick Girls' High School, Randwick, NSW <http://www.randwickg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Ms Carolyn (Caz) Soeters
Outreach Singing Program Coordinator, ESL and LA teacher
Jervis Bay Primary School, Jervis Bay Village, ACT <http://www.jbs.act.edu.au/>

Mrs. Julie-Ann Watson
Music Specialist
Nakara Primary School, Nakara, Darwin, NT (<http://www.schools.nt.edu.au/nakara/>)
NT Music School, Nightcliff, Darwin, NT (<http://www.schools.nt.edu.au/ntmusic/>)

Read more about them at <http://musicawards.asme.edu.au/scripts/profile2008.php?id=all>

ACSSO warmly congratulates each of the nominees and each of the award recipients whose outstanding contributions have been recognised in the 2008 National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education. We gratefully acknowledge the difference your fantastic work makes in the lives of countless young people, their families and their entire communities.

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OPINION

The Power of Music in Early Childhood

Julie Wright

The power of music as an educational and therapeutic tool is often ignored, or at best underestimated. Although lip service is paid to its benefits, most school curriculums still fail to include it in the key learning areas.

Research has shown that active music making (listening, singing, moving to music, playing and creating music) does make a difference to a child's development in many ways. These include:

- Better maths and language ability
- Better memory and concentration skills
- Greater reasoning and problem solving skills
- Greater social and team skills.

All children are born with innate musicality. However, if this musicality is not tapped into early enough, it can fail to develop.

Fortunately, music is something that we can all enjoy doing with our children. Music making is a great way to have a really fun and positive interaction with your child, right from the moment they are born and through their early years.

If songs and music games are always part of their day, then by the time the children are ready for "music lessons", making music is already a normal part of their world. You don't need to have a fabulous voice or play an instrument, you just need to be willing to spend time with your child singing songs and playing games using music.

Songs can be incorporated into your normal routine. Try singing a lullaby when it's time to sleep, or singing about whatever it is you are doing together: "This is the way we change a nappy, change a nappy, change a..." Try using a familiar tune to your own words (like they do in Spicks and Specks) or make up a simple tune. Try singing an instruction ("Let's put it all away, all away..." or "It's time to go, time to go..."). You'll be surprised how effective this can be compared with a normal spoken instruction - and much less stressful!

For children with special or additional needs, music-making can be a very powerful tool for learning, communication and self-expression. Music can stimulate the child with learning or behavioural difficulties, to become involved in

activities which they might otherwise not look twice at. Music can provide a positive experience that goes a long way to increasing self-confidence and improving self-image.

Music also provides a means of expressing feelings both for those who are non-verbal and also for those who cannot put their feelings into words. This is important for everyone's mental health (whether child or adult) but especially for those who may be isolated from ordinary life experiences by a disability. For example, those who can't take a brisk walk or have a game of football to get rid of frustration, anger and other negative emotions, a sustained session of drum and cymbal supported by a music therapist, can do much the same thing.

In early childhood, children undergo a huge learning curve. Music is one of the best learning mediums because it can address the whole spectrum of developmental needs i.e. physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Music games can be used to develop coordination and body-spatial awareness, and to teach concepts such as colours, numbers, seasons and body parts. Singing helps with speech and with building vocabulary. Music also helps develop skills such as listening, cueing, focusing attention, turn-taking and sharing. Music games give children a chance to lead, make choices and solve problems.

All of this leads to a child who has an awareness of self as well as others and who is therefore more likely to be happy and confident. What more could we want for our children?

Julie Wright runs Sing and Grow groups in the ACT for families with 0-3 year olds and works at Music for Everyone with children and adults with disabilities. She also runs a music studio where she teaches piano, recorder and musicianship. This article appeared in the June 2008 edition of "PlayACT" - the newsletter of Playgroups ACT.

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RESOURCES

"Music Makes the Difference"

Information Leaflet for Parents and Families

Music is a wonderful skill for any child - and this information leaflet also highlights new research which shows how learning music can help a child in so many other ways, including

- Improving reasoning and problem solving skills
- Improving mathematics and languages learning
- Contributing to building better memory skills
- Developing social and team skills
- Assisting in the development of disadvantaged children
- Developing creativity.

This information leaflet has now been revised and updated, and produced jointly by the Australian Music Association, Music Play for Life and the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)

ACSSO will shortly be mailing samples out to all schools, plus a form so schools can order further FREE supplies to distribute to parents and families.

If you wish to order supplies direct, send an email to <mailto:info@ensemble.org.au> indicating how many leaflets, a contact person and mailing details, and these will be posted out to you.

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Music & Health: Current Developments in Research & Practice

9-10 September 2008, Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, Canterbury Christ Church Uni, Folkstone, Kent, UK

Bringing together a wide constituency of academics, health professionals and musicians interested in exploring the value of music in health and social care and the wider context of public health, wellbeing and community development.

Read more at <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/centres/sidney-de-haan-research/conference/index.asp>

Musical Development & Learning - Second European Conference on Developmental Psychology of Music

10-12 September 2008, Roehampton University, London UK

The conference aims to encourage and stimulate discussion on a range of topics relating to music across the lifespan, focusing on its developmental and educational implications, and bringing together a wide diversity of European and International researchers.

Keynote speakers: Professor Lucy Green, Dr. Katie Overy, Dr. Johanella Tafuri, Dr. Mari Tervaniemi

Conference themes: Musical development from infancy to old age; Education and musical development; Cultures and contexts; Social development; Emotional development; Methodological issues; Music and wellbeing; Cognitive development; Neurodevelopment; Creativity and technology; Music and early childhood

Read more at <http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/education/events/mdlconference.html>

BIG SOUND 2008 - Music Industry Summit

10-12 September 2008, Brisbane QLD

BIG SOUND is one of Australia's largest gatherings of key entertainment industry tastemakers from around the world, creating and discussing trends that will impact the popular culture of tomorrow and your brand is invited to be a part of the event.

Held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, - BIG SOUND is one of the most respected and fastest growing music business events in the Asia Pacific region. Produced by Q Music (Queensland Music Network Inc), and now in its seventh year, BIG SOUND is positioned as Australia's most internationally focused music festival and conference, producing three days of panels, workshops and artist showcases for local, national and international music industry representatives. The conference connects the connectors, creating an environment to simultaneously launch the hot new artists of tomorrow and the new and innovative business ideas that will take them to the top.

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

Australian Music Therapy Association National Conference 2008

"Gender, Age & Ethnicity in Music Therapy"

20-21 September 2008, Mercure Hotel, North Quay, Brisbane Queensland

Read more at <http://www.austmta.org.au/web/content/view/14/6/>

15th Annual Music Council of Australia Assembly

28-29 September 2008 Stamford Plaza, Adelaide SA

The annual assembly is the ideal place for brainstorming, raising issues and finding solutions, on the situation of music in Australia.

Read more at <http://www.mca.org.au/web/content/view/222/6>

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ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- **Australian Education Digest** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/aed.htm> (weekly)
- **International News Roundup** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup.htm> (monthly)
- **Values Education** : <http://www.valuesineducation.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Languages Education** : <http://www.languageseducation.com/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Ensemble - Music Education** : <http://www.ensemble.org.au/news.htm> (monthly)
- **Public Education Voice** : <http://www.acsso.org.au/pev.htm> (quarterly)

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