

talent
development
project.

GRADUATION CONCERT
2025

AKNOWLEDGMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF COUNTRY, THE GADIGAL AND BIDJIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR CONNECTIONS TO LAND, WATER AND COMMUNITY AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.





From the Artistic Director Peter Cousens AM

The inspiration for story is not a script, not a melody, not even a lyric — but a feeling. A quiet, trembling truth that lives deep inside. That is where a story told through song begins.

Tonight, you will witness something more than performance. You will witness courage. For to sing or speak or step into the light is, first and foremost, an act of vulnerability — of daring to share one's inner world with strangers in the dark. Our emerging artists are learning that their power lies not just in their technique, but in the truth they choose to tell.

Story is the heartbeat of the human experience. It is what an audience longs for — not just entertainment, but meaning. And so, we encourage our performers to ask not only - What can I do?, but What do I have to say? For in saying it — in owning it — they become more than performers. They become storytellers. They become artists.

This concert is a celebration of that transformation. These songs and stories are drawn from the most fragile places — and yet they shine with strength, hope, and the promise of what is to come. Let the inside out. Let the music begin.



CEO WELCOME
Amy Curl

Listen up, because today you will hear the next wave of young Australian artists shaping the sound of tomorrow.

On behalf of the Talent Development Project Foundation, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2025 Graduation Concert. Today is an important and exciting event in our student's journey, and the culmination of three phases of creativity, hard work, and commitment to their craft.

The students you will hear highlight the exceptional breadth of talent and musicianship that exists within our public school system. These young people have the power to evoke emotions and have been generous in sharing their culture and identities with each other, and today with us, the audience.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Department of Education, and their belief in our vision to provide accessible training and development opportunities to young musicians across NSW regardless of their geographic location, or circumstance.

We also thank the International Convention Centre for supporting the TDP through its Legacy Program, and providing access to their world-class facilities, and to ClubsNSW for their enduring support in the work of the Talent Development Project Foundation.

Enjoy the show!

PROGRAM

ACT 1

Fragile (*Sting*)

All Artists

Lola (*S.O'Keefe*)

SYDA

Sunset Vingette (*C.Heather Grace*)

Charlotte Heather Grace

Curtain Call (*N.Le*)

Nyah Le

Valium (*E.Grace*)

Elliot Grace

Shelter (*J.Iosia*)

Jayden Iosia

Damn Hard Working Man (*L.Grant*)

Lilly-Grace Grant

Falling and Failing (*S.LaPlume-Barker*)

Soraya

Paper Plane (*A.White*)

Angel White

Chaleur (*R.Laight*)

Rafferty Laight

Easy Kill (*T.Mckay*)

Tessa Jane

Birds of a Feather

All Artists

(*Billie Eileesh*)

PROGRAM

ACT 2

When it All Ends (<i>M.Bradford</i>)	Matt Bradford, guest artist
Anxiety (<i>Doechii</i>)	All Artists
Repeat (<i>A.White</i>)	Angel White
Eyes Wide Shut (<i>R.Laight</i>)	Rafferty Laight
Still Hurting (<i>C.Heather Grace</i>)	Charlotte Heather Gace
These Boots (<i>L.Hazlewood</i>)	SYDA
It's My Life (<i>Bon Jovi</i>)	Lily-Grace Grant
Catalyst (<i>T.McKay</i>)	Tessa Jane
Sailing Home to You (<i>J.Iosia</i>)	Jayden Iosia
Tough Pill (<i>N.Le</i>)	Nyah Le
ABC (<i>E.Grace</i>)	Eliott Grace
Bridge Over Troubled Water (<i>P.Simon</i>)	Soraya
With a Little Help from My Friends (<i>J.Lennon & P.McCartney</i>)	All Artists



ANGEL WHITE

**MURWILLUMBAH LEARNING
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

"Music is a place I can go to exhale all my emotions, whether it's joy, sadness, anger, or anxiety. With my guitar and voice, I write lyrics that capture every part of me and how I'm feeling. Singing takes me to a place where everything stops for a moment, and I can simply just feel—no overthinking, no troubles, just real. Like a dream."



**CHARLOTTE
HEATHER GRACE**

GOSFORD HIGH SCHOOL

"I like to imagine my mind as a montage - a mismatched assortment of sparkle, handwritten notes, and an endless array of photographs, with just a slight sprinkle of stardust scattered on top. A cloud of red haze reflects off my smoke and mirrors, but you can just make out the silhouette of a girl who pretends to have everything figured out. If you were to, say, write a musical about the characters in my mind, Joy would probably take the leading role, but you can bet that every other emotion — from Anger to Nostalgia — would make an extremely dramatic entrance. I suppose what I'm trying to say is that I am fuelled by connection. Love is my default setting, and I don't think there's anything that sums me up more."



ELLIOT GRACE

"Songwriting is my way of making sense of the what's happening inside – like turning emotions into paintings. There's a whole world in our heads – joy, sadness, fear, all fighting for space to be heard. When I write, I try to listen – and let them speak. It's less about telling a story and more about reliving a moment – and inviting you to step into it with me."

**HUNTER SCHOOL OF THE
PERFORMING ARTS**



JAYDEN IOSIA

"Inside my head, Joy's steering the canoe, Sadness is crying about the fog, and Anxiety forgot the map. I write songs about love, longing, and heroic canoe journeys – because apparently, I think that's romantic. Mostly, I'm just paddling through feelings, holding onto hope that love always finds its way."

