

CREATIVE FUSIONS

3 DAY MUSIC PROGRAM

About the Creative Fusions Teaching Artists



Dr Anthony Garcia
Creative Fusions Program Director

Guitars, plucked strings & improvisation

Dr Anthony Garcia is an acclaimed guitarist, composer and educator based in Brisbane, Australia. Born in the United States, Dr Garcia was raised and educated in South East Asia, Australia and Mexico. He has performed extensively throughout the world, collaborating with creatives across a diverse range of artistic disciplines. His exploratory philosophy of music-making and teaching has generated a highly personal creative approach that embraces both ancient and contemporary forms, world and ethnic music and improvisational practice. Dr Garcia's PhD research into improvisation has informed ongoing research into intercultural and collaborative learning, teaching artistry, interdisciplinary practice and mindfulness meditation and music. His passion for unifying the interlocking fields of musical performance, composition and education has informed ongoing pedagogical experimentation in schools, universities and the broader community and led to the establishment, in partnership with his wife Jennifer Garcia, *Sounds Across Oceans*, a music organisation dedicated to exploring the multidimensional capacity of music and the arts to create and share new ideas, uplift, heal, shift energies and ignite new perspectives. Anthony is also the artistic director JADE New World Collective, an ensemble in residence at QPAC.



Dheeraj Shrestha

Tabla & percussion rhythms

Nepalese Dheeraj Shrestha is internationally acclaimed and recognised as the foremost tabla player in Australia. An irrepressible creativity, tremendous clarity and exciting rhythmic improvisation are his stylistic hallmarks, establishing him as one of the world's finest exponents of tabla in classical and world music. Dheeraj's real relationship with music began when he was five years old, listening to classical music by his father. His father used to take him to play traditional temple music near his home. He used to be only the child among all the master musicians who were performing at the courtyard temple music. Later, he started formal training on tabla with his guru Pt. Hom Nath Upadhyaya. Dheeraj is also a member of JADE New World Collective, an ensemble in residence at QPAC.

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Eleanor Streatfeild

Strings, ensembles & voice

Eleanor began learning cello at a young age whilst living overseas with her family. After moving to Australia, she studied with Anthea Scott-Mitchell in Newcastle, completed her Bachelor in Music (performance) and was awarded the Valmer Barker memorial prize for strings. Since then she has performed across Australia, China, and Europe with the Australian Youth Orchestra and subsequently as a soloist and chamber musician closer to home. While teaching at the New England Conservatorium in Armidale she conducted several ensembles and was involved in coordinating creative workshops, facilitating improvisation and composition. Eleanor also toured the 'Chamber Music in Schools' program, performing interactive concerts with students from small regional communities. In addition to performing, she currently teaches cello and conducts ensembles at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, Samford Valley Steiner School and the Queensland Academy of Creative Industries. She is also a co-director of arts management company Rue Arts.



Jeanette Fabila

Traditional and contemporary song and dance

Specialising in Indigenous contemporary dance, song and chant, Jeanette is a teacher, choreographer, cultural consultant and performing artist. Her experience spans over 25 years of performing and teaching audiences locally, nationally and internationally about her Aboriginal heritage. Between 2001-2018 Jeanette worked as a sessional guest lecturer for World Dance Unit QUT Creative Industries. Trained at NAISDA, (National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association) and graduating with a Certificate in Dance and Associate Diploma in Dance with Honours Jeanette has performed across Australia representing in landmark cultural events including the National Apology Canberra 2008, Indigenous Allstars opening ceremony 2016, opening and closing ceremonies for Woodford Folk Festival and 'Dancing the Line' Musical Theatre based on the Torres Strait Island Railway History at QPAC in 2019. Jeanette continues her work teaching and developing Indigenous Contemporary Dance groups in schools across Brisbane for their NAIDOC Celebrations and Awards nights, in between her own major performances.

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Rafael Karlen

Wind instruments, improvisation & composition

Rafael Karlen is a Brisbane-based saxophonist, composer and arranger. He graduated from Griffith University, Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2004 with a Bachelor in Contemporary Music Performance in Saxophone. Rafael received the Lord Mayor's Fellowship for Young and Emerging Artists from the Brisbane City Council in 2011 to undertake study in Europe where he completed his Masters of Music Degree at the University of York in England. In 2015 Rafael was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship which allowed him to travel to New York, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne, London, Oxford, Oslo and Stockholm to undertake study in Contemporary music performance, composition and ensemble directing. Rafael has released three albums as a leader featuring his original music. His debut album with the 10-piece Brisbane-based ensemble, the West End Composers Collective, received critical acclaim and featured Rafael as a composer, saxophonist and flautist. *The Sweetness of Things Half-Remembered* (2014) featured music for string quartet, saxophonist and pianist, and *Trace* (2017) featured music for saxophone, guitar and piano.



Takako Nishibori

Koto Master

Takako Nishibori, Queensland's eminent Koto performer, brings the classic sounds of Japan alive through her mastery of the Koto. Born in Otsu, Shiga Japan, Takako started playing the koto at the age of six. Takako studied the Koto with Grand Master Shizu Fujino (a student of Michio Miyagi) from Ikuta Ryu Miyagi school. In 2000, Takako received her teaching license from the Miyagi school of Tokyo. She was placed in the top ten for all of Japan. Takako's first visit to Australia was in 2001 as an exchange teacher. During this time, she performed for various venues in NSW and ACT and began to explore new ways of playing the Koto. Before moving to Brisbane in 2005, Takako completed her Masters of Educational Studies in Newcastle. As a language teacher, Takako has also developed practical language teaching method through music teaching that still some schools employ. Takako is also a member of JADE New World Collective, an ensemble in residence at OPAC.

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Tnee Dyer

Keyboard, songwriting, composition & improvisation

Tnee is a charismatic and unique musical artist with a contagious enthusiasm for creativity and spontaneous invention. His most recent work has been as a creative producer and musical director in *A Very Naughty Christmas* a piece of independent musical theatre which played to sold out crowds at the Brisbane Powerhouse in December 2017. Tnee is Co-Artistic Director of Wester-Dyer productions who in September 2017 toured to over 16 regional areas around Western Australia with their critically acclaimed cabaret show *Barbara and Barry's Sweet Sour and Saucy*. In early 2017 Tnee was the Music Director for the *Matilda Awards Ceremony* (Queensland Theatre Awards) and was Music Director for *Seven on Sinatra* hosted by the Powerhouse as part of the Queensland Cabaret Festival.