

# ENSEMBLE

## MUSIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

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### MUSIC EDUCATION ADVOCACY

#### **School children who do not have music are being discriminated against!**

*Media Release, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, 30 July 2009*

School children who do not have music are being discriminated against, according to leading conductor Richard Gill.

“By not giving children music, you disadvantage them. Music is important for what it does for them physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.”

Gill was commenting on calls from sections of the Australian music industry for a major boost in teacher music training programs and opportunities for greatly increased student tuition.

“Children should have music because it is good. It's the only art that functions in the abstract, and what it does for the heart and the mind and the souls of children is immeasurable and priceless.

“People forget that children go to school to learn how to learn, and to learn how to think. And music, mathematics, geography are accesses to the brain and thinking in different ways.

“Music provides brain development and habits of listening, and intensity in the habit. The evidence is in that the brain responds phenomenally to music, more so than any other activity.

“It raises the level of listening so they develop powers of aural discrimination...being able to hear the differences in sounds, the combinations of sounds, when sounds function in different ways like a bass line works in a particular way, and a treble line works another way.

“They're very complex activities for the brain to do, and I don't mean children who are played Mozart in the class while they are doing their arithmetic, or children who sing pop songs, I don't mean that.

“I'm talking about serious education, genuine learning. Those children are advantaged in every way.”

Gill believes generalist classroom teachers 100 years ago had to be a lot better equipped than many specialist music teachers today. "Something was going really well in 1902 and we've slipped into the abyss since, and I don't know why."

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/ny6pg6>

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## **The decline in music education in Australian public schools**

*David Worrall, Polymedia blogspot, 20 July 2009*

We don't need any more investigations and reports, we need action from our politicians. You'd think, even on the basis of the known positive effects of MAKING music (not just passively listening to it) on learning on other subject areas, they'd make sure all children have a decent access to such training.

But no, for whatever reasons (and one could tender a few—to do with the state of emotional atrophy many seem to exist in) they prefer to blame teachers for the system in which they work and produce numerical assessments without context.

Currently, an infant/primary school teacher is responsible for teaching music to children in six years of their development and they receive, on average as little as 23 hours of instruction on how to do so. How can anyone be expected to perform adequately in such circumstances? The obvious truth is, they can't. So they avoid it as much as possible. And who suffers? - the children, of course. More (disembodied - long live Descarte!) 'instruction' type learning, and less creative exploration and, yes, you guessed it, less (l)earning!

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/l9khvb>

David Worrall is an experimental composer and sound artist working in sound sculpture, immersive and interactive polymedia as well as traditional instrumental composition. Born in Australia, he performs and exhibits internationally.

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## **Who stopped the music?**

*Stephen Crittenden, "Background Briefing" ABC Radio 19 July 2009*

The parlous state of music in public schools means not only are our children missing an important dimension in life, but they miss out on something that promotes brain function and social skills.

China and Venezuela understand the value of music very well, and so do Australian parents, but our politicians are tone deaf.

Listen online, download the audio in MP3 or read the transcript: <http://tinyurl.com/mb5efm>

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## **Will it again be just all talk, with no real action on arts promises?**

*Steve Dow, Sydney Morning Herald, June 15, 2009*

Australian schoolchildren have been promised an "arts rich" education in the coming national curriculum, but arts advocates fear there will now be an opt-out clause for students who lack "aptitude" or simply choose to skip such subjects.

There is also concern the Federal Government has failed to seize the wider potential of arts and the creative industries for future economic innovation.

Last year, the Creative Australia stream at the 2020 summit in Canberra called on the Federal Government to mandate the teaching of creative, visual and performing arts subjects in the new national curriculum, which will cover kindergarten through year 12.

The subjects proposed for this mandate were indigenous storytelling, film, philosophy, Asian culture, music, design, art and drama. There should be "appropriate reporting requirements for schools" and cultural institutions must be made "compulsory elements of the arts curriculum".

The arts community seemed to have scored a victory on April 17 this year, when federal, state and territory education ministers meeting in Adelaide voted to include arts as part of the second stage of the national curriculum.

The federal Arts Minister, Peter Garrett, immediately declared he was "thrilled" by the decision, saying that international studies had found that arts education is "important to the development of young minds and positively influences learning in other areas". The ministers' decision "guaranteed" an "arts-rich education", he said.

