



# Hitting the right note in music education

Music: Count Us In (MCUI), Australia's largest school music participation program, is thrilled to announce Taylor Henderson as the music mentor for 2017. MCUI is Australia's largest school music advocacy and participation initiative, growing steadily since 2007.

To kick off the year, Taylor Henderson will mentor five talented school students as they work together to write the MCUI program song – 'the song that stops the nation'.

On Thursday 2nd November at 12.30pm AEDT, more than half a million children will perform this same song, on the same day, at the same time. Last year, MCUI saw more than 2,500 schools and over 600,000 students take part in this FREE program. It provides students and teachers with the opportunity to develop their music skills and simultaneously perform with schools around the country in a celebration of music and music education.

MCUI 2017 kicks off with the Songwriting Workshop on Thursday 6th April taking place in Melbourne. Student finalists have been selected from across the country and MCUI is delighted to have Elliëna Escott and siblings Marcus and Tiffany Yeo from Queensland, Makayla Forbes from New South Wales and Sadie Mustoe from Victoria collaborate with our music professionals to create this year's MCUI

song. It will be a song for students, written by students. During the Songwriting Workshop, students will receive expert guidance from award-winning producer John Foreman OAM, the program's ambassador and the program's music mentor, Taylor Henderson.

MCUI gives children of all ages and abilities free access to music education. The program also delivers music professional development to classroom teachers. Research shows that many primary teachers often lack the skills and confidence to tackle music with their students. This year, much of the teacher training offered by MCUI will be delivered via live streaming reaching many more teachers in rural, regional and remote areas. MCUI is managed by Music Australia, the peak service body for the Australian music industry. MCUI is supported by funding from the Australian Government.

It meets a priority recommendation of the National Review of School Music Education (2005) to raise the status of music in Australian schools.

