

# MEDIA RELEASE

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MUSIC IN  
INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITIES



## QUEENSLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO HELP TRANSFORM LIVES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN 2015

Queensland Music Festival (QMF) will continue its *Cape York Instrumental Project (CYIP)* in 2015, helping build legacies in Indigenous communities by developing artistic potential.

The CYIP aims to address educational disadvantage by providing Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) students in the remote communities of Aurukun, Hope Vale and Coen with artist in residence programs throughout the year, with the goal of creating an instrumental music program equivalent to those offered in metropolitan schools.

Joining the project's artist-in-residence program for the first time in 2015 are Yothu Yindi drummer Ben Hakalitz and Cairns multi-instrumentalist Will Kepa.

Hakalitz and Kepa will join esteemed local multi-instrumentalist and teacher Jane Hopkinson, in providing students and teachers on the ground with intensive training.

On 27 July, music students from Aurukun and Hope Vale campuses will experience this year's festival, taking part in a workshop with violinist Ian Cooper and pianist Ambre Hammond as part of QMF's *Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz* flying tour.

QMF Artistic Director James Morrison said the CYIP had been positively influencing primary school students in Indigenous communities for many years, and was inspiring a new generation of local musicians.

"We are extremely proud of the work QMF is doing in remote Far North Queensland, and seeing the positive influence music can have on children's lives is incredible. It is amazing to follow the students' journey, watch them learn and improve, and see them perform in concert as budding musicians," Mr Morrison said.

"I also am delighted to welcome Ben Hakalitz and Will Kepa as artists-in-residence, and I know they will make a significant contribution to this important project as Jane Hopkinson has through their expert musicianship, quality teaching and outstanding rapport with children."

*Cape York Instrumental Project* is presented by QMF and is proudly supported by Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy, Bryan Foundation, The University of Queensland, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Seymour Whyte, Frazer Family Foundation and Hutchinson Builders.

### ENDS

These projects have been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. 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.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government.

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