



MONASH
University

MONASH
ARTS

STUDYING POPULAR MUSIC AT MONASH UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE AT MONASH?

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance is a thriving hub of diverse musical and theatre practices in performance, composition, research, teaching and industry engagement. We are home to an exciting community of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional musicians, performers, and researchers working across classical, electronic, experimental, jazz, interdisciplinary, popular music and critical performance studies.

Collaboration, creativity, excellence, inclusivity, diversity and community are at the heart of what we do. Our students are innovative, forward-looking and internationally informed, and celebrate Australian performing arts and its place in the world.

WHAT IS POPULAR MUSIC AT MONASH?

Popular Music at Monash creates critically thinking artists, creators, educators, and working musicians. Through study and reflective practice of performance, collaboration, songwriting, music production and industry skills, students acquire a skill set aimed to improve employability, versatility and leadership. First year focuses on individual technical work, strengths, weaknesses, practice routines and peer support. Second year sends students into the collaborative space, developing enhanced music production and songwriting skills, which are applied in an individual end-of-year concert. In third year, students work one-to-one with a mentor to develop their final performance in semester one, which forms the groundwork for their industry pitch in semester two where students also develop their individual electronic press kits. Electronic assets are supplemented through our annual live music TV show, *By Popular Demand*, recorded live on campus, and comprising students of all year levels from the popular music cohort.

WHAT POPULAR MUSIC CLASSES CAN I TAKE?

Teaching activities include one-to-one and small-group lessons, performance practice, ensembles, tutorials, and workshops with industry guests. Electives include the *Funk Ensemble*; *Pop, Soul and RnB Ensemble*; *Music Theatre Chorus*; *Acting for Singers*, as well as *Songwriting* and *Music Production*. Students may also undertake ethnographic research in units such as *Popular Music and Society* and our international study tours (Prato, Italy).

Monash is a QS World University Ranking Top 50 university (#42 in 2024).



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WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?

Popular Music teaching staff include Dr Rod Davies and Gerald Marko. Teaching associates include Emilia Schnall (Music Industry); Ella Thompson; Julie O'Hara, Emma Gilmartin and Stephanie Marko (Voice); Vashti Sivell and Grant Windsor (Piano); Jonathan Skovron and Kathleen Halloran (Guitar); Darryn Farrugia and Gerry Pantazis (Drums); Simon Starr (Bass); Emilia Schnall (ArtistDevelopment); Hadyn Buxton and Anna Laverty (Studio Production).

Dr Rod Davies, Popular Music Convenor

Dr Rod Davies is the Convenor of Popular Music. As a session musician he has recorded and toured with Australian music icons such as John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John, Tina Arena and Mark Seymour, as well as performing in TV house bands (Hey Hey it's Saturday, Dancing with the Stars 1996–2020) and broadcast advertising. Dr Davies is also an independent artist (*Beautiful Scars*, *Turn the TV On*) and a published commercial songwriter (SONY ATV Germany).

Dr Davies' PhD studied vocal booth performance and he has since authored a book on *Coproduction in the Recording Studio* (2022). His expertise is both practical and theoretical, with experience in both ethnographic and autoethnographic methodologies. Dr Davies enjoys nothing more than developing new popular music artists, creators and leaders.

Gerald Marko

Gerald is the coordinator for 1st Year Popular Music, and ensemble director for the Popular Music Stream Ensemble, Acting for Singers and the Musical Theatre Chorus. He has received Monash Faculty awards for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (2019/2020), and was nominated for Monash Student Association Awards in Teaching Excellence (2020/2021).

Gerald's on stage experience ranges from lead roles in professional European Music Theatre (400 shows/year) such as CATS, Saturday Night Fever, Buddy Holly and Hair, to lead vocals in bands in Austria, Germany, Denmark and Australia.

He plays piano, guitar, drums and bass, is a published songwriter with Universal, has licensed songs in 3 award winning American short films and is a member of AVA, ANATS, APRA (writer) and AMCOS (publisher).

FEATURED STUDENT

Emma Volard, Monash Popular Music Alumni

Emma Volard is one of Narm's most enigmatic and staunchly authentic acts. Her music is entrenched in lavish harmonies, broken-beats and gut-wrenching lyricism, and has garnered attention from national and international tastemakers alike.

Having continued to evolve to greater heights in recent years, Em has landed festivals including Meadow, New Years Eve on the Hill and Brunswick Music Festival.

Find out more:

<https://emmavolardepk.com/>

<https://emmavolard.bandcamp.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/emmavolardmusic>



Dr Rod Davies



Gerald Marko



Emma Volard

Further information

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Visit

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Information correct as at February 2024.
Unit offerings may change from year to year.