

ENSEMBLE

MUSIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA'S SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Volume 4 Number 4, 10 June 2010

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MUSIC COUNT US IN: Australia's Schools Sing

Journeying together towards the big day: Thursday 2 September 2010

This is the big national event that links schools and communities together in all parts of the country, to create a nation-wide celebration of the value of music education for ALL students.

Registrations for participating schools are open and schools right around the country are signing up in droves.

This year's program song is called Come Play Your Part. Lead vocalist on the John Foreman-produced radio version of the song is 15 year old Williamstown High student, Bobby Andanov – whom you may have seen on Channel 7's 'Australia's Got Talent'.

As well as the program song, Come Play Your Part, there are two extra songs this year. We will upload them to the site over the coming days for the schools that want to extend their Music: Count Us In participation beyond one song. We know many of you already do that, so we've given you two extra songs to add to your celebration of music!

Find out more about the songs and the students who wrote and recorded them:

http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=265&Itemid=167.

Music: Count Us In 2010:

- includes public and non-government schools, primary and secondary and brings together students of all ages and abilities – plus their teachers and communities
- encompasses tiny rural schools and huge metropolitan schools and provides an opportunity for your school community to join with others all over Australia.
- achieves extensive media coverage everywhere - and helps promote community discussion about the importance of school music education.
- Free. Everything you need to take part is easily downloadable and absolutely free, including the song, lyrics, backing tracks and even musical arrangements.

Explore the online resources and register to take part in this unique event in 2010: <http://www.musiccountusin.org.au/>

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AWARDS & PRIZES

Flame Awards 2010

Instrumental Music in Primary Schools

ABC Local Radio has joined ABC Classic FM as a media partner on the Flames for 2010. This is great news for the awards as it will increase their profile in both the entry period and in the period during which the finalists and winners are announced.

We look forward to working with Classic FM and ABC Local Radio to keep the flames alive and improve the community's awareness about the benefits to schools, students and families in having vibrant and highly participatory music programs.

This year's theme will be: instrumental music programs in primary schools.

Prize pool: \$15,000, made possible by the generous support of Sydney philanthropists and music lovers, Robert and Elizabeth Albert.

Stay tuned for the launch announcement....

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National Song-writing Competition 2010

Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF)

The ACMF conducts a National Song-writing Competition for every Primary, Secondary and Specific Purpose School, right across Australia. This includes schools from both the public and non-government sectors.

This is the eighth consecutive year the competition has been held. Entry to the competition is free.

A letter is sent to schools from the Federal Education Minister with the entry forms, encouraging teachers to engage children in this activity. Entries can also be sent via the ACMF website.

All prizes awarded are in the form of musical equipment/tuition for both the winning student and their school.

The competition is divided into age categories to provide opportunities for children of all ages, from kindergarten through to Year 12.

For the past 3 years winning entries have been selected and performed at the Sydney Festival.

Closing date for entries is 24 September 2010.

Further details about the competition: <http://www.acmf.com.au/nsc-details.html>

Find out more about the ACMF and its activities: <http://www.acmf.com.au/index.html>

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THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Simple creative ways of fostering your child's love of music

Espie Estrella, "About Music" Newsletter, 9 June 2010

Are musicians born or made? I think we can safely say that it's a combination of both. In this week's newsletter, explore creative ways of fostering your child's love of music.

- When should a child begin music lessons?

A common question parents have is: when should they enrol their children in formal music lessons. Here are some guidelines to determine if and when your child is ready:

<http://musiced.about.com/od/beginnersguide/a/atwhatage.htm?nl=1>

- Raising children to love music

We are all born possessing certain gifts and talents, and parents play a vital role in harnessing these gifts. Of course, not all children who love music will become prodigies, and as parents, we shouldn't let this be our goal. Rather, if you have a child who seems to be interested in music, there are simple ways to further stimulate your child's interest.

