**Rama Williams:** Last year we went to Top Acts, and just seeing the level of professionalism and just the level of quality, yeah, and just the skill. We didn't think that a little acoustic duo would get in. But yeah it's pretty exciting to be in there now.

Hi I'm Rama

**Amy Wells:** And I'm Amy

**Rama:** And we're from Geelong High, we did music performance last year and we're in Top Acts 2018.

Being a performing arts student in VCE means you get to do something that you love and then you can call it school work I s'pose

Amy: It's also tricky because it does take up a lot more time than your other subjects

Rama: Yeah, and also balancing out with all your other all the other school work as well. The performing arts department at our school was really supportive of everything we did, lots of performance opportunities and like rehearsal times and that sort of thing and our teachers specifically Carmel she really guided us and helped us.

We already feel so much more comfortable on stage, like I can't imagine not having all the school events and stuff that we played at and all those opportunities that came up there.

**Carmel Cranage (Rama and Amy’s teacher):** So I remember the first time I actually taught Rama and Amy. Rama was in year 7 and Amy was in year 9, so I've seen their journey from being sort of young teenagers growing into adults and it's been a wonderful journey to be a part of.

I'm really proud of Amy and Rama. The fact that they're both primarily self-taught on their chosen instruments I think is a testimony to how creative they are.

**Rama:** The piece we're going to be performing on Friday for Top Acts is called 'Traffic'. It's a bit jazzy, a bit bouncy, it's a swing number.

**Amy:** And we added the ukulele into it just to add some dynamics to our set.

**Rama:** And I wanted to put a little solo in it and we needed rhythm to be behind it.

Yeah we've performed that song so many times. It kind of kills us now, so this might be the last one for a little while

**Carmel:** When we were arranging the piece that they are actually performing as Top Acts. They decided that they wanted ukulele in the arrangement. And I said that was fine, who are you going to get to play a ukulele. And Amy said 'I'm going to play.' I said to them, look, you realise when you haven't played ukulele that could affect your result and they said 'We want artistic control, I will learn to play the ukulele,' and of course she did, which she will perform tonight so that sort of shows how driven and how creative the two of them are.

When they got chosen for their composition I think it was serendipitous to see that two students who are such wonderful musicians and people are getting recognised for their own original composition.

I know that that they will go on to something wonderful. I was really proud and pretty stoked for them and a little bit happy for myself.

**Dan Mitchell (Top Acts 2018 Artistic Director):** Amy and Rama really a lovely sort of musical duo and you can see the sort of the intimacy of their relationship in the music. Not in necessarily their personal relationship but their relationship to the music and the passion they have behind it and their artistry and skill in creating a really original composition. They make you feel like you're sort of in their lounge room and it's a real one-on-one gift.

**Helen Champion (former VCAA Performing Arts Curriculum Manager)**: Amy and Rama work really beautifully together. They've really introduced a personal element to their performance and I think that's what makes them so exciting to listen to Amy and Rama's piece 'Traffic' is really interesting because as I said they really understand the style and they interpret the work and present their performance so beautifully.

**Amy:** For the performance on Friday we're feeling I guess nervous because it's a lot of people but not nervous in the sense that we know our song really well. It's just an awesome opportunity you don't wanna let nerves take over.

**Rama:** Yeah it's more an exciting kind of nervous than stage fright or whatever.

**Amy:** My piece of advice for anyone in VCE doing music is to definitely be passionate about what you're doing.

**Rama:** Do something you're gonna love and you're gonna be able to dedicate as much time as you possibly can throughout the year because you'll need that kind of passion and drive.

How you all going tonight?

#People walk

#Parallel to the shore

#Breeze blows through the hair of the woman I adore

#Endless debate about how we’re here and what for

#I only know a little all he wants to know is more

#But the only answer I have to your questions is I do

#We climbed a hill so we could escape the world just for a minute

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear

#Been searching for a moment to breath with you now it seems we’re in it

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear

#Sun shines and the wind blows

#It sweeps up my train of thought and I’m sure it shows

#And I try not to linger in the past

#But to stay here in this moment for soon this moment will pass

#And every breath’s an incredible step

#Towards tomorrow and away from yesterday

#We climbed a hill so we could escape the world just for a minute

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear

#They can't hear

#Been searching for a moment to breath with you now it seems we’re in it

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear

#We climbed a hill so we could escape the world just for a minute

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear, they can't hear

#Been searching for a moment to breath with you now it seems we’re in it

#Now we’re traffic jamming strangers down below can’t hear

**Rama:** Thank you very much