

MEDIA RELEASE

Credit Suisse and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra launch new Schools Music Education Program



Thursday 7 December: Credit Suisse and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will provide access to world-class music education to primary school students from low socio-economic areas in a new three-year program.

The six schools selected to participate in the Credit Suisse Sydney Symphony Orchestra Schools Music Education Program are: Soldiers' Settlement Public School (pictured), Darlington Public School, Parramatta Public School, La Perouse Public School, Pendle Hill Public School and Dandenong West Primary School (Vic).

Credit Suisse Australia CEO John Knox said: "We are delighted to be able to partner with the SSO and the State Government on this extraordinary initiative that could establish a firm link between music education and academic performance. During the three-year pilot, the program is expected to directly impact more than 1,000 students, approximately 36 teachers and involve many of our 400 staff. Future generations will also benefit from the experience gained by these teachers and students."

Sydney Symphony Orchestra Director of Learning and Engagement, Linda Lorenza said: "Together with Credit Suisse, we're striving to build a culture of music education in schools to enhance teachers' knowledge and skills and ensure that every child has access to music education. Numerous local and international studies show that music develops students' ability to listen, and regular music education has positive impacts on children's academic achievement and motivation. The students in our program will not only have a lot of fun, but also enjoy the benefits of music in other areas of their lives. We commend the vision of Credit Suisse for partnering with us on this longitudinal program and are grateful for the continued support of the NSW government through the Department of Education."

As part of the Credit Suisse Sydney Symphony Orchestra Schools Music Education Program the Year Three students at these schools will attend the SSO's schools concerts in Sydney and take an excursion to the Sydney Opera House where they will get a behind-the-scenes look at the world of a professional orchestra musician. Once a year, SSO musicians and Credit Suisse staff will also visit the schools for an interactive concert.

The Year Three teachers will undertake the SSO's immersive TunED-Up!™ program that will equip them to teach music to their students for years to come.

Each year the new intake of Year Three classes at the schools will join the program while their predecessors continue their musical journey. The SSO will monitor each schools' response across the three-year program by exploring the impact of music education on literacy and numeracy.

An Australian study (Martin et al, 2013) found that students' motivation, engagement and academic achievement at school were enhanced through positive arts participation experiences at school. An international study (Kraus and Chandrasekran, 2010) found that children who began music training before the age of seven showed superior sensory-motor integration compared with those who began training later in life. Children's auditory processing of numbers and patterns is enhanced when they have undertaken at least 1.5 years of music training as found by Vasuki et al (2017).

The first activity as part of the Credit Suisse Sydney Symphony Orchestra Schools Music Education Program commences on Monday 15 January 2018 when the Year Three teachers from the schools participate in the TunED-Up!™ five-day immersive teacher training course with the SSO in Sydney, designed to give them the skills and confidence to teach music in their classrooms.

#ENDS#

IMAGE: Students at Soldiers' Settlement Public School, Matraville, pictured with Sydney Symphony Orchestra Percussionist Timothy Constable. Credit Belinda Pratten.

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