

# About Our Presenters

## Autumn Seminar 2014

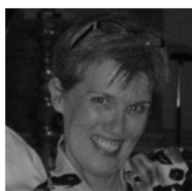


### Jason Goopy

MMus (Aural Pedagogy), BMus (Hons I), BEd (UQ), AMusA, Australian Kodály Certificate (Secondary)

Jason Goopy is an Academic Music Teacher at Brisbane Boys' College, Australia. He teaches academic class, choral and instrumental music to students from Foundation to Year 12. He established and leads the Music Every Day Program at the College for boys in Foundation to Year 3. Jason studied music education specialising in aural pedagogy at the University of Queensland where he is also a Doctor of Philosophy candidate. He has held casual academic appointments at UQ and the University of New England. He has presented both nationally and internationally including recently in 2013 at the Australian Association for Research in Education, Adelaide; the International Boys School Coalition Conference, Richmond, Virginia; and, the International Kodály Symposium, Kecskemét, Hungary. Jason is a National Council member and the Webmaster for the Australian Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia

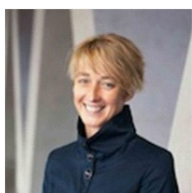
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### Anne Comiskey

Anne Comiskey is an Education Queensland primary music specialist who teaches once-a-week classroom music programs in two Brisbane state schools. Anne has had an extensive career teaching and coordinating music programs from preschool to university level and developing teaching materials for music educators. She has presented at Australian regional, state and national conferences, at national conferences of the Organization of American Kodály Educators and at the 2007 International Kodály Symposium in Ohio. From 2005 – 2010 Anne was an Associate Professor at the University of Hartford, Connecticut, teaching ear training and ear training pedagogy. Anne's particular interests include motivating boys to sing and helping students, regardless of age, to develop confidence in their own abilities to learn.

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### Dr Katrina Skewes McFerran

A/Professor Katrina Skewes McFerran is Head of Music Therapy at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and Co-Director of the National Music Therapy Research Unit. She is a specialist in music therapy with young people and has worked in the mainstream and special education sector for the past two decades, publishing about research, practice and theory for the field in journals and books within Australia and internationally.

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### Ruth Friend

Ruth is an experienced facilitator in training teachers in the Kodaly approach to music education. Her 30 years of broad teaching experience and expertise encompasses classroom, instrumental, choral and music and movement programs from Kindergarten to University. Ruth's Flute tutor, 'Put the Beat in ya Feet' aimed at developing independent, creative young musicians. She has since co-authored the successful 'Take Note Music' series of books and resources for the music classroom. After 12 years teaching in the highly regarded Kodaly music program at Caulfield Grammar, Melbourne, she is currently Head of Junior Music at St Kevin's College, Toorak. As an active member of the Victorian Kodaly Committee, Ruth passionately supports music teachers and encourages quality music education in Australia.



### **Jenny Gillan**

Jennifer Gillan holds a Bachelor of Music ('cello), Dip. Ed., Diploma of Advanced Conducting (Kodaly Institute, Hungary) and a Master of Music Studies (University of Queensland). She has lectured in Australia and the USA and has taught in London. She has taught aural studies at Melbourne University and the Melba Conservatorium and currently teaches at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS). Jennifer runs intensive VCE Aural courses and lectures in Secondary Classroom Music Pedagogy, Musicianship and Conducting through KMEIA. She was a founding member of the Young Voices of Melbourne and has just published parts one and two of an eBook resource for listening analysis titled "Listening Beyond Hearing". She is passionate about the importance of music literacy and potential role of online learning in this area.



### **Davina McClure**

Davina obtained a B. Mus. Ed. from the University of Melbourne where she was awarded the Florence Bradford Scholarship. She has since undertaken postgraduate studies in choral conducting at Monash University and was recently awarded a Master of Education from the University of Melbourne. Davina has taught Kindergarten to Year 12 and her teaching appointments have included St. Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart, Korowa Anglican Girls' School, Melbourne and Head of Music at Malvern Campus, Caulfield Grammar School, Melbourne. She is currently the Director of Teaching and Learning at The Hamilton and Alexandra College, Victoria. Davina has a special interest in children's choirs and has conducted the Preparatory Choir of The Young Voices of Melbourne. She has presented at both State and National music conferences in Kodaly and Orff, throughout Victoria, SA, ACT and NSW and is the co-author of 'Take Note Music' books and resources for the primary music classroom.



