

# TOPOLOGY CREATIVE BOOTCAMP

PROGRAM GUIDE

THURS 28 SEP - SUN 2 OCT

St Peters Lutheran College (Performing Arts Centre)

CONTACTS

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# TUTORS

## **JOHN BABBAGE**

Composer,  
saxophonist, co-  
artistic director and  
founding member  
of Topology

A founding member of Topology, John studied saxophone at the Queensland Conservatorium Of Music, graduating with a Diploma in Jazz in 1987. He has been performing and teaching for over 30 years, has toured Australia, Europe, the US, Canada, India, Singapore and Indonesia, released 15 albums of music by Australian and international composers, and his compositions have been played on radio and television worldwide.

Babbage is a sought-after cross art-form composer, with commissions for Expressions Dance Company, Dead Puppet Society and Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre, (USA). John is also a driving force in Topology's Top Up education program and is actively sought after by teachers around the country to deliver improvisation and composition workshops.

## **CHRISTA POWELL**

Violinist, Creative  
Director and  
founding member  
of Topology

Highly-respected performance artist, session musician, and music educator, Christa is as comfortable lending her talents to the orchestra pit as she is in character wardrobe, playing on stage with Led Zeppelin or playing solo violin and strolling the stage with Expressions Dance Company.

When she's not playing with Topology, she performs a wide range of chamber music, her long-held passion. She also plays orchestral music with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, gigs with bands and teaches violin in her private studio and as guest at various education institutions.

Christa studied at the University of Queensland (BMus Hon 1991) with Elizabeth Morgan, in London with Emmanuel Herwitz of the Melos Ensemble and at the Queensland Conservatorium with Carmel Kaine, obtaining her Master of Music in 1996.

## **ROBERT DAVIDSON**

Double Bassist, co-Artistic Director and founding member of Topology

Robert is a prolific composer, bassist, lecturer and founder and artistic director of Topology, the ensemble-in-residence at the Brisbane Powerhouse and a Key Organisation funded by the Australia Council. Robert's compositions are regularly performed, recorded and broadcast around the world. All of Australia's professional orchestras and many leading soloists and ensembles have commissioned and performed his works.

He has received many commissions for major works from festivals and venues including the Barbican Centre, Lincoln Center, Qld Music Festival, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Festival, Olympics Arts Festival, Canberra International Music Festival and many others. With Topology he has released twelve albums and a DVD. He has collaborated widely, with artists including Geoffrey Rush, The Brodsky Quartet, The Kransky Sisters, Gerry Connolly, Kate Miller-Heidke, Katie Noonan, Ed Kuepper, the Southern Cross Soloists, Trichotomy and The Australian Voices.

## **GRANT COLLINS**

Master Drummer

Dr. Grant Collins is an innovative and revolutionary soloist, who has a vigorous passion for the drums. Grant's influential and inventive dedication to the instrument has spanned over 25 years, in which he has developed new techniques and instrument combinations. Grant is one of the forerunners in the industry, forever pushing the limits and confines of music and leading cutting edge, creative and unconventional drumming. He uses all four limbs both individually and as a collective to present multi-timbral sound scapes, defining the drum set as a contemporary solo instrument for the world stage.

He has developed powerful and modern drum set solo performances, which have captivated audiences not only in Australia, but also around the world.

## **CHRISTIAN GANTE**

Pianist

Each week, Christian plays for 9 choirs in Brisbane! Even though he has the pleasure of accompanying even more choirs as an occasional backup accompanist for extra rehearsals, or when their regular pianist is away for various reasons; he is so very grateful that each choir time happens to be each conductor's highlight of their

week. Christian has written a number of instrumental and choral works which have been performed by various high schools and in his spare time adores visiting the great outdoors and photographing Australia's wonderful wildlife.

## **PEARLY BLACK**

Vocalist

Pearly Black has been a proud member of the Australian musical scene for over 30 years, across a dazzlingly wide variety of genres and outputs. She began in the indie rock scenes of 1990s Brisbane and Melbourne, but soon expanded into cabaret, theatre, and contemporary works in major arts venues. Pearly's rich voice, an instrument of unusual versatility, effortlessly glides from rock, pop, and jazz, to Flamenco, Gospel and much more.

