



PRESS RELEASE

28 AUGUST 2007

## LITTLE PATIENTS AT WESTMEAD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO HAVE A SPECIAL SYMPHONY EXPERIENCE

The Children's Hospital, Westmead  
Cnr Hawkesbury Rd & Hainsworth Street  
Westmead NSW 2145

**Sydney, Tues August 28 - Patients of the Westmead Children's Hospital will enjoy a special performance of songs and music by members of the Sydney Symphony next Tuesday, 4 September, when they bring a special kind of concert to a special kind of audience.**

Well-known singer and performer Trisha Crowe will join members of the Sydney Symphony to form a trio for their show in the Starlight Room, where patients will have the chance to hear, sing and play some music designed especially for them. After the performance, the musicians will join Westmead Hospital Music Therapist Bonnie Nielsen as they make bed-side visits to visitors that aren't able to attend the Starlight Room performance. Together they will sing, play and improvise with the children, bringing a few moments of relief to many young patients in pain.

As part of a continuing and successful program, the Westmead performance will be the latest in the 'Sydney Symphony and MBF music4health' concerts taking place within hospitals in NSW. Recent visits to Westmead have been considered highly successful, making a positive impact on the hospital experience for many patients and their families.

MBF national public affairs manager, David Jones, said the 'Sydney Symphony and MBF music4health' series was one of a number of community programs conducted by the organisation to promote health and wellbeing.

"A hospital might seem an unusual setting for a concert by some of Australia's finest musicians but we could think of no better or deserving audience than the youngsters at the Sydney Children's Hospital to test the therapeutic power of music," Mr Jones said.



"In addition to the health benefits of experiencing the therapeutic power of music, the concerts are great fun and a welcome break for children from the routine of hospital life."

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

Numerous international studies point to the positive effect of music on a wide spectrum of health issues from depression to terminal illness. The Faculty of Medicine at The University

of Sydney has a unit dedicated to medicine and music and the University of Melbourne has an extensive musical therapy course.

Media are welcome to attend and photograph the performance in the Starlight Room from 11 – 11.30am.

### **DETAILS & CONTACTS:**

Date: Tuesday 4 September

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Starlight Room  
The Children's Hospital, Westmead  
Cnr Hawkesbury Rd & Hainsworth Street  
Westmead NSW 2145

Musicians: Singer Trisha Crowe  
Violin Alex Mitchell  
Violin Sophie Cole

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