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EVENT OVERVIEW

STRICTLY EMBARGOED 6PM TUESDAY 30 MAY, 2017

Queensland Music Festival: Cape York Instrumental Program Band Camp

Every year, school bands from the remote Indigenous communities of Aurukun, Coen and Hope Vale come together for a huge band camp and performance as part of Queensland Music Festival's (QMF) Cape York Instrumental Program (CYIP).

At the heart of the program is the aim to give students in these remote communities education and music experiences equivalent to their counterparts elsewhere in Queensland, through music residencies and teacher development. The program also improves the transitioning capacity of students who will need to travel to larger centres for higher education.

Queensland Premier and Minister for the Arts Anastacia Palaszczuk said the Cape York Instrumental Program is an extraordinary success story, delivering high-quality music education and mentorship for students in regional and remote Indigenous communities.

"Three teacher artists are working with more than 50 music students from the Cape York Academy (CYA) and Aurukun State School, sharing their knowledge and experience to hone and develop the students' skills as they prepare to take to the stage to perform at the closing ceremony of the 2017 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) in July," said Ms Palaszczuk.

"This annual band camp is integral to the success of the program - bringing the school bands together provides students with the chance to play in a larger ensemble and interact with other schools.

"I am delighted that the Queensland Government is supporting this initiative to nurture and inspire our young creative minds, especially in regional Queensland."

Mr Noel Pearson, CYA Chairman said the music and regional engagement program has an enormous positive influence on students, teachers, artists and audiences.

"Our music program sits alongside our instructional program as being the two greatest achievements and having the greatest impact on our children. It is helping them thrive," said Mr Pearson.

As part of the ongoing CYIP, students work with regular resident program facilitators – multi-instrumental specialist Jane Hopkinson, Yothu Yindi drummer and much loved Cairns-based musician Ben Hakalitz and Tablelands-based educator Hannah Trotter – throughout the school year.

This July the students and resident facilitators will be joined by talented music students from the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts and University of Queensland for a five-day band camp from 12 to 16 July.

Throughout the camp on the Tablelands, students will hone their skills and come together to make beautiful music as they prepare to take to the stage to perform at the closing ceremony of the 2017 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) on Sunday 16 July at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan said the Cape York Instrumental Program Band Camp was part of QMF's commitment to bring high-quality music education to all Queensland students.

"I believe music education should be part of all students' school life, whether they live in a city or in one of the state's most remote locations," said Ms Noonan.

"CYIP is an important highlight on the school calendar for the students. This year's Band Camp performance at the CIAF closing ceremony is an exciting opportunity for students to share and celebrate their music skills with a festival audience."

The Cape York Instrumental Program is presented by Queensland Music Festival in association with Cape York Academy and Department of Education and Training, and supported by the Bryan Family Foundation, University of Queensland, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Seymour Whyte, Frazer Family Foundation, Australia Council for the Arts, Queensland Government through Department of Premier and Cabinet, Skytrans and Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. This project has received additional support from the Queensland Government through Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as part of its commitment to maintaining and building safe, connected and cohesive communities. ACPA student mentoring at the Band Camp has been supported by the Pavetta Foundation.

For more information visit qmf.org.au.

EVENT DETAILS

EVENT: Band Camp

DATE: 12 to 16 July 2017

EVENT DETAILS

EVENT: CIAF Performance

DATE: Sunday 16 July 2017

TIME: 2.00pm

VENUE: Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal

TICKETS: Free

ENDS

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

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