

PRESENTER INFORMATION

Keynote Presenters



*Prof. Deborah
Cheetham Fraillon
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Zingsheim, Sydney
Conservatorium of
Music*

Prof. Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO FAHA (Yorta Yorta/Yuin) soprano and composer is a respected human rights advocate and recognised thought leader on the importance of cultural authority in the Art Music space. Throughout a long and distinguished career Deborah has championed the voice and visibility of classically trained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island musicians through her achievements as a composer, performer and artistic director of the Australia's national First Nations Opera Company Short Black Opera (est. 2009) and Director of Dhungala Children's Choir (est. 2008).

In 2019 Cheetham Fraillon established the One Day in January project designed to develop and nurture Indigenous orchestral musicians. From this emerged Ensemble Dutala, Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chamber Ensemble which has led to the increased visibility and status of First Nations orchestral musicians in Australia.

As a composer Cheetham Fraillon's list of commissions for major ensembles and companies include works for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Australian String Quartet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, Rubiks Collective, Melbourne Ensemble, The ABC, The Sydney Philharmonia, Plexus Collective, Flinders Quartet Goldner Quartet, The Australian Ballet, Victorian Opera, The MPavilion Project, Chineke (UK) and Hawai'i Symphony.

Cheetham Fraillon's landmark compositions include Australia's first Indigenous opera *Pecan Summer* (2010), *Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace* (2018) and the ongoing multi layered, multi lingual chamber music series *Woven Song* (2018).

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon's career and achievements have been celebrated with a number of significant awards and commendations including: the Don Banks Music Award (2023), Queensland Government – Australian Women in Music Lifetime Achievement Awards (2022), the JC Williamson Lifetime Achievement Award (2021) and the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award for service to music; Honorary Doctorate from the University of South Australia (2018). In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Deborah was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for distinguished service to the performing arts as an opera singer, composer and artistic director, to the development of Indigenous artists, and to innovation in performance and in 2022 she was appointed as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA)

In 2021 Deborah Cheetham Fraillon began a five year appointment as MSO First Nations Creative Chair and 2023 was appointed the inaugural Elizabeth Todd Chair of Vocal Studies at The Sydney Conservatorium of Music at the University of Sydney.

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Dr. Candace Kruger

Dr. Candace Kruger is a Yugambeh yarrabilginngunn (song woman) and proud Kombumerri (Gold Coast) and Ngugi (Moreton Island) Aboriginal woman. She is an author, musician, composer, and educator, and is the founder and director of the Yugambeh Youth Choir, a south-east Queensland Indigenous language choir. Candace's research interests are in the fields of Indigenous musicology, Indigenous knowledges, and Indigenous education. Candace's co-composed Aboriginal song 'Morning Star and Evening Star' was the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) Online Orchestra, National 2021 piece, and her children's book *Yalgan Sun*, written for the Gold Coast Suns AFL team, is a woven Yugambeh and English story. Candace is a lecturer in the School of Education and Professional Studies at Griffith University.

Kata Körtvési graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Hungary in Music Education and Choral Conducting.

She was Assistant Lecturer in Solfege, Music-Theory, Score-Reading and Choir-Conducting at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music Teacher Training Institute. She worked as the Solfege Teacher of the Hungarian Radio Children's Choir. Kata was also the music director in drama and musical performances as well as the conductor at Sure Chamber Theatre, Szkéné Theatre, Jókai Mór Theatre and Jászai Mari Theatre.



Kata Körtvési

Since 2010 she has been working as Artist Teacher at the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music. As a Music Teacher, Choir Conductor and Kokas Educator, she is regularly invited to teach and hold workshops and courses all over the world.

<https://kodaly.hu/faculty/katalin-kortvesi-117138>



Ed Le Brocq

Ed Le Brocq is a writer, musician and broadcaster. He was born on the White Cliffs of Dover and began playing music when he was six years old. He studied music in Manchester, Berlin and London, played professionally in the UK and Hong Kong and moved to Australia in 2003. Ed is the presenter of ABC Classic's Weekend Breakfast.

