

GUNNEDAH
CONSERVATORIUM



2025

events • concerts • workshops

2025 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 3 February to Friday 11 April

Term 2 Monday 28 April to Friday 4 July

Term 3 Monday 21 July to Friday 26 September

Term 4 Monday 13 October to Friday 19 December

EISTEDDFOD DATES

Entries close Friday 11 April

Music Wednesday 21 May to Saturday 24 May

Speech/Drama Monday 26 May to Thursday 29 May

AMEB EXAM DATES

Opening entry date Monday 12 February

Entry closing date Monday 13 May

Exam period Monday 15 July to Wednesday 14 August

Last date for 50% refund Monday 27 May



02 6742 3998 • 152 Conadilly Street
PO Box 121 Gunnedah NSW 2380
enquiries@gunnedahconservatorium.com
www.gunnedahconservatorium.com.au

COVER GRAPHIC

Anne Pickett

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Alyssa Barwick
twocatscreative.com.au

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Gunnedah Conservatorium acknowledge the Gamilaroi people, the traditional custodians, storytellers and musicians of the land on which the Gunnedah Conservatorium stands. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging.

HITTING ALL THE *right notes*

Over the last two years we have had record numbers attend our Gunnedah Conservatorium events. It is great to see members of the community embracing and joining with us to enjoy outstanding music. You have also joined us in strong numbers for student and community events and we know you love to see locals on the stage!

We have shaped this year's program based on your feedback and we continue to offer the highest quality music artists. As you flip through the pages of this book you will read about musicians who regularly perform on the world stage.

And we do all this for a (comparatively) low ticket price.

Funding from the NSW Department of Education and venue support from Gunnedah Shire Council allows us to subsidise our ticket prices and keep our shows affordable.

We have the whole year mapped out for you in this booklet and so you will be able to save these dates to your calendar and book your seat for the show.

And if you meet someone new, we would love for you to let them know about us and invite them along. Word-of-mouth is our best form of advertising.

That said, it's always wise to keep an eye on our socials and sign up for our eNews through our website gunnedahconservatorium.com.au because when an opportunity arises we like to be flexible enough to present it to the community.

If you are a long term supporter of the Gunnedah Conservatorium I look forward to continuing this musical journey with you and if you are new to town come up and say hello, we'd love to welcome you and be part of the reason you stay.



Rebecca Ryan
DIRECTOR

2025 SNAPSHOT

FEBRUARY

Jane Rutter

22 Saturday Quirindi 7.30pm

23 Sunday • Town Hall 5pm

MARCH

Nick Russionello

22 Saturday • The Civic 7pm



APRIL

Term 1 Studio Concert

1 Tuesday • Town Hall 6.30pm

Songbirds: Anna Weatherup & Amy Vee

13 Sunday • Piallaway Hall 2pm

MAY

Term 1 Mothers' Day Concert

10 Saturday • The Chapel 2pm

The Hot Potato Band Residency

13, 14, 15 • Band Hall

Music Eisteddfod

Wednesday 21 – Saturday 24
Town Hall

Speech + Drama Eisteddfod

Monday 26 – Thursday 29
Town Hall

Acacia Quartet

25 May Sun • The Chapel 4pm

JUNE

Nicki Parrott

20 Friday • Town Hall 7pm

Make Music Day

21 Saturday • All day event

Term 2 Studio Concert

24 Tuesday • Town Hall 6.30pm



JULY

The Ukulele Man

18 Friday • TBA 7pm

SEPTEMBER

Coco's Lunch

12 Tuesday • The Civic 7pm



Term 3 Studio Concert

16 Tuesday • Town Hall 6.30pm

OCTOBER

Wynona

17 Friday • The Civic 7pm



Flamenco

24 Friday • Town Hall 7pm

DECEMBER

End of Year Showcase

2 Tuesday • Town Hall 6.30pm

Christmas Pantomime

Schools Show: 5 Friday • Town Hall 10am. **Matinee:** 7 Sunday • Town Hall 2pm.

GET INVOLVED WITH...

group tuition

POCO A POCO

The Poco a Poco program is designed for children in Years K-1-2, offering an engaging introduction to music through songs and games. It focuses on developing skills in pitch, rhythm, concentration, and coordination, while helping children discover their singing voices. Participants will sing in unison or rounds, engage in simple movements, and explore both melodic and non-melodic instruments, gaining a foundational understanding of musicianship.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC



Join us for our fun-filled early childhood music program that offers a joyful introduction to the world of music for children and their families. Our classes provide a playful and engaging atmosphere where children are nurtured and supported as they explore their musical abilities. Through singing, dancing, and playing instruments, each child is invited to express themselves creatively. We offer a variety of age-appropriate group classes catering to children from 6 months to 5 years, ensuring a delightful experience for every young musician.

DJEMBE DRUMMING CIRCLE

Join our Djembe Drumming Circle, where individuals of all skill levels are welcome! Whether you're a complete beginner eager to explore the fundamentals of djembe drumming or simply looking for a fun musical outlet, this circle is for you.

Engaging in drumming activities serves as a powerful stress-reliever

and also provides an invigorating mental workout. Our drumming circle fosters a sense of community, allowing participants to connect deeply as they come together to create rhythm and harmony. Experience the joy of drumming and the bonds formed through music in a friendly, supportive environment!

JUNIOR MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE GROUP

Join our vibrant Junior Musical Theatre performance group, led by Conservatorium teachers Dominic Goodwin-Hauck and Meg Clowes. Each week, students engage in a variety of activities designed to enhance their vocal skills, spoken dialogue, acting, and dancing. Through teamwork and collaboration, students develop essential musical theatre performance techniques. Throughout the year, students will be given opportunities to showcase their hard work in musical productions, providing them with the chance to apply their skills in a real-world performance setting. These productions serve as a tangible



goal for students, allowing them to proudly display their talents to the community.

MUSIC CRAFT

This Music Craft class run by teacher Dominic Goodwin-Hauck offers a balanced music education that



integrates aural and written skills for both classical and contemporary musicians. It covers similar content to Theory of Music and Musicianship but at an accelerated pace. The course explores advanced music theory concepts like species counterpoint and complex rhythms while introducing aural skills from the beginning. Students study a diverse range of repertoires from classical, contemporary, and folk music, enhancing their musical appreciation and understanding. Join us to elevate your musical journey through Music Craft!

GET INVOLVED WITH...

choirs

THE BLENDERS

Join our choir for dedicated singers who are passionate about music—and enjoy having fun! Under the direction of experienced vocal tutor James Brown, this choir engages in singing challenging harmonies and complex vocal arrangements. While a background in music is advantageous, it is not necessary to join.

Our primary focus is on the exploration of diverse repertoire and refining song presentation, all in preparation for our exciting performances. Come be a part of a vibrant community where you can hone your vocal skills while expressing your passion for singing!

THE SINGALONGS

Join us for The Singalongs every Wednesday and delight in singing some of your favorite tunes!

This welcoming group invites participants of all skill levels and backgrounds to come together and share the joy of music. Our current repertoire features beloved songs by iconic artists such as The Seekers, The Beatles, Elvis, and Neil Diamond, as well as timeless pieces from musicals and folk traditions.

Spend a joyful hour singing popular music