

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
2 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **Cape York kids to share the stage with jazz icon after massive three-day band camp**

More than 50 primary school kids from three remote Cape York communities will get to jam with James Morrison at Palm Cove's *Jazz on the Green* on 13 September 2015, thanks to a groundbreaking Queensland Music Festival (QMF) program.

QMF's Cape York Instrumental Program (CYIP) has been working with students in Aurukun, Hope Vale and Coen for four years to help create the same quality of music and band programs that would be found in any metropolitan Australian primary school.

It is part of Noel Pearson's Cape York Academy (CYA) and provides year-round artists in residence, teacher mentoring and the highlight of the year – a three-day band camp when all the kids can leave their communities, get together and perform.

This year the band camp, which will culminate in the performance at *Jazz on the Green*, will be held from 11 to 13 September on the Atherton Tablelands.

Band camp leaders, multi-instrumentalist John Morrison and Jane Hopkinson, will be joined by groups from QMF, University of Queensland (UQ) and the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA).

James Morrison and musicians Will Kepa and Hannah Trotter, who have both done residences in the Cape York schools, will also make appearances across the three days.

This is the first time James Morrison will attend the band camp, despite having performed with the kids on many occasions, and being instrumental in setting up the QMF's Indigenous programs.

Some CYIP graduates, who now attend Mount St Bernard College in Herberton, will also come along to share their experiences of leaving their communities to become boarders at a high school and how joining the school band helped with that transition.

*Jazz on the Green* will be the fourth time the CYA School Band has performed publicly. They have previously performed at *Yarrabah Band Festival*, *Jazz on the Green* and *Tropical Jam* as part of the G20 Cultural Celebrations.

Outgoing QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said CYIP was a perfect example of how music can transform lives.

"We are extremely proud of QMF's work in remote Far North Queensland, and seeing the positive influence music can have on children's lives is incredible," Mr Morrison said.

“I love following the students’ journeys, watching them learn and improve, and seeing them perform in concert as budding musicians and I’m really looking forward to catching up with our CYIP graduates to hear firsthand about the legacy of the project.”

Cape York Instrumental Program (CYIP) is presented by Queensland Music Festival and Cape York Academy, and is proudly supported by Bryan Family Foundation, University of Queensland, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Seymour Whyte, Frazer Family Foundation, Hutchinson Builders and the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts.

**For more information visit [qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)**

*Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives through unforgettable musical experiences.*

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Education and Training, in partnership with the Australian Government, through the Australia Council for the Arts.*

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

**For more production information / images / interviews please contact:**

Dawn Hewitt  
Agency North  
0434 883 880  
[dhewitt@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:dhewitt@agencynorth.com.au)

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