

# MUSIC-MAKING WORKSHOPS



## About the Creative Fusions Teaching Artists



### Dr Anthony Garcia

**Creative Fusions Program Director**

**Guitars, Composition**

Dr Anthony Garcia is an acclaimed guitarist, composer and educator based in Brisbane.

Born in the United States and raised and educated in Southeast Asia, Australia and Mexico, Dr Garcia has recorded, toured and performed extensively throughout the world collaborating with creatives across a diverse range of artistic disciplines.

His exploratory philosophy of music-making and teaching has generated a highly personal creative approach that embraces both ancient and contemporary forms, world and ethnic music, and improvisational practice.

Dr Garcia's PhD research into improvisation, conducted at the University of Tasmania between 2012 and 2015, has informed ongoing research into intercultural and collaborative learning, teaching artistry, interdisciplinary practice, and mindfulness meditation and music. His passion for unifying the interlocking fields of musical performance, composition and education has informed ongoing pedagogical experimentation in schools, universities and the broader community.

This commitment also led to the establishment in 2014, in partnership with his wife Jennifer Garcia, of *Sounds Across Oceans (SAO)* – a new music and arts organisation dedicated to exploring '*the multidimensional capacity of music and the arts to create and share new ideas, uplift, heal, shift energies and ignite new perspectives.*'

Through SAO, Dr Garcia has helped design and curate a diverse array of festival programs, community wellbeing initiatives, and research partnerships.

Since its inception, SAO has produced the *BrisAsia Festival Creative Sector Development Program* for Brisbane City Council, *SunPAC Summerfest*, *Creative Fusions* in collaboration with the Queensland Performing Arts Complex (QPAC), *Tree of Life* – a music and movement initiative for Seniors, and Workshops and Concerts in Germany, Thailand, Brisbane and regional Queensland.

In 2019, with support from the *BrisAsia Festival* and QPAC, he helped establish the pioneering intercultural art ensemble *JADE New World Collective*.



Creative Fusions is presented by QPAC in association with Sounds Across Oceans



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### Hannah Macklin

#### Vocal, Choral, Improvisation

Hannah Macklin is a vocalist, musician, composer and performer, with contemporary and classical training and a jazz degree from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

For the past decade she has written, recorded and toured with a plethora of musicians spanning various genres and outfits, providing vocals, keys and bass duties, and straddling the crossover between street and academia.

Always maintaining a keen focus on her own original creations, Hannah has used multiple aliases (including MKO Sun, Bastard Amber, Laik and Ha Na) to express her creativity.

As an artist creating original work and incorporating electronic, visual, theatrical and dance elements into her live shows, Hannah has established a reputation for providing audiences with exciting and transcendent experiences.

Major performance highlights include *CMJ Music Marathon* in New York City (2014), *Shanghai World Expo* (2010), *Sydney International Mardi Gras* (2016) and *Big Day Out* (2014).

Major support slots include *Hiatus Kaiyote*, *Peaches*, *Ibeyi*, *Cody ChesnuTT* and *Fatima*.

More locally, she has continued to perform consistently at grassroots events in addition to facilitating song-writing workshops and mentoring younger singer-songwriters.

Hannah has been a recipient of the *Grant McLennan Fellowship* and the National Live Music Awards "Best Live Voice" Award (both in 2016) and has won Queensland Music Awards for her original songs in the Electronic/Dance and Jazz Categories, in 2013 and 2010 respectively.

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### Luke Cuerel

**Saxophone, Winds, Horns, Electronic Music**

Luke Cuerel is a saxophonist, producer, DJ, composer and educator currently working in Meanjin/Brisbane.

His work explores music in unique contexts, specifically in relation to people, places and events in Australian life, and he has a wealth of experience in performance, composition and improvisation.

Luke runs a number of projects including *The Luke Cuerel Orchestra*, *The Luke Cuerel Quintet* and *Voltfruit*, and he has performed on-stage with some of the country's biggest touring acts including *Boy and Bear* and *The Kite String Tangle*.

*The Luke Cuerel Orchestra's* debut album, described as 'touching, melodic and colourful in the use of many musical shades' (Wulf Muller) was released in 2019, and the track *Arrival* was Highly Commended in the Queensland Music Awards.

He has been commissioned to write for *Soundstream* (South Australia) as part of their *Emerging Composer Forum*, and has over a decade of experience as a producer and DJ with the groups *Pigeon*, *Scholar*, *Polymer* and *Expo 88*.