Ed has written five books, including *Cadence*, about his journey by bicycle from England to Hong Kong with only a violin for company, *Danger Music*, describing his year teaching music in Afghanistan, and *Sound Bites*, a romp through music history. Ed's books have been shortlisted for several prestigious awards, including the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the Age Book of the Year.

Ed was born Emma, and transitioned just before his fiftieth birthday. Better late than never.

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Dr. Tracy Wong

Dr. Tracy Wong hails from Malaysia and is a choral conductor, music educator, composer, vocalist, and pianist. She advocates for repertoire-based music education and her choral works support the development of vocal technique, musicianship skills, and artistry. Her music shows the merge of different lived experiences, languages and musical elements that continue to influence her composition writing.

Currently residing in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Wong is the Assistant Professor of Choral Studies at Western University, where she conducts Chorale and Les Choristes ensembles and teaches choral conducting. She holds a Doctor in Musical Arts (Choral Conducting) degree from the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. She is a two-time recipient of the Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting and was the 2019 Canadian Composer Feature for the Canadian Kodály Journal, *Alla Breve*. She is also the Choir Conductor for Organization of American Kodály Educators's 2024 National Conference's Concert Treble Choir.

Tracy collaborates regularly with choral organizations on conducting events, commissioned choral projects, and residencies, and her pieces are featured at numerous reading sessions. Tracy's choral works are available on her website, Cypress Choral Music (Canada), Graphite Publishing (US), Oxford University Press (UK) and Young Choral Academy (Malaysia) and have been performed by choirs at international competitions and festivals. For more information, please visit www.tracywongmusic.com

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Featured Presenters



Jenny Gillan

Jenny Gillan teaches Classroom Music, Advanced Musicianship, Vocal Ensembles and Senior VCE Composition and Analysis at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. She taught music in London and received a scholarship to study in Hungary at the Kodály Institute, majoring in Advanced Conducting. She holds a Master of Music Studies (UQ), Bachelor of Music and Diploma of Education.

Jenny has taught musicianship at all levels of education; early childhood to tertiary, and has conducted many choirs. She is an experienced examiner and guest lecturer who has presented at many schools, national and international conferences and at VCE Teacher Conferences for over a decade. She has taught at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School since 2007. She also conducts choirs at St Michael's Grammar School.

Jenny has written the textbooks – *“Listening Beyond Hearing”* (music analysis) and *“Progressive Musicianship Volumes 1 and 2”* (musicianship). She also published a childrens' story book *“Oma and Opa's Song”* about separation and connection in the pandemic. She enjoys writing silly, and/or challenging, games and songs for her students and lives for those moments in education when students 'get it' after working so hard towards a goal.

Juliana Kay is a composer, conductor and teacher with a deep-rooted love for choirs and choral music. Her compositions are performed regularly by children's and community choirs across Australia, and she works in close collaboration with choirs to co-create new works. Juliana is the founding director of innovative choir Choral Edge, director of Exaudi, and assistant conductor of Young Voices of Melbourne. She brings her extensive experience as a choral singer and conductor to write music that is unique and beloved by singers of all skill levels. Past commissions include works for ABC Classic, Divisi Chamber Singers, Fiore Chamber, Alta Collective, Xavier College and Loreto Toorak. Recurring themes in Juliana's pieces include long time scales, human-nature relationships, and historical and geographical questions.



Juliana Kay

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Mark O'Leary

Mark O'Leary OAM has worked with choirs of all ages for nearly 40 years. He is the Director of Young Voices of Melbourne which he founded in 1990 and has been Gondwana Voices' Principal Guest Conductor since its first season in 1997. He has been on more than 45 national and international tours and has made 18 Cd recordings with Young Voices of Melbourne, Gondwana Voices and Exaudi. He publishes choral music for young singers in the YVM Choral Series and is the creator of the Sight Singing School website and books, used in more than 50 countries. He is a Churchill Fellow, an Honorary Life Member of Kodály Australia and was awarded an OAM for services to choral music in 2018.

