

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Forty primary school teachers to receive specialist music training in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's TunED-Up program

10-14 January 2017



Forty primary school teachers from across New South Wales have been selected to participate in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's highly acclaimed annual teacher-training program, TunED-Up, to be held in Sydney on 10 to 14 January.

This intensive five-day program sees teachers participate in workshops with SSO musicians and music education specialists to learn the skills and techniques they need to confidently teach music in their classrooms.

The SSO launched TunED-Up in 2014 after it was revealed that music is not taught in the majority of NSW primary school classrooms, despite being a mandatory subject in the state's school curriculum. According to Sydney Symphony Orchestra Director of Learning and Engagement Linda Lorenza, this is because the majority of primary school teachers feel intimidated at the prospect of teaching music as the subject is frequently overlooked in Australian primary education degrees.

"There is an overwhelming amount of academic research that proves that music learning does so much to enhance children's learning and development," Ms Lorenza said. "However due to limited music training in their university studies, where some teachers receive as little as 10 hours of music training throughout their entire degree, primary classroom teachers often lack the knowledge and confidence to properly teach music to their students."

Hailing from locations as far as the outback NSW town of Cobar, where the SSO toured in 2014, the next group of participating teachers were chosen from a wide pool of applicants for their passion for education, enthusiasm for bringing music to their classrooms, and proven ability to share their training with their local communities.

The next intake of teachers coincides with the release of an independent report by BYP Group that found that TunED-Up had reached more than 42,000 NSW primary school students by training 121 teachers since the program was launched in 2014. The full report conducted by specialist impact consultants BYP Group in 2016 can be accessed [HERE](#).

The independent report revealed that the TunED-Up program has been extremely successful in providing teachers with the skills they require to effectively implement music programs within their schools. TunED-Up participants were overwhelmingly positive about the results of the program; rating its impact on their professional development as 4.5 out of 5 on average (the average rating across professional development music programs is 3.7 out of 5).

TunED-Up has been made possible due to the generous support of Antoinette Albert, Anne Arcus and Terry Arcus AM, Ian and Jennifer Burton, the Darin Cooper Foundation, Ian Dickson and Reg Holloway, Drs Keith and Eileen Ong, Tony Strachan, and Susan and Isaac Wakil.

TunED-Up forms part of the SSO's award-winning education program and is accredited to the National Professional Standards through BOSTES. For further information on TunED-Up, visit: <http://www.sydneyphilharmonicsymphony.com/education/for-schools-teachers/professional-learning-workshops/tuned-up!-scholarships.aspx>

**#ENDS#**

For interviews, photo requests, further information or to attend one of the workshops, please contact:

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Teachers taking part in TunED-Up teach at the following NSW schools:

Baulkham Hills North Public School  
The Arts Unit  
Branxton Public School  
Mascot Public School  
Jasper Road Public School, Baulkham Hills  
Kincoppal School, Rose Bay  
Killarney Heights Public School  
Parramatta West Public School  
Wyoming Public School  
Buxton Public School  
Emu Heights Public School  
St Mary's Primary School, Corowa  
Randwick Public School  
St. Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain  
Rydalmere East Public School  
John the Baptist Primary School, Bonnyrigg Heights  
Marrickville Public School  
Claremont College, Randwick  
St Brendan's Primary School, Annandale

Redfield College, Dural  
Cobar Public School  
St Patrick's School, Albury  
Scone Public School  
Anson Street School, Orange  
Coerwull Public School, Lithgow  
Victoria Avenue Public School, Concord West  
Parramatta Public School  
Middle Harbour Public School, Mosman  
Canterbury Public School  
St. Paul's Primary School, Gateshead  
Wardell Public School  
Bathurst Public School  
St. Patrick's Primary School, Swansea  
St. Therese's Primary School, New Lambton  
Tottenham Central School  
Wilkins Public School  
Barellan Central School



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