Instilling the love of music in your little one is easier than you think. Here are some helpful suggestions to get you started: <http://musiced.about.com/od/beginnersguide/ht/instillingmusic.htm?nl=1>

- Introducing musical instruments to young children

Young children are very curious learners; they are open to new experiences especially if it's presented in an appealing manner. Parents and teachers often use fun and creative ways of teaching music to young children.

You really don't need a lot of money to do this; all you need is creativity and imagination. Here are 5 simple ways of introducing musical instruments to young kids:

<http://musiced.about.com/od/adviceforparents/a/instrumentsforkids.htm?nl=1>

You can find out more about Espie Estrella's array of music topics and links to other resources – and sign up for her email newsletter: <http://musiced.about.com/>

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RESEARCH

Mozart's music does not make you smarter!

AlphaGalileo, 10 May 2010

For over 15 years, scientists have been discussing alleged performance-enhancing effects of hearing classical music.

Now, University of Vienna researchers Jakob Pietschnig, Martin Voracek and Anton K. Formann present quite definite results on this so-called "Mozart effect" in the US journal *Intelligence*. These new findings suggest no evidence for specific cognitive enhancements by mere listening to Mozart's music.

In 1993, in the prestigious journal *Nature*, University of California at Irvine psychologist Frances H. Rauscher and her associates reported findings of enhanced spatial task performance among college students after exposure to Mozart's music. Mozart's 1781 sonata for two pianos in D major (KV 448) supposedly enhanced students' cognitive abilities through mere listening.

Scientific articles only rarely attract such public attention and excitement as was the case for Rauscher's publication: the *New York Times* wrote that listening to Mozart would give college-bound students an edge in the SAT. What is more, other commentators hailed Mozart music as a magic bullet to boost children's intelligence.

In the course of this hype, then Georgia governor Zell Miller even issued a bill in 1998, ensuring that every mother of a newborn would receive a complimentary classical music CD. In the same year, Florida's state government passed a law, requiring state-funded day-care centers to play at least one hour of classical music a day.

Read entire article: <http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=75536&CultureCode=en>

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Ahh, the Sweet Sound of Music Training:

Why some combinations of notes sound sweet while others grate

Sindya N. Bhanoo, New York Times, 24 May 2010

Now, a new study shows that the consonance of a musical interval — how pleasant it sounds — may vary based on a listener's level of music training.

In the study, researchers analyzed the musical preferences of more than 250 college students at the University of Minnesota.

There was a strong preference for harmonically related notes, those that are multiples of the same frequency. The appearance of such frequencies is common in Western classical and popular music.

To the researchers' surprise, the preference for these frequencies also correlated to the length of time a person had played a musical instrument, leading to the idea that how pleasant music sounds may be a learned phenomenon.

"My suspicion is that the whole thing may be learned, but we can't really conclude that from the data," said Josh McDermott, the study's lead author and a researcher at New York University.

One way to better understand the effect of music training is to conduct the same study in other parts of the world, particularly where musical traditions are different, like in Eastern Europe, Dr. McDermott said.

"It would also be interesting to take some of these insights and apply them to developmental studies in infants," he added.

The study is published in the May 20 issue of Current Biology and was conducted while Dr. McDermott was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/25/science/25obmusic.html?ref=music>

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NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Australia: Australian teachers embark upon the Musical Futures journey...

Musical Futures, 5 May 2010

Musical Futures has hit Australia – 35 Music teachers from Melbourne and the surrounding area all took part in a two day workshop where they came face to face with the principles of Musical Futures and were really thrown in at the 'Deep End'!

Schools in Australia are now introducing the Musical Futures Program as part of a state by state roll out commencing with ten pilot schools in Victoria.

The schools included come from metropolitan and regional settings including two schools from Mildura in the northwest of Victoria.

To read more about how successful the workshops were and to read some testimonies from the attendees please visit <http://www.musicalfutures.org.uk/resource/27467>

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Australia: Twenty contemporary music tours of regional and remote Australia

Hon Peter Garrett MP, Media Release, 10 May 2010

Regional and remote communities around Australia will soon have the opportunity to enjoy live performances of contemporary music, Arts Minister Peter Garrett said today.