But five days later, the Prime Minister's office responded to the 2020 summit proposals and issued this heavy qualification on the matter: "It is ... important to consider student choice and aptitude, and mandating some of these subjects may not be appropriate in that context."

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/mg68qv>

Read the Hon Peter Garrett's media release of 17 April: <http://tinyurl.com/cv69ne>

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## **RESEARCH**

### **Chorus Impact Study**

*Chorus America, 2 June 2009*

According to a new study by Chorus America, children who sing in choruses have greater academic success and more advanced social skills than children who don't sing, as reported by large majorities of both parents and educators surveyed for the study. Additionally, both parents and educators (from every discipline) attribute a significant part of a child's academic success to singing in a choir.

The 2009 study, commissioned by Chorus America, benchmarks a study in 2003 to evaluate the benefits of choral singing and its impact on communities. The results from this latest research support and advance earlier findings that adult choral singers exhibit increased social skills, civic involvement, volunteerism, philanthropy, and support of other art forms, when compared with non-singers.

The 2009 study included a new component that explicitly examined the effects choral singing has on childhood development. The results show children who sing in choirs display many of the enhanced social skills found in adult singers, substantiating earlier conclusions that singing in childhood is likely to have an enormous influence on the choices individuals make later in life.

Read entire Release at: <http://tinyurl.com/mxt3vo>

Read the executive summary of the report: <http://tinyurl.com/nnv62o>

Read the entire report: <http://tinyurl.com/l4rpu2>

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### **Beethoven or Britney: The Great Divide in Music Education**

*Dr Robert Walker, April 2009*

School music education in Australia is in crisis, according to The National Review of Music Education (<http://tinyurl.com/lduy2a>). Most children have little or no access to quality music teaching. And nothing is being done about it.

Why is this, when we have overwhelming evidence of how music-making enhances the core disciplines of mathematics, languages and a mastery of English?

In music teaching you get what you can afford. A few, mostly private, schools are centres of musical excellence, the majority offer little beyond recordings of popular music. Primary schools fare the worst: 80% have no trained music teacher on staff. The knock-on effect in secondary schools is clear.

Meanwhile, children are 'educating' themselves through their iPod, internet, and mobile phone. Few learn to play an instrument or to sing properly.

The root causes, writes Walker, lie in the paucity of specialist teachers and disdain of the classical music tradition. He calls on Minister Guillard urgently to address the recommendations of their National Review; the alternative is a nation of passive consumers with no conception of music as a profound art.

Read the first three pages of the paper: <http://tinyurl.com/dz7bvf>

Order the complete paper online: <http://tinyurl.com/lxadq7>

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## RESOURCES

### **Musical Futures to be launched in Australia**

The US-based NAMM Foundation, the trade association of the International Music Products Association, has made a grant to fund the launch of Musical Futures in Australia.

The grant is made to the Australian Music Association, which will introduce [the UK-based program] Musical Futures as part of a campaign to renew music education in Australia's public schools.

While the techniques developed through Musical Futures have been adopted overseas before, the grant in Australia marks the first time a formal system has been launched to promote the programme abroad.

NAMM Foundation (formerly the National Association of Music Merchants) is this year spending almost US\$850,000 on 31 projects across the USA and in other countries, to support innovative music education programmes.

The Musical Futures journey began in 2003 when the Paul Hamlyn Foundation instigated an initiative to find new and imaginative ways of engaging all young people, aged 11-18, in meaningful music activities. The starting point for Musical Futures was to try to understand the factors affecting the disengagement of young people with sustained music-making activities, at a time in their lives when we know music is not only a passion for many young people, but plays a big part in shaping their social identity.

Musical Futures: <http://tinyurl.com/nczmld>

Australian Music Association: <http://tinyurl.com/ntc2bw>

NAMM Foundation: <http://tinyurl.com/d2o6bn>

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### **MusicEducationZoneAsia**

This is the new home of music education for the Asian region. You will find information about music education in the region as well as details of study opportunities in the UK.

The site will include directories of educational institutions and services across each territory as well as key information from UK examining boards, music colleges, university music departments, schools and colleges.

During the first year of the project the site will focus on Hong SAR, China and Singapore, with other territories being added during the second phase.

Find out more: <http://tinyurl.com/noepbc>

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## **Sing Australia**

Sing Australia Pty Ltd was established in 1985 by Colin Slater OAM, an accomplished singer and singing teacher, to promote singing, Australian compositions and Australian artists.

