Student percussionists hit the right note with Tetrafide

At the beginning of August, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts is the venue for a concert celebrating the end of a year-long percussion program for a group of specially selected secondary school students.

The Tetrafide Percussion Young Artists Concert, held on Saturday 1 August at 7.30pm in WAAPA’s Music Auditorium, will showcase a program of exciting new works performed and written by ten student percussionists with established percussion ensemble, Tetrafide Percussion.

Now in its third year, the Tetrafide Percussion Young Artists (TPYA) program is an annual series of workshops, master-classes and rehearsals designed to develop the musical skills of high school percussion students. The secondary students are chosen through a rigorous audition process from private and government schools throughout the metropolitan area and from regional schools as far away as Esperance.

The TPYA program offers the students opportunities far beyond what is available to them in their school percussion studies. They are able to interact with other student percussionists and with Tetrafide’s professional musicians, and have access to the state-of-the-art facilities at WAAPA. Given that many of these students are their school’s sole percussionist, they also benefit from performing in the ensemble situations provided by the program.

This year, for the first time ever, the students have also been invited to develop their compositional skills. “The students have all dived into the composition element of the program and are producing some really interesting works,” enthuses Tetrafide member, Neville Talbot.

Almost every work performed in the concert will have been written by the participants of the program or by the members of Tetrafide.

“The TPYA program is a powerful demonstration of an effective collaboration between school systems, cultures, social backgrounds and ages,” says Talbot. “The participants, who come from varied socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, are a living expression of the power of music to unite and empower.”

“This won’t be a run-of-the-mill high school concert. It will contain colour, energy, vivaciousness and will showcase the best of our young talent in an exhibition that is uniquely Western Australian.”

The members of Tetrafide Percussion have recently returned from Vietnam where they have been investigating the possibility of a cultural exchange program between next year’s TPYA participants and students from the Vietnam National Academy of Music in Hanoi.

Performance Information: Tetrafide Percussion Young Artists Concert
Saturday 1 August at 7.30pm.
Music Auditorium, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $20 full/$15 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

For complimentary tickets to this concert or for further information, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact:
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