Andrew Pennay is Director of Creative Arts at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, where he implements aural-based activities to enhance composition and improvisation work. Andrew has lectured in music education at a tertiary level and has presented workshops nationally and internationally, focusing on popular music education, musicianship, upper secondary teaching methodology, and teaching for creativity and curiosity. For 12 years, he was a performer and Assistant Conductor with The Australian Voices, touring new Australian choral music globally. Andrew has received a National Award for Excellence in School Music Education through the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme (2011) and an Award for Excellence in Australian Kodály-inspired Music Education (Innovation) in 2022. He is currently undertaking doctoral studies in songwriting pedagogy.



Andrew Pennay



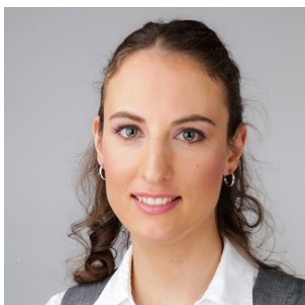
Kate Tyson

Kate Tyson is a frequent guest clinician at conferences and workshops across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Kate has taught classroom music for almost two decades at both state and independent schools and is currently the Subject Coordinator for Music at Ambrose Treacy College in Brisbane. She has a passion for community singing, having sung with and conducted numerous choirs both in Canada and Australia including the Voices of Birrale. She is a Past President of Kodaly Queensland and in 2024 is again involved in teacher training programs in Queensland and Western Australia. Kate loves finding new ways to engage her choral and classroom music students.

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Katie Argyle is a music technology in education trainer, consultant and podcaster who is passionate about helping music teachers through her business Midnight Music. She runs hands-on workshops, presents regularly at conferences in Australia and internationally and offers online training and support to music teachers all over the world.



Ebony Birch-Hanger (B EC – Hons; M SpEd – Deaf/HH) is a Special Education Teacher, Neurodevelopmental Therapist, Teacher of the Deaf, Kodaly-trained Music Educator, Education Consultant & Public Speaker.



Melissa Black is a passionate Kodaly Music Educator, specialising in Primary Music Education using the Primary Years Program of the International Baccalaureate. She holds degrees in Music Education (University of Sydney – Conservatorium of Music) and Primary Teaching (Australian Catholic University), alongside the Australian Kodaly Certificate (Primary Music Education).



Hayley Blakiston is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, completing a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Teaching in 2002. Hayley is an experienced music educator with extensive classroom, ensemble, choral, instrumental teaching and conducting experience. Hayley has taught in a variety of independent schools, instilling high-quality musicianship through Kodaly pedagogy.



Jason Boron is Lecturer in Music Education (Early Childhood & Primary) and First Year Coordinator BEd (Primary) at Edith Cowan University. He is President of Kodály Australia and an accredited lecturer of the Australian Kodály Certificate.



Deb Brydon is a primary music specialist who returned to music teaching after working as a Senior Project Writer with Education Queensland's Curriculum into the Classroom project, writing for Music and The Arts. In 2020 she earned national accreditation as a Highly Accomplished Teacher.

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Burgundy Blue is a dynamic mixed vocal quintet from Melbourne, specialising in close harmony and jazz-adjacent styles. After bursting onto the a cappella scene in 2016, Burgundy Blue finished as National Champions of the *AUSACA Australian A Cappella Awards* in 2019, having also represented Australia at the *Hong Kong International A Cappella Competition* in Hong Kong in 2018.



Hayley Burns is a past president of Kodály WA and a strong advocate for music education for all. She is currently studying her Master of Music with a Kodály Emphasis from the Kodály Center at the University of Redlands, California (online).



Juliana Kay and Marjorie Butcher are two halves of the pop-up initiative **Classical Music Workouts**. Both are singers and choral conductors united by an amateur interest in dance and a desire to bring art music to new audiences and new spaces. They have been leading occasional workouts since 2022, gaining a keen following among the niche crowd of classical music listeners who like to exercise.



Joel Copeland is a passionate educational leader. His accomplishments reflect an exceptional level of professional commitment and a consistent desire to enrich and improve educational outcomes for all students. In 2024, Joel was appointed Principal of the Instrumental Music Program (IMP) as part of the ACT Education Directorate.



Rachel Cox (BMus, LMusAGM) is a music educator and PhD candidate from the Newcastle region in NSW. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental and Vocal Teaching, and is currently completing a PhD in Music Education at the University of Sydney.