High among the organisation's priorities has been the encouragement of people to sing using a unique style of teaching for large groups.

Sing Australia community singing groups do not require people to audition or to attend regularly. They are groups that offer the opportunity to learn songs - be it in unison or in parts. The Sing Australia network also uses a fixed repertoire especially compiled for the network - promoting unity in song, and ensuring copyright laws are adhered to.

The concept also accepts that not everyone can read music, not everyone can sing in tune, and not everyone has yet made contact with their singing voice. However, by being accepting of everyone as individuals who are all equal in their desire to sing, the concept has proven that most people acquire singing skills at least to a level where they can enjoy themselves immensely in a group singing environment or simply for their own enjoyment at home.

Find out more: <http://tinyurl.com/mqyv3q>

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## **AWARDS & PRIZES**

### **2009 National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education**

Thirteen awards for excellence and leadership in school music education were awarded to teachers and school leaders at the ASME National Conference in Launceston, on Saturday 11th July 2009 by Ms Jodie Campbell MP, Member for Bass, for The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education.

The awards recognise exceptional contribution to enhancing the status and quality of music education in their school and community. Each award provided a grant of \$5000 to enable the recipients to further their professional learning related to music education.

### **School Leader Awards**

Mrs Christine Ritchie Deputy Principal East Victoria Park Primary School East Victoria Park, WA  
Mr Neil Spence Principal East Victoria Park Primary School East Victoria Park, WA

### **Teacher Awards**

Mrs Loretta Simmonds, Music Specialist, Moil Primary School, Moil, NT  
Ms Melissa Alexander, Music Teacher, Weetangera Primary School, Weetangera, ACT  
Mr Daniel Crump, Music Specialist, Mt Alvernia College, Kedron, QLD  
Mrs Gail Elliott, Teacher and Music Coordinator, Devonport High School, Devonport, TAS  
Mrs Gail Ann Godber, Music Specialist Teacher, Spring Gully Primary School, Bendigo, VIC  
Ms Lee-Anne Harrison, Music Teacher & Coordinator, Cronulla High School Cronulla, NSW  
Mr Stephen King, Coordinator & Band Conductor, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston, TAS  
Mr Shain Kurelja, Music Teacher, Aspendale Gardens Primary School, Aspendale Gardens, VIC  
Ms Nicole Mengel, Coordinator, ANU Music Education Program, Aust National University, Acton, ACT  
Ms Christine Narroway, Music Specialist Teacher, Rose Park Primary School, Rose Park, SA  
Miss Maria Natoli, Classroom Music Teacher, Indooroopilly State School, Indooroopilly, QLD  
Mr Michael Newton, Music Teacher and Band Master, Inaburra School, Bangor, NSW

We congratulate each of these award recipients – and all other nominated teachers and leaders - for their great contribution to music education for their students and communities.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/lwaax4>

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## Music in Communities Awards 2009

*They're on again and this time the theme is Community Wellbeing*

*Entries close 4 September 2009*

We know that active involvement in music and singing can help counteract many negative aspects of modern life such as alienation, isolation and depression by promoting mental health and physical well-being. Everyone who is actively engaged in music-making in their local community understands the benefits – and it is no surprise that all the research around the world strongly illustrates the range of potential benefits for people of all ages and the ways in which this can make a difference in all kinds of community settings.

So: How does being musically active improve life in your community? Tell us about what you do, how you do it, who's involved and who benefits and you could win a chunk of the 2009 \$20,000 prize pool.

The Awards are open to:

- all forms of music groups including choirs, bands, orchestras, uke groups, drum circles, etc
- community and volunteer organisations delivering and supporting music programs in communities
- local Councils
- Schools
- individuals and others

Community music programs must have been running for at least three years to be eligible for entry.

Full details of criteria, online entry process etc at <http://tinyurl.com/lewddh>

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## Australian Children's Music Foundation: National Song-writing Competition

*Categories for children from Kindergarten to Year 12*

*Entries close 25 September 2009*

The ACMF conducts a National Song-writing Competition for every Primary, Secondary and Specific Purpose School across Australia. The competition has been running for seven consecutive years.

Entry to the competition is free and entry forms are mailed to 8,500 Primary & Specific Purpose Schools and 3,000 Secondary Schools, both public and private each year. This program is endorsed by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training and sponsored by the APRA, Ampal, MIPI and Roland.

