



1 May 2011 – For immediate release

## Melbourne students find Harmony in Strings to celebrate diversity and innovation for this year's Education Week celebrations

**LAUNCH EVENT: Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 – 11:30am**  
**Sacred Heart Primary, King William Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne.**

Sacred Heart Primary, Fitzroy, will showcase an innovative new program, *Harmony In Strings*, at a community launch event as part of Education Week 2011 which will include a workshop demonstration by the students and Teaching Artists.

*Harmony In Strings* will pilot the use of cello and violin music education to best support the secondary music program uptake by students, particularly in schools of limited resources. Students from Year 4, 5 and 6 at Sacred Heart Primary will pilot the program over 3 years.

The Song Room Teaching Artists Zoe Barry and Heather Stewart, are both professional composers, performers and musicians in their own right and will deliver weekly tuition in either violin or cello over the three year program period.

Mary Lawrey, Principal of Sacred Heart Primary, commented that "our students, most of whom are affected by socio-economically disadvantaged circumstances, will get to experience an instrumental music program that would otherwise not be possible. *Harmony In Strings* will achieve a range of learning, social and personal development outcomes whilst also building the capacity of the school to sustain music programs."

**The William Buckland Foundation** will support the *Harmony In Strings* project for over 3 years which helps The Song Room expand its delivery and research the impact of the program on participating students.

"We are absolutely delighted with the William Buckland Foundation support," Caroline Aebersold, CEO of The Song Room said. "Their support has directly helped help us deliver a new, innovative project which will enable us to examine the impact of the program on participants, as well as longitudinal tracking of the students as they transition to Secondary School"

This community celebration also acknowledges the gift of a Bernstien upright piano, generously donated to the school from 3MBS-FM. Mike Smith, Station Manager of 3MBS FM, commented: "As the only locally-based classical music radio station in Victoria, 3MBS FM passionately supports arts education in our local community, and is proud to supply the piano to the school. *Harmony In Strings* is a program that will lead the way in promoting the uptake and appreciation of music in children's later years."

This program is proudly supported by the William Buckland Foundation, with in-kind support from Arts Music and Allans Music + Billy Hyde.

### **Editorial Notes:**

**The Song Room is a national not for profit organisation that provides free, tailored, long-term music and arts-based programs for children in disadvantaged and high need communities. The Song Room vision is that *all Australian children have the opportunity to participate in music and the arts to enhance their education, personal development and community involvement.* 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.**

**The Song Rooms delivers its programs to over 250 schools and communities each year and works with over 20,000 children every week. Programs are targeted to schools in the most marginalised communities from every State / Territory of Australia, from the 700,000 children in schools without specialist teachers in the arts.**

### **For Further Information Contact:**

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