

Music Tutor BIOGRAPHIES



KING'S
MUSIC

Brass

Douglas Cross

MMus (Trombone)

Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from Victoria University, Wellington. He continued studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, finishing with a Master of Music in 2000. He has contracted with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as Acting Principal Trombone, and held Principal positions with the Wellington Sinfonia and Christchurch Symphony.

Douglas' commitment to teaching trombone is something on which he prides himself, and enjoys tutoring at all levels. In addition to this, Douglas is a founding member of NZ's premier (and only) trombone quartet, Bonanza.

Brendan Agnew

(Trumpet)

Brendan has been involved with music since starting piano lessons at the age of five, later beginning trumpet lessons at the age of 11. He has appeared onstage with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, National Youth Orchestra, and a number of other ensembles - including as Principal Trumpet of the Hawkes Bay Orchestra and Festival Opera, the Manukau Symphony Orchestra, and the Wellington Youth Orchestra

In addition, Brendan is an experienced arranger, copyist and typesetter, with materials prepared for and performed by the National Brass Band of New Zealand, New Zealand Youth Brass Ensemble, New Zealand School of Music Orchestra and Saxophone Ensemble, the Off Broadway Big Band, St Andrew's Big Band, and a number of schools and theatre companies throughout New Zealand.

Classical and Contemporary Guitar

Michelle Birch

BMus(Hons) (Classical and Acoustic Guitar)

Michelle began playing the guitar at the age of seven and teaching at 15. She studied Classical Guitar with Ronald Burt at Wellington Polytechnic and at Auckland University with Gunter Herbig. In 2005 she received her BMus(Hons) First Class from Massey University.

Michelle's BMus(Hons) included the study of teaching (Pedagogy), for which she earned top marks. Michelle has taught hundreds of students of all ages and levels over the years. She is known as a warm and encouraging teacher, and students tend to stay with her over a long period.

Michelle is also an experienced performer, having performed with Jakub Rosnawski, as the "Hard Case Guitar Duo" and Paul McIver as "The Owl and the Pussycat Guitar Duo."

Michelle currently maintains a busy teaching studio of around 70 students in the Auckland area. She teaches students from beginner level to Grade 8, and has an excellent track-record for getting students through music exams successfully.

Cass Mitchell

BMus (Bass Guitar)

Cass has a Bachelor of Music, majoring in Jazz, from the University of Auckland. She is a regular performer in the Auckland music scene, playing in many original bands, and as a session musician. She has completed several international tours with the group 'Tiny Ruins' which she is a member of.

Cass has over 8 years experience teaching bass guitar and ensemble playing to a wide range of students. She likes to craft her lessons according to each individual, what music they like and what they are working towards. During lessons she covers technique, scales, rhythm, theory, along with songs and musicianship.

Joel Vinsen

BMus, DipMusPerf.
(Contemporary Guitar)

Joel Vinsen holds a Bmus (jazz guitar) from the NZSM, and a Diploma of Contemporary Music Performance (MAINZ). He has been teaching in schools since 2008 and privately since 2002, tutoring students of all ages and ability levels. Joel is a passionate teacher with an interest in all genres of music, and aims to guide students in developing their own unique musicianship, through a technical, theoretical and intuitive understanding of the guitar and music itself.

Joel also maintains a busy schedule as a musician. He was an artist in residence at the Toji Cultural centre in South Korea (2014), bandleader aboard the Celebrity Reflection cruise ship (2015), and has performed in India, Sri Lanka, Australia and Samoa. He is in high demand as a jazz and session musician, and plays in a variety of original projects. He is also a regular performer of improvised and avant-garde music.

Percussion and Drum Kit

Rebecca Celebuski

BMus (Hons), MA, LRAM
(Orchestral Percussion)

Rebecca began playing percussion at age 11 and quickly fell in love with these instruments through the many wind bands, orchestras and marching bands of her youth. She went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree (Honors) from the Royal College of Music and a Master of Arts from the Royal Academy of Music, London.

Rebecca works regularly with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. In addition to performing, Rebecca is passionate about teaching and enjoys introducing students to the huge range of instruments orchestral percussion encompasses.

Miguel Fuentes

(Drum Kit)

Miguel was born in New York and grew up in Puerto Rico. From an early age he knew music would be his life's passion and he began learning drums. His diverse musical education and upbringing have resulted in him mastering all forms of Latin percussion, Drum kit and orchestral timpani.

