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Concert for a cure

Nick Hollins



Nick Vindin teams up with music channel Max Sessions to raise cancer awareness among Australians. (Image courtesy of XYZnetworks)

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Concert for the cure is a charity concept by 21-year-old Nick Vindin and friends.

In Sydney, the eight-member group stage concerts and functions, using music to involve young Australians in raising awareness and funding for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. "I knew after losing my mum that there was something I wanted to do. But I also knew that I didn't know what that was," says Nick. "One day a penny sort of

dropped, it's music." Aspirations rising, he got some friends together.

"We were just fortunate we had enough diversity of experience between us, but the range of ages were only 17 to 20. So there's not much scope there, but again it comes down to youthful exuberance, the want and passion to do it," he says.

In October 2007, one year after the group formed and with the help of the music channel Max, they realised their goals with the largest-ever Max Sessions concert at the Opera House.

Held on the forecourt, the iconic sails of the landmark were illuminated in radiant pink for Powderfinger and Missy Higgins' performances.

The group has since featured in a Max Channel documentary, raised \$8000 with a small concert and \$35,000 from a new initiative, Canvas for the Cure.

"We had 10 Sydney-based emerging artists donate their artworks. It gave them the opportunity to have influential people see their work; for us it's building on the idea of Concert for the Cure as a creative conduit for young people," says Nick Vindin.

Along with plans for a festival-sized event in 2009, they're working hard to support people on a more personal level. "We're really trying to encourage young people to help out their friends whose families have been affected directly. You want them to have real support networks," he says.

"It's really important to establish that it's not an isolated thing and there are a lot of people out there willing to help."

Nick says large organisations are often faceless and the public has little contact with the people behind the projects. His group aims to be accountable, transparent and available. "We really wanted to show people, particularly young people, that we're young ourselves. I'm only 21. We wanted to show that here are like-minded people who are here to talk to you."

Concert for the Cure is launching its new website in November, to coincide with breast cancer awareness month. Nick Vindin says that all email requests get responded to by the group. "It's hard to do that, but it comes down to our passion. If you believe in something enough you make time."

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