

Our Teachers – Penrith Conservatorium



Bathsheba (Zizi) Alyozha - Piano, Violin, Viola

BA (Hons)



Saadet Dagistanli - Piano

A.Mus.A, B.Mus., ASCM...(Chamber Music) L.Mus.A Grad Dip.Ed.

Saadet started studying piano at the age of eleven and gained entry to study at the Conservatorium High School where she attained her NSW Higher School Certificate. She continued her tertiary music education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music – graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree majoring in both performance and accompaniment. She has been the recipient of many music awards and prizes over the years and has been soloist with both the Sydney Symphony and the Conservatorium Symphony orchestras. Saadet has over 20 years of teaching experience and has been a member of staff at the following Sydney schools: St Joseph's College (Hunters Hill), St Ignatius' College (Riverview), SCECGS Redlands (Cremorne), Marist Sisters College (Woolwich), Manly Selective High School. Since moving to the Nepean area over a decade ago, Saadet has taught at both St Paul's Grammar School (Cranebrook) and St Dominic's College (Kingswood). She continues to enjoy teaching students ranging in age and ability from Early Childhood through to HSC candidates and mature-age.

Michelle Foreman - Voice

B.Ed., LMUS., Diploma of Operatic Art

Michelle uses her international and local experience in Opera as a singer, director and choreographer to prepare students for both leisure and professional performance pursuits and to create joyous music. Her students have worked for Opera Australia and are regularly accepted into the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, excelling in AMEB and HSC exams, appearing on TV and enjoying all kinds of musical escapades. A teacher for over 25 years, she loves teaching the skills that allow singers to fulfil their dreams.



Jennifer Hammond - Piano

AMusA, LMusA, LTCL, Die Kunstlerische Reifepruefung (highest performance degree from Mozart Academy, Salzburg)

Jennifer is a highly experienced teacher, performer, and conductor, having commenced piano studies at the age of 4. She has been awarded an OAM for her services to music and the AMEB Shield for the best results in grade 7-diplomas 1998. Jennifer has studied piano at the NSW Conservatorium of Music under the late Frank Hutchens, graduating with a Performer and Teachers' Diploma. Jenny has also studied at the "Mozartium" Academy in Salzburg, Austria obtaining the highest degree, the "Reifepruefung". Jennifer still performs regularly and has recorded 3 CDs.



Amanda Handel - Piano

MA (Hons. Composition) A. Mus. A Diploma, ATCL (Teaching Dip.) MTA Accreditation, AMC composer representation

Amanda is a well-established composer, performer and piano teacher. She has extensive teaching experience spanning decades with a long record of successful students working with the AMEB, ANZCA and HSC syllabi. Her objective is to awaken creativity, foster spontaneity and deepen artistry within all her students. She is also a dedicated practitioner of the Alexander Technique which fosters healthy physical playing habits, deepens musical awareness and nurtures the innermost being of students – young and old.

Amanda is an active member of the Music Teachers' Association of NSW and regularly presents at, and attends music pedagogy conferences. She is a performer (pianist, singer, and dancer), and a composer with three CDs released. Amanda has a large catalogue of compositions which is published through Wirripang Pty Ltd. Her special area of interest is in contemporary music genres.

Website – www.amandahandel.com



Ross Harries - Flute, Clarinet & Saxophone

BMusEd (Clarinet & Piano), CGSMD (Perf)(Saxophone) High Distinction LGSMD (Perf)(Flute), LTCL, ATCL, LLCM, ALCM (TD) ALAM (Public Speaking) Hons ALAM (Recital) FCIM

Ross has a wealth of experience in the performing arts both as an educator and performer.

As a musician Ross has worked in the classical, jazz and rock/pop fields both in Australia and overseas.

As a teacher Ross loves to share his passion for music with students of all ages. He has taught from the very young all the way through to retirees. Students have excelled in exams, auditions and school performance work. Several students have entered tertiary programs in music on various instruments under his instruction.