The competition is divided into several categories to provide opportunities for children of all ages, from Kindergarten through to Year 12. This competition has proved to be successful on a number of levels, with many students entering the competition year after year, demonstrating improvement with each year.

There are some fabulous prizes in the form of musical equipment or tuition for you and your school as well as a fantastic range of musical experiences.

Details and entry forms: <http://tinyurl.com/krsjtj>

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## NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

### Australia: Finding relief in the joy of song

*Andra Jackson, the Age, June 13, 2009*

AFTER facing and fleeing war, killings and rape in Sierra Leone, and spending up to 15 years in refugee camps in neighbouring Ghana and Guinea, it might be assumed that the women of the Kankelay choir have little to sing about.

The trauma of those experiences didn't get left behind in those countries, but accompanied them when they came to Australia as humanitarian refugees. Nearly all members of the choir still nurse the grief of family separation, often not knowing where sons, daughters or siblings are, or even if they are still alive.

To help them adjust, they were referred to Foundation House, which provides services to people from refugee backgrounds who have survived torture or war-related trauma. A House staff member, Anna Rose Reiner, thought that a choir might be healing.

Ms Reiner put them in touch with Therese Virtue from the Boîte, the Melbourne music organisation that for 30 years has tapped into the talent hidden in the city's migrant and refugee communities.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lt3y2>

The Boîte: <http://tinyurl.com/nc86k8>

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## **Canada: Dr. José Antonio Abreu to receive Eighth Glenn Gould Prize**

*Media Release, Glenn Gould Foundation, Toronto, 29 July 2009*

Called "the most successful youth music project in the world," and "awe inspiring," Venezuela's Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra will make its Canadian debut conducted by Gustavo Dudamel, the wunderkind maestro honoured by Time Magazine as one of its '100 Most Influential People of 2009' on October 26, 2009 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto.

The event kicks off The Glenn Gould Foundation's weeklong Celebration of Music, and residency by the orchestra in Toronto; created to honour the Eighth Glenn Gould Prize Laureate, Dr. José Antonio Abreu, founder of Venezuela's famed system of music education, El Sistema.

The Glenn Gould Prize, Canada's most exclusive arts award, will be bestowed on Dr. Abreu in recognition of his exceptional lifelong contribution to music communication and cultural humanitarianism.

"This extraordinary week of music is a gift from Dr. Abreu to the citizens of Canada," said Glenn Morley, President of The Glenn Gould Foundation. "His incredible vision for a society that uses music to give all its citizens an opportunity to thrive is a model for us all."

Read the entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/loavvd>

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## **China: Once banned, Western classical music explodes in popularity**

*Andrew Druckenbrod, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 28 June 2009*

Sitting up and listening to China is exactly what the music world has been doing lately. Western classical music, banned in Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, has exploded in popularity. Just as its government is opening economically to the West, China is emerging as an international power in classical music.

"China is the sole remaining growth market for classical music," said music journalist Ken Smith, who is based in Hong Kong. "You see new concert halls being built and hundreds of thousands of young musicians who want to make a living."

They can now audition for spots in more than 40 professional orchestras throughout the country, and the best orchestras worldwide are dotted with Chinese-born musicians, including four in the PSO.

Chinese students today are being trained by more and more musicians who cut their teeth in America and Europe in the 1980s and '90s. While the best players used to come to America, Japan or Europe, they now can stay to study at top conservatories such as Shanghai's and the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/nn2bqp>

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## **China: Playing more than second fiddle**

*Andrew Jacobs, the Age, June 27, 2009*

Once known primarily for its abundant peach harvest, the town of Donggaocun has become one of the world's most prodigious manufacturers of cheap cellos, violas, violins and double basses. Last year the town's nine factories and 150 small workshops produced 250,000 instruments, most of them ending up with students in the United States, Britain and Germany.

Since 2006, the local education department has trained 40 teachers to become violinists so every school in Donggaocun and surrounding communities can offer music instruction. The department's chief propaganda officer, Wang Junying, said violins had become not only a major force in economic development, but had elevated the town's sense of itself. "They have helped us become a more cultured and elegant place," she said.

Workers at Beijing Hongsheng Yun Violin Instruments Co largely agree. Most of the employees used to work in the same building, a paper plant that belched noxious smoke. But in their effort to clean Beijing's air for the Olympics in August, authorities closed the plant and invested government money in violin production.

