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# THE SYDNEY MUSIC EDUCATORS CONFERENCE 2020

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15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July: Venue (TBA – CBD Sydney)

## Conference Philosophy

The underpinning philosophy of the Sydney Music Educators Conference is to provide delegates with practical sessions designed to equip them with the confidence and skills to take their instrumental program to the next level.

In order to give a logical, thematic flow to the Conference, sessions will broadly relate to the following areas of instrumental instruction:

- Teaching Philosophy – why we ‘teach’ instrumental music programs
- On the Box - Conducting as Teaching
- Ensemble Development
- Repertoire Selection - tied back to a philosophy
- Instrumental Pedagogy in Practice: the ‘How to’ Series (throughout)

## Session Times

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July: 8.30am – 8.55pm (Registration)  
9.00am – 5.30pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July: 8.45am – 5.30pm  
6.30pm – Conference dinner (inclusive in full registration price)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July: 8.45am – 4.00pm  
4.30pm – Conference drinks (sponsored)

*The ASBOF is currently seeking NESAs Accreditation for up to 17 hours of Professional Development for the 2020 Sydney Music Educators Conference.*

## Session Topics

*Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>*

### **Keynote Address**

Dr. Anita Collins

### **Common Errors and Misunderstandings in Conducting**

Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft

### **Title To Be Advised**

Dr. Anita Collins

### **Score Study and Developing an Artistic Interpretation**

Dr John Lynch

### **Expectations Without Limits: Helping middle level bands achieve their best**

Mandy Boonshaft

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>*

### **It's all about the music. Except for all the other stuff**

Paul Vickers

***Title to be advised***

Steve Williams

***The New Band Sound: fundamentals for developing a beautiful band sound based on acoustic principals***

Dr John Lynch

***Effective Rehearsal Communication for the Conductor***

Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft

***Jazz Ensemble Development 101: Start with the right tools and the students will do the rest***

John Morrison

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup>*

***Creating Artists Through Large Ensemble Performance: Pedagogical approaches to developing the individuals in your ensemble***

Paul Vickers

***Things You Can Do Tomorrow to Improve Your Ensemble***

Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft

***Inspired Teaching: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue!***

Dr Peter Loel Boonshaft

**Panel Discussion:** all available presenters

## Session Abstracts

***Keynote***

**Dr Anita Collins**

***Common Errors and Misunderstandings in Conducting***

**Dr Peter Loel Boonshaft**

This session will explore common misunderstandings and errors made by conductors, offering ideas to solve these problems. Topics will include independence of hands, mixed messages, preparatory gestures, over-conducting, stance, energy in motion, descriptive nuances, and body language. Useful for conductors of any level and type of ensemble.

***Title To Be Advised***

**Dr Anita Collins**

Abstract to be advised.

***Score Study and Developing an Artistic Interpretation***

**Dr John Lynch**

Abstract to be advised.

***Expectations Without Limits: Helping middle level bands achieve their best***

**Mandy Boonshaft**

This session will address the unique opportunities and challenges of teaching middle level band. Topics will include rehearsal techniques, programming, warm-ups, percussion, achieving balanced instrumentation, and ensemble development.

***It's all about the music. Except for all the other stuff!***

**Paul Vickers**

In this session Paul will give some practical insights into how ensemble directors can frame the many roles they fulfill inside and outside of the rehearsal room allowing them to strengthen the whole suite of capacities that make possible successful music education experiences for our students.

***Title To Be Advised***

**Stephen Williams**

Abstract to be advised

***The New Band Sound: fundamentals for developing a beautiful band sound based on acoustic principals***

**Dr John Lynch**

Abstract to be advised

***Effective Rehearsal Communication for the Conductor***

**Dr Peter Loel Boonshaft**

This session will focus on meaningful verbal and non-verbal communication, allowing us to convey technical details, musical nuances, control, interpretation, corrections, expectations and inspiration for more effective and efficient communication in rehearsals and performances.

