

AMEB ONLINE ORCHESTRA

A nation united by music

**Australia's biggest online orchestra performs I AM AUSTRALIAN in
Melbourne on October 22**



Musicians and singers from all around Australia have taken part in an inclusive and unique music project organised by the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB). While the performers may not be together in the same physical space they are united by music and technology, being recorded under palm trees, on farms and from above by drone, from Mendooran (NSW) to Austins Ferry (TAS) to the Big Pineapple (QLD). Every entry - totalling over 1200 people - is woven into the final production.

The 2019 song is the modern day classic *I am Australian*, written in 1987 by Bruce Woodley AO and Dobe Newton. It's a piece of music that rouses the emotions with its stirring pride in the diversity of Australian society.

Bernard Depasquale, CEO of AMEB, says: "The beauty of the AMEB Online Orchestra is that it is all inclusive regardless of musical ability and brings people together. It demonstrates all that is best about the AMEB community."

Plucking, singing, strumming, blowing, beating, and playing instruments of all kinds (including a keytar, harp, melodicas, marimbas, a tin whistle and glockenspiel) the members of the AMEB Online Orchestra come from all corners of Australia. Downloading specially arranged scores for different instruments which also allowed for varying skill levels, and a click track to play along with, participants then recorded their performance in a place that was special to them. AMEB has combined all the contributions into one huge marvellous virtual performance that will be seen for the first time on 22nd October at 10.30am.

The 2019 AMEB Online Orchestra official video launch will take place at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Ian Potter Southbank Centre, MC-ed by this year's Online Orchestra Conductor and Ambassador Jessica Gethin, Chief Conductor of the Perth Symphony Orchestra.

The event will include a mixture of live and pre-recorded performances by Melbourne Girls' College String ensembles, Yugambah Youth Choir and Tintern Grammar Junior Choir. The launch will be streamed live via [Facebook](#) so that participants who can't be in Melbourne can still be part of all the action.

Special Guests:

Thanh Bui is a singer-songwriter who grew up in Melbourne, the son of asylum seekers who fled Communist Vietnam in the 1980s. A passion for music led him from boy band North to Australian Idol finalist in 2008 to composer of No. 1 hits before he decided to take everything he had learned in Australia back to Vietnam. Bui now lives in Ho Chi Minh City, where he set up a music school (SMPAA) that is developing into an arts education and Entertainment Empire.

Isobella Kruger is a long time member of Yugambah Youth Choir, a local Aboriginal youth choir from the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim (QLD). The choir, directed by Kombumerri woman and Isobella's mum Candace Kruger, weaves the region's language, culture, and stories together in traditional and contemporary Yugambah language pieces. In their entry, they sing *I am Australian* in Yugambah, translated by Shaun Davies from the Yugambah Museum and featuring Ethan Nihot playing the didgeridoo.

Jessica Gethin - 2019 Online Orchestra Conductor & Ambassador

Australian-born conductor Jessica Gethin was listed in Limelight Magazine's '2017 Top Twenty Australian Artists of the Year'. Her musical experience covers a diverse range of genres; also writing, presenting and conducting her own symphonic programs and family concerts. She has been Chief Conductor of the Perth Symphony Orchestra since 2011.

101 years of AMEB

In 2018, to mark the centenary of AMEB, musicians and singers were invited to submit a recording of *Waltzing Matilda* and the AMEB Online Orchestra was born. With such an enthusiastic response to the project the Online Orchestra has again been called together in 2019 receiving hundreds of entries, from individuals to ensembles, choirs and orchestras.



Melbourne Conservatorium of Music is the proud event partner of the AMEB Online Orchestra Video Launch.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH JESSICA GETHIN, ISOBELLA KRUGER AND THANH BUI PLEASE CONTACT:

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