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'I Have A Dream' – a Song Room Celebration at the Melbourne Town Hall

50 years ago Martin Luther King had a dream. Today, that dream was celebrated by some 500 primary school children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from across Melbourne. The children paid tribute to Mr King's courage and vision for a better, fairer world in a music, dance and dramatic spectacular at the Melbourne Town Hall, 'I Have a Dream'.

This special event was the culmination of a semester's learning and development in The Song Room's tailored music and arts programs, targeting the cycle of disadvantage in communities across Melbourne. This event also marks the 12th year The Song Room has celebrated the children participating in our programs with a combined schools performance at the Melbourne Town Hall.

The 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's 'I Have A Dream' speech became a fitting theme for this performance, with the children from seven low SES schools across Melbourne performing and sharing their dreams and aspirations through music, dance, poetry and song, supported by a band comprised of The Song Room's talented Teaching Artists. Research shows that participating in music and arts programs increases social and emotional wellbeing and can also foster social inclusion and cross-cultural understanding.

Many of these children had never performed for an audience before and today's event proved to be a rewarding showcase of the many benefits of music and arts education for themselves, their peers, families and guests.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of Bennelong Foundation, Kimberley Foundation, Gandel Philanthropy, the Department of Immigration & Citizenship and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The Song Room is a national not for profit organisation that provides tailored, long-term music and arts-based programs for children in disadvantaged and high need communities. The Song Room programs are based on research and have been demonstrated to improve educational and social outcomes and to help schools create and sustain their own music and arts programs.

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