



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### RURAL AND REGIONAL MUSIC STARS TO GIVE VOICE

The voices of scores of country NSW music students will play a starring role in a special performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to mark the achievements of Regional Conservatoria.

The mass choir will perform excerpts from Carl Orff's magnificent "Carmina Burana" as a headline event of The Con's inaugural Open Day on March 29.

It will be only the second time that representatives from all regional conservatoria have come together to participate collectively in a single performance in Sydney.

"Regional conservatoria have a long track record of producing very talented individuals whose contribution to the Australian music scene cannot be underestimated" said Professor Walker.

"For example, the Australian Chamber Orchestra's Richard Tognetti is an alumnus of the Wollongong Conservatorium, and Sam Moran, the Yellow Wiggle, was a student at the Riverina Regional Conservatorium in Wagga Wagga.

We want to celebrate that talent. We want to give young people from regional and rural NSW the chance to perform here at The Con, which has drawn extensively on this ready-made pool of budding musicians over many decades.

I have no doubt that some of the students who perform Carmina – which will certainly be a concert to remember - will return in later years as students at The Con. The concert will be the culmination of months of hard work and preparation by the students and staff of all regional conservatoria - not to mention the parents and local businesses who donate instruments and provide support.

The regional conservatoria are the cultural heart of many communities in the bush. I am so pleased that all the parties have agreed to participate in the Open Day, which is all about celebrating the making of music and the nurturing of musicians."

The initiative has the support of the Association of Regional Conservatoria.

The 17 Regional Institutions are:

Albury - Murray Conservatorium; Armidale - New England Conservatorium of Music;  
Bathurst - Mitchell Conservatorium; Coffs Harbour - Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium;  
Deniliquin - South West Music; Dubbo - Macquarie Conservatorium; Gosford - Central Coast;  
Conservatorium; Goulburn - Goulburn Regional Conservatorium; Grafton - Clarence Valley  
Conservatorium; Gunnedah - Gunnedah Music Centre; Lismore - Northern Rivers Conservatorium Arts  
Centre; Muswellbrook - Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music; Orange - Orange Regional  
Conservatorium; Tamworth - Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music; Wagga Wagga - Riverina  
Conservatorium of Music; Wollongong - Wollongong Conservatorium of Music; Young - Young  
Regional School of Music

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