

On the afternoon of Friday, October 21, Sibylla and Bethany Stephen, better known to audiences as the alt-folk-pop supergroup *The Little Stevies*, paid a visit to Marian College Ararat before their sold out performance at Ararat Live that night.

Byll and Beth held their audience of eager music students enthralled with stories of how they got started as a band and the process that they undertake when writing a song. One song that they spoke about was "Because I have you all" which was written during two distinct times. The sisters started writing it when President Barack Obama won the US election in November 2008 and they returned to finish the song during the time of the Black Saturday Bush Fires. This was a great example for the students that patience is a great skill to have when it comes to anything and that writing songs can sometimes be a long process.

Using the song "Because I have you all", *The Little Stevies* conducted a lesson on three-part harmony with the group, separating the students' voices into high, middle and low pitches. There are many words to describe the feeling of hearing music that is perfectly in tune with the depth of a solid harmony structure but I'm going to go with wonderful. The talent that is at Marian College never ceases to amaze. When Byll and Beth mixed the students up to 'jumble the voices' around the room the singers were still able to lock into each other and created a wonderful balloon of sound which filled the auditorium.

Later, *The Little Stevies*, gave students the opportunity to perform in front of the group. Tyler Wineberg, Jaz Jarren, Alanis Williams and Charlotte Harwood all took up the opportunity with Alanis and Charlotte showcasing some of their own compositions!

Everyone left the session riding the natural high that one only gets when being part of something special and it is hoped that this workshop has inspired and encouraged more students to pursue music and song writing. A special thanks to David Nicholson who did all of the ground work sorting out the logistics of the day.

*Stephen East - Head of Music*