"Twenty great tours are being supported through this latest round of support through the Contemporary Music Touring Program. For more than 10 years now, support from the Contemporary Music Touring Program has helped contemporary musicians to perform to audiences in regional and remote parts of Australia," Mr Garrett said.

"The successful applicants under this latest funding round will travel across the country, bringing live performance of many styles of contemporary music to appreciative audiences."

Mr Garrett said that the touring program brings benefits to both the musicians and the communities they visit.

"While the exposure and touring experience benefits the bands, these tours also bolster the communities they visit, including by helping to support the local economy."

The tours also bring professional development opportunities for emerging local music professionals. For example, the 'Indent Ten Year Tour' by MusicNSW will offer professional development workshops to emerging musicians on topics like booking bands, budgeting and legal copyright, as well as song-writing and general band craft.

More information about the Contemporary Music Touring Program is at <http://www.arts.gov.au/cmtip>

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USA: The challenge of El Sistema model

Reed Johnson, Los Angeles Times, 21 May 2010

El Sistema, a.k.a. the System, is, of course, the ballyhooed 35-year-old Venezuelan national music training and youth orchestra program that has taught hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan children to play and appreciate classical music. That includes its star protégé, Dudamel, the Los Angeles Philharmonic's 29-year-old music director.

It's a tough act to follow. But that's not stopping cities such as L.A., Boston, New York and Baltimore from trying. Since its inception, El Sistema has inspired many similar, albeit inevitably smaller, youth orchestra projects in Latin America, Europe and more recently the United States, including the Phil-supported 2 1/2-year-old YOLA EXPO Center Youth Orchestra.

"It's the core values that are resonating," said Mark Churchill, artistic director of preparatory and continuing education at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. "We don't want to make a cookie cutter kind of program."

The missionary zeal flowed freely earlier this month when dozens of music educators, youth program administrators and others converged here for a three-day symposium, "Composing Change: YOLA and the El Sistema Movement." Sponsored by the L.A. Phil, the conference was part of an ongoing effort, not to slavishly imitate every chapter and verse of the El Sistema playbook, but to adapt some of its key ideas and methods to a U.S. context.

Read entire article: <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/arts/la-et-yola-20100521,0,4423249,full.story>

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USA: Introducing The Music PLN Launch Team

Prof. Joseph M. Pisano, 9 June 2010

I'm excited to bring public, for the first time, the list of the Launch Team Directing Members for the upcoming Music PLN Website (<http://musicpln.org>). Literally, the folks that have agreed to be part of this amazing team are a "Who's Who List" of music educators and active pioneers in the adoption and development of both integrated and online technologies for music education and the classroom. I am very excited to have each and every single one of them as a "grass roots" member of our PLN.

Just a couple of quick-notes regarding the PLN before the introductions, if you are a music educator actively using technologies such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. - please consider signing up for a BETA invite for the Music PLN. Current the BETA invitations are set to go out on June 23rd. You can request a BETA invite by filling in the form found here: <http://mustech.net/contact-us> (Please note that not all that request a BETA invite will be given one...)

The Official Launch date of the MUSIC PLN is set for July 5th...pending a successful BETA period of about two weeks. I'm very excited to release this Website to the public!

And now, I present, publically for the first time, the members of the Music PLN Launch Team:

Read entire article: <http://mustech.net/2010/06/09/music-education-pln-team>

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Australian Musical Futures 2010: The Classical Summit

12 July, Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The Music Council of Australia is organising a national Classical Music Summit, bringing together key people and institutions to discuss the best possible future for western art music in Australia.

Classical music in Australia is doing fairly well. The standards have never been higher and audiences are being sustained. However, as elsewhere, there is evidence of declining participation by young people. In the USA there are serious problems with falling attendances and failing orchestras. The situation in Europe is less clear. So far as statistics can be discovered, there are great disparities between European countries.

