



Local talent on show at *Music Generator* concert

300 students from local schools present music learned in pioneer workshop program

Melbourne, March 21, 2007—Musica Viva in Schools is proud to present the first community concert resulting from the *Music Generator* project it is undertaking in the Traralgon area of the Latrobe Valley.

The *Music Generator* concert will feature 300 students from nine primary schools and one special school in the Traralgon district playing 10 pieces learned in workshops conducted over the last six months by Musica Viva in Schools.

The concert will be the highlight of a week-long workshop for the students with the internationally acclaimed contemporary world-music quartet, Sirocco, who have led the *Music Generator* program since its inception in October 2006.

Sirocco's music combines Celtic, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and South American music with that of Australia's Aboriginal and Anglo-Irish heritage. The group has played extensively throughout Australia and also works in schools giving concerts and workshops which show the diversity of music and instruments found in Australia today.

Other musicians who have participated in the *Music Generator* project include: Graham Hilgendorf from the Australia-Japan percussion ensemble, TaikOz; clarinetist Paul Dean from Crosswinds; Karen Kyriakou from the Irish folk music players, Ogham Soup; and Jo To from the Balinese Gamelan group, Byar.

Traralgon pilot

The Traralgon district was chosen as the pilot for the project following expressions of interest from the Gippsland region. The musicians and the teachers developed *Music Generator* as the project title to express their ownership, passion, motivation and connection with the local community.

"It's important to encourage students to value their music making and to show them they can take their skills from school into the community to enrich their adult lives," says Marian Jenkinson, Traralgon Community Musician.

The *Music Generator* program is a wonderful opportunity not only for the LaTrobe Valley community but for musicians and composers alike to work collaboratively and engage in fantastic music-making and performance," adds Tom Ryan, Victorian manager for Musica Viva in Schools and *Music Generator* project manager.

Project objective

The project is being conducted by Musica Viva in Schools under a \$152,000 grant made by the Australia Council in 2006 in response to the National Review of School Music Education. The review highlighted the 'neglect and inequity' in school music programs and stressed the need for 'much greater support for music teachers' and raising the 'quality and status of music education' if Australia is to achieve the societal outcomes to which it aspires.

The objective of the project is to develop a quality music education model that can be easily replicated in schools throughout Australia. As with the *Music Generator*, the model would involve arts, education, government and the community. Furthermore, the model needs to be built in such a way that it provides a platform for a sustained partnership between these sectors and the foundation for ongoing music education.

Concert details

The *Music Generator* concert will be held at the Loy Yang Power Community Soundshell on Thursday March 29, 2007 at 6.00pm. Entry is free of charge.

Participating Schools

Glengarry Primary School
Gormandale Primary School
Grey Street Primary School
Latrobe Special School
Kosciusko Street Primary School
Liddiard Road Primary School
Stockdale Road Primary School
Toongabbie Primary School
Traralgon South Primary School
Tyers Primary School

Contacts

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About Musica Viva in Schools

Musica Viva in Schools is an interactive music education program that has been working in schools throughout Australia since 1981, with subsequent expansion into Singapore (1998). It reaches 400,000 children annually and is regularly cited as a model program linking professional musicians, classroom teachers and the student community leading to achievement of curriculum priorities. It is based on three core principles: offering professional development courses and curriculum-based resources to enable teachers to deliver music education successfully in their school; providing students with unique live interactive music experiences that enhance and affirm the learning process; and developing the skills of professional performers to become true educational collaborators with teachers.

About Musica Viva

Musica Viva Australia is the world's largest entrepreneur of fine ensemble music, presenting more than 2,500 concerts each year across Australia and around the world to the widest possible range of audiences. Through intimate concert experiences the organisation inspires Australian imagination and creativity.

National Concert Series Presenting the world's finest chamber musicians to audiences around Australia.

Coffee Concerts Series A Sydney and Melbourne morning concert series with diverse and exciting artists in intimate surrounds.

Musica Viva In Schools Australia's leading and most extensive music education program presenting more than 2,400 performances and educational events to 400,000 children and their teachers annually.

Ménage A truly unique experience featuring intimate music in informal inner-city venues. Enjoy a glass of wine with friends while listening to the best young musicians in town.

CountryWide A regional touring program presenting public concerts in partnership with local presenters to more than 23,000 regional Australians every year.

Export In association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Export presents Australia's finest musicians to international audiences.

Café Carnivale A Sydney music series presenting a diverse program of world music in relaxed and intimate venues.

Huntington Estate Music Festival Australia's most renowned and successful chamber music festival, presented by Huntington Estate in association with Musica Viva.

Twilight Concerts An early evening spring concert series in the wonderful environs of Frensham school in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Musica Viva Virtuosi Musica Viva Australia greatly appreciates the ongoing support of its audiences to help us make the extraordinary happen. You can join Viva Virtuosi by making a single contribution, or by spreading your donation throughout the year.

Musica Viva Custodians People who have notified us of their intention to leave a bequest to Musica Viva are part of a very special group of Musica Viva Custodians. A bequest to Musica Viva will have a very long life, ensuring that we continue to present performances of the highest quality to the widest range of audiences across Australia, well into the future.

For further information call: 1800 688 482 or visit www.musicaviva.com.au