



Multicap | Media Release

18 July 2017

Terriann's perfect pitch against all odds

When Terriann's parents gave her a play organ to keep her occupied during car trips, they had no idea anything would come of it. But within a year, the then six-year-old's musical ability was starting to show.

Despite being born with an intellectual disability and legal blindness, Terriann—who wasn't expected to live more than one day after birth—was able to listen to a song and play it near perfectly.

Over the years, she has developed into a talented pianist with a repertoire ranging from the Bee Gees to Pavarotti – and all without a sheet of music in sight.

Terriann, 40, has what is called perfect pitch - the ability to recognise the pitch of a note and play it precisely.

She is now honing her skills with the support of Multicap's Music Therapist Queenie Ngan.

'She is one of the most talented musicians I have come across in my work,' Queenie said. 'Through music therapy we not only aim to have fun with music but also diversify Terriann's repertoire and facilitate movement and motor skills in her hands.'

Terriann's father Terry said his daughter's musical talent was a 'gift'.

'Music and hydrotherapy are her two loves, but music is her biggest talent,' Terry said. 'No-one else in the family is musical and so we love sitting down together and having a sing-along while Terriann plays – she smiles and is happy and we love that.'

While Terriann, who first walked at age six, has mobility issues and limited verbal communication, she is very observant and is blessed with a good memory.

'We can ask her to play anything from Pavarotti or Phantom of the Opera to the Bee Gees and she plays it,' Terriann's mum Carol said.

Terriann will perform live at the Multicap 2017 Festival on Saturday, 22 July 2017 at 1pm. The annual festival is from 10am – 2pm at 303 Padstow Road, Eight Miles Plains. Along with live entertainment on centre stage, the fully-accessible festival includes the 'Powerful' 3D art exhibition by Multicap customers, a petting zoo, face painting, jumping castle, sausage sizzle, food and gift stalls and fun activities.

Terry said the Multicap 2017 Festival would be one of Terriann's largest audiences.

'She has performed at a wedding, local council concerts and an aged care facility where her grandmother was living, but this will be her first festival,' Terry said. 'We are very proud of Terriann and looking back we are so pleased we bought her that little organ all those years ago.'

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Multicap is a leading Queensland disability support agency, assisting more than 800 people with disability and their families throughout Queensland and Northern New South Wales. We provide accommodation, respite, assisted employment and training, specialist services, activities and classes, and social support. Our aim is to enhance the quality of life of people with disability and their families.



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