Ross's high level of training and wealth of experience is beautifully blended with his natural love of people. This makes learning music fun!



Rebecca Hilder - Voice

B. Mus.Ed (Sydney Conservatorium of Music), Dip.Op (Sydney Conservatorium of Music)

Rebecca is a highly experienced teacher and Soprano performer, with over ten years of teaching experience. She has performed a variety of roles in fully staged productions of traditional operas and new works. Most recently she completed a year with Opera Australia's OzOpera Schools Company. Rebecca has worked with international directors such as Moffat Oxenbould, Elke Neidhardt, Cathy Dadd and Constantine Koukias. She has performed in master classes with Richard Bonyngue, David Wakeham, Anke Höppner, Andrew Dalton, Barry Ryan, Jane Edwards, Janice Chapman, Nicole Dorigo (Italian and French diction) and Elisabeth Pillgrab (German diction). Rebecca worked regularly for three years with international director and movement and stagecraft coach Anna Sweeny, and has

worked with Australia's most respected vocal coaches including Michael Black, Andrew Greene, Stephen Mould, Simon Kenway and Sharolyn Kimmorley.



John Hines - Piano, Composition

A.D.M.T (Piano); M.Mus; B. Primary Education Studies.

John received his Associate Diploma in Music Teaching (Piano), from the NSW Conservatorium of Music in 1983, after which he studied for a Master's Degree at Adelaide University, and a Bachelor of Primary Education Studies at Charles Sturt University. John has been teaching Piano and Music Theory for over 25 years, both as a private teacher and also as a music specialist in primary education. As a pianist, he specialises not only in the standard "classical" repertoire but also in jazz improvisation and composition, and is an active member of the Hawkesbury Jazz Society. His compositions have been performed by many ensembles, including several of the Australian Symphony Orchestras. He believes that, in addition to a sound pedagogical approach to teaching, that lessons must be sympathetic to each student's personal tastes and musical preferences as much as possible, and that, above all, a positive teacher-student relationship is essential, for children and adults.



Teri Hughes-Everard - Voice

Dip.Voc.Edu, A.Dip.A Classical Singing, Adv.Cert.M/T

Teri Hughes-Everard (Dip.Voc.Edu, A.Dip.A Classical Singing, Adv.Cert.M/T) studied Music Theatre at The Australian Institute of Music, majoring in voice. Teri is a versatile performer and has studied both classical and contemporary techniques. After receiving her Diploma in classical singing with the Australian and New Zealand Cultural Arts it was there that she completed the examiner training in voice. Teri was awarded her Diploma of Vocal Education through the Australian School of Vocal Performance. Teri is the recipient of the AMEB'S Top 5 Most Outstanding Private Teacher in Singing for 2016. As Music Director for Penrith Comedy Music Society, Teri was involved with the production of "The Spelling Bee" and as Co-Music Director for their production of "The Boy From OZ – The Peter Allen story". She has performed as a principal in music theatre, a soloist for choral festivals and concert performances as well as acapella choirs. Favorite performances include Angelina (Trial by Jury) and soprano soloist for "Just Classics" (the Anniversary of Hayden & Mozart); and Jeanette MacDonald in "A Celebration of Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy". Teri works as a

singer/songwriter, teacher, soloist and in duos, trios, and ensembles and is committed to vocal excellence.



Joshua Isaac - Percussion

Bachelor of Music (Hons) Western Sydney University

Joshua is a drum kit player, percussionist, performer and electronic music producer who has completed a Bachelor of Music with Honours at Western Sydney University. An experienced teacher, Joshua's aim is to give students a lifelong appreciation and love of all things musical.

Joshua has been teaching drums and percussion since 2010. He currently works in 4 Sydney schools enabling students to succeed in their personal instrument study or in preparation for performance and ongoing band work. He also prepares students for AMEB graded examinations upon request.