Pearly has featured in numerous iterations of Brisbane's long-time favourite, Women in Voice. She has also enjoyed many years' association with Qld Music Festival, The Brisbane Festival, and the Gold Coast's Bleach Festival. She was a stunning musical feature of Helpmann Award winning Where The Heart Is by Expressions Dance Company, and was a star of the Matilda Award winning cabaret Tom Waits for No Man for the Brisbane Cabaret Festival. Pearly performed alongside Paul Grabowsky, Kate Miller Heidke and many others at QMF's The Genius of John Rodgers at QPAC with The Qld Symphony Orchestra. Pearly has recently delivered her first commissioned work as librettist for Rafael Karlen's Sinking Cities, performed but Camerata and The Australian Voices.

Also a passionate singing teacher, Pearly graduated with honours in the Masters of Vocal Pedagogy degree at the Qld Conservatorium in 2018. This degree marks the mastery evidenced in her 20-year singing teaching career. Pearly is a warm, fun and engaging teacher whose aim is to bring out the best singer in all of us, using the most current voice science and techniques. Pearly teaches in all styles to students of any skill level. Her guiding philosophy is that if any sound can come out of your mouth, it can become beautiful singing and rewarding self-expression. And it's not that hard!

# SCHEDULE

TIME	DAY ONE   WED 28 SEP
9 - 9.30AM	<b>INTRODUCTION:</b> CHRISTA POWELL & TJ WILKSHIRE Get to know what to expect over the next 5 days and how to make the most of it.
9.30 - 10.30AM	<b>SESSION 1:</b> JOHN BABBAGE <b>Improvisation Warm Up</b> Improvisation exercises to get those creative juices flowing!
10.30 - 10.45AM	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b>
10.45 - 11.45AM	<b>SESSION 2:</b> JOHN BABBAGE & CHRISTA POWELL <b>Exploring the Elements</b> Where do you begin? Where can you draw inspiration? How do you turn them into musical ideas? Let Topology be your guide!
11.45 - 12.15	<b>LUNCH</b>
12.15 - 1.15PM	<b>SESSION 3:</b> GRANT COLLINS <b>Playing with Rhythm</b> This session will look at how to use rhythm creatively in your composition and help you to understand how you can easily include drums and percussion in your composition. Even you only have one note, you can use rhythm to bring it to life!
1.15 - 3PM	<b>CREATIVE TIME:</b> <b>Get to work!</b> Proceed to your assigned rehearsal room to start crafting your piece! Our Bootcamp instructors will be around if you need assistance in jumpstarting those ideas.  Tutors available: John Babbage, Christa Powell, Grant Collins

TIME	DAY TWO   THURS 29 SEP
9 - 9.30AM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME</b></p> <p>Every morning you will have access to your rehearsal room before our camp proceedings begin. Use this time wisely and take advantage of the opportunity to keep working on your music!</p>
9.30 - 10.30AM	<p><b>SESSION 4: ROBERT DAVIDSON</b></p> <p><b>Going from a Blank Page to a Finished Composition</b></p> <p>This session walks you through ways to go from no ideas to a finished piece, including planning a piece of music, coming up with ideas, selecting ideas, developing ideas and putting them all together.</p>
10.30 - 10.45AM	<p><b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b></p>
10.45 - 11.45AM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME</b></p> <p>Use your time wisely! Head back to your rehearsal rooms to continue working on your piece. And if you need some advice, our instructors will be available to consult.</p> <p>Tutors available: Robert Davidson, Christa Powell, John Babbage</p>
11.45 - 12.15	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>
12.15 - 1.15PM	<p><b>SESSION 5: PEARLY BLACK</b></p> <p><b>Words and Music - Loving Your Lyrics to Get the Most Out of Your Voice</b></p> <p>The relationship between a singer and their lyrics is complex, dynamic, rich and delicious. Whether we are carrying timeless messages from a classic rock song or jazz standard or communicating a fresh set of ideas in our unique original songs, we all benefit when we feel how the voice carries the words and how the words can carry the voice.</p> <p>In this workshop we will go through some warm-up and techniques to get the voice flowing in its full glory, then we will dive into some imaginative, improvisational and fun exercises to really play with our words and how we sing them.</p>
1.15 - 3PM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME:</b></p> <p>Take everything you've learned in the sessions and put them into practice! Head back to your assigned rehearsal rooms and continue building on your musical piece. Our camp instructors will still be around for assistance if you need advice along the way.</p> <p>Tutors available: John Babbage, Christa Powell, Pearl Black</p>

