

Music meets the community at ACU

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Australian Catholic University came alive on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2010 in a celebration of community music making, with an emphasis on 'engaging with our community through music'. The day titled 'Hearts in Harmony' is the brain child of Susie Davies-Splitter, a Music Lecturer from the Education Department at the St. Patrick's Campus in Melbourne.

"The day is about enjoying music and coming together as a community..." Davies-Splitter shares during the Hearts in harmony day while juggling numerous other projects she has on the go. "Music is my passion, there is no doubt about that, but it's something I would love everyone to share with me, as I really do believe music improves the soul..." she also adds.

During the day there was a 300 strong crowd which included members of the ACU community, wider community and members from the music community. The centerpiece of the day was the privilege to hold part of the event in Central Hall on Brunswick Street; a treasure to ACU and a key element for making this day a success.

If you see ukulele's floating around the main building be sure to know that this was inspired by one of the presenters who I had the privileges of meeting on this very special day. Mike Jackson has been performing in Australia and around the world for over 30 years and never ceases to amaze me. To me as a Pre-Service Teacher that is what teaching and learning is about; sharing and inspiring others.

"What is so special about a day like this is the smiles on people's faces that have either never played an instrument coming up to you and telling you what they can now do..." begins to share before having to run off to another session. Here at ACU we are so blessed to have Susie Davies-Splitter on board as she has brought music back into our lives; something I personally thought was gone forever. The joy about Susie is that she doesn't expect you have any musical ability whatsoever, as to her it's about the engaging and the music making.

Special thanks go to the Education Department at ACU for sponsoring this event to happen, Glenn from *Allens music* for donating your time and expertise with the sound and PA equipment and setting up a trade display. *Mini Maestros* and *Welcome to Music* were also on board to set up displays in the foyer and lend a supporting hand throughout the day. But it was our presenters who allowed us to go ahead with this day and share their music with everyone; Mike Jackson and his son Tom with the ukulele's; drumming with Steve Durbin; making wacky instruments with Jon Madin and folk dancing with Audrey Fine.

The highlight of the day was watching Talitha, a ten year old girl from our community performing a singing and dance number during the 1 hour lunch time concert. A very special thank you to both the Ashwood Special School's Choir Extraordinaire [ACE] and the ACU Community Vocal Ensemble for performing at the lunch time concert. Last but not least, a thank you to our volunteers for helping make the day run very smooth. Our last thank you goes to you, the community, for coming along and sharing in community music making and we really hope this was just the beginning and there are many more to come.

p.s. thank you to Phil Splitter for letting Susie do what she does best...make people happy!

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