

## Chief Executive Women supporting women in the arts

### For immediate release

18 November 2013: Chief Executive Women, in partnership with the Nelson Meers Foundation and Creative Partnerships Australia, are delighted to acknowledge Rebecca MacFarling of Musica Viva Australia as a top female talent from the arts sector, awarding her a scholarship to attend the Leading for Results program at the prestigious INSEAD business school in Singapore.

Rebecca is the third woman from the arts that CEW, Nelson Meers Foundation and Creative Partnerships Australia have sponsored to participate in executive education programs in 2013. In May, Skye O'Meara, manager of Tjala Arts Centre in South Australia, and Anna Reece, General Manager of the Darwin Festival, were sponsored to attend leadership development programs at Mount Eliza Business School, which forms the executive education arm of the Melbourne Business School.

Rebecca is the Director of Sales and Marketing at Musica Viva, the largest presenter of chamber music in the world. In her role Rebecca has driven the sales of the company's concerts, as well as music education programs which reach 30,000 Australian children annually.

CEW President Christine Christian said:

"The underrepresentation of women in leadership in the Arts sector reveals much about the dire nature of gender diversity generally in Australian organisations. It's a shocking fact that only 16.7% of CEOs in the arts sector are female, despite women making up 50% of the industry workforce. Clearly, gender diversity remains as much a problem in the arts as it does in other industries."

Fiona Menzies, CEO of Creative Partnerships Australia, commented: "The arts sector is filled with talented women, but they're not getting to the top. It's clear that when it comes to reaching leadership positions, women in the arts face as many hurdles as women in other industries. We hope that programs like the ones we've sponsored this year can help women aspiring to leadership positions overcome some of these barriers".

For more information, or to speak with scholarship winners or Christine Christian, please contact CEW on 02 8240 7600

#### **About Chief Executive Women**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) is the pre-eminent organisation representing Australia's most senior women leaders from the corporate, public service, academic and not-for-profit sectors.

Founded in 1985, CEW has over 270 members whose shared vision is "women leaders enabling women leaders".

#### **About Creative Partnerships Australia**

Creative Partnerships Australia was established to offer a resource hub for the facilitation of business partnerships, social investment and philanthropy for the cultural and creative sectors.

Creative Partnerships facilitates new models of investment in the creative industries and stimulates partnerships between artists, business, private donors and the community to support sustainable creative industries in Australia.

#### **About Nelson Meers Foundation**

The Nelson Meers Foundation is a private philanthropic arts foundation. The Foundation supports organisations that prioritise innovative, engaging cultural programs, and those that utilise creative expression to promote individual wellbeing or to create positive social change.