

MEDIA RELEASE
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WASO Jingles All the Way to Perth Children's Hospital



It's the most wonderful time of the year; Santa is on his way and Christmas music is ringing in our ears.

For the patients at Perth Children's Hospital, some will spend Christmas Day opening their presents on the ward rather than at home with their family.

On Wednesday November 28, West Australian Symphony Orchestra will bring the joy of Christmas to Perth Children's Hospital residents with a very special Hospital Orchestra Project (HOP) concert, presented in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health (SSEN:MMH).

The WASO ensemble and WASO chorus team up with Libby Hammer to perform everybody's favourite Christmas songs. The concert is also broadcast throughout the hospital on Starlight TV so those unable to leave their rooms for the performance will not miss out. WASO musicians will also visit children on the wards, distribute gift bags and sing carols.

"I liked the tune of the trumpet and the music. It made me feel...STRONGER" – 8 year old HOP participant.

The HOP program is supported by Healthway promoting the Act-Belong-Commit message, designed to reach children and their carers who are unable to attend a concert due to illness. A sense of belonging is particularly important for the HOP audience, contributing to their happiness and mental wellbeing.

"Encouraging families to participate in HOP is a great opportunity to strengthen the mental health and wellbeing. We're proud to partner with WASO to deliver activities that focus on promoting positive mental health to the community." – Healthway

Throughout the year HOP visits children in hospital, in an effort to provide them with engaging learning and a positive distraction from every day challenges through the enjoyment of music. WASO provides vital emotionally supportive experiences and a connection to the community outside hospital.

HOP is presented in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health (Department of Education) and Starlight Children's Foundation.

Meagan Pass, Coordinator – SSEN: MMH said they are very proud of this special partnership which is celebrating its tenth year.

"HOP provides musical arts and learning experiences through ward visits, interactive concerts and creative workshops for children and adolescents. These engaging experiences enable our students to develop a love of the Arts and provides a creative outlet during challenging periods in their life."

This program is delivered by WASO's award winning Education and Community Engagement program and promotes a lifelong journey with WASO and the joy of music!

Visit our website for more information on this project <https://www.waso.com.au/education-community/community-outreach/hospital-orchestra-project-hop/>

For further details please contact:

Amy McDonnell

Communications Manager

West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Tel: (08) 9326 0061 **Mob: 0410 753 196**

mcdonnella@waso.com.au