Miguel Fuentes has studied Afro-Caribbean music with Professor Jose Ramirez, Orlando Puntilla Rios, and Daniel Ponce and timpani with Fred D. Hinger of Yale University and the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed and toured with countless groups including Isaac Hayes, Grover Washington, George Benson, Peter Allen, Daniel Ponce, Orlando Puntilla Rios, David Lipman, Patti La Belle, and Puerto Rico Symphony.

Miguel has a wealth of knowledge and has taught university and college courses in drumming, timpani and percussion. He is currently a full time KANTUTA member and is also a Music Educator within Auckland schools teaching percussion and drumming.

Piano and Organ

Evans Chuang

MMus (Piano)

Evans Chuang is an Auckland-based pianist and is in demand as a teacher, accompanist, performer, adjudicator and events coordinator.

For further information please visit www.ecmusic.co.nz

Kim Naden

ARCM (HONS) LRAM
(London) AIRMT (Piano)

After being awarded a scholarship at eighteen, Kim Naden left New Zealand to study at the Royal College of Music in London, majoring in performance and piano accompaniment. After four years study and a successful career performing throughout England and teaching in London, he became repetiteur for the Royal Ballet School and worked with many Artists and Teachers from the Royal Ballet Company.

Since his return home to Auckland, Kim has set up a large private teaching practice and is on the itinerant teaching staff at King's College. He is demand both as an accompanist and adjudicator in all the NZ Performing Arts Festivals and has lectured for the Institute of Registered Music Teachers (IRMT) as well as tutored in their Teaching Workshops.

Paul Chan

PGDipMus, FTCL,
LRSM, AIRMT

Paul is currently the Organist at King's College where he plays for the chapel services and accompanies the College's choirs in special events such as the annual Big Sing Competition.

Having studied organ with James Tibbles, Philip Smith, and Dr John Wells, Paul graduated from the University of Waikato and holds FTCL and LRSM diplomas in organ performance and a diploma in instrumental teaching. He has worked with many choirs both overseas and locally, and has previously served as organist at St Andrew's First Presbyterian Church and as organ scholar at Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral. He was awarded joint first prize in the NZOA Organ Performance Award and a University Blues Award in Organ in 2016. In 2017, he performed Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony with St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra and gave an organ recital at Auckland Town Hall.

Paul is also the Director of Music of St Matthew-in-the-City, where he presides over the Willis organ. He is in demand as a freelance accompanist and recitalist.

Singing (Voice)

Claire Scholes

MMus

Claire Scholes (nee Nash) is a mezzo-soprano and composer based in Auckland. She is a committed advocate of contemporary and avant-garde vocal music, and is known for her intensely theatrical and entertaining performances. She recently received critical acclaim for her performance of Annea Lockwood's I Give You Back at the 2013 Auckland Pride Festival.

Claire has performed as a soloist with the Auckland Chamber Orchestra, Stroma, The Karlheinz Company, and The Committee, and has been a finalist and prize-winner in numerous aria competitions, including the Lockwood Aria. She has also performed to over 200 New Zealand primary schools as a singer for Class Act Opera. Claire has been guest vocal tutor with the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir; and has taught at Carmel College, Diocesan School for Girls, and the University of Auckland Academy of Music. She is a reviewer for Radio New Zealand Concert and Opera News magazine.

Gina Sanders

BMus Hons, BA,
F'TCL(voice),
ATCL(piano), AIRMT

Well established in the performance, teaching and adjudication professions, Gina's career began after completing seven degrees and diplomas in piano, voice, theory, musicology, pedagogy and languages at Auckland and Queensland Universities and Trinity College London.

Since becoming the first NZ musician to be awarded a Rotary International Graduate Scholarship, and consequently undertaking post-graduate studies in Stuttgart, Germany, Gina has completed ten international tours to Europe, Asia and the Pacific, combining performance engagements with presentations of her comprehensive vocal tuition courses, The Developing Singer and The Developing Teacher.

Gina has appeared as a soloist with every major NZ choral society, orchestra and opera company, has released four CDs, is a Concert FM national recording artist and co-founder of The NZ Pops Orchestra. With a repertoire of over 60 operatic and oratorio roles, she enjoys collaborating with the wealth of talent throughout the country. She also has had a life-long love of choral music and directs several choirs. Gina is currently an external examiner for Auckland and Waikato Universities.

