

**OPENING REMARKS BY MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD AT A  
CONCERT BY YOUNG PERFORMERS TO CELEBRATE THE WORK  
OF THEIR TASMANIAN MUSIC TEACHERS, GOVERNMENT  
HOUSE, FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013<sup>1</sup>**

*HE* It's a great pleasure for me and my wife to welcome you all here this evening for what is a first, and very special event. Now, as my wife is the Artistic Director here at Government House you will not be surprised to learn that tonight was her idea and the result of her planning so I'll hand over to her to tell you about the proceedings that will follow.

*MU* Thank you. As wife of the Governor, as Patron of the Tasmanian Music Teachers Association and as a musician and teacher, I join in my husband's welcome to you all here tonight: teachers, performers, parents, friends and supporters from all over Tasmania. Tonight is a celebration of achievement. It is about celebrating the achievement of our young performers. It is about celebrating the work of effective and inspiring educators and it is about celebrating work of the Tasmanian Music Teachers Association.

Where would any of us be without teachers? I am forever grateful to those teachers who helped me be where I am today and who saw in me what I couldn't see in myself. In my case they were music teachers who taught me as much about teaching as they did about music. One of them Madam Helen George, was instrumental in establishing the Tasmanian Music Teachers Association, and I pay tribute to her tonight and all those of her generation such as Anne McGarry and Eileen Johnson and the others who made a large contribution to the development of music and quality music teaching in Tasmania. Their legacy has continued to this day, carried forward by past Presidents and

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<sup>1</sup> 24/05/2013 2:30 PM

members of the Association, to the current President Jody Heald, and current members

It is true that teacher's get their rewards from their students' successes; from seeing them develop skills, knowledge and understanding and with that the confidence to take up the challenge to be the best they can be in whatever they do. But like everybody teachers appreciate, and should receive, deserved recognition and this evening is designed to do just that. My husband and I thought there was no better place to do that than here at Government House, in this exquisitely beautiful ballroom, and with guests from all over Tasmania.

Over the next 90 minutes or so, young performers will showcase for you some of the best work of Tasmanian Music teachers. We hope it will encourage them to continue their studies and we hope it will encourage teachers to continue to hone and ply their teaching skills.

I have to plead a little self-interest in expressing those hopes for we are always on the lookout for high quality musicians of all kinds and ages to perform in this Ballroom for the thousands of guests who attend our receptions for state, national and international conferences. We like to spread the message that Tasmania is indeed a place where the arts flourish *and the thank you letters that flow in* confirm that **that** message is being heard.

I would just like to say a special thank you to those who've put tonight's program and to accompanists Jody Heald and Jane

Edwards, to Stage Manager, Jennifer McDonald, as well of course to each of the 26 performers and their 18 teachers. Let the celebrations begin. Thank You