

SONG SUMMIT

19-21 JUNE 2010

VIVID SYDNEY
A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, MUSIC & IDEAS

Media Release

AUSTRALIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET A 'BACKSTAGE PASS' TO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

John Foreman and a team of experts to mentor students on the art of songwriting and music making

APRA is looking for talented secondary school students to take part in **Backstage Pass**, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hone their musical skills and learn from some of Australia's leading songwriters and musicians. The day long workshop on June 20th forms part of Song Summit, a major creative, business development and networking expo for the music industry that is taking place at the Sydney Convention Centre from 19-21st June.

Lead by Creative Director **John Foreman** along with guidance from a panel of 20 mentors, the two hundred plus students will be able to choose from ten specialist workshop options tailored to specific instruments and skills sets relevant to music production. The different workshop options include hip hop, vocals, drums, music business, song writing, bass, audio engineering, guitar, keys and event production. Following the intensive program, the students will come together with their mentors for a special live performance.

Mentors taking part in the program include the likes of **Erana Clark** (Australian Idol vocal coach), **Rai Thistlethwayte** (Thirsty Merc), **Finabah** (Queensland pop-rock group) and **Peter Northcote** (instrumentalist who has performed with the likes of Guy Sebastian, Yothu Yindi and Jimmy Barnes). In addition, **Matthew Priestley** and **Toby Finlayson** from Desert Pea Media will mentor 15 selected students in how to use the language of hip hop and rhyme to advocate awareness of youth social issues. **Song Summit** forms part of Vivid Sydney, an annual festival of light, music and ideas running from the 27 May – 21 June.

Backstage Pass Creative Director, John Foreman said: *"Backstage Pass is a fantastic opportunity for young music makers to learn from some of the industry's biggest players. Fostering young talent is important in securing the future of the music industry and we're delighted that Song Summit is able to bring this opportunity to high school students across Australia."*



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Meriana Gyory, musician and graduate of Backstage Pass in 2008 said: *“Backstage Pass is an invaluable learning experience for any aspiring musician. It was a dream come true to work alongside such talented musicians and other high school students from across Australia. I couldn’t recommend it enough.”*

Tickets to Backstage Pass are priced at \$20 and include morning tea and lunch.

This year, Song Summit forms part of Vivid Sydney which includes large-scale light installations and projections; music performances and collaborations; creative discussions and debate. Vivid Sydney is one of five anchor events in the NSW Master Events Calendar.

For more information on Backstage Pass including registrations and mentor information, please visit www.songsummit.com.au and for the full Vivid Sydney program, please visit www.vividsydney.com.

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For more information or to request interviews with John Foreman and/or case studies, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About Song Summit:

- Song Summit will be held from 19 – 21 June at the Sydney Convention Centre.
- APRA|AMCOS and NSW Government through Events NSW are proud to present Song Summit 2010 as part of Vivid Sydney: a festival of light, music and ideas running from 27 May – 21 June.
- The event includes a conference programme, Music Market and Song Summit LIVE.
- Over 800 songwriters, composers, music publishers and other music industry professionals are expected to attend the event.
- It will span a **range of music genres** and each facet of the music life-cycle from inspiration and creation through to marketing and distribution. It will cover both the art and the business of original music-making.



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- The **conference programme** will feature more than 35 presentations, panel discussions and workshops featuring celebrated creators and recognised industry experts from Australia and abroad. Topics will include the art of song-writing, new technologies, copyright, publishing, music licensing and international perspectives.
- The **Music Market** will feature representatives from international and national music organisations, music retailers, distributors, merchandisers, manufacturers, venue owners, recording studios, music education institutions, technology companies, record companies and music publishers.
- **Song Summit LIVE** will include local and international singer/ songwriters, and will run throughout the entire event. Performers will be handpicked by a panel of industry representatives and music peers and are sure to deliver a dynamic and inspiring range of performances.
- Song Summit promotes sustainable events.

About APRA|AMCOS:

APRA|AMCOS' joint objective is to ensure composers/songwriters and publishers are rewarded whenever, and wherever, their musical works are played, performed or reproduced and help Australian & New Zealand music consumers get access to the world's musical repertoire.

APRA was established in 1926 to administer the performing and communication rights of composers, songwriters and music publishers. Today, APRA represents more than 57,000 members in Australia and New Zealand. Public performances of music include music used in pubs, clubs, fitness centres, shops, cinemas and festivals, whether performed live, on CDs or played on the radio or television. Communication of music covers music used for music on hold, music accessed over the internet or used by television or radio broadcasters.

AMCOS collects and distributes mechanical royalties for the reproduction of members' musical works for many different purposes. These include the manufacture of CDs, music videos and DVDs, the sale of mobile phone ringtones and digital downloads, the use of production music and the making of radio and television programmes. Since 1997, APRA has managed the day-to-day operations of the AMCOS business.

