

MAKE MUSIC MATTER

School Music Resources and the Rudd Government's Building the Education Revolution

Make certain that your school's new buildings are "music ready."

Shortly the Australian Government will begin investing \$14.7 billion in new school infrastructure through its "Building the Education Revolution" program. As part of this initiative your school's music program, either current or planned, could be eligible for a significant government-funded boost.

Here's how:

Between now and the end of July 2009, all Australian schools will be asked to submit proposals for new school infrastructure. Schools will each have up to \$3 million to spend through this program. Eligible projects include buildings such as science centres, libraries, performing arts centres and in the case of many primary schools, new multi-purpose halls. Schools may also be able to propose plans for the renovation or re-use of existing buildings.

As part of these plans schools are able to specify the equipment they need to make their new buildings or renovations operational for the purposes intended in an education sense. If your new buildings will be used for music, then you should include the musical equipment and resources needed.

So be sure to ensure that your school's buildings are "music ready." To help here are some examples of the kinds of equipment you should include in your projects specifications.

Multi purpose halls

Grants proposals for the development of multi purpose halls will be a popular choice for amongst primary schools. As these halls will often be used as rehearsal and performance spaces for music, drama or dance resources you can, as part of your grant proposal, include some or all of the following to make these halls suitable for music learning.

- **Audio/PA equipment:** Speakers, amplifiers, microphones, mixer, cabling, CD/DVD playback.
- **Musical instruments¹:** all musical instruments and musical equipment necessary to undertake your proposed music program such as band instruments, orchestral strings, drums, tuned and untuned percussion, guitars, amplifiers, pianos, digital pianos and keyboards
- **Lighting and staging:** Lights and lighting consoles, staging pieces such as risers
- **Recording equipment:** Music software programs, hard disk recording devices, microphones and computers
- **Rehearsal and performance equipment¹:** items such as orchestral chairs, conductors rostrum, choir risers and other items of a capital nature
- **Acoustic Treatments**

Performing Arts centres

If your plans include the building of new performing arts centre then be sure to include the following music equipment in the specification to make the most of your investment

- **Audio/PA equipment:** Speakers, amplifiers, microphones, mixer, cabling, CD/DVD playback.
- **Lighting and staging:** Lights and lighting console, cabling, staging curtaining, staging pieces such as risers
- **Recording equipment:** computer, music software programs, hard disk recording devices
If you intend to use the centre as a rehearsal or performance space for your school band, choir or ensembles then you can include items specifically for those programs such as:
- **Pianos or digital pianos**
- **Musical instruments¹** in particular the types of instruments usually purchased by schools such as timpani, bass drums background brass and woodwind (such as tubas, bassoons etc), double basses and so on
- **Staging Equipment:** Choral risers, orchestral chairs, conductor rostrum and so on
- **Acoustic Treatments**



Music centres, rehearsal or practice spaces

Any development, conversion or renovation of music teaching, practice or rehearsal spaces can include, in addition to the any construction, all capital items that are deemed necessary to undertake the proposed activity with those spaces.

Your specification might include the following items:

- **Musical instruments**¹: all musical instruments and musical equipment necessary to undertake your proposed music program such as band instruments, orchestral strings, drums, tuned and untuned percussion, guitars, amplifiers, pianos, digital pianos and keyboards
- **Audio equipment**: Speakers, amplifiers, microphones, mixer, cabling
- **Recording equipment**: Music software programs, hard disk recording devices, computers and peripherals
- **Computer music resources**: such as software programs, external devices such as speakers, hard disk recorders, interfaces and other related devices
- **Audio visual equipment**: for the play back of music from CD, DVD or digital formats
- **Rehearsal and performance equipment**¹: items such as orchestral chairs, conductors rostrum, choir risers and other items of a capital nature
- **Acoustic Treatments**

Music technology and recording facilities

Many schools are looking to expand their music capabilities to include music technology and recording capabilities. If this applies to you or your school, then consider including these items in the program specification.

- **Computer music resources**: such as software programs, external devices such as speakers, hard disk recorders, interfaces and other related items
- **Recording equipment**: computer, music software programs, hard disk recording devices and other peripherals
- **Audio equipment**: Speakers, amplifiers, microphones, mixer, cabling
- **Audio visual equipment**: for the play back of music from CD, DVD or digital formats
- **Musical instruments**¹: items such as synthesizers, digital piano, amplifiers, drums or electronic drums are just some of the items that would complete a music technology or recording facility in your school

Computer centres

If your school is proposing to renovate, convert or develop a computer centre then it might be sensible to include a computer music capability as part of that program. Computer music and multimedia creativity tools add significantly to the capabilities of any computer learning environment.

In addition to the computer, printers and other ICT hardware you would need to specify music specific items such as:

- Music software programs for recording, arranging, looping and transcribing music and sounds
- Audio interfaces and audio capture devices (to be able to record a guitar or voice for example directly onto the computer)
- Speakers, headphones
- Keyboards and other music instruments to connect to the computer
- Mixing console

NEED HELP?

If you would like some assistance developing your schools music specification as part of a *Building The Education Revolution* proposal you can call 03 9527 6658 or email info@australianmusic.asn.au



Music Council of Australia

¹Provided the item is of a "capital" nature - as a rule of thumb, you should include only equipment and instruments which would be used by a number of different students over multiple years, not "consumable" instruments such as recorders.