***Jazz Ensemble Development 101: start with the right tools and the students will do the rest.***

**John Morrison**

Abstract to be advised

***Creating Artists Through Large Ensemble Performance: Pedagogical approaches to developing the individuals in your ensemble.***

**Paul Vickers**

Do you conduct and teach your ensemble, or do you grow the individuals within it? How might you better build the capacity of your students toward true musical artistry? Whether we work with beginner or professional level ensembles, we can always strive to be more artistic in our own approach and can better guide our players to give more artistic performances. By first challenging our understanding of the hallmarks inherent in artistic performance then sharing practical tips and tricks to use in your rehearsals, this talk will inspire the artist within you and the artists in your ensembles.

***Things You Can Do Tomorrow to Improve Your Ensemble***

**Dr Peter Loel Boonshaft**

This session offers simple techniques you can do to improve the quality of your ensemble, make any rehearsal more productive and energize the power of your teaching. Useful for conductors of any level and type of ensemble.

***Inspired Teaching: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue!***

**Dr Peter Loel Boonshaft**

Using time-tested wisdom, advances in modern technology, borrowed insights on how students learn, and the message held in a simple blue box we can inspire students to learn and flourish. Useful for conductors and teachers of any level and type of ensemble.

## **Instrumental Pedagogy in Practice**

***'How To' Series – Instrumental teaching for the non-player***

**Various Presenters**

These sessions are designed to upskill MDs in directing the sections of the ensemble where they might have limited playing experience, and as a refresher for more experienced players. These sessions may be distributed across the three days and will cover a range of issues including:

- Assessing suitability of players for the instrument
- Starting players off – avoiding typical faults
- Getting a better sound out of your instrument
- Managing the section
- Practice advice for your students
- Tutor books and recording artist your students should be listening to
- Instrument purchase, paraphernalia and instrument care
- Advice for parents

Sessions may include (depending on availability of presenters):

1. **Teaching Brass for the non-brass player:** Trumpet, Horn, Lower Brass
2. **Teaching Percussion for the non-percussionist:** Kit and Tuned Percussion, Rhythm Section (electric bass etc.)
3. **Teaching Woodwind for the non-woodwind player:** Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute

## Conference Presenters

### **Dr Anita Collins - Keynote**

Dr Anita Collins is an award-winning educator, researcher and writer in the field of brain development and music learning. She is internationally recognized for her unique work in translating the scientific research of neuroscientists and psychologists to the everyday parent, teacher and student.

Anita is best known for her role as on-screen expert and campaign lead for the *Don't Stop the Music* documentary that aired on the ABC in late 2018, her TED Ed lesson *How playing an instrument benefits your brain*, her and her TEDx Talk *What if every child had music education from birth*. In 2018 her contribution to the field of music education was recognised with the Educators Award at the inaugural Australian Women in Music awards.

Over the last two years Anita has interviewed close to 100 researchers in labs across the US, Canada, Europe and Australia so she can share the most up to date research with educators. Increasingly Anita is being invited to provide expert opinion on education, creativity, strategic direction and innovation. Anita is founder of Bigger Better Brains, an education program for the global music education community about the application of neuromusical research.

Anita is currently expert education advisor for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, South Australian Department of Education, Australian Independent School Association, BrandAnonymous Productions in the UK, Artemis Productions in Australia, Music Education Research Counsellor for Music Australia, a Founding Director of the Rewire Foundation and Associate Fellow of Music, Mind and Wellbeing at the University of Melbourne.

Anita is a prolific and eclectic writer, including the "The Lullaby Effect", opinion columns for *The Age* and *The Conversation*, authored papers for international peer-reviewed journals, guest author on international sites and specialist technical writer for OECD Education Framework 2030.

