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## **MYM ANNOUNCES 2011 BANDS FESTIVAL AT BMW EDGE, MAY 28 & 29**

Melbourne Youth Music (MYM) has today announced program details for its 2011 Bands Festival, to be held at BMW Edge, Federation Square. This annual celebration of bands, presented in association with *Fed Ed*, Federation Square's Education Program, has been going from strength to strength since its inception in 2005. With four concerts over Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May, the MYM 2011 Bands Festival will be the biggest yet.

Thirteen bands from around Melbourne and Victoria will participate, with school, university and community bands performing side by side in a unique, non-competitive setting. The 2011 Bands Festival sees an exciting array of wind and stage bands taking part, with brass bands being represented this year for the first time.

Peter Garnick, President of MYM, commented: *"The MYM Bands Festival is always a fantastic weekend of music making and fellowship amongst band enthusiasts and lovers of good music. To date, participants have come from throughout Melbourne and surrounding areas however in 2011 we'll be reaching from coast to coast! We are delighted to announce that our special guests, the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra, will be headlining our final concert."*

Special Guest Ensemble of the 2011 Bands Festival, the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO), was founded in 1983 and has since then cemented its position as one of Australia's premier training ensembles for young jazz musicians. This exciting young Perth-based ensemble, led by Artistic Director Mace Francis, will be performing two sets in the Sunday evening concert, including a combined performance to close out the Festival with MYM's own Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra.

*"The WA Youth Jazz Orchestra is very excited to be travelling to Melbourne to perform for a whole new audience as the Special Guest Ensemble for the MYM 2011 Bands Festival. The 18-piece WAYJO ensemble will be joining forces with the Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra for an incredible once-off 'big-big band' performance showcasing Australia's most talented young jazz musicians."* - WAYJO General Manager Callum Moncrieff.

The Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra (MYJO) formed in 2010 and has already established a formidable reputation as a jazz ensemble of the highest calibre. MYJO's two performances at this year's Bands Festival signal the start of their 2011 season, which will also include performances at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival and as part of the Arts Centre's Morning Melodies series, where they will be joined by special guest John Foreman.

A number of guest ensembles from schools and universities throughout the greater metropolitan region will join the Bands Festival again this year. A highlight of the Saturday evening concert will be the Melbourne Wind Ensemble, an ensemble consisting of professional musicians and music educators who share a passion for performing outstanding wind band works at the highest level.

Program details, including a full listing of bands performing, are available on the MYM website at [www.mym.org.au](http://www.mym.org.au) and individual concert tickets are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased by calling MYM on (03) 9376 8988.

Ticket prices: Adult \$25, Concession \$20, Children under 6 years free.

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