

MEDIA RELEASE

The Sydney Symphony goes to hospital

Young patients at The Children's Hospital at Westmead will be treated to an uplifting musical performance next Tuesday when musicians from the Sydney Symphony drop by to perform. The visit is part of the highly successful Sydney Symphony and MBF *music4health* program, recently named the winner of the Australian Business Arts Foundation's National Community Award.

A string quartet and conductor from the Orchestra will perform for the young patients in the hospital's Starlight Room after which the musicians will join the hospital's music therapist, Bonnie Nilsson, for bedside visits to patients unable to attend the performance.

The program serves as a welcome and entertaining moment of respite for the patients, their dedicated carers and the Hospital staff. It also provides the young children with an engaging and interactive introduction to classical music, encouraging them to play with the musicians as part of a "Toy Symphony."

Previous *music4health* visits by the Sydney Symphony to the hospital have proven joyous and rewarding occasions for the musicians, seeing young faces light up in response to their performances.

"music4health has already demonstrated that music has the ability to give patients a truly uplifting experience," said Sydney Symphony Managing Director, Libby Christie.

MBF's involvement in the concerts is a demonstration of the health industry's recognition of the therapeutic power of music.

"A hospital might seem an unusual setting for a concert by some of Australia's finest musicians" said MBF national public affairs manager David Jones. "In addition to the health benefits of experiencing the therapeutic power of music, the concerts are great fun and a welcome break for the children from the routine of hospital life."

The performance will take place in the Starlight Room at 11am.

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Media are welcome to attend and photograph the performance.

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