



Students from the Surfers Paradise State School choir and music group Samantha Downie, Cody Dumka, Shima Cole, Grace Brown and Urara Saito at Q1 putting in some practice ahead of a unique recording event on Thursday. Picture: DAVID CLARK

Young singers hit high notes to go for gold

GOLD Coast music students will take part in a recording destined for digital download gold – or to break the internet.

Gold, a song penned by Marcia Hines and John Foreman, will be performed by 600,000 school music students – including about 500 singers and musicians half from 22 Gold Coast schools – at the same day and time – tomorrow at 11.30am.

The Gold Coast contingent will be split in two with a choir of 100 bound for Q1's Skydeck to perform backed by

a 20-strong student string orchestra.

Another 400 students and a second orchestra will perform on the Surfers Paradise foreshore.

Local students will perform *Gold* at the end of a program of songs. Channel 9 newsreader Bruce Paige will MC the event. There will also be a performance by special guest Darren Percival, runner-up of series one of TV talent show *The Voice*.

Years 4, 5 and 6 Surfers Paradise State School students Samantha Downie, Cody Dumka, Shima Cole,

Grace Brown and Urara Saito visited Q1 recently to get their bearings ahead of tomorrow's big gig.

"Everyone's excited. We're looking forward to it," said their music teacher Susannah Gow, who is co-ordinating the Gold Coast leg – a collaboration between Surfers Paradise Alliance, Music Australia and Surfers Paradise School.

The nationwide event is Australia's biggest schools initiative, staged as part of Music Count Us In program.

— LISA SIMMONS