



Arndell
Anglican College

School of Performing Arts

Tutor Profiles

Alison Egan – Brass: 0417 224 557

Alison Egan studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music High School on French horn. As a horn player, she performs regularly with Sydney's major orchestras as well as freelancing for interstate and overseas visiting artists and orchestras. She has also performed with many touring artists and interstate orchestras and been a member of the RAAF Band Sydney. Alison is a founding member of 'The Chambermaids Wind Quintet' and 'The Brass Belles Brass Quintet' which have toured extensively in Australia and overseas and perform regularly for Musica Viva 'In Schools' and 'Countrywide' programs.

Alison has been a very successful brass and piano tutor for 30 years and has taught in her private studio and at many schools such as Sydney Grammar School, Abbotsleigh, Knox, Loreto College, St Paul's Anglican and St Joseph's College. She is passionate about encouraging students on brass instruments and to foster the love of playing and performing on them for their future years with lessons that are full of encouragement, fun, achievement and results.

James Harris – Piano, Drums: 0406 025 744

James Harris has a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music as well as 10 years teaching and performance experience. Equally capable of teaching and performing as a pianist and drummer up to professional standard, James focus' his teaching on building strong fundamental musical skills, ensuring the student develops a love of music whilst being able to set goals and progress. James firmly believes that a well-rounded musical education is key not only to enjoyment of music, but also to developing skills such as discipline, concentration, creativity, listening, patience and problem solving which can be applied to the students studies also in the classroom and beyond.

David Grant – Bass, Guitar, Piano, Song writing: 0422 474 182

David is a professional musician with experience playing on recordings, live TV and radio, and many club, pub, stage and wedding gigs. Locally, he can be seen playing bass and guitar at the Hawkesbury Jazz Club and in several bands including "Woodford" and "The 80s Flashback". His experience also includes song writing and consulting, arranging and music directing, as well as lots of playing and teaching. David made the switch from electrical engineering to full time music in 2003, graduating at the top of the class in the University of Western Sydney's music programme in 2005 and joined the Arndell team in 2007.

James Walsh – Percussion, Drums: 0403 147 563

James Walsh has been playing drums for the last 18 years and has been drum tutoring at various schools around the Sydney district for 7 years. He teaches a variety of styles such as rock, jazz, funk and Latin. Not only do students learn co-ordination, band dynamics, improvisation and sight reading but an appreciation and love of music is also instilled through listening exercises, games and playing songs. James not only has a long history of playing drums and other musical instruments, he also has completed a Bachelor of Music and his Masters in secondary teaching (music), as well as continued development and experience with the ORFF music teaching methods. James plays in a variety of musical ensembles from contemporary rock, punk, funk and folk bands to playing percussion in the “Sydney Wind Symphony.”

Nicola Solomou – Voice

Nicola Solomou holds a Bachelor of Contemporary Music, with a Major in Vocal Studies from Macquarie University. She is a classically trained vocalist, violinist, trumpeter and has professionally developed her skills as both a teacher and a performer. Nicola’s teaching is informed by a theoretical knowledge of vocal physiology and technique. She believes this to be an essential component in understanding how to use the voice effectively as an instrument. Additionally, Nicola facilitates a positive environment for students as they are encouraged to develop their musicianship, techniques, creativity, diligence and progress. Nicola strongly believes the process of peripatetic learning is invaluable and enriching to a student’s self-growth, both as a musician and an accomplished individual.

Carolyn McKenzie – Speech and Drama: 0428 228 646

Carolyn’s experience in teaching, examining and adjudicating speech has spanned four decades. She has taught extensively in independent schools and from her own home studio with students ranging in age from infants to adults. As an examiner Carolyn has travelled all of the eastern states examining for the Australian Speech Communication Assn. (ASCA) and adjudicated at eisteddfods throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Speech lessons are enjoyable and develop presentation skills and confidence in the areas of public speaking, oral communication, drama, verse speaking, reading and all of the varied aspects of speech. Lessons are tailored to suit the age and ability of each student from Kindergarten to Year 12. Students are encouraged to participate in external examinations, eisteddfods and concerts. The skill and confidence gained assists students through school, tertiary education and the workplace.

Ina Sisic – Violin: 0458 045 492

Ina has been teaching students in the Hawkesbury area with varying abilities and ages including very young children, students preparing for their AMEB exams, and adults. Throughout her 13 plus years of playing violin, Ina has performed at private functions and accompanied students sitting their HSC music exams. She has also enjoyed playing violin, trumpet and cornet in various bands. Ina is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Primary) which has reinforced her belief in the importance of music in childhood.

Mandy Refalo – Piano, Kinderbeat: 0418 113 779

Mandy has been teaching piano and recorder to individuals and small groups for almost 25 years from her home studio and approximately 15 years at Arndell as one of the peripatetic staff. She has a BMusBEd(Hons) and CMusA and is a fully trained and licensed Encore Kinder Beat teacher.

Mandy offers the Kinder Beat program to the Prep classes in small groups. This is an excellent introduction to learning piano (or any instrument) with lots of singing, playing percussion and piano as well as dance and movement. For piano, she uses the various Encore Piano Series as well as preparing students for piano exams in both the AMEB and ANZCA systems. Lessons are taught in both individual and small group formats. Mandy believes in making lessons fun at the same time building their technique and repertoire.

Oonagh Sherrard – Cello: 0416 239 745

Oonagh studied cello with Phillipa Jackson (SSO) and Music Composition at Sydney University with Peter Sculthorpe. Oonagh has been teaching cello both privately and in schools for over 20 years and has also conducted orchestras and string ensembles with the Performing Arts Unit. In addition to a classical training, Oonagh has studied and performed in north indian, arabic, jazz and free improvisation genres and as a composer has extensive experience in producing soundtracks for theatre, radio, film and dance. Oonagh sees the classical approach as a good foundation to learning but encourages students to play the music they love on the cello.

Inspired by the science that musical training builds neural pathways, she devises and runs creative music workshops with pre-school and primary school aged children, exploring the basics of music and sound; the art of listening, sound in the environment and making instruments from found and recycled objects. Her work in this area has been programmed in ABC TV's Playschool.