Anita brings a wealth of experience as an active educator to every presentation. She is an experienced classroom teachers and conductor (Canberra Grammar School) across the breadth of beginner to advanced musical performers. Anita has been musical director for three award winning productions and she has over a decade of experience as a teacher educator across all areas of tertiary education (University of Canberra and the Australian National University). Anita is also a creator, commissioning and conducting the world premiere of the *The Goulburn Concerto* by Sean O'Boyle, a work specifically written to bring professional musicians and disadvantaged children together as equal partners in performance.

### **Dr Peter Boonshaft**

Called one of the most exciting and exhilarating voices in music education today, Peter Loel Boonshaft has been invited to speak and conduct in every state in the USA and around the world. Honored by the National Association for Music Education and Music For All as the first recipient of the "George M. Parks Award for Leadership in Music Education," Dr. Boonshaft is Director of Education for Jupiter Band Instruments.

Peter is the author of the critically acclaimed best-selling books *Teaching Music with Passion*, *Teaching Music with Purpose*, and *Teaching Music with Promise*, as well as his first book for teachers of other disciplines, *Teaching with Passion, Purpose and Promise*. He is also co-author of Alfred Music Publishing's new method book series *Sound Innovations*. As well, his weekly "Boonshaft's Blog" for music educators continues to inspire teachers everywhere.

Peter has received official proclamations from the Governors of five states and a Certificate of Appreciation from former President Ronald Reagan, as well as performing for former President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, former President Bill Clinton, and for Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He has been awarded membership in Pi Kappa Lambda and Alpha Chi, as well as twice receiving the University of Hartford Regent's Award and that University's Outstanding Music Educator Award. His honors also include being selected three times as a National Endowment for the Arts "Artist in Residence," three times awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society, receiving the Al G. Wright Award from the Women Band Directors International, and being selected for the Center for Scholarly Research and Academic Excellence at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, where he is Professor of Music.

### **Mandy Boonshaft**

Mandy Boonshaft currently on the faculty of South Woods Middle School in Syosset, New York (USA), has also taught at Commack Middle School and Hewlett High School. In addition, Mrs. Boonshaft is the conductor of the Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts Honor Band, a select ensemble comprised of the finest year seven and eight instrumentalists from across Long Island.

Mandy holds a B.S. in Music Education with a concentration in flute performance (cum laude with departmental honors) and an M.A. in Wind Conducting from Hofstra University, where she served as Graduate Conducting Associate from 2005-2008, conducting the University Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Bands under her direction have consistently received Gold with Distinction ratings at Major Organization Festivals and have performed at such prestigious events as the National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference and the New York State Band Directors Association Symposium.

Mandy is published by Row-Loff Productions, is a founding member of the Long Island Flute Quartet and is a certified Major Organization Adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association. She is extremely active regionally, nationally and internationally as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator and workshop presenter for universities, schools, festivals and conferences.

### **Dr John Lynch**

Dr John Lynch is a leading international wind band conductor. He is the Director of Bands, Wind Symphony Conductor, and Artistic Director of the ensemble-in-residence, the Verbrugghen Ensemble, at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He leads Australia's first graduate degrees in wind conducting. He was previously Director of Bands and Professor of Music at the University of Georgia and the University of Kansas. Other positions include those at Northwestern University and Emory University, and Artistic Director of the Northshore Concert Band, Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, and the Greater New York Wind Symphony (founder). He has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia including the national conferences of the College Band Directors National Association, American Bandmasters Association, NAFME, and the Midwest Clinic and Interlochen, as well as invited tours of China, Argentina, and Europe.

John has three professional recordings on the Naxos label including the premiere in the Wind Band Classics Series, and he is a published composer through C. Alan Music and Maestro and Fox. Awards include The American Prize, the national Stanbury Award for outstanding conducting and teaching, New York's Big Apple Corps National Leadership in the Arts award, The University of Georgia Creative Research Medal, a Northwestern University Searle Fellow for Teaching Excellence, and elected membership in the American Bandmasters Association and Phi Beta Mu international band honor fraternity.

