

Michael J School Concerts in Oz 2018 in schools across Australia

Proposal

About the Project

Michael Jakarimilena (Michael J or Michael Idol as he is also known) is a humble performer with a strong sense of national identity with Indonesia and is a positive mentor for the younger generation in both Indonesia and Australia.

This project develops a greater motivation and enthusiasm within the younger generation, of the contemporary 'pop culture' of Indonesia. It brings together students in a positive and joyful learning environment, showcasing the similarities the young people of both countries share, rather than focusing on differences. It also provides a common experience and learning context in which to share opinions and feelings and learn and practise speaking *bahasa Indonesia*.

It is well recognised in second language learning education that popular culture is an appropriate way to engage teenage students in learning a language. It is important to allow students to notice, acknowledge and discuss cultural similarities and not just focus on the differences. This is important in building trust and friendship between our two countries, Indonesia and Australia.

- The *Michael J School Concerts in Oz 2018*, based on the successful 2016 and 2017 programs, is a project with a national focus, across as many Australian States as possible. 2017 video highlights can be viewed on the [BBIP YouTube Channel](#).
- These school concerts are a fusion of entertainment and education where Michael Jakarimilena (a current performer in Indonesia and former Indonesian Idol finalist), performs concerts in Indonesian to several thousand students of Indonesian language in primary and secondary schools (years 6-12) across Australia.
- These concerts have proven to engage teenagers in learning Indonesian. Amongst much positive feedback from teachers in 2017, are such remarks as,
 - *'I was overwhelmed by the reaction of my students. The concert added value to my Indonesian language program that was immeasurable.*
 - *They loved meeting Michael and taking part in the concert, practising their Indonesian language and meeting their peers that also learn Indonesian. They have been talking about their experience for weeks'.*
- Another email, received recently from a teacher four months after the event, read: *The Michael J concert was probably the most exciting excursion my students have been to. They were still singing the Yogya Love Song last week!!! How good is that? And thank you so much for the learning resources related to the concert. They are unbelievably varied, thorough and exciting!*
- The concerts are supported by learning materials, developed by teachers specifically for the program. The materials related directly to the themes and lyrics of the songs performed (which relate to the Australian Curriculum: Indonesian Language) and teachers have access to all of the materials in the months leading up to the concert.

- All school concerts are free to students, unless local hosts cannot find sufficient funding and they may choose to charge a nominal cost to schools.

Project description:

Year 6-12 students across Australia will be immersed in contemporary Indonesian concerts with a professional Indonesian artist, Michael J. Details of venues & dates during August/September will be negotiated as each Australian State commits to supporting the project.

The concerts are educational, immersing students and teachers in Indonesian language and music with the opportunity to meet & talk directly with Michael J after each concert. Songs will be selected with input from teachers across Australia and will have a direct connection with the Australian Curriculum Second Language (Indonesian).

A program of learning, with materials available online several months before the concerts, will be prepared for teachers to use with students leading up to, and after, the concert. A live stream to some partner schools in Indonesia is also possible with participating Australian schools.

BBIP will work closely with the Embassy and Consulates General of Indonesia as well as other BBI organisations and State Indonesian Teachers Associations to ensure a successful outcome for the proposed concerts across Australia.

Further points to note:

- The target audience of the Michael J School Concerts is relatively broad including thousands of school students/young adults studying *bahasa Indonesia*. This reach then extends to whole school communities across Australia. This broader school community reach encompasses, parents and siblings of the students and colleagues and networks of the teachers of Indonesian, and can even be extended further.
- The songlist is developed to integrate with appropriate themes for Indonesian language learning in classrooms in Australia, based on the Australian Curriculum Languages: Indonesian, and includes explicit links to the cross curriculum priorities. Contemporary songs from, and about, various areas of Indonesia, are performed in *bahasa Indonesia*.
- As well as materials provided to schools in relation to the language learning aspect of the songs, BBIP will also provide learning around the songs that relates directly to, and conveys important messages about the lives of the people of those areas.

Project objectives:

- Michael J (Michael Idol) will perform concerts in Indonesian a minimum of 5000 students studying Indonesian language (Yrs 6-12) in States across Australia, during August and September 2018
- The concerts, where possible will be simulcast/live streamed to partner Schools in Indonesia (of participating Australian schools)
- The songlist for the 2018 concerts will be compiled with input from teachers of Indonesian across Australia and the songs will have a direct connection with the Australian Curriculum Languages: Indonesian and be appropriate texts for learning Indonesian

- Songs will be ‘upbeat’ and student interaction and participation will be encouraged.
- There will be a big screen at each concert with the lyrics of the Indonesian songs displayed as they are performed.
- The concert will be an interactive and participative immersion concert experience for the students - a supportive environment where everyone will be encouraged to use Indonesian language and engage with contemporary Indonesian culture.

Strategies

- The songlist for the 2018 concerts will have a direct connection with the Australian Curriculum Languages: Indonesian. Some of the themes to be included are identity, Indonesian nationalism, environmental sustainability, unity, world peace and love.
- A collection of texts and tasks, connected to the songs and lyrics will be prepared for teachers to use in their Indonesian classrooms in the weeks leading up to, and after, the concert. These will be available to all teachers through a password protected online website.
- Through this online tool, teachers will be able to interact with colleagues to discuss and share content relevant to the concert and appropriate texts and tasks.
- An exciting dimension of the concerts, is the possibility of simulcast/live streams of each concert to some partner schools in Indonesia. The schools selected to participate from Indonesia would have direct and collaborative sister school relationships with schools attending the concerts/s.

Management and Coordination:

National Coordination

Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth (Inc) are responsible for the management of the Michael J team and act as **National Coordinator** of the overall concert schedule and logistics, in consultation with KBRI and individual State hosts. BBIP is also responsible for the overall financial reporting to sponsors and individual participating States.

State Coordination

Each participating State will nominate a **State Coordinator** whose role is to coordinate at the State level in consultation and collaboration with the National Coordinator.

Publicity and marketing:

Through existing networks and working with KBRI, BBIP is prepared to negotiate with an Indonesia TV network eg NET TV (Netmediatama Indonesia) or Metro TV, requesting coverage of at least one of the eastern seaboard concerts promoting the benefits of the project and its important role as a successful national educational initiative in the schooling sector.

BBIP has a reasonable web and social media presence in Australia and Indonesia. Our national profile, with support from Indonesian and Australian bodies and organisations, enables us to acknowledge widely, the support of funding partners in this project.

Data will be collected via an online survey to all participating schools across Australia. In 2017 we collected data from teachers but this could be extended to directly collecting data from students as well. Analytics of the online site for teachers will also be used to determine the degree of success of this element of the project.

Pre and post media statements will be widely distributed in both Australian and Indonesian print and online media, acknowledging the invaluable support of our sponsor/s.

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Seeking sponsors:

As a learning activity that has proven popular and valuable for invigorating Indonesian language programs in secondary schools in Australia, Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth is currently seeking sponsors to present a 2018 concert series in as many Australian states as possible, as per the proposed schedule.

Corporate and private sponsors are warmly welcomed.

Enquiries to:

Chairperson *Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth Inc.* kbailey@balaibahasaperth.org

Phone: +61 408934358

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