

# Orchestra in Isa



IT'S set to be a big weekend for Mount Isa.

More than 125 musicians will flock to the city, congregating for the Queensland Musical Festival event aptly named The Big Weekend.

Strings, brass, percussion and woodwind players from Birdsville to Karumba and Julia Creek to Camooweal will arrive on Friday to take part in a three-day orchestral workshop.

They will spend their weekend in a series of intensive rehearsals, tutorials and instrumental workshops, culminating in a performance on Sunday.

Event coordinator Yvonne Moore said it would showcase some of the region's best talent.

"We've got more than 60 students from Mount Isa and the North West, 12 from Cloncurry, 34 community players and several professionals joining together to workshop a piece of music," she said.

"To have so many come together in one venue is just incredible."

The orchestral workshop takes place in Mount Isa every second year.

This is the fourth time it has been hosted in the city, but the first time it has come under the banner of the Queensland Music Festival.

This year it will play host to the world premiere of composer Ralph Hultgren's *Wide Brown Land*, which was written especially for the event.

Ms Moore said The Big Weekend gave local students the rare opportunity to play in an orchestra.

"There's no orchestra for about 1000 kilometres in any direction from Mount Isa," she said.

"So if students want to pursue a career in music, it gives them the experience so they can say they have played in an orchestra."

Spinifex State College student Dominique Larkin, 17, will lead the orchestra for the first time on Sunday.

"I'll be leading the tune-up of the instruments



By **EMMA CILLEKENS**  
emma.c@starnews.com.au