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Adelaide Guitar Festival brings healing power to the hospital

A world-class ensemble of performers from the Adelaide Guitar Festival has given two concerts for patients at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

The concerts have formed part of the Adelaide Guitar Festival Resonance Program, which aims to bring the festival experience to those who otherwise cannot attend.

As part of the Program, a number of outstanding musicians will be touring hospital wards and aged-care facilities in greater Adelaide in the first two weeks of August.

"The Resonance Program is about recognising the inherent human need for music and is inspired by the growing understanding of music's role in health, wellbeing and recovery," said Festival Director, Slava Grigoryan.

Performers at the hospital included the Festival Director himself, who is a classical guitar virtuoso, as well as cellist Sharon Draper from the Australian String Quartet ; Blues guitarist Cal Williams Jr; and flamenco artists Aloysius Leeson and Kristy Manuel.

The concerts took place in the Starlight Express Room and in the Day of Surgery Admissions area of the hospital and provided several hours of soulful relaxation and entertainment for both patients and staff.

The Resonance Program is a new initiative of the Adelaide Guitar Festival and the hospital is delighted to have benefited from its inaugural run.

The concerts were arranged by TeamKids (Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation) as part of the TeamKids Arts in Health program. Future in-hospital performances are currently being planned by TeamKids in collaboration with Adelaide Guitar Festival staff.

Inspired by the work of the HUSH Music Foundation in Melbourne, the Resonance concerts have complemented the work of the hospital's own music therapist in the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology and Oncology.

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