### **Mark O'Leary**

Mark O'Leary, M.Mus B.Mus.Ed, Churchill Fellow, is the founder and Director of the Young Voices of Melbourne and the conductor of the Exaudi Youth Choir. With Young Voices Mark has produced ten CD recordings, toured all states and territories of Australia and made eight international tours to Europe, South Africa, North America, Asia and Samoa. Young Voices has been successful in competition in Europe and Asia and is often heard on Australian radio and television. The choir has collaborated with many choirs on its travels and a wide range of other artists including The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sirocco, the Southern Cross Soloists, Chris Lilley, Tripod and Malcolm Dalglish. Mark is the publisher of the Young Voices of Melbourne Choral Series and his arrangements are performed all around the world. He presents many workshops each year on choral music education throughout Australia and is a regular guest conductor at choral festivals. Mark has special interests in Kodály teaching techniques, the development of excellence in music education and children's choirs, and Australian choral music. In 2009 Mark was given an Outstanding Professional Service Award by the Council of Professional Teaching Associations of Victoria for his work with the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia and in 2012 made an honorary life member of KMEIA. Mark is also Principal Guest Conductor of Gondwana Voices with which he has been involved since its first season in 1997.



### **Laura Ross**

Initially trained as a violinist and pianist, Laura Ross found a passion for choral music at an early age and has dedicated her career to the development of childrens' music education through song. In a career spanning 30 years Laura has inspired children through her passion and energy which is deeply rooted in the Kodaly methodology. An experienced educationalist, she has taught classes ranging from Prep -Year 12 in both the UK and Australia and is currently the Acting Director of Music at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar. Laura is an experienced choral conductor having directed both mixed and single sex choirs and is the founder of the community group, Harmonia Choir based in Ivanhoe, Melbourne.



### **Susan Searle**

Susan Searle is an avid Kodály Music Classroom Teacher, with nearly 30 years of experience in a great range of schools, including co-educational, girls only and boys only in the state and private sector. She enjoys thinking of more excellent ways to deliver an engaging and focused curriculum that will result in true musicianship for all students. Susan is currently a Victorian lecturer in Kodály Level One Teacher Training.



### **Lisa Sheppard**

Lisa (B Mus Hons/B Ed) is a primary school music educator who teaches three year olds to Year 6 at Firbank Grammar School, Sandringham Campus. She is dedicated to creating a well balanced, sequential program that successfully caters for a range of students learning styles and needs. Lisa is passionate about successfully implementing ICT within all lessons & enjoys training teachers and helping them embrace a wide range of technologies within their own teaching.



### **Deborah Smith**

Deborah Smith is the author of the highly successful "Musicianship and Aural Training for the Secondary School" series of music texts and compact discs, designed around the pedagogical principles of Kodály Music Education. Deborah began her music career as a clarinettist before discovering a passion for teaching others about music. Her numerous teaching experiences include classroom music teacher at Clayfield College, QLD, Head of Junior School Music, Scotch College, VIC, Director of Music at Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School and at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, VIC. She has developed and implemented successful, fully aural based programmes for students from Kinder to VCE. Deborah is in constant demand for conference presentations, lectures, workshops and aural training sessions to music students, teachers and student-teachers where her informative, enthusiastic and entertaining style has always been well received.



### **Bel Canto Concert performers**

#### **Australian Girls Choir**

In 2014 the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) celebrates 30 years of inspiring girls across the country and dazzling audiences around the world. Founded in 1984 by Judith Curphey OAM with 150 girls in the Melbourne suburb of Burwood, the AGC has blossomed to 4,500 girls currently in training in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The AGC has entertained dignitaries including Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth II and President Obama, and has sung for US talk show stars Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres on their Australian tours. A true recognition of the choir's success is their selection to represent Qantas in the hugely successful 'I Still Call Australia Home' advertising campaigns. [www.aspagroup.com.au](http://www.aspagroup.com.au)

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