

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 15 October 2012

Creativity Australia's 14 choirs come together this December 2nd in a combined concert. "With One Big Voice" brings together over 400 migrants, unemployed, disabled, disadvantaged and other Australians with celebrated artists to perform at Melbourne Town Hall.



Patrons
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE
Lady Marigold Southey AC
Professor Allan Fels AO
Hugh Morgan AC
Emeritus Professor John Hay AC

Founder
Tania de Jong AM

SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACTION WITH ONE BIG VOICE

Not-for-profit Creativity Australia presents "With One BIG Voice" concert for combined national choirs as part of social inclusion program.

15 October 2012, Melbourne Creativity Australia presents its "*With One BIG Voice*" concert this December 2nd at the Melbourne Town Hall to celebrate and showcase the skills of its 14 choir programs with over 400 voices from all walks of life.

The 14 choirs combine for the annual "*With One BIG Voice*" concert performing with celebrated artists including leading soprano Tania de Jong AM, baritone Jonathan Morton, chief conductor Shaun Islip and conductors Marianne Black, Kym Dillon, Bridget a'Beckett, Jacinta Caruana, Shannon Brown, Elizabeth Lecoanet, Andrea Khoza and Adrian Portell.

The 400 voices performing "*With One BIG Voice*" are those of migrants, the unemployed, disabled and disadvantaged, public housing tenants and ordinary Australians keen to be involved and find their voice.

Leading Australian soprano and award winning social entrepreneur Tania de Jong AM founded Creativity Australia in 2008 to introduce creative programs for positive social and economic outcomes for individuals, organisations and communities.

"Creativity Australia inspires people to find their voice. Age, background, religion, socio-economic and cultural and linguistic barriers disappear through Creativity Australia's choir programs and our "*With One BIG Voice*" combined concert in Melbourne is a true celebration of diversity, social inclusion, creativity and community," Ms de Jong said.

"CEOs come together with job and asylum seekers in these innovative programs. When diverse voices come together as '*one voice*' on a regular basis, transformation happens. The programs have created improved wellbeing, alleviated anxiety and depression and created numerous opportunities for development of new skills, mentoring and creation of jobs for the unemployed."

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Creativity Australia's choir programs touch the lives of many Australians. Member of Melbourne Sings, Xiao Rong Nheu says prior to her involvement with Creativity Australia an operation left her feeling cut off from the rest of the world and her days were filled with unhappiness.

"When I joined the Melbourne Sings Choir I was embraced by compassion and love. Now, I am happy. I can use my voice, my whole heart to thank all of those people who have helped create this wonderful organisation," she said.

Recent arrival from South Africa's Cameroon, Natalie says the choir is an escape and a way to open her heart and feel relaxed and happy, forgetting all her problems.

"The choir has really played an important role in building my confidence and the choir truly embraces diversity. The choir is an escape for me, to open my heart, be relaxed, happy and forget about all the problems. Creativity Australia even helped me with my job interview. I was so nervous and so emotional and couldn't believe I would have a job. Thanks so much to Creativity Australia," she said.

DJ from China says he found a home away from home. "We all come from all walks of life, and it feels just like a family. It's true that it is the music that brings us together but really it's so much more than that," he said.

Creativity Australia's Patrons are Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE, Lady Marigold Southey AC, Professor Allan Fels AO, Hugh Morgan AC and Emeritus Professor John Hay AC.

All concert proceeds go to providing places for Creativity Australia's "*With One BIG Voice*" charity choir program, which inspires people to find their voice, wellbeing, jobs and joy.

EVENT DETAILS

Where: Melbourne Town Hall, 90/120 Swanston Street Melbourne VIC 3000
When: Sunday 2 December 2012 at 3:30pm
Bookings: Tickets available at www.wobv2012.eventbrite.com.au
or phone (03) 8679 6088
Website: www.creativityaustralia.org.au

Ticket prices:

- Full price \$30
- Concession \$20
- Children (3-18 years) \$10
- Family (2 adults & 2 Children) \$50

-ENDS-

Creativity Australia Choirs

Creativity Australia's 14 choirs include ANZ, Ashburton, Canberra, Deakin University, Footscray, Geelong, Greater Dandenong, Heidelberg, Hume, Melbourne, Orygen Youth Health, Royal Children's Hospital, St Kilda and Sydney. Donations can be made to Creativity Australia.

Media enquiries:

Tania de Jong AM, choir conductors and some choir members are available for interview.

Contact Theory Crew Director, Felicity Grey 0401 050 292/ fgrey@theorycrew.com.au