Alexandra Dalman is a highly accomplished educator who currently works as a Network Field Officer for the Music Education Strategy. Using both her experience in Kodaly-inspired Music Education and Orff Schulwerk Alexandra inspires educators around South Australia.

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Peter Doublinszki is an accomplished classical guitarist who has performed actively for over two decades. Hailing from Hungary, he was immersed in the Kodály spirit during his early music education.



Katharine Finlayson is the president of Kodály ACT. She has been a primary music specialist teacher for 38 years and her programs are based on the Kodály philosophy, reflecting her passion for singing. In 2011 Katharine received a National Award for Excellence in School Music Education.



Megan Flint (M.Mus.(Hons), PGDip Ed., B.Ed., Dip. Tchg., ATCL(Voice), AKC-Secondary) Megan has a background in both education and music, having worked as a general classroom teacher and deputy principal, a choral specialist across Years 1-13, a music specialist in the primary sector and a music education consultant.



Susie Fredline is an experienced music educator who has taught classroom music and directed choirs for the last 34 years, to students aged three to eighteen. Most of Susie's teaching experience has been in the rural and remote areas of Queensland.



Gaby Freer is an outstanding representative for Kodály-inspired Music Education as Music Education is an art form that she consistently refines and effectively shares in her role as a Music Education Network Field Officer for the Music Education Strategy (Department for Education, South Australia).



Ruth Friend is an experienced facilitator in training teachers in the Kodaly approach to teaching music. Currently teaching at the Australian Catholic University, she has broad teaching expertise from pre-school through secondary which encompasses music and movement, instrumental and choral programs.

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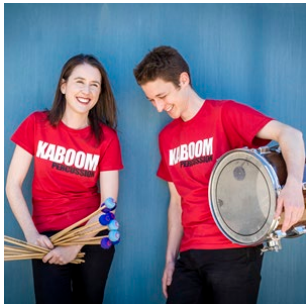
Dr Jason Goopy is Lecturer and Coordinator of Secondary Music & Instrumental Music Education at Edith Cowan University and President of the Australian Society for Music Education. His research aims to uncover how music education positively transforms lives by examining the nexus between music, education, and psychology using arts-based and mixed-methods.



Claire Halse holds a Bachelor of Music degree with a specialisation in Classical Voice from the Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Conservatorium, Melbourne, and a Master of Teaching from Melbourne University. With a teaching career spanning since 2011, Claire has shared her expertise in primary classrooms and choral music settings within both public and private schools.



Ailsa Harris is a flute teacher and current music education student at the University of Queensland. After performing internationally as a dancer, Ailsa decided to pursue her love of music and education through completing a Bachelor of Music (Hons) and a Bachelor of Education. Ailsa is an avid flute performer and choral musician enjoying performing a diverse repertoire with leading Queensland ensembles.



Kaboom Percussion was founded by Catherine Betts and Joshua Webster in 2014 and since then they have taken the world by storm with their own unique, original and enormously successful repertoire.



Tammy Kilpatrick has more than twenty years' experience teaching music. Whilst her teaching spans many age groups, Tammy's passion is working with young children. She currently teaches at Hillcrest Christian College in their Early and Junior Learning Community's Music and Choral Programs.



Tess Laird has been a music specialist for 33 years and holds a Masters in Music Studies from the University of Queensland. She is an accredited lecturer for the Australian Kodály Certificate, is the Immediate past Chair of the Education Committee of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia, and has been awarded Honorary Life Membership with this organisation.

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Kimberley Lloyd is an experienced music educator having taught Early Years through to Tertiary. Along with a Bachelor of Education in Music, from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Kimberley also has her Master of Music from Holy Names University, California, and is now a fully accredited lecturer for the Australian Kodály Certificate.



Julie Logan holds the Australian Certificate of Kodaly Music Education, Research Masters of Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Education (Primary Music), Dip Teach (Special Education), and is a Specialist in Early Childhood Music Education.



Davina McClure's widespread experience in education has extended across the areas of K-12 classroom music instruction and whole school teaching and learning. As the Deputy Principal at Camberwell Girls Grammar School she currently balances classroom music teaching with strategic leadership of staff and students, which she thoroughly enjoys!



