EIGHT local schools have signed up for this year’s Music: Count Us In, which celebrates the value of music education in schools.

Last year over 1900 schools joined the biggest music initiative in Australia, singing the same song at the same time on the same day. Planning for record numbers this year, schools are now invited to sign up.

The performance day is Thursday November 1 at 12.30pm AEDT. Schools participating are: Chatham High School, Taree High School, Taree West Public School, Tinonee Public School, St Joseph’s Primary School, Mount George Public School, Coopernook Public School and Wingham Brush Public School.

Music: Count Us In gives children of all ages and abilities the opportunity to learn a song that they will sing simultaneously with hundreds of thousands of students nationwide.

Continuing the tradition of the song being written by and for students, three high school students worked with ARIA-award winning musician, Josh Pyke, to come up with this year’s program song, Different People (Stand Together).

They are Jorja Bromley, Shepparton High, regional VIC; Ryan Chelva, Heathdale Christian College, Melbourne and Sun Woo Kim, James Ruse Agricultural High School, Sydney.

Students are also behind the recorded version of the song which was produced by award-winning producer, John Foreman, the program’s Ambassador.

“We know that Music: Count Us In has become so popular that it has triggered many more music activities in schools throughout the year,” says John.

“That’s really pleasing when you consider that music education has been squeezed out of a lot of schools over the past decades, especially our primary schools.”

The program song, behind-the-scenes videos and all the free resources are available to registering schools at www.musiccountusin.org.au.

Managed by the Music Council of Australia, Music: Count Us In is supported by funding from The Australian Government. It meets a priority recommendation of the National Review of School Music Education (2005) to raise the status of music in our schools.

The program also delivers music professional development (PD) to primary classroom teachers.

Research shows these teachers often lack the skills and confidence to tackle music with their students. This year much of the training will be via video conferencing technology reaching many more teachers in rural, regional and remote areas.

Over 1,000 classroom teachers will receive PD this year.

Since 2007, over 2.5 million kids have participated in the program.