

# itchell Conservatorium Community & Joy through music Newsletter Term 2. May 2025



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## Term 2 welcome from Executive Director Andrew Smith



Hello to the MitCon community and welcome to Term 2. The MitCon management team has spent Term 1 rewriting our Policies and Procedures documents and developing Business and Strategic plans. This was completed in preparation for our triennial funding application which was submitted at the end of the term. This extensive process has taken us to reflecting on the role of MitCon in our community. Who are we? What is our Vision? Why should musicians choose to study music or play with us? What is our Role?

These of course are dynamic questions with ever changing answers which we will continue to review. Here are our latest thoughts:

**Who are we?** MitCon is a place of professional learning in Music for music students, musicians, audience members and the community. We believe in the very real truth that **music matters**.

What is our vision? Our Vision is simply: Engage, Educate, Evolve.

**What is our purpose?** To provide learning opportunities and connection through music in an inclusive and professional environment.

Why should musicians choose to study music or play with us? MitCon offers the highest quality music education with degree qualified teachers (many with postgraduate level qualifications). We continually review our teaching programs and ensure alignment with NESA syllabus outcomes. We provide ongoing immersive professional development for our staff to ensure the highest standards of teaching and learning. We develop policies and procedures which ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and music participants. We provide the highest level of Child Protection training and scrutiny of operations. At MitCon we believe that with this level of professional standards and quality delivery, the music education of our students both young and old is in safe and capable hands. Come and explore music at its best at MitCon!

## Term 2 ECM classes

Early childhood music classes for term 2 have started, with sessions on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am (children aged 18 months to 5 years) and 11.15 am (18 months of age and under), and on Friday mornings at 9.30am (for children aged 0–5 years and their families). Click on the relevant link for bookings:

Children aged 18 months to 5 years,

Wednesdays 10.30am

Babies 18 months of age and under,

Wednesdays 11.15am

Family Fun Fridays, children aged 0-5 years and their families, 9.30am





# Autumn Notes Strings Concert

Join Mitchell Conservatorium ensembles the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra and Stringendo in a concert at 2.30pm on Sunday 18th May at Bathurst Uniting Church. The concert will feature guest clarinetist Rosemarie Barnes-Freisinger as soloist in the famous and virtuosic Clarinet Concerto No 1 by Carl Maria von Weber.

This will be a great afternoon for you to immerse yourself in this classical masterpiece and to hear great music from all the string ensembles of Mitchell Conservatorium. Tickets can bought at the door or at: <a href="https://events.humanitix.com/autumn-notes">https://events.humanitix.com/autumn-notes</a>

# Creative Kids vouchers





Did you know you can use your Creative Kids voucher with us? You can email us or drop off your voucher at the office. For more information, phone 13 77 88 or go to: <a href="www.service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids">www.service.nsw.gov.au/creativekids</a>

# Emma Pask in concert at Keystone 1889

Get ready for a night of sensational jazz!

Mitchell Conservatorium brings award-winning vocalist Emma Pask back to Bathurst for an exclusive performance at Keystone 1889 on 24th May. Emma's captivating stage presence and incredible voice will leave you breathless. Enjoy a delicious dinner and show, or opt for show-only tickets. Mitchell Conservatorium's CONnections Big Band will set the mood with their energetic jazz before Emma takes the stage for the rest of the night.

To book your ticket, visit <u>www.keystone1889.com</u>





# Join us for our Bent Broadway Cabaret

For two nights only, 27th and 28th June, join us on a gender-bending romp through the best of Broadway! Hosted by the incomparable Janelle Lindsay and with special guest host Khora Knight (Kurt Booth), prepare to experience the music of Broadway 'engendered' in ways you've never seen before!

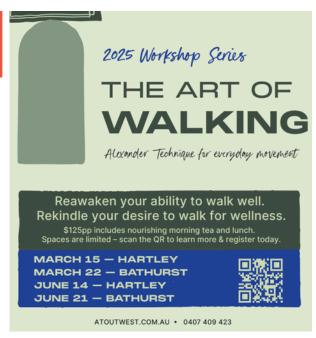
Featuring Conservatorium vocalists, the MitCon house band and Bathurst Musical Theatre Choir. Doors open at 6:30pm, with food & beverages available from the bar on the night. Bookings at www.keystone1889.com





## Learn the Alexander Technique at MitCon

Learning the Alexander Technique brings conscious choice and enjoyment to both everyday movement and performance. You can learn how with Elissa Jones at Mitchell Conservatorium through private 45 minute lessons or a small group class on Fridays from 11am to 12 midday. Click here to contact Elissa for pricing and availability or ring the MitCon office on 6331 6622.



