

CONverge



The CONverge program seeks to explore and develop students' own musical identity, creativity and potential. CONverge is about a bringing together of interest, opportunity, resources and place in the context of music, in this case exploring and using the voice as an instrument. The program is a partnership between the Conservatorium of Music, The Smith Family and a funder. Whilst operating in Sydney, currently this program has been developed to ensure scalability to other towns and cities where Conservatoriums of Music are located.

Aims & Objectives

The CONverge program intends to give students the skills and confidence to:

- Explore and develop their own musical identity, creativity and potential
- Develop and improve their individual singing skills
- Perform as a vocal ensemble
- Nurture a general love of music and life-long learning
- Connect with their culture and express themselves through song
- Prepare for possible further studies and a profession in music

Key contacts

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The CONverge program also intends to strengthen the capabilities of the teachers and schools involved by:

- Providing substantial personal development
- Encouraging teachers to apply their newly acquired resources and teaching strategies to enthuse more young people to become involved in music through their schools and community
- Establishing a coaching relationship between teachers and Conservatorium staff
- Initiating a possible 'music education' network among participating teachers and schools to facilitate ongoing collaboration for music programs in the future

The Smith Family works with 2-3 disadvantaged schools who select a total of 60 students to participate in music workshops over a 6 week period and a culminating performance at the Conservatorium. Funding is required to support the tutors from the Conservatorium, provide transport for the students, meal allowances and provision of documentation. As reflected in the quotes below, feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive:

"I learnt to work better with other students and I got to meet people"

"I got to develop my vocals and be more confident on stage"

"Thank you for helping us and giving us the opportunity to sing"