Among the workplace perks are free instruments for employees' children. "Violins have made us richer and they have raised our artistic awareness," said Zhao Gangcai, who assembles violins six days a week and whose daughter, 13, recently started playing. "Her classmates think it's cool, and now they want to learn too."

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/mjgcog>

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## **Germany: Bayreuth Festival launches 'Wagner for Kids'**

*China Post, 27 July 2009*

Entitled "Wagner for Kids", the series is part of the new-look Bayreuth under Eva's and Katharina's leadership [Wagner's great-granddaughters, Eva Wagner-Pasquier and Katharina Wagner]. Tickets for all 10 performances were sold out within hours of them going on sale: the children get in for free, while accompanying adults must pay 20 euros.

Author Alexander Busche, director Alvaro Schoeck and conductor Christoph Ulrich Meier have managed to cut "The Flying Dutchman," which normally runs for two-and-a-half hours, down to 63 minutes. And the orchestra has been reduced from about 150 musicians to 19.

The costumes of the different characters were designed by the children themselves in a competition launched in schools all over Germany in January.

And both the narrator (actor Frank Engelhardt) and Senta (soprano Anna Gabler) invite the children in the audience to actively participate, either by helping moving props around or by providing the sound effects for the storm that heralds the Dutchman's arrival.

The project was enthusiastically received by the young audience, and was their first-ever encounter with opera and classical music.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/m4xpbf>

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## **Malaysia: Don't sacrifice music education**

*Johami Abdullah, Star Online, 11 July 2009*

IT has been announced by the Education Minister that there will be cutbacks on time allocation for subjects like music in the primary school curriculum to accommodate a corresponding increase of time allocation for English.

Such fire-fighting and knee-jerk responses to solve the growing controversy over the Government's decision on the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English will not offer long-term answers for a balanced curriculum.

Music is just as important as any other subject in the curriculum if a balanced approach to education is to be realised.

Music, together with the fine arts, is the soul of a nation and represents a very potent medium together with the other fine arts for a truly united Malaysia.

A civilisation is remembered not so much by how many wars it won nor by its size but by its fine arts.

Relegating music or any other arts subject to a non-important position is not the right way to improve English.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/lpsj2z>

Johami Abdullah is President of Malaysian Association for Music Education.

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## **UK: We must invest in creativity, not just Stem subjects**

*Elaine Thomas, The Guardian, Tuesday 28 July 2009*

The 10,000 extra university places announced by Lord Mandelson last week will provide some relief to the strain felt by universities, but the restriction of additional students to Stem subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) ignores the coterminous nature of arts and science in the employment market.

While these extra places may lead to more graduates with science and technology backgrounds, it will not produce the creative practitioners to realise the demand for creative content driven by the digital economy. Instead, we should focus on sectors that are well placed to exploit the growth in demand for university places.

Now is the time to invest in subjects that can support economic growth. The Digital Britain report demonstrates that the creative industries sector is in a good position to lead Britain out of recession.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/mp2uxm>

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## **UK: A rich seam of talent**

*Peter Kingston, The Guardian, Tuesday 7 July 2009*

Mature, sophisticated, creative, inventive ... a few of the adjectives that flowed from the judging panel at the 11th annual young composers' competition. And that was just for the junior winners in the under-16 category.

As for the seniors, as usual, everyone around the table agreed that when we were 16 and 17, struggling to put the dots on those five-lined sheets of paper, we were not producing anything like the accomplished works of art under discussion.

The competition, a collaboration between the Guardian and the BBC Proms, is powering into its second decade, more vibrant than ever. It proves once again that there is a rich seam of young composing talent among the nation's teens.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/mag4dc>

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## **USA: We fail students by minimizing arts**

*Millie Turek, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 3 August 2009*

They promised the pendulum would swing. That's what I've been told for the last 29 years as an arts educator in the Georgia public school system. Whenever the next big reform idea came out that (unintentionally) threatened arts education in the state, they said, "Don't panic, the pendulum will swing and everything will be fine."

Well, I disagree. The pendulum didn't swing. Instead, it has been a long, slow, downhill slide.

To put it simply: If a child can read, all other subjects are open for exploration. If one can write, one can communicate ideas. All humans need a functioning level in mathematics to survive. One must be educated in the needs of the body to remain healthy. And to fully develop as humans, we must be able to express ourselves aesthetically.