Joshua designs his lessons to build a strong understanding of music theory along with the technical skills required for drum kit and percussion performance. His lively and engaging teaching style ensures that students grow technically and as confident performers. As well as individual tuition Joshua currently directs primary school rock ensembles along with regular conducting of percussion groups to encourage students work together as a dynamic team.

Complimenting his teaching Joshua has extensive performance experience having played and recorded with jazz and improvising groups, hip hop and funk bands, rock bands and musical theatre orchestras. He has released electronic music compositions on Sydney music labels Frequency Lab and Skydreams and is currently working on new material and collaborative projects.



Cameron Kinsey - Guitar

BA (Music), GDTL, ATCL

Cam is an experienced and busy performer and teacher who currently works with a number of professional bands in the areas of Jazz, Blues, Rockabilly, Rock and Country. With over thirty years of experience, he has developed a fluid and expressive style and has equal passion for playing and teaching classical as well as contemporary. He is a current high school music teacher with the NSW Department of Education. Cam holds a degree in music from Monash University in Melbourne as well as a Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning from Charles Darwin University. He is a

registered teacher with the AMEB and holds an Associate Diploma in classical guitar recital from Trinity College London. He offers lessons in all forms of guitar including slide as well as bass, banjo, ukulele and mandolin. Under his tutelage some of his students have achieved associate levels, degrees in music, gained scholarships, started their own bands, begun solo careers and been selected for HSC showcase at the Sydney Opera House.



Catherine Laws - Piano

CmusA Piano, Certificate of Performance Singing, Kodaly Certificate of Early Childhood Music

Catherine's passion for music began at the age of eleven years initially playing the organ. It was this introduction that began her life long passion for music and performance.

Catherine has been teaching piano for twenty years and more recently singing, which enables her to pass on her experiences gained by performance at weddings, restaurants and cafes to her passionate music students. Catherine teaches all ages and abilities, her teaching has been in both her private studio, Blue Mountains and

St Paul's Grammar Prep and High Schools.

Catherine is qualified in the Hungarian Kodaly method of music teaching for infants up to five years of age, this enables her students who begin music as infants to develop their abilities to then move on to learning an instrument.



Lyn Phillips - Voice, Piano & Musicianship

L. Mus. A. , A. Mus. A. ,Perf Cert

Lyn is a singing, piano and musicianship teacher who shares a birthday with Beethoven (minus a few years!) She moved to the Blue Mountains in 2009 after many years on the NSW far north coast, having previously worked at the Clarence Valley Conservatorium (Grafton) and as a private teacher in Yamba.

Lyn has a keen interest in Baroque sacred vocal music, as well as art song, music theatre, gospel, jazz and folk. She has directed adult, junior and community choirs and a capella groups, arranges choral music and piano pieces and accompanies at exams, eisteddfodau and other performances.

Lyn is a regular vocal soloist in the Blue Mountains and is actively involved in church music, choral direction (Leura Singers) and private and school music tuition.

Lyn combines skill, humour and kindness to teach others how to love music for life.



Finn Pursell - Piano

PhD

Finn is a piano teacher specialising in Baroque harpsichord repertoire. At Bard College, in Upstate New York, Finn studied piano with German Diez and harpsichord with Dr. Fred Hammond. During this period, he has given recitals as both an accompanist and soloist, including a performance with the American Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leon Botstein. Since arriving in Sydney in 2000, Finn has completed research at UNSW concerning musical aesthetics and psychophysics, and continues to perform, compose and write about music. Lessons are centred around exam and recital preparation, and focus on theory, fingering, technique, interpretation, and memorization. Students perform works at the end of the year at a student recital held at the conservatorium. [Click here](#) to see Finn's composition portfolio. Contact details: Email – finnpur@aol.com, Tel – 0417034642



Clare Richards - Voice

B.MUS

Clare began her musical studies at the The Joan on violin at age 5, and by the age of 16 also began studying classical voice. Her focus shifting just to the voice after finishing high school, completing her exams in 8th grade voice with distinction through Trinity College London, and then continuing onto a Bachelor of Music Performance in Voice from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. A recipient of the Elizabeth Todd Leider Prize, and with a great passion for new music, Clare was thrilled to round out her time at university, performing Steve Reich's, Music for 18 Musicians with Splash Percussion at the Sydney Verge Festival, and also featuring as Amy, in new musical Just A Second.