John is a passionate advocate for new music and has commissioned, recorded, and premiered works from Australia and around the globe by both today's leading composers and those new to writing for the wind band medium. He holds degrees from Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

### **John Morrison**

John Morrison has delighted audiences for more than 25 years with his humour and love of jazz that entertains. Voted Australia's best big band drummer in 1997, John led his celebrated band, Swing City, through a career highlight – performing at the Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in 2000.

In addition to being one of Australia's most sought after jazz drummers and band leaders, John is recognised for his many achievements as a record producer and jazz educator. John has been the Artistic Director of the ASBOF Frank Coughlan Premier Big Band event since its inception in 2010. He has been a driving force behind the Sydney Music Education Conference and is currently an Australian Institute of Music (AIM) Ambassador and Music Director for the AIM Studio Youth Orchestra.

Often called "The Cat in the Hat", John has performed and recorded with some of the world's most respected international jazz legends, (including his younger brother, James Morrison). Together they have toured the world, performing at the North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreaux Jazz Festival, Royal Albert Hall, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London and many more.

John is married Australian jazz singer and educator Jacki Cooper and together they have toured extensively throughout regional and remote Australia, and internationally. Although he admits to being happiest either driving a big band with his swinging drumming or flying upside down in a bi-plane, John remains passionate about giving his time and energy to the many young and emerging players he has mentored into successful music careers.

### **Paul Vickers**

Paul Vickers is currently the Director of Music and and Director of College Improvement at The Scots College, Sydney. He is also Conductor of the Wind Symphony at the University of New South Wales where he has previously lectured in Music Education.

Through a fellowship from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust Paul completed a Master of Music degree in conducting at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. During this time Paul served as the Graduate Assistant Conductor of one of Canada's top university ensembles, the University of Victoria Wind Symphony. He was also regularly engaged as a guest conductor and adjudicator in Canada.

Paul's qualifications also include a Bachelor of Music Studies (Performance) on trombone from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (USYD) and a Graduate Diploma in Education (UNE). Paul has been a core conductor for the Symphony Services International conductor training program working with professional orchestras in Australia and New Zealand. In 2010 he was awarded a World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conducting scholarship to participate in 'The Art of Band Conducting' at the University of Texas at Austin.

Paul has led large music ensemble programs in several Sydney Schools, including Newington College and Fort Street High School. He has also served in various conducting roles with The Department of Education specialist branch, The Arts Unit. He is a regular contributor to professional journals and has served on editorial boards for musicological and music education publications both in Australia and internationally. Paul is an experienced writer, adjudicator, speaker, clinician and guest conductor across various genre, and is regularly sought after in these roles.

### **Stephen Williams**

Stephen Williams has established himself as one of Australia's most versatile conductors, distinguishing himself with an impressive record of achievement in a variety of musical settings. In addition to conducting most of the Orchestras for Symphony Services International he has conducted, recorded and toured with many of Australia's finest Symphonic Bands and Jazz Ensembles. He has directed and performed with Australian groups at the North Sea, Montreux, Edinburgh and Monterey Jazz Festivals, has conducted concerts in Carnegie Hall and taken Australian orchestras, symphonic bands and jazz ensembles to conferences in the U.S.A, Japan, Europe, the U.K, Singapore and China.

In 1989 Stephen was awarded a conducting scholarship by Symphony Australia and for three years studied orchestral conducting under Werner Andreas Albert, during which time he conducted concerts and made recordings with many of the Symphony Australia Orchestras. In 1994 he was awarded the Harry Began Conducting Scholarship, which enabled him to study advanced Symphonic Band conducting at the University of Illinois under Professor James Keene. In 1995 he was awarded a Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting and Research from the University of Queensland.

Stephen is currently Chief Conductor Instrumental for The Arts Unit, a specialist unit in the N.S.W Department of Education & Communities, taking up this position at the beginning of 1999. Since 1991 Stephen has been the Music Director for the NSW Schools Spectacular, the world's biggest variety show. He also is the founding Music Director of the Northern Beaches Symphony Orchestra.



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