

STUDYING POPULAR MUSIC

The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance is a thriving hub of diverse musical 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 and popular music.

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.

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.



POPULAR MUSIC CLASSES

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 various other elective units related to their studies, including On Country and International study tours.

POPULAR MUSIC TEACHERS

Popular Music teaching staff include: Dr Rod Davies, Gerald Marko and Dr Lauren Stewart.

Sessional staff include:
Bass - Simon Starr; Drums - Peter Drummond, Gerry Pantazis; Guitar - Jonathan Skovron, Kathleen Halloran; Piano - Grant Windsor, Vashti Sivell; Voice - Belle Bangard, Emma Gilmartin, Louisa Rankin, Mel Hillman, Stephanie Marko, Tom Barton; Studio Production - Anna Lavery and Lilith Lane.



MEET OUR POPULAR MUSIC TEACHING STAFF



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.

Dr Davies is also an independent artist and a published commercial songwriter.

His academic work looks at the conditions of working musicians, and has resulted in two books that investigate studio production from the music practitioner's lens, as well as journal articles in the fields of copyright, contracts and professional work.

Dr Davies' work impacts cultural policy by contributing to continuing debates on law, education, and industry reform in the arts and cultural sectors.



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).



DR LAUREN STEWART

Dr Lauren Stewart is the unit coordinator for second and third year units. Her teaching and research interests include songwriting, contemporary voice studies, career development, leadership, and presentation skills, with a strong focus on supporting students to develop their artistic voice. As a vocalist with the Australian Army Band Corps (Melbourne), she performs regularly across multiple ensembles, with career highlights including televised performances of the National Anthem at major national sporting events such as the AFL and NRL ANZAC Day matches.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr Rod Davies
Popular Music Convenor
E: rod.davies@monash.edu



monash.edu/arts/music-performance/home

monash.edu/arts/music-performance/about/scholarships-and-prizes