Steven Rapana

BMus (Voice)

A New Zealander of Maori and Samoan extraction, Steven is best known for his arrangements and compositions of Pacific choral music. He studied at the University of Auckland earning a Bachelor of Music, in vocal performance and choral studies. Steven has been a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir, the New Zealand Youth Choir, and a member of Voices New Zealand Sixteen; a semi-professional 16 voice vocal ensemble comprising some of the best choral practitioners in the country, directed by Dr Karen Grylls.

Based in Auckland, he currently works as a singing teacher, choral director, language coach (phonology and languages for singers), a professional singer, arranger, and composer in and around New Zealand.

Strings

Belinda Carrigan

MMus, PGDip (RNCM)
(Violin/Viola)

Belinda Carrigan completed a Master of Music with distinction in violin performance from the University of Auckland in 1996 and after freelancing with the APO and a season playing for Phantom of the Opera, continued on to complete a Post Graduate Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, United Kingdom.

She has many years of experience as a freelance performer with various orchestras, touring shows, musicals and chamber ensembles, such as Cachaça Duo (www.cachacaduo.com) and Embellish String Quartet.

Belinda teaches violin privately and at various schools (both public and private) in Auckland, with many students sitting either Trinity or ABRSM examinations. Many of her students have continued on to performance degrees and now perform with her in professional orchestras.

Liliya Arefyeva

BMus, MMus (Cello)

Liliya began her musical studies at the age of 7. She was admitted to the Special School of Music for gifted children where she spent 11 years learning two instruments; piano and cello. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in cello performance and teaching from the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire.

After graduation, Liliya served as a Principal cellist with the Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra and Azerbaijan National Broadcasting Orchestra. From 1994 to 1997 she lived in Turkey performing with the Ankara Opera and Ballet Theatre.

In 1997, Liliya moved to New Zealand with her husband and two sons and in 1998, joined the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra as a cellist. Liliya enjoys her career in New Zealand as an orchestral cellist, chamber musician and cello teacher.

Woodwind

Christine Mori

DSCM (Flute)

Christine Mori was born in Christchurch NZ. She has a DSCM from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has completed two years in the Australian Broadcasting National Training Orchestra. In Sydney, Christine worked as a freelance musician, mostly with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

Christine taught at the Canberra School of Music for a year, until offered a similar position at the Sydney Conservatorium where she taught for four years. She also taught privately and in Sydney schools.

Christine returned to New Zealand as the Principal Flute with the Auckland Philharmonia, a position she held for 20 years. As a member of the Auckland Wind Quintet, she toured New Zealand and tutored and mentored young students. Christine has taught at the Auckland School of Education and currently teaches in four Auckland schools, as well as having a private practice. Christine is a member of the Bach Musica Orchestra.

Alex Eichelbaum

BMus (Saxophone and Clarinet)

Alexander is an active conductor and performer on both clarinet and saxophone, having graduated from the Classical Performance program at the University of Auckland.

He has assisted in the formation, running, and performed as both Assistant Conductor and Concertmaster of the NZ Youth Symphonic Winds since its inception in 2014. This year, he has returned to the role of Music Director of the University of Auckland Concert Band and also directs the College String Orchestra, Premier Concert Band and Saxophone Quartets, along with co-directing the Symphony Orchestra.

As an instrumentalist, Alexander has been prolific in his output. He has given critically acclaimed performances with the Auckland Youth Choir and Karlheinz Company and has premiered dozens of works for local composers and artists. This has seen him engaged in recording sessions and events at the University of Auckland as well as through the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra's Education and Outreach events. He has undertaken a diverse range of work, recording for acclaimed NZ artist Indi while also performing with groups including the Prohibition Big Band and local Second Line group, the Auckland City Scoundrels. Accolades include the Annual Adjudicators' Awards for both his solo performance on clarinet and group performance with the University of Auckland Concert Band Saxophone Quartet in the 2015 NZ Concert Band Association National Festival. He has gone on to run workshops for the organisation, working as a band clinician around Auckland and running a woodwind workshop at the 2017 NZCBA Festival. He has also been lauded for his performances of contemporary music, receiving a Lilburn Trust Performance Award in both 2013 and 2015 from the University of Auckland.