



Open Sesame: Music and Play for Everyone at The Con

Taxi drivers be aware - you can come inside, not just drop-off passengers at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor Kim Walker, has moved to scuttle any misapprehension that the institution is open to only musicians and scholars.

"You don't have to have an instrument under your arm to come through our doors... it is a place for everyone and anyone," Professor Walker declared as part of the message for The Con's first public **Open Day on Sunday (29 March)**.

"People coming to our venerable and vibrant institution kept telling me that their taxi drivers loved the architecture and the setting, but were convinced that they couldn't come inside.

"The notion that it is off-limits simply because it is home to many of the world's best and aspiring musicians and teachers is a red rag to a bull for me and my colleagues.

"We know it to be a place that is an environment that, typified by hustle and bustle, and all sorts of inspired sounds and sights, is as welcoming as our treasured Town Hall, Opera House and Art Gallery of NSW.

"Sure The Con is one of the iconic buildings of our great City, and we love it for that. But it is a place of work, endeavour, history, gatherings, fun, joy... a veritable People's Palace."

Professor Walker said the emphasis of the Open Day was to showcase The Con's diversity - from classical to rock, from jazz to choral, from historic instruments to sonic soundscapes.

"Through a cavalcade of free performances, displays, workshops, quizzes, jam sessions, masterclasses and tours we want to send a signal to the community at large that The Con offers a place where you can come inside.

"It will be a great day, and span the gamut of music genres - not just classical, but drums, jazz, rock and popular music. Not just instruments but vocal and electronic, light and sound as well.

"We will have internationally renowned musicians by the bucket load, but also our young virtuosos, the Rising Stars; students from the Conservatorium High School; students from a range of NSW Regional Conservatoria are travelling quite some distance to join us for the weekend; Kinderjazz; Sound Installations; the Friendship Choir.

"If you have an instrument or a voice you are welcome to come along and join in. As they say, something for everyone, including taxi drivers."

All details are at: www.thecon.com.au

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