



Artist Tskiyawatt and Kirli Saunders transform Fender guitars into one-of-a-kind art pieces to benefit Children's Ground

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (6, JULY, 2022) -- For the second year in a row, Dan Sultan, Children's Ground and Fender Music Australia are partnering to raise funds and awareness. The project is kicking off in NAIDOC Week, an event to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. With the proceeds raised from 2021, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia) launched a new music program, led by Arrernte musicians which has had positive impacts on the learning and emotional wellbeing for First Nations children.

Mark Amory, General Manager, Fender Music Australia said, "Contributing to the creative development of First Nations people aligns with Fenders' mission to fuel creative expression, connecting players of all ages around the world through a shared love of music. We are honored to be partnering on this project again in 2022."

Benefits from the 2022 auction for two one-of-a-kind pieces of art on Fender® American Acoustasonic® Stratocaster® & Jazzmaster® guitars will help further the development of the Arrernte music program at Children's Ground in Mpartnwe/Alice Springs, in the Northern Territory (NT). In 2021, the Fender guitar art pieces created by Aboriginal artists Otis Carey and Niah McLeod raised \$20,000, all of which was donated to the music program. This year's artists include Kiya Watt, an artist and advocate from Noongar Country in Western Australia and Kirli Saunders, New South Wales Aboriginal Woman of the Year in 2020 who was recently awarded an OAM for her incredible range of work.

The auction is now live and global bidding is available via Air Auctioneer for two art guitar pieces:

- **KIYA WATT-- NGALAK YIRA YARKINY KIDJI MOODITJ BOODA KAARTDIJIN (WE STAND UP TALL AND PROUD/GOOD BY LEARNING OUR CULTURE)**, art created on an American Acoustasonic® Stratocaster® guitar valued at \$3,999 RRP. This piece signifies Kiya's cultural connections to Wardarn (ocean), Boodjah (heart/home/country), Wirrin (spirit) & Kaartidjin (learned knowledge). The movement through the circles to the dots, animals and lines encapsulates the flow of each element, demonstrating the beauty and strength of all subjects together in synchronicity.
- **KIRLI SAUNDERS -- CARRY ON**, art created on an American Acoustasonic® Jazzmaster® guitar valued at \$3,999 RRP. This work was imagined whilst the artist was on country during a traditional burn with family, planting shea-oaks for the "Glossy" (Glossy Black Cockatoo), a threatened bird on Gundungurra lands. In the piece are woven-together feathers, drying Coolamons, and the threatened Glossy. It talks to a future her family is carving out and carrying together, which cares for Country and Community.

Children's Ground believes every First Nations child born today can experience a lifetime of opportunity, entering adulthood strong in their identity and culture, connected to their local and global world and economically independent. From infants to Elders, the not-for-profit work is led by First Nations communities, delivered over a 25-year period to make real and lasting change. Children's Ground's approach to change is built around empowerment, and it is this philosophy that speaks to Eastern Arrernte & Gurindji man Dan Sultan.

Carol Turner, Senior Arrernte Educator, has reflected on the ways the music program has been supporting the children's learning; "Anwerne alyelheme angkentye Arrernte-le, Anwerne angkentye nenhe lterrke atnyenetyeke. Anwerne imerneme ampe mape-ke", we are singing in our language, we are keeping our language strong and we are teaching it to our children," she said.

The auction will be live from 12 noon today (Wednesday, July 6 2022) and will close at 12 noon, Sunday, July 24. Bid on the guitars via [Air Auctioneer](#) with all proceeds going towards Children's Ground and its NT music program.

ABOUT CHILDREN'S GROUND:

Designed with First Nations people and championing First Nations knowledge and practice, Children's Ground builds on the ability, strength and culture of communities while responding to trauma and creating opportunities. Working where people live, Children's Ground builds generational change by supporting each child in every family within a community over a 25-year period. Children's Ground implements long-term, community-driven strategies to redress systemic inequity for First Nations people, addressing issues that perpetuate the cycle of intergenerational poverty and disadvantage including lack of access to education and employment opportunities.

MEDIA CONTACTS

FENDER:

Jaclyn Williams | PR Manager

+61 428 696 307

JaWilliams@fender.com

CHILDREN'S GROUND:

Bill Pheasant | Senior Strategist

+61 413 701 028

Bill.Pheasant@childrensground.org.au

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ABOUT FENDER

Since 1946, Fender has revolutionized music and culture as one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers, and distributors. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC)—whose portfolio of owned and licensed brands includes Fender®, Squier®, Gretsch® guitars, Jackson®, EVH®, Charvel®, Bigsby®, and PreSonus® – follows a player-centric approach to crafting the highest-quality instruments and digital experiences across genres. Since 2015, Fender's digital arm has introduced a new ecosystem of products and interactive experiences to accompany players at every stage of their musical journey. This includes innovative apps and learning platforms designed to complement Fender guitars, amplifiers, effects pedals, accessories, and pro-audio gear, and inspire players through an immersive musical experience. FMIC is dedicated to unlocking the power of musical expression for all players, from beginners to history-making legends. In 2026, Fender celebrates 80 years of giving artists "wings to fly," carrying on the vision of its founder, Leo Fender, and connecting players through a shared love of music.

CONTACT DETAILS

GLOBAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

Fender Musical Instruments Corporation
press@fender.com

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