



Media Release

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Music on the agenda for primary schools

Music in west suburban schools will get a boost on May 9, 2006, when ten primary schools take part in an exciting performing arts program.

Western Chances, an organisation focused on assisting talented young people in the western suburbs have joined with The Song Room, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating music and arts programs in Australian schools and communities, to provide creative learning experiences. The aim is to enhance the musical experience in schools and develop the talent of young students.

Western Chances and The Song Room have identified primary schools to be involved in the program. The Song Room will provide teaching artists to the schools to present tailored, interactive workshop programs. This aims to enhance the students' engagement and learning outcomes, and will work together with Western Chances in providing opportunities for talented students.

Western Chances Founding Chair, Mrs Terry Bracks, believes music curriculum in western suburbs primary schools will benefit significantly by providing access to new programs and effectively encouraging and nurturing musical talent.

"Western Chances, in a partnership with The Song Room, aims to provide the school community with greater access to music and arts education, inspire creativity and encourage talented students to enhance their skills," Mrs Bracks said.

There are four parts to The Song Room program. The first part of the program on **9 May 2006, will involve around 1400 students in two performances by The Song Room's 'The Warbles' at Williamstown Town Hall, commencing at 10.30am and 12pm.**

The Warbles will perform an interactive show that introduces the children to opera and other musical styles featuring magic, mime, didgeridoo, piano, and the human voice. Students are encouraged to participate throughout the performance and will enjoy many facets of performing arts and music.

The other three parts of the Program will take place throughout the year with Part 2 involving 10 week in-school workshops in approximately 4-6 schools and Part 3 a cross-school workshop of children with particular interest and

enthusiasm for music. Part 4 involves scholarships being awarded to approximately 10 students who display exceptional interest and ability in music and the performing arts.

The Song Room works with a range of children in Victoria and interstate by providing programs and strategies to develop self-sustaining music and performing arts programs in the schools.

The Song Room CEO, Caroline Aebersold, said their vision is to provide Australian children and communities with access to music and performing arts programs.

“The partnership with Western Chances is a fantastic opportunity to extend our programs to areas in the western suburbs. We use music and arts to stimulate creative learning, engage children with their school and community, and enhance a broader range of skills and communication,” Ms Aebersold said.

The performances are an authorised activity of Education Week from 8th-14th May - a week when schools are invited to join in festivities by holding activities and special events that showcase innovation and achievement in student learning and teaching.

Activities are available free-of-charge to school groups – aiming to engage students in fun and educational activities to make Education Week memorable.

For more information visit www.westernchances.org.au or www.songroom.org.au

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