TIME	DAY THREE   FRI 30 SEP
9 - 10AM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME:</b></p> <p>Your regular access to a rehearsal room to get your creative juice flowing - except on this day all of our Bootcamp Instructors will be available to consult. So, if you're stuck or need advice, now is the time to grab one of our expert musicians!</p> <p>Tutors available: John Babbage, Christa Powell</p>
10 - 10.15AM	<p><b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b></p>
10.15 - 12NOON	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME</b></p> <p>Time to start putting the final touches on your piece! Have you considered all the instrumentation? Created all the harmonies? Head to your rehearsal room and put the final touches on your piece. As always, if you need assistance, our instructors will be available for consultation.</p> <p>Tutors available: Christa Powell, John Babbage</p>
12 - 12.45	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>
12.45 - 1.45PM	<p><b>SESSION 6: CHRISTIAN GANTE</b></p> <p><b>Time is money – Preparing parts for rehearsal and performance</b>  Everything you need to know about how to present your parts to get the best performance out of your musicians.</p>
1.45 - 3PM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME:</b></p> <p>Your piece of music should be completed by now so it's time to get it prepped for recording. Head back to your assigned rehearsal room and start completing those parts. By the end of this session, you should have them all written out and ready for rehearsal tomorrow!</p> <p>Tutors available: John Babbage, Christa Powell, Christian Gante</p>

TIME	DAY FOUR   SAT 1 OCT
9 - 10.30AM	<p><b>CREATIVE TIME</b></p> <p>This is it! Put the final touches on your compositions, print out parts and notes in preparation for rehearsal. In this group session, you'll get to share your piece, distribute parts and brief your selected players.</p> <p>Tutors available: John Babbage, Christa Powell, Robert Davidson, Christian Gante, Pearly Black, Grant Collins</p>
10.30 - 11AM	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b>
11 - 12.30PM	<b>REHEARSAL GROUP A</b>
12.30 - 1PM	<b>LUNCH</b>
1 - 3PM	<b>REHEARSAL GROUP B</b>

TIME	DAY FIVE   SUN 2 OCT
9.45AM	Rehearsal spaces open for sound check
10 - 12NOON	Recording and Filming Group A
12 - 1PM	<b>LUNCH/BREAK</b>
1 - 3PM	Recording and Filming Group B
	<b>BOOTCAMP ENDS</b>

# FAQ'S

## **What will participants be expected to achieve during Creative Bootcamp?**

Participants will be expected to compose and record a BRAND NEW piece of music. Participants are welcome to bring material they've previously created to be workshopped, but only songs created at the camp will be recorded. If you haven't written a song/piece before, don't fret! Our instructors are ready to guide you through the creative process. They have been known to write complete songs in just one hour, and Bootcamp is 5 days – more than enough time to get your creative juices flowing!

## **Where will the Bootcamp activities take place?**

St Peters Lutheran College (Performing Arts Centre) - 44 Nindethana St, Indooroopilly QLD 4068. The entrance to the PAC is next to the Chapel of St Peters, access via Lohe St. Please see the map provided for details.

## **What do I need to bring?**

Your instrument (if you have one), any props you may require, lunch and snacks, and water bottle.

## **Do I have to focus on one discipline, or can I learn others?**

While you might be coming to the bootcamp with a focus on honing your skills in one particular area, you will have the opportunity to learn from our other tutors as well. We believe learning other artforms encourages new perspectives and creative ways of thinking!

## **Do I have to create a new work on my own? Can I write a song with another artist?**

Yes. If you would like to collaborate with someone we encourage it!

## **Can I get a private lesson with one of the Creative Bootcamp instructors?**

Yes! If you would like a private instrumental lesson with any of our instructors, let us know at [learning@topologymusic.com](mailto:learning@topologymusic.com) and we will arrange it.

## **Will meals be provided?**

No. Participants will need to bring their own lunch, water and snacks.

## **When will I receive my recording and video?**

This will depend on the number of songs that are recorded and filmed at Bootcamp. To get the best outcome. The sound engineer and videographer need time to mix and master the tracks then assemble and edit the footage. The production team will endeavor to complete all recordings and videos before December 2022.