Also while at university, Clare performed with MUSE, singing as lead soprano in Sondheim's A Little Night Music, and was vocal director of their inaugural compilation show. Clare has also performed as both a chorister and soloist with both the Sydney Philharmonia Choir and St James Cathedral Choirs, touring Melbourne and Singapore with the St James in 2014.

Selected as a young artist for the Canberra International Music Festival, Clare performed alongside the Song Company in various concerts across the capital city, and recently was a participant in the WAAPA International Song Academy. Clare is also a regular performer with the Voci Stupende ensemble, performing concerts in regional New South Wales.

Clare continues to work alongside coaches from Opera Australia on various projects, and looks forward to working with young people at The Joan, helping them master the best possible vocal techniques, encouraging the importance of music education, and a love for all sorts of music.



Rotraud Schneider - Violin & Viola

Teacher & Performer Diploma, (Staatl. Musikhochschule Munich, Germany), Soloist Diploma (Lucerne Conservatoire, Switzerland)

Rotraud is a well established performer and teacher having taught at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre since 1991. Previously she was a lecturer at the Wollongong Conservatorium University from 1982 – 1991. Rotraud completed her Teacher and Performer Diploma at the Academy of Music in Munich, Germany and her Soloist Diploma at the Conservatorium in Lucerne, Switzerland. She has extensive performance experience, making her first concert debut in London in 1977. She has followed this with concert tours throughout Europe and Australia, recordings for the BBC, ABC, 2MBS FM, and several CDs for Jade, NEA Music Label and the Anthology of Australian Music on Disc, Canberra School of Music.



Vladimir Shapkin - Violin

MMUS, The University of Auckland (New Zealand), BMus, BMus Hons.

Vladimir will commence in Term 1 2019.

Vladimir was born in the then USSR. Vladimir started becoming a musician at the age of 5, by picking up the violin, and at the age of 6, by picking up the piano and music solfeggio.

Between the ages of 10-13, Vladimir studied music overseas in Turkey, Germany, and Vienna, before moving to New Zealand at the age of 13.

In his 20s, Vladimir received his 3 music degrees; Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music (Honours) with First Class Honours, Master of Music with First Class Honours, from The University of Auckland (New Zealand)



Brittanie Shipway - Voice

Dip. Musical Theatre (NIDA)

Since graduating from NIDA (Dip. Musical Theatre). Brittanie is a Performer and a Teacher in both Voice & Drama having appeared in *Ordinary Days* (Chapel Off Chapel), *Big Fish* (The Hayes Theatre Co) and has workshopped *Muriel's Wedding* as Rhonda (STC) and *Evie May: A Tivoli Story* (The Hayes Theatre Co, New Musicals Australia).

A corporate entertainer and cabaret artist, Brittanie has made appearances on various children shows on Channel 9 and was a Top 40 contestant on *The Voice* (S3). Since then, she has opened for artists such as Damien Leith (Australian Idol), Marlissa (X-Factor), and Taylor Henderson (X-Factor). In 2015 Brittanie was selected to study Method Acting in New York at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute, and went on to perform at Don't Tell Mamma and Birdland.



Lyn Sibley - Speech & Drama

BA Theatre (Theory & Practice), Dip. Ed (Drama & English), Association Dip. (Speech & Drama)

Lyn specialises in teaching speech and drama, with her qualifications including a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Theory and Practice, a Diploma of Education for Drama and English, and an Association Diploma for Speech and Drama. With over twenty years of teaching experience, Lyn has enabled many students to achieve highly in *Australian Music Education Board*, *Trinity College* and the *Australian Speech Communication Association* exams.



Jillian Talbot - Piano

A.Mus.A.