My career in "aesthetic" education has been spent in the area of music. As an undergraduate music education student, I was taught to be able to articulate the need for the study of music for music's sake. The study of music can serve other academic and social areas — extra-musical areas. I am not addressing those areas, as they can be enhanced by a number of other subjects.

I believe the aesthetic education of every child is a fundamentally essential part of his development as a human being. I believe the human brain is hard-wired for the development of aesthetic expression through the arts. I believe artistic expression left undeveloped in a child leads to underdeveloped humanity. Scientific research on the brain and educational research is just beginning to document the facts and uncover the benefits surrounding artistic development in humans. At present, this research is proving what artists throughout history have known — that there is an organic connection between art and humanity.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/n5c56q>

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## **USA: Music used to teach language**

*Tanner Kent, Mankato Free Press, Minnesota, 11 July 2009*

Based on the principles of nationally renowned music educator and researcher Larry Scripp's Music in Education National Consortium, the Franklin Elementary Walkabout program is hosting a summer music program aimed at boosting the academic skills of English-language learners. The program is sponsored by the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, which has helped provide staff and secure grant funding from the MARDAG and Rockefeller Foundations.

For four days a week, students spend half the day learning to play several instruments. On Mondays and Wednesdays, it's violins. On Tuesdays, students sing and learn recorder and, on Thursdays, students play the drums.

Each day, students practice the same sounds and songs, but on different instruments. They learn to read and perform musical notes on a modified staff that resembles a mathematical x-y plane.

Along the way, students learn to read left-to-right and decode symbols (founding elements of English-language acquisition) while also learning spatial reasoning, logic and problem-solving skills.

Students in the program are evaluated at the beginning and end of the program to determine progress. The hope is that by integrating music into several other content areas, students will increase learning and achievement. "We teach one concept in several different ways," said Alex Barnett, of Mankato, who has performed with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra as well as the Minnesota Opera Chorus and teaches drums during Franklin's summer program. "We can cater to all different types of learners."

But Scripp and his music education aren't out to prove that music is the sole solution to higher achievement. Instead, Scripp said he wants to prove that a sustainable and integrated fine arts program can benefit all students across all disciplines.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/kt55jb>

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## **USA: Silent death of school music programs**

*D.L. Johnson, the Californian, 10 July 2009*

When I first came to the Monterey Bay area 24 years ago, every high school and middle school had a music program. Some were stronger in concert band, marching band, choir, orchestra or jazz band/choir, but all had some unique strength about their music program.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of musical instruments valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars will sit silent at local schools. For many schools this is "The Day the Music Died." The "quiet secret" that has been gradually building up through the last five or six years will surely hit home this coming fall. That's because many schools will have NO MUSIC next year. It sneaked up so quietly many parents had no idea.

The other night I attended the local end-of-year dinner meeting of the Central Coast Section of the California Music Educators Association. I was a couple of minutes late and walked into what is usually a high-energy meeting. Instead, I discovered the opposite. Here were some of the most powerful educators I had ever known sitting in a quiet and sombre mood. I also noticed many whom I thought would be there, were not. Why?

Here was a meeting where music teachers could unwind and excitedly talk to people who truly understood their incredible accomplishments. Instead they were wondering where the future was going to lead them.

Shockingly, several announced they had suddenly been laid off. For others, their programs were so severely cut back and/or changed to the point where they were being assigned impossible tasks for the next year's school season. In several school districts, there will be no music education for any of the children. These were not new educators but pioneers in music education in the Monterey Bay area and the state.

Read entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/m9ypqu>

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## **CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

### **Australian Music Association Convention**

*15-17 August 2009, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach, Queensland*

Please join us for the tenth AMAC on the Gold Coast.

Expect to see two huge halls of exhibitors, Hot Half Hours for practical ideas for day to day retail operations, Big Issues for strategic long term planning for retailers, Club AMAC for late night music and fun and plus.

AMA Gala Awards Dinner: the night of nights for the music products industry where we find out who has won the prestigious awards for excellence and who will be inducted to the Honour Roll, as well as great entertainment, food and wine amongst 500 or more friends.

President's Breakfast: a panel of industry luminaries discuss a hot topic of the day.