With airplay on Triple J, Triple J unearthed, 4ZZZ and FBi radio, Luke has created remixes for *The Kite String Tangle*, *Kilter*, and *JOY* with the following description about his music from *Form Music Magazine*, Melbourne: 'Cuerel is a jazz saxophonist and composer who can effortlessly move from ambient and textural compositions to dark and beat-driven. It's a talent that lends to melodic textures and movements that feel mature and warm.'

Luke has DJ'd up and down the east coast at a variety of venues and festivals with electronica ranging from downtempo to house.

He shares his passion for music and music making as an educator in secondary and tertiary environments and through private instrumental tuition, and is experienced in running workshops, having been a mentor for both the *Talkin' Jazz* and the *Dots+Loops Fellowship* programs.

Luke is looking forward to collaborating and releasing more music including live videos for his projects *Voltfruit* and *The Luke Cuerel Quintet*, and a range of music for his *Expo 88* electronic music project.



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### Dr Danielle Bentley

#### Strings

Award-winning cellist Dr Danielle Bentley is Co-Leader of Ensemble Sooon and a specialist in Australian Art Music.

She has been the *Australian Arts Fellow* at Omi Music Residency, New York, is a recipient of an APRAAMCOS *Art Music Award for Excellence* and has worked across a broad range of genres reflected in her exploratory approach to music-making.

Traditional classical contexts of the *Queensland Symphony Orchestra* and *Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra*, and she was Director of the art music ensemble *Collusion* for seven years, during which time they produced several critically-acclaimed chamber ballets, commissioned and performed over forty Australian works, and released three albums.

Danielle has worked extensively in the popular and commercial music sectors with over 100 headliner artists including Diana Krall, Harry Connick Jnr, Jimmy Barnes and Kanye West, and her quartet has performed for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Festivals she has curated have strongly featured new and improvised music, including four editions of *Restrung* for Brisbane Powerhouse Centre for Live Arts, Metro Arts, the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and the International Music Council's 5th World Forum on Music, and two editions of *Crossbows*.

2023 will see the release of *Ensemble Sooon's* debut album, and a busy performance schedule across Southeast Queensland.





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### Dheeraj Shrestha

#### Tabla, Percussion

Internationally acclaimed Tabla percussionist Dheeraj Shrestha is recognised as the foremost Nepalese-born Tabla percussionist in Australia.

An irrepressible creativity, tremendous clarity and exciting rhythmic improvisation are his stylistic hallmarks, and this has established him worldwide, as one of the finest exponents of Tabla with an easy-flowing style of playing that sets him apart from other players of international renown.

The music he contributes is from the country of Himalayan land, and the birthplace of Buddha – Nepal.

Dheeraj is a founder of music ensemble *Rhythm Sutra* and a core member of *JADE New World Collective*, and in addition to his 25 years of professional music experience, Dheeraj has taught music at the Fine Art College, and at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal.

He conducts lecture demonstrations on world music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland and has recently released his new album called *Chants Around the World*.



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### Benjin Maza

**Hip Hop, Rap, Song-writing**

Benjin Maza is a proud member of the Meriam (Komet and Zagareb)/Tanauta/Yidindji and Birri-Gubba nations.

After his first Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) Showcase in 2010, Benjin discovered that the feelings he had while on stage were unmatched in his life – that was the moment he realised that being a performer was what he was born to do.

Since his graduation from ACPA in 2014, Benjin has enjoyed a wide-ranging career that has put him in front of audiences across Australia.

He is a multidisciplinary performing artist – a musician, singer/songwriter, actor and dancer who describes his crafts as “*energetically versatile with a dash of gravitas*”.

As a musician, Benjin has appeared in Brisbane Festival’s *Street Serenades*, for NAIDOC, as part of the Brisbane Powerhouse Centre for Live Arts’ *21st Birthday* and QPAC’s *Green Jam* among others.

As a performer he has appeared in numerous events, most notably *Byron Bay Bluesfest*, the *2018 Commonwealth Games*, *Woodford Folk Festival*, and the *NRL’s All Stars at Sydney Opera House* among others.

As an actor, he appeared in the role of Cassio in Queensland Theatre’s 2022 production of *Othello*, in La Boite Theatre’s *From Darkness*, and in The Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe’s *Lucky and the Flight of the Sky Puppies* to name a few.

Benjin maintains a passion for high quality work and chooses work that aligns with his moral compass.