

Michael J Indonesian School Concerts in Oz tour 2018

6th August – 9th September 2018



Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth (BBIP) is a WA-based cultural non-profit organisation with the main aim of increasing activities and developing closer links between Australia and Indonesia at all levels. Amongst its many activities BBIP also focus on assisting schools to add value to their Indonesian language programs and inspire and motivate students through events and strategies that bring contemporary Indonesia in to their classrooms, assisting students and the broader communities to engage with real-life Indonesia more readily. The *Michael J School Concerts* is one of those strategies.

During 2018, with the assistance of part-funding from the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, several smaller sponsors and support from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Western Australia, BBIP coordinated a series of concerts through August and September, in three Australian states, for secondary school students studying Indonesian language. The performances were by Michael Jakarimilena, an Indonesian vocalist born in Jayapura, Indonesia and well known in many parts of Indonesia after becoming *Indonesian Idol's* fourth runner up in season one.

Languages education in Australia i.e. the teaching of Languages other than English, over the last decade or so, has largely been ignored by governments at all levels. The inroads that were made in the 90's in the implementation of second language learning in schools were systematically stripped back across many education jurisdictions and governments from the early 2000's. Teachers of second languages in Australia find that in many instances they are left with rather a flimsy and vulnerable approach to our students' learning of languages in schools across Australia. Indonesian seems to have been particularly affected, certainly in



secondary schools, as other Asian and European languages compete for what few secondary school language programs are offered.

Indonesian is a key strategic language for Australia and it is hoped many schools will consider implementing exciting second language learning programs in Indonesian. The Michael J School Concerts are a taster of how much fun learning Indonesian can be, and more importantly, showcase modern Indonesia in a way that encourages and enables our younger generation to interact in a more positive way with our close and important neighbour, Indonesia.

Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth (BBIP) believes that learning any second language is worthwhile for cognitive, personal, social and cultural development of individuals, however it does remain somewhat baffling to those second language learners who have learnt and now use Indonesian regularly in social and work contexts, that Indonesian remains such an undervalued and under-studied language in Australia. As a nation it is important to think more critically and strategically about implementation of Indonesian language learning in our schools (K-12) and universities.

In this exclusive and unique fusion of entertainment and education in language learning, Michael J performs concerts live to audiences students from schools in several states of Australia. All of the concerts are an interactive and participative immersion experience for the students. Large screens on stage display the lyrics of the songs performed and students are encouraged to interact and participate using Indonesian language where possible.

The responses of audiences at the concerts and the school visits are outstanding. Since the inaugural concerts series in 2016 through to 2018 there has been a great deal of positive verbal and written feedback from students, teachers, principals, as well as invited guests from Australian and Indonesian governments, local community representatives and business leaders.

Each year, excitement and interest builds amongst the students from the many schools who attend the concerts across Australia, as teachers use lyrics and other texts from the upcoming performances as sources for language learning. Linked to the Australian Curriculum, teachers develop and share interesting and engaging tasks to assist the students' learning in the lead up to the concerts.

BBIP are grateful to Michael J and this commitment he has made to inspire the teaching of Indonesian in Australian schools through this program. Michael's vocal talents, abilities as an entertainer, and his willingness to engage directly with school students across Australia make this event a unique, memorable, and importantly, truly cross cultural experience for all involved.

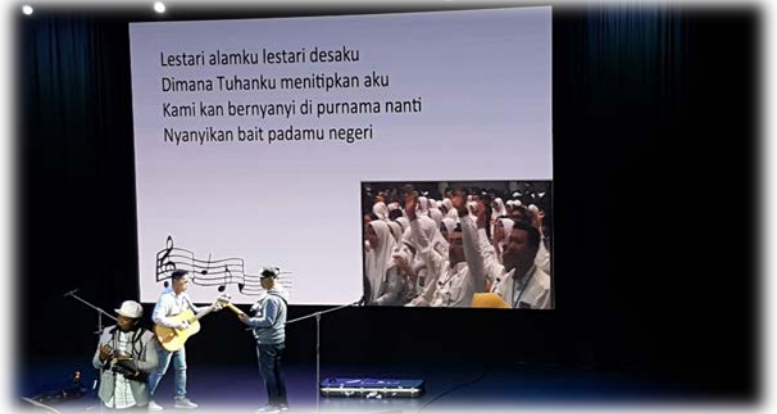
Some student comments from the 2018 concerts

'I loved the Indonesian concert, it was a great cultural experience and loved interacting with Surabaya! Overall the concert was a learning experience I will never forget!' Paige Yr 9

'I really enjoyed the Miki J concert – I would LOVE to go again i feel like it was the best Indonesian excursion we ever had!' Louis Yr 7

'I loved the concert my favourite part was listening to raya Indonesia and looking around to see everyone enjoying the songs 🎵 (and aku bosan)' Danae Yr 7

'The Miki J concert was even better this year than last year, I liked how we could see the students from Surabaya. I had a good time' Isabella Yr 7



'I was really excited about the school letting us go to see the Miki J concert. My favourite song was the Jogja love story cause it was the most entertaining song out of all the songs. Everyone was very happy in the concert and i loved the ambiance of the concert. There was no unhappy people and i was very fortunate to go and i am very grateful for that opportunity. All the songs where very important to me and that he came just for the schools there. Very happy for all those people that went to the concert. That is why i love my Indonesian teachers and class.' Cayden Yr 7



'Hi Michael J, Tony and Dion. Your concert was excellent and you were all very active. You are the only musicians that will let kids onto the stage and that is incredible. I loved getting on the stage to dance behind you. My favourite song is Salam tiga jari. Thank you for coming out to Melrose to see us, you are all wonderful.' Emilie Yr 10

'Michael J has a really great voice. Dia bernyanyi dengan baik. His songs were good too and Deon dan Toni can play the guitar well. The

Michael J Concert was fantastic! It was really good to see that Michael enjoyed coming back to Canberra to perform for all the schools. Hopefully he can come back another time to perform more songs with Deon and Toni.' Fiona Yr 9

'The concert was very good. Michael was humorous and sang very well, Toni and Deon had lovely music coming from their guitars.' Mihir Yr 8

'Bagus u r good my dude ur so cool' Owen Yr 9

'I loved the concert.
Michael, Toni dan Deon
are so cool. You are all
special and so friendly.
My favourite songs were
Jogja Love Story, Salam
and Raya Indonesia.
Michael is a fantastic
singer. Toni is great on
guitar and Deon is a
great bass guitar player.
We enjoyed this special
day. Terima Kasih!!!'
Kira Yr 8



Seeking sponsors

As an event that has proven popular and valuable for invigorating, building and motivating Indonesian language learning in secondary schools in Australia, Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth is currently seeking more donors and sponsors to present a 2019 concert series across Australia.

Corporate and private sponsors and donors are desperately needed and warmly welcomed.

Please direct enquiries to:
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9srKnIhr4g&list=PLmonSeLo4Z2S2QhumwQW-TwiLJsEJZMoU>



<https://balaibahasaperth.org/experience-indonesia/experience-indonesia-news-posts/oz-tour-2018>



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