Michael McGrath is Head of Curriculum Music at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. He implements aural-vocal based pedagogy in the classroom and has directed a number of collaborative composing projects between senior students and ensembles such as Topology, Rue Arts and Nonsemble. Michael has a particular interest in recording technology and its applications for enriching learning in the music classroom.



Stefania Miller has taught classroom music for 12 years and is currently the Classroom Music Specialist (Prep-Year 6) and Choral Conductor at St. Cecilia's Primary School in Glen Iris, Melbourne.



Dr Anna Mlynek-Kalman completed Master of Music, with a Kodaly emphasis at Holy Names University in the US and a PHD at Monash University, entitled *Agentic Voices*. Published in the *International Journal of Music Education in Early Childhood (IJMEC)*, she discovered that early childhood music focused almost exclusively on product, ignoring process.

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Jake Muir is a teacher at Preston High School in Melbourne, Australia, where he is Head of Performing Arts and Head of Philosophical Thinking. He is a graduate research student at the University of Melbourne, and Jake is passionate about addressing the increasing challenges that young people and teachers face in the education system.



Elizabeth O'Leary is a passionate music educator, conductor and choral performer. She has a decade of music teaching experience both within schools and in the wider community. Elizabeth is currently the Director of Training Choirs at Young Voices of Melbourne, teaches at Caulfield Grammar School, and is the founder of Very Young Voices of Melbourne, Kodály inspired music classes for children aged 0-5.



Debbie O'Shea is an enthusiastic and experienced music educator. Her qualifications include a Masters of Music Studies, a Graduate Diploma of Music Education, a Bachelor of Education, and the Holy Names Kodaly Summer Certificate (California – held in Brisbane). In 2020 Debbie earned national accreditation as a Highly Accomplished Teacher.



Simon Ranguis is a musician and educator of Uruguayan heritage – passionate about Spanish and Latin-American music. As touring musician, highlights for Simon include recording in Cuba with Afro-Cuban group 'Zona Franca'; performing with Latin Grammy nominated band 'Caribe Funk' on their South American tour.



Lynette Richardson has enjoyed a varied 40+-year career as a Music Teacher, having taught class music and conducted Choirs across both Primary and Secondary levels, as well as covering Piano, Voice, Musicianship, Theory and Instrumental Ensembles tuition.



Peta Rust is an experienced Music teacher, accompanist and choral conductor who has been working in Primary School settings and with children's choirs for over 10 years. She holds a degree in Keyboard Performance and a post graduate degree in Education, specialising in Primary Teaching. Peta also holds qualifications in both the Kodály teaching method and Orff Schulwerk.

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Deborah Smith has forged a vital role in the advancement of the Kodály method in Secondary Schools throughout Victoria and is a respected authority in regard to using the tools of the Kodály approach for classroom music teaching and aural training.



Katherine Smith holds a Master of Music in Performance from the School of Music at the University of Western Australia, the Dalcroze Certificate (DEIEB) and the Australian Kodály Certificate (Primary). Katherine is the Music specialist at Riva Primary, a public Inclusive Education school in Perth.



Alahana Somerville Wood is an accomplished music educator from Melbourne, Australia. With her extensive background and qualifications, including the Australian Kodály Certificate, Alahana has distinguished herself as a dedicated and highly skilled member of the Kodály community.



Alex St Vincent Welch teaches Music at Camberwell Grammar in Melbourne. He has taught in Queensland, Canada and the UK. He has just completed studying Educational Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne and has a keen interest in the intersection of how we teach music and how the brain learns.



Marion Stafford is a highly respected Kodály Music educator who has taught throughout all levels – from Preschool to Tertiary. She is a graduate of Melbourne University and the prestigious Holy Names Summer Institute in Oakland California. Marion has made a significant contribution to the development of teacher training courses in Melbourne and served as President of the Victorian branch of KMEIA for many years.



Music education has been at the heart of **Ruth Thompson's** teaching career for over 30 years now. Initially trained as an Early Childhood Teacher, her love of music meant offering musical experiences in all her classrooms. Her career has led her into early childhood settings, infants and primary school and private colleges, as well as being called upon regularly to deliver music education to teachers.

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