

Music Tutor BIOGRAPHIES



KING'S
MUSIC

Brass

Henry Close

(French Horn)

Henry is a horn player in the 3rd year of his Bachelor of Music at the University of Auckland. He plays with multiple ensembles in the Auckland community such as the Auckland Youth Orchestra, with whom he has performed as a soloist with. Chamber music is a genre Henry has a particular affinity towards, being fortunate enough to play as a guest soloist with the New Zealand Chamber Soloists, amongst other casual ensembles. Professionally he has played with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, the Auckland Chamber Orchestra, Bach Musica NZ, and the Hawke's Bay Orchestra.

Henry teaches at multiple schools around Auckland and hopes that despite his relatively short professional career, he can impart some of his experience upon others.

Outside of music Henry is a keen enthusiast of both football and cricket.

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.

Suli Hoponoa

(Trumpet/Brass)

Suli started playing the trumpet at the age of 8 at a Tongan church in Grey Lynn. He then graduated Mount Albert Grammar under the guidance of Norman McFarlane. Suli was a member of the Aotea Youth Orchestra and was 2 years the principal trumpet player. Suli studied music at the Christchurch Jazz School, also studying at the Auckland School of Music where he completed his music degree. Sui has worked with many students from primary to College and University, he is a gifted player and teacher of brass instruments. Suli was part of the Roger Fox Big Band experience and the University Orchestra in Auckland and the University of Auckland Big Band. Suli has extensive knowledge of performance as well as private tuition practice. We are delighted to welcome him to the King's College Music Department.

Harmen Vanhoorne

BMus(Hons) MMus
(Cornet/Trumpet)

Harmen Vanhoorne is an international cornet soloist from Belgium.

He has been performing as a soloist all over the world, including the United Kingdom, the USA, China, Russia, Canada, South-Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most of the European Union countries. He is known in the music world as an innovator of his instrument, the cornet, commissioning various international composers on a regular basis, trying to expand the repertoire of the cornet. In this context, Harmen is one of the very few official Endorsers for the worldly renowned brand Besson, being actively involved in the actual development of the modern cornet. Harmen is as well an artist for the record labels Naxos and Toccata Classics, as a result of his numerous successful solo albums.

He first gained notoriety in 2007 when he joined the Royal Wind Band of the Belgian Guides as cornet Soloist. Since then, his list of achievements includes awards in major solo competitions as well as soloist prizes in contests all around the world. In 2011 Harmen was granted the title of International Soloist of the Year after winning both the famous British Open Solo Competition (UK) and the Ern Keller Memorial Trophy (AUS). Harmen studied at the renowned Lemmensinstituut in Leuven (B) where he concluded his studies with the highest distinction for his postgraduate Master.

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 Pusycat 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

Lisa Chou

Born in Taiwan, Lisa immigrated with her family to Auckland in 1995. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Rae de Lisle, Lisa completed Masters in Performance with First Class Honours at the University of Auckland. Previous notable teachers also include Qu Yong, Carol Bognuda and Ashley Brown.

Lisa received numerous prizes and scholarships as a solo pianist, cellist and chamber musician, notably the Kerikeri International Piano Competition and NZCT Chamber Music Contest National Finals as a cellist in the winning piano quartet.

Lisa pursued further studies in Vienna from 2009, where she lived, studied and worked as a performing musician for over six years. During this time, she had the privilege of learning privately from the acclaimed pianist and scholar Paul Badura Skoda.

It is also during the time in Vienna where Lisa developed a special interest in Lieder. As an Art -Song collaborative pianist, she was awarded the Tsuzuki Stiftung Scholarship and was also invited to 'The Schubert Lieder Project' 2014 in Oxford.

Upon returning to New Zealand, Lisa became immersed as an educator and is regularly invited as an adjudicator for piano and instrumental competitions around the country. Lisa teaches at her own private studio in Greenlane, and also teaches piano and cello at King's School and King's College.

Lisa engages passionately as a chamber musician and is a member of the collective Ensemble East ; with the objective of benefiting the communities in which they live in through active music-making.

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.

Organ

Paul Chan

MMus (Hons), FTCL,
LRSM, AIRMT

Paul is the resident organist at King's College where he plays for regular chapel services and teaches organ. He is also the Director of Music at St Matthew-in-the-City.

Paul earned his music qualifications from the University of Waikato and the University of Auckland, and holds a fellowship diploma in organ from Trinity College London. Among the many prizes and scholarships he received, he is a first-prize winner of the NZOA Organ Performance Award and the organ scholar of Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral in 2016. He has performed Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony with St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra and given numerous organ recitals, including one at Auckland Town Hall in 2018, where the programme includes his improvisation on the National Anthem "God Defend New Zealand". He has been appointed a trustee of the Auckland Town Hall Organ Trust.

Over the years, Paul has developed an interactive approach, engaging his students according to their individual capabilities and interest, to maximise satisfaction and success. He is in demand as a freelance accompanist and recitalist.

Singing (Voice)

Gina Sanders

BMus Hons, BA,
FTCL(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

Lisa Chou

(Cello)

Born in Taiwan, Lisa immigrated with her family to Auckland in 1995. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Rae de Lisle, Lisa completed Masters in Performance with First Class Honours at the University of Auckland. Previous notable teachers also include Qu Yong, Carol Bognuda and Ashley Brown.

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Yid-Ee Goh

(Violin)

Singaporean born Yid-Ee Goh is former Concertmaster of Orchestra Wellington (formerly Vector Wellington Orchestra), violinist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and New Zealand String Quartet.

In 2004, Yid-Ee helped setup and run The Raukauri Music Therapy Centre for children with special needs (www.rmtc.org.nz).

In 2008, he taught violin and viola at St. Cuthbert's College, Diocesan Girls School and Westlake Girls High School and tutored violin and chamber music at the University of Auckland.

Yid-Ee now runs his teaching studio at his home in Golflands, Howick and teaches violin and viola at Pakuranga College, Sacred Heart College and Botany Downs Secondary School. He regularly appears as Concertmaster with the Manukau Symphony Orchestra.

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.

Charlotte Naden

(Bassoon)

Charlotte is a bassoonist and completed a Music and Science conjoint degree University of Auckland in 2018 and is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Music Honours degree in Classical Bassoon Performance. Charlotte has played with many orchestras, concert bands and ensembles, including the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, Manukau Symphony Orchestra, NZ Youth Symphonic Winds and the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra. She teaches the bassoon at several schools around Auckland.

Daniel Cho

(Jazz Saxophone)

Daniel Cho is a New Zealand born and bred Korean who loves his music. Starting his journey on guitar, expanding his arsenal with piano, drums and bass, Daniel actually went on to tertiary study on saxophone. Completing his Bachelor's and Honours degree at the University of Auckland's Jazz Performance programme, Daniel is competent in his performance and knowledge of jazz.

Daniel is a performer as well as a composer who plays in gigs in and out of Auckland. Currently playing in the Queen City Big Band, Daniel also does small ensemble performances that are more expressive of his own music. According to Creative Jazz Club's John Fenton's words "In listening to him, one thing cut through above everything else, the deeper intent of the music; something beyond melody or harmony. This is a brave path for a young musician to take and one that requires enormous self-belief. He certainly possessed that attribute and he communicated it with a confidence beyond his years"