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/lu9ysk>

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### **Malaysian Youth Music Festival**

*29 August 2009, Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia*

The Festival includes music competitions for all levels in the following categories:

- Instrumental solo for piano, strings, woodwind and guitar
- Piano duet
- Vocal solo
- Instrumental ensemble: chamber group, quartet, quintet
- Chamber choir

The Festival Finale will be performed by the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and will include classics from Romantic and Modern to Malaysian Traditional pieces.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/krfb7t>

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## **The 32nd National Conference of the Musicological Society of Australia**

*26-29 September 2009 - University of Newcastle, NSW*

The Hunter Chapter of the Musicological Society of Australia warmly invites submissions for Individual Papers, Theme Based Sessions, and Panels or Workshops for the 32nd National Conference of the MSA, which will be hosted by Newcastle Conservatorium.

Individual presentations will be 20 minutes in length, and followed by 10 minutes of discussion. A total of 90 minutes will be allowed for collaborative sessions, including discussion which may occur at the end of, or during, a session.

Enquiries and proposals may be emailed to [MSA-2009@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:MSA-2009@newcastle.edu.au)

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/myy23g>

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## **Music China**

*13-16 October 2009, Shanghai, China*

Music China, Asia Pacific's largest and most important musical instrument show will take place 13 - 16 October 2009 at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC), Shanghai, China. It brings together hundreds of music product suppliers with a broad mix of products including musical instruments, sheet music and accessories from around the world.

According to Mr. Evan Sha, Deputy General Manager, Messe Frankfurt Shanghai Co Ltd., over 90% of last year's Music China exhibitors have reconfirmed space for the 2009 event. "We are very happy with the results to date which show we already have 700 exhibitors, past and new, from 19 countries and regions." Strong support for international pavilions International pavilions continue to show strong support for Music China. Already signed are nine countries and regions - Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Taiwan, The Netherlands and the UK.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nuptuy>

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## **Music: Count Us In**

*Australia's biggest ever school community music event is on again!*

*22 October 2009, Australia*

It's on again! Mark your diary for the 'Music. Count Us In' 2009 culminating day: Thursday 22nd October 2009, 12 noon AEDT. Thanks to the Australian Government for continuing its support for this national school music initiative.

"Music Count us In" is more than just a day – it's an exciting and rewarding musical journey that brings together all the members of a school community – students, teachers, families – a shared journey starting now – and going forward from here - forever.

Full details, registration and free downloadable resources: <http://tinyurl.com/nbqclg>

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### **South-East Asian Conference on Music Therapy**

*16-21 November, Bangkok, Thailand*

The 2nd Annual Meeting on Music Therapy held in conjunction with the 1st Southeast Asian Congress of Music Therapy (SEAMT 2009) will be held at College of Music, Mahidol University, Thailand, on 16th-21st November 2009.

The aim objective of SEAMT 2009 is to provide a platform for music therapists, music educators, researchers, academicians as well as musicians from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Music Therapy.

This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration

Further information: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lv8t3h>

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### **Musikmesse Frankfurt 2010 – Live for the Music!**

*24-27 March 2010, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

The Musikmesse is the world's leading trade fair for the world of music. Here, you will find a complete range of products with everything required for making music, not to mention innumerable workshops, concerts, demonstrations and discussion events.

Further information: <http://tinyurl.com/dj3wqy>

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### **REMINDERS**

9-11 October - IMEX International Music Exhibition - Melbourne, VIC - <http://tinyurl.com/dbnir2>

24 October - SEMPRES Music and Familiarity Conference - University of Hull, UK - <http://tinyurl.com/pyr6b6>

1-6 August 2010 - International Society for Music Education World Conference - Beijing, China - <http://tinyurl.com/omlwoh>

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### **ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS**

- Australian Education Digest : <http://tinyurl.com/d2o8zu> (weekly)
- International News Roundup : <http://tinyurl.com/cswpka> (monthly)
- Values Education : <http://tinyurl.com/dls7rv> (monthly)
- Languages Education : <http://tinyurl.com/c59eda> (monthly)
- Ensemble - Music Education : <http://tinyurl.com/dedyz4> (monthly)
- Family School Partners : [http://www.familyschool.org.au/?page\\_id=6](http://www.familyschool.org.au/?page_id=6) (monthly)
- Public Education Voice : <http://tinyurl.com/cy7s78> (quarterly)

Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at <mailto:letters@acssso.org.au>

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