Australia does not know whether the negative circumstances elsewhere for this international art form might presage difficulties in Australia. But prudent action seems advised and in any case, if there are no such problems, the activities emerging from the summit will not need to be defensive but will go to build on existing success.

In preparation for the summit, the Music Council has organised focus groups in seven cities. The participants are important thinkers in the classical music sector and have come up with a plethora of ideas, observations and proposals for consideration by the summit.

The Music Council has set up a web page for the summit: <http://www.mca.org.au/web/content/view/460>

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Dueting it for the kids: A concert of duets by Australia's finest singers in aid of the Australian Children's Music Foundation

9 August, State Theatre, Sydney, NSW

"Dueting it for the Kids" is a one-off concert unlike anything heard previously in Sydney. This event will bring together the top Australian names of the recording and concert industry in a concert of duets –pairing many of today's greatest voices in an evening of music and song.

The Australian Children's Music Foundation is a foundation using the power of music to inspire and enrich the lives of all Australian children and youth. Through music, children can find a way to express their emotions and channel their energy and abilities into something positive and creative. The Foundation aims to enrich the lives of all Australian children and youth, particularly the disadvantaged and indigenous.

Booking information: <http://www.ticketmaster.com.au> or phone 136 100

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Tutti World Youth Music Beijing.

9-16 July 2011, Beijing, China

Tutti world youth music beijing is an exciting new week-long event for school age musicians and singers from around the World.

It will provide the opportunity to enhance and showcase their talents in a non competitive environment and through their love of music to reach out and build friendships across the cultural diversity of the World.

Tutti world youth music beijing welcomes participation from orchestras, string orchestras/ensembles, symphonic wind bands/brass ensembles and choral groups.

Throughout tutti world youth music Beijing, participants will undertake a series of master classes focusing on technique improvement run by a stellar international faculty. As well all groups will have the opportunity to perform their own chosen repertoire for other participants in a non competitive atmosphere. As Artistic Director, Paul Dean will lead the new event. He will inspire you! Paul is one of Australia's foremost music educators and he promises that the experience of tutti world youth music Beijing will be exceptional.

Further information: <http://www.tuttibeijing.com/>

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Music in Communities Network Conference

24 September, Brisbane, QLD

Registrations will open late next month for the one-day Music in Communities Network conference in Brisbane.

The conference will bring together leaders and participants in some of Australia's most vibrant community music groups, to share skills, network and trade ideas.

The conference takes place the day before the opening of the MCA's Annual Assembly, so why not plan to attend both? Stay tuned for more details, but mark your diary: Friday 24th September, Music in Communities Network conference includes a cocktail function at Government House in the evening; Sunday 26th - Monday 27th, MCA Annual Assembly. The Australian Youth Music Council's annual conference will be held on Saturday 25th September.

There'll be a Melbourne community music conference later in the year, too, so stay tuned for news about that.

Source: <http://www.musicplayforlife.org/newsletter/may10/may10.htm>

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REMINDERS

24-29 June - Music Education Week - Washington DC, USA - <http://www.menc.org/events/view/2010-music-education-week>

1-6 August - ISME World Conference - Beijing, China - <http://www.isme.org/2010/>

26-29 September - Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia National Conference - East St Kilda, VIC - http://www.kodaly.org.au/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=61

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ACSSO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- Australian Education Digest : <http://www.acsso.org.au/australian-education-digest/> (weekly)
- International News Roundup : <http://www.acsso.org.au/roundup/> (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)
- Family School Partners : <http://www.familyschool.org.au/news/> (monthly)
- Public Education Voice : <http://www.acsso.org.au/public-education-voice> (quarterly)

Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.org.au. Details of products, services, events, resources or points of view are provided for information only; publication does not imply endorsement or recommendation. No warranty is provided nor liability accepted by ACSSO, its members or employees.

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