Born and raised in the Blue Mountains, Jillian has been playing the piano since she was four years old. Jillian was fortunate with her musical education studying with Jenny Hammond OAM, Lily Cowen (Theory), Igor Hmelnitsky, Brian Stanborough, and achieving the Early Childhood Music Certificate with the Yamaha Music Foundation. Jillian enjoys the many uplifting tonal colors of the piano and likes to relax in her own time either playing or listening to music. More recently, Jillian has provided entertainment for fundraisers, community plays and to add the finishing touch to a special event or occasion. Jillian is passionate about learning and teaching the piano, and believes in lifelong learning, continuing her own musical education at UWS while teaching students ranging in age from 4 to 94. Should you wish to undertake exams or perhaps just enjoy the pleasure of the piano, you will be supported in whatever musical path you desire for either yourself or your child, regardless of age.



Jason Thornton - Clarinet, Saxophone & Flute

BMus(Hons.); DipEd; MMus; PhD



Sussane Towers - Voice

MMus(USA), BMus (USA), Diploma of Operatic Arts and Music Theatre (AUS)

A graduate of the Opera programs of The Sydney Conservatorium – Australia, The University of Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois University (The Marjorie Lawrence Opera Theatre) – USA, Sussane's extensive experience as a professional performer in Opera, Music Theatre, Cabaret, Folk and Popular music has allowed her to acquire expertise in a wide range of vocal styles.

Many of Sussane's students become graduates of prestigious tertiary colleges such as the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, WAAPA, the University of Western Sydney, the Australian Institute of Music and the prestigious Young Americans College of the Performing Arts in Corona, California USA.

A combination of extensive study in the Estill Voice Training System and E Herbert – Caesari's belcanto concepts provide the perfect platform for a wonderfully balanced approach to the development of each client's voice to suit their specific performance needs. Sussane has a great passion for the rapidly expanding advantages of voice science and it's abundantly practical application for anyone wishing to be empowered to make the most of their voice. This applies as much to speech performance as well as singing.

Sussane's clientele now includes those in a wide variety of genres of the professional speaker in the development of essential skills required by all successful presenters and actors; whether it be drama, radio, voice over, corporate presentations, public speaking, debating or improving confidence and polish for that special occasion.



Timothy Wells - Voice

BCA

Since completing a Bachelor Of Creative Arts (Per) Timothy has been working in all aspects of theatre. As an Actor, Singer, Director and Coach he has taught internationally in Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre, SIB KL Productions, and the Malaysian school system. His experience includes working with voice, movement, and direction, crossing all styles of singing from classical to Music Theatre. Theatre credits include *Talking With*, *Hating Alison Ashleigh* and *Going Nowhere*. As a founding member of Cufflink Productions in 2005 the company produced *Card Board Box* and *Popular Mechanicals*. The last of which was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award and had a return season in the Big laugh Comedy Festival. He recently began teaching Voice (Singing) class for Wesley Institutes' Drama Department and also taking on other private students.



Jacob Wielgosz - Guitar

BMus (Perf) Hons. Sydney Conservatorium; Dip. Ed. ACU

Jacob Wielgosz studied classical guitar at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he obtained a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Performance. His teachers included Gregory Pikler, Aleksandr

Tsiboulski, Marco Tamayo, and Raffaele Agostino. In 2014, he founded the Penrith Classical Guitar Club. The club involves performance workshops, ensemble playing, and chamber-music performances of arrangements and newly-commissioned works.

Jacob has toured regionally and internationally with the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra, both as a domra player and a guitar soloist.

In addition to being a musician, Jacob is also a luthier, building classical guitars. Recent projects involve instruments built from Australian woods, designed to specifications which allow instruments to achieve the same standard as those built using traditional—now endangered—hardwoods.

Jacob is currently Music Director of Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, where he oversees the liturgical music of numerous choirs. He runs cantor training workshops, and conducts and arranges music for string, wind, and choral ensembles.

Jacob is registered with the AMEB