KARABAR HIGH SCHOOL



**LILY-GRACE
GRANT**

BYRON BAY HIGH

"So a little about me. I was singing before I could walk or talk. Pure love of music. Young innocent music, it made me happy. People sometimes comment on how it must take a lot of nerve to get up on stage and that they could never do it. But to me, the stage is a safe place. Music gives me freedom and allows emotions to come out that I could never set free through speech. And when your music makes people feel something, that's really special."

Music is my sanctuary. Music is my peace."



NYAH LE

**HUNTER SCHOOL OF THE
PERFORMING ARTS**

"I think every writer or artist has their specific reasoning for why they create. For me, I think it's the process of documentation that I'm obsessed with. To take this incredibly candid and personal snapshot of who I am at the time and what I'm going through is something that is very sacred to me. I cannot process without babbling. So as you can imagine, every emotion I've ever had - every sadness, every joy, every ounce of fear, even if it's brief, is 100% documented somewhere in some journal, or somewhere in my notes app. Or, most of the time, in my songs."



RAFFTERY LAIGHT

“Inside Rafferty’s mind, there’s always something playing - music, ideas, bits of scenes or lyrics that haven’t quite formed yet. He picked up a guitar at six and never really put it down. Whether it’s performing, writing, or just listening, making sense of things through art, passion and connection is what keeps him going.”

MOSMAN HIGH SCHOOL



SYDA

“Inside Sylvie’s mind lives Lola – clipboard-wielding, toe-tapping, and forever frowning. Lola is self-appointed, overqualified, and slightly stressed at all times. Together, they navigate life like it’s a group project: over-organised, mildly chaotic, and filled with colour-coded feelings, midnight overthinking, and occasional glitter explosions.”

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL



SORAYA

GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL

"I like to think most of the time joy has the wheel. Shes curious, shes courageous. But sometimes joy can be shy, and sensitive. I tend to think because i spend most of my time being happy, it means when something hurts, it hurts like a ton of bricks. It feels like the worlds ending but in reality, I accidentally killed my new pot plant. But that feeling is why i love music, its become a vessel where i feel i can lighten the load, where i feel free to express myself, where joy sits back and lets the others take the reigns for a while. Wether it be over a dead plant, or heartache, music has always helped me. Listening or writing, Its refreshing, its painful, raw and real, but thats why i love it."



TESSA JANE

KATOOMBA HIGH SCHOOL

"If Tessa was an animal, she'd be a monkey - swinging through the branches with fearless curiosity, looking down on the messy beauty of the jungle beneath. If Tessa was a flower, she'd want to be an orchid, unusual and complex, a mystery that lingers in the mind long after it's seen. If Tessa was a character, she'd be Rapunzel, eager to break free and looking for her place in the world. Or maybe Barbie, who has lived every life imaginable already. What a ride! If Tessa was a musical instrument, she'd choose the violin. It sings and rages and weeps, and it gets carried away on flights of fancy. If Tessa could travel to any time in history, she'd visit 2075. The future can't come soon enough and she would love a peek to see what's in store for her."

SPECIAL GUEST

MATT BRADFORD



Matt Bradford is a soulful singer-songwriter with roots in jazz, blues, and acoustic storytelling. After gigging in England, touring Australia, and releasing music on Spotify, he stepped away to become a commercial pilot. Now at 28, he's back—writing about love, life, and everything in between, with new music coming in 2026.

GRADUATION TEAM THANKS

Creative Team

Peter Cousens, Director
Philippe-Marc Anquetil, Music Producer
Meredith Burton, Production Manager
Veronica George, Choreographer
Chris Snape, Lighting Designer
Amie Morris, Event Marketing Manager

Band

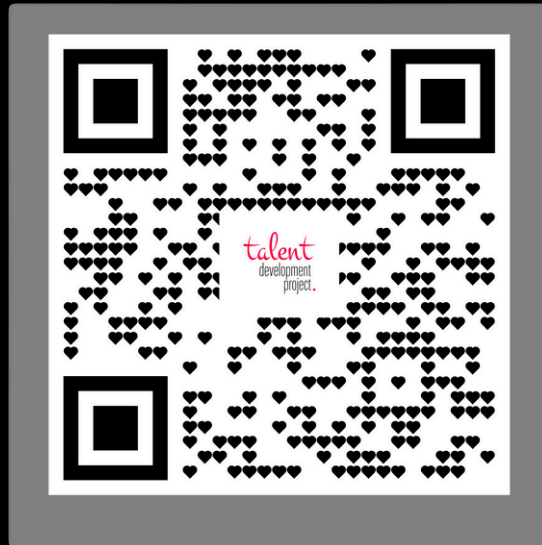
Nick Craig, Musical Director / Drums
Novak Manojlovic, Piano
Max Ogle, Bass
Felix Lalanne, Guitar

SPONSOR THANKS

The 2025 TDP Gradution Concert is proudly supported by



TDP 2025 ALBUM



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APPLICATIONS FOR 2026

TDP's School Program will inspire your creative talent and develop the resilience you require to pursue a professional career in the performing arts.

The School Program is open to NSW government high school students, in years 9 - 12. If you are singer, singer-songwriter, musical theatre performer, instrumentalist or part of a band, you are welcome to apply.

[Click here to learn more](#)