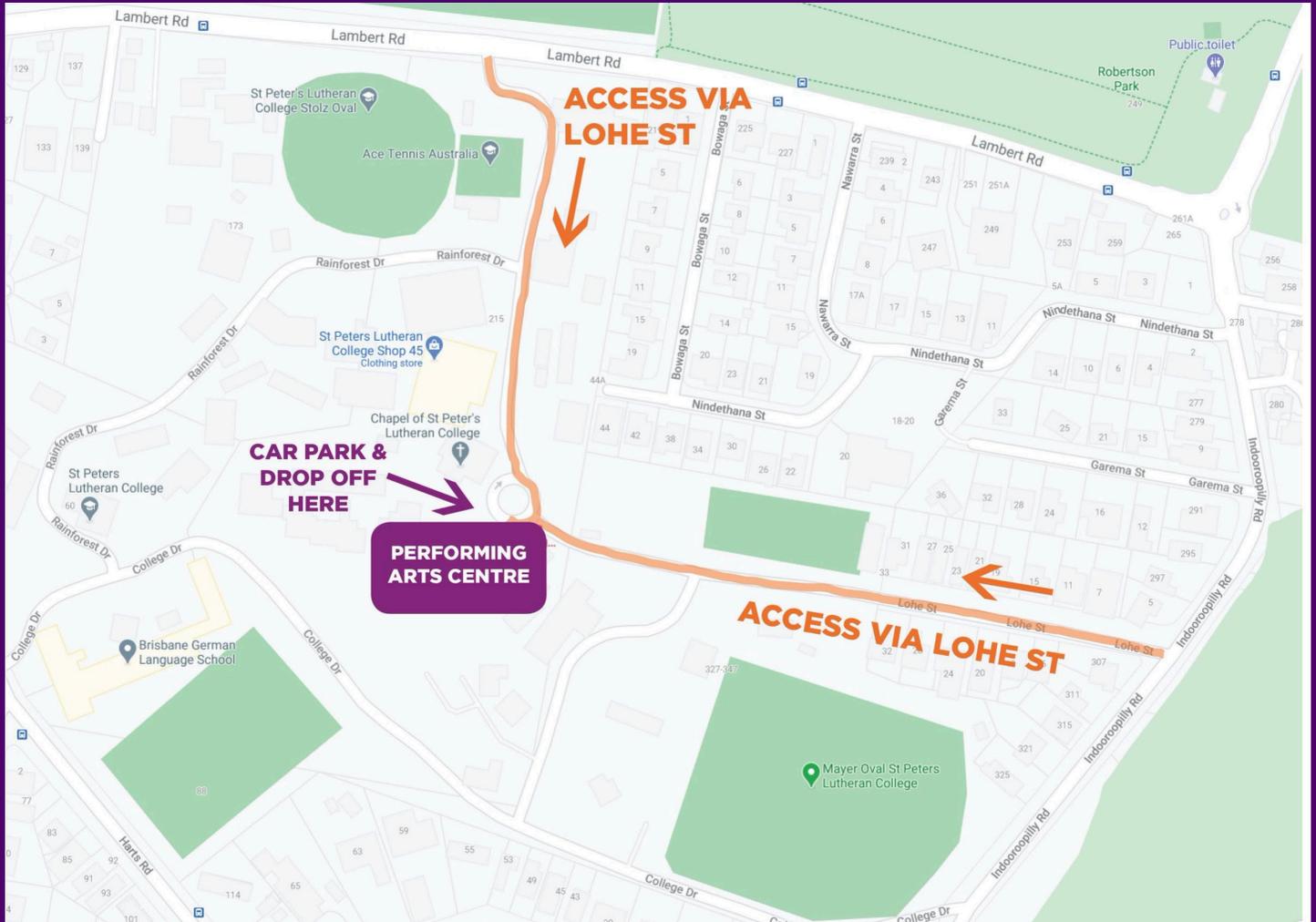
## **Can I get a copy of the other Creative Bootcamp recordings/videos?**

Yes, as long as the composers of those songs indicate that their songs can be shared with other participants.

## **Can I use my video and recording to promote myself as an artist?**

Absolutely! You can post them on your websites, submit them to iTunes/Spotify/etc, or even add them to an album you are planning to release. We just ask that you notify us of your plans and that you credit everyone involved in the recording (eg: musicians, the recording engineer, Topology as co-producer, etc.). As majority of the cost to produce the videos and recordings is subsidised by Topology, we also reserve the right to use them for marketing purposes (eg: to promote future Creative Boot Camps).

# GETTING THERE



# LEARN MORE

## FOLLOW US

Follow us on social media to stay updated on all things Topology.



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Topology

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about Topology the band, our Creative Academy, and more. Head to our website.

[www.topologymusic.com](http://www.topologymusic.com)

## STAY UPDATED

Sign up to our e-News and get Topology performances, information about workshops and mentorships, and opportunities sent straight to your inbox.

Scan QR code to sign up



## CONTACT US

Tell us about your Creative Bootcamp experience, find out about upcoming workshops, or learn more about our tutors.

[learning@topologymusic.com](mailto:learning@topologymusic.com)

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