

CREATIVE FUSIONS

2 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 and raised and educated in South East Asia, Australia and Mexico, Dr Garcia has recorded, toured and performed extensively throughout the world collaborating with creatives across a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Dr. Garcia's 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, conducted at the University of Tasmania between 2012-2015, 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 2014, in partnership with his wife Jennifer Garcia, of Sounds Across Oceans, a new music and arts 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.'

Through Sounds Across Oceans Dr Garcia has helped design and curate a diverse array of festival programs, community wellbeing initiatives and research partnerships. In 2019, with the support of BrisAsia Festival and QPAC he helped establish the pioneering intercultural art ensemble JADE New World Collective. Since its inception SAO has produced the BrisAsia Festival Creative Sector Development Program for the Brisbane City Council, SunPAC Summerfest, Creative Fusions (QPAC), the Tree of Life: seniors' music and movement initiative as well as workshops and concerts in Germany, Thailand, Brisbane and regional Queensland.

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Tsoof Baras

Percussionist & Composer

Tsoof Baras is a composer, percussionist, session musician, hand drummer and graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium. He has performed as a percussionist with the QLD Pops Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Ipswich Theatre Company, Salseros, Talkin' the Drum and Spankinhide.

Tsoof is a co-founder and composer of SoundStruck, a Brisbane based percussion group dedicated to delivering high impact and entertaining percussion music with visual effects. He has travelled around the country as a percussionist, performing at large sporting events, stage shows and corporate events.

He is also involved in the delivery of body percussion and drumming workshops as an individual and through Talkin' the Drum and Rhythm Culture. Studying in Guinea, West Africa, Tsoof has been immersed in hand drumming since childhood and is intimately involved with the hand drumming community in South-East Queensland. Tsoof now focusses his energy on developing the ensembles he is a part of, integrating years of hand drumming experience into his projects and performing as a freelance and session percussionist.



Luke Cuerel

Saxophonist, Producer, DJ & Composer

Luke Cuerel is a saxophonist, producer, DJ, composer and educator currently working in Meanjin / Brisbane. His work explores music in unique contexts, specifically in relation to people, places and events in Australian life. With a wealth of experience in performance, composition and improvisation, Luke runs a number of projects including *The Luke Cuerel Orchestra*, *The Luke Cuerel Quintet* and *Voltfruit* and has performed on stage with some of the country's biggest touring acts including *Boy and Bear* and *The Kite String Tangle*.

Luke also has over a decade of experience as a producer and DJ as part of groups *Pigeon*, *Scholar*, *Polymer* and *Expo 88*, with airplay on major Australian and community radio. He also shares his passion for music and music making as an educator in secondary and tertiary environments and private instrumental tuition. Luke is looking forward to collaborating and releasing more music across 2022, including live videos for his projects *Voltfruit* and *The Luke Cuerel Quintet*, and a range of music for his *Expo 88* electronic music project.

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Pauline Maundy

Vocalist, Composer & Improviser

Pauline is an accomplished songwriter, vocalist, producer, facilitator and mentor. One of the rare voices on the international world scene, she forged her career with her international touring ensemble MZAZA while writing and performing in the rock, folk, and jazz worlds. She received Queensland Music Awards in 2015, 2016 and 2021.

She has released one EP and three critically acclaimed albums with her ensemble MZAZA and has enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with accomplished musicians such as Rob Davidson (*Topology*), Anthony Garcia and Boris Bergman (France).

Having studied a B.A. Drama (QUT), Pauline is passionate about creating multi-dimensional musical performances that draw on theatrical elements and text work. In 2020 Pauline developed *The Birth & Death of Stars* show based on MZAZA's album of the same name and worked with director Benjamin Knapton (Circa) to bring it to the stage. The show enjoyed sold out performances around Queensland, at Brisbane Festival and received critical acclaim from media, peers and audiences alike. In 2021 she created and toured *Take Me to Paris*, a personal show about growing up in two places.

Pauline harnesses her passion for the cultural sector along with skills gained through postgraduate studies in Business Administration to bring valuable Queensland cultural and community projects to life. In addition to her own creative endeavours she has worked as co-Director of Brisbane Fringe Festival, Producer for Woodford Folk Festival and delivered key projects for cultural institutions such as State Library of Queensland. She is committed to social progress through her leadership in music and across her work with diverse communities, and drives a number of projects including Tilly Bébé, a program which seeks to counter the underrepresentation of women in jazz.

"With a plethora of notches on her belt, Maudy paves the way for hungry minds eager to satiate their musical, cultural and intellectual appetites." Scenestr

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Greta Kelly

Sha Kama (Persian spike-fiddle) & Violin

Greta Kelly is a Brisbane-based musician and producer of cross-cultural music and theatre works.

After studying at the University of Queensland she lived in Prague for four years where she discovered Eastern European folk music. Greta learnt shah kaman (Persian spike-fiddle made by luthier Peter Biffin) in Greece and Turkey studying classical, folk and sufi music. She received funding to study, conduct music workshops and perform music in Iran in 2011 and 2019.

Greta has co-produced and performed in a number of large-scale multi-arts productions including *Song to the Earth* (premiering at Bleach Festival and the Commonwealth Games 2018 Arts and Culture Program), *Our Place* (premiering at Queensland Music Festival 2019), *The Birth and Death of Stars* (premiering at Brisbane Festival 2020) and *Song to the Ocean* (premiering at Hervey Bay Whale Festival 2021).

Greta has extensive experience in the design of digital tertiary education programs and the development and delivery of music education and community engagement programs. She has managed numerous performance and community engagement tours of DeepBlue and Mzaza nationally and across Europe, the US and Asia. Greta also runs music workshops for migrants and refugees through various national settlement organisations.

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Terry Cassels AKA DkazmaN

Vocalist, Didgeridoo Artist & Songwriter

Terry Cassels AKA DkazmaN is an indigenous Australian artist and frontman singer/songwriter for many of Brisbane's beloved live acts including HOT RUBBER GLOVE (1996-2006), DYNAMIC THRILLS (2004-2010) and of course the mighty DUBMARINE (2006-2018).

A seasoned performer with a career spanning 30 years as a dancer, singer/songwriter and actor, DkazmaN has performed on many local and international stages ranging from the Sydney Opera House, the Olympics and Commonwealth Games to main events throughout Europe, the African continent, the United States, New Zealand and of course most parts of Australia.

His reputation has earned him accolades having been nominated for and winning Queensland Music Awards and the Deadlys and helping communities with multiple workshops throughout Australia for well over 25 years. The GUNGALU spirit singer brings cross culture into the modern contemporary and pushes his art into the space age. DkazmaN has over ten albums under his belt including LAZER SOUND BEAM (DM) with MAGOO in the engineering booth.

Over the years he has also participated on many workshops within the industry since 1994. This included all aspects of the arts, being invited to work at almost all the schools in Queensland, and indigenous communities. He feels a real need to educate the young and old with a clear vision on how the future should be.

As for now he has in the last two years gone through a reinvention believing he has achieved all he dreamed of as a young person so that now everything is a bonus. His new philosophy is to not 'hustle for his art' but continue the journey by developing new skills in production and writing new material that will intertwine his talents and different acts to someday participate in the virtual world and future technologies arising.