There is also a workshop on Saturday 21st June where you can learn the Alexander Technique through the activity of walking. Early Bird pricing is available for tickets to this until May 24th. Use this link to read more about the workshop and purchase tickets: <a href="https://atoutwest.com.au/">https://atoutwest.com.au/</a>



## Country at the Con

Join us at Lithgow on Friday, June 20th for a fantastic celebration of country music! We're excited to present the incredible Rocket Street Ramblers, featuring the amazing talents of Pete Armstrong, John

Armstrong, Kaitie Baker, and special guest the sensational Monika Perry, yodeller extraordinaire! The night kicks off with the awesome sounds of The Lost Alley Katz, setting the stage for a musical journey through the heart of country. From classic sounds to contemporary hits, get ready for a night of great music! And all for only \$20! Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30pm, Lithgow campus, Mitchell Conservatorium. Bookings:

https://events.humanitix.com/country-at-the-con



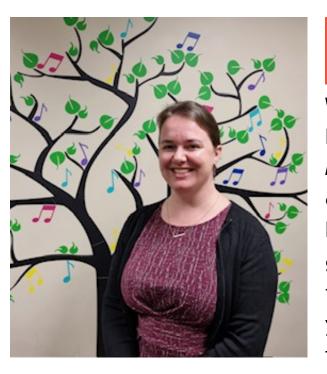
## Welcome to Doreen Cumming ...

Mitchell Conservatorium is very pleased to welcome Doreen Cumming to our team as a senior violin and viola teacher. Doreen began her music studies at the age of six with Juilliard



graduate Vincent Edwards. Over the following decade, Doreen's instructors included many notable musicians such as John Painter, Charmian Gadd OAM, Larry Sitsky AO, FAHA, and Jan Sedivka AM. At the age of thirteen Doreen made her professional debut with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Since then she has worked with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Opera Australia Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Orquestra Sinfonia de Galicia (Spain), and many session and recording orchestras in Sydney.

Doreen currently holds the position of Principal Second violin with the CSO. In 2021 Doreen performed with the Acacia Quartet and the following year was appointed to the position of Second Violin. Following 11 concerts with the violist and cellist from the renowned German Orpheus Quartet, most of which were sold out, Acacia has been invited to tour Europe later this year with concerts in Germany, Amsterdam, France, and The Netherlands. The Acacia Quartet are regular mentors for the Regional Youth Orchestra and the Four Winds Youth Music Festival.



#### ... and to Mel Robinson

We are very happy to introduce you to Mel Robinson, who joined our Admin team in March and works Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Bathurst. Mel has lived in Bathurst for 14 years and enjoys cooking, gardening and spending time with her family. Mel will be on the reception desk so you will see her smiling face if you are in the office on these days.

#### Our new Palm Court Orchestra

The Conservatorium Concert Band has morphed into something entirely new ... the Mitchell Palm Court Orchestra. Membership will now be extended to all instruments including string instruments, and repertoire will centre on light classics, pop, gentle rock and film music. Open to players of all ages from advanced beginners to intermediate. Take advantage of the Con's "Three for Free" offer and come along to three rehearsals without obligation. Enquiries: 6331 6622.





#### Day Time Concert Band

If you're an adult just starting your musical journey, this relaxed and supportive new group is the perfect place for you. Director Carolyn Miller believes it is never too late to discover the rewards of playing a musical instrument together with likeminded people. The group will run on Tuesdays, 1 to 2.30pm at MitCon Bathurst, 130 Havannah St. Ring the office on 6331 6622 or email us at:

# MitCon's CONnections Big Band at the Big Band Blast Festival

Australia's premier big band festival, the Big Band Blast, returns to Bathurst, 30th May to 1st June 2025, and has moved to BMEC!



CONnections Big Band will be performing at the launch on Friday 30th June at BMEC, and our staff and students will be participating in workshops throughout the weekend. Tickets: <a href="www.bmec.com.au">www.bmec.com.au</a>

## Piano students shine at Keystone 1889 recital

No less than 23 MitCon piano students of all ages and levels performed for a 70-strong audience of family, teachers and supporters at an afternoon recital at Keystone 1889 on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Music ranged from Bach to the Blues, Renaissance to ragtime, and polonaises to pop. Students were from the studios of MitCon piano teachers, Michelle Griffin, David Hood, Carolyn Miller, Jan Rhodes, Robert Saville and Michelle Stockwell. Performers and audience members agreed that MitCon piano teaching is thriving!





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#### WEBSITE

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Mitchell Conservatorium acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people, the ongoing cultures and connections with the lands and water of the country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge contributions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians to the inclusion and empowerment of all people in a country we live in and share together.