



**Media Statement – May 2010**

## **PING project WINS national award for online music education**

### **5th ANNUAL NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF BROADBAND**

The Australian Telecommunications Users Group (ATUG) congratulated the winners of *ATUG 2011 National Awards for the Effective Use of Broadband*, presented by the Minister, Senator Stephen Conroy at the ATUG Awards Gala Reception on 31<sup>st</sup> March at Australian Technology Park in Sydney.

ATUG's Broadband Awards recognise innovation based on broadband services and the benefits of successful applications to the end users in many sectors of the economy and community.

The PING project was the winner of the National Award in the category of Education. PING is a unique collaboration between The Song Room, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Victorian Opera, Country Education Project and 3MBS FM.

Congratulations is extended to the entire PING project team including Ajax McKerral, Project Manager; David Burton, Program Coordinator; Paul Curran, Funding & Partnerships Manager; the PING content authors and The Song Room Teaching Artists.

The PING project includes online resources, digital learning, in-school workshops, online master classes and live concert streaming. "We have developed the PING project specifically to address the gaps that students in rural and regional Victorian schools have, with little or no access to music and arts education opportunities. The beauty of PING is the connections that can be made peer to peer, professional musicians to classrooms, and teacher to teacher, creating an online music education model that is the first of its kind in the country" said Caroline Aebersold, CEO of The Song Room.

"We are delighted that this unique collaboration between the PING project partners has been recognised for its contribution to education innovation" she said.

PING will build the capacity of targeted Victorian rural schools and communities to deliver music education programs, provide greater access for rural and regional schools to elite, city-based performance companies, and strengthen the ICT and music skills of generalist teachers.

In 2011, PING will deliver online music education to over 30 schools and 800 children in Victoria, with the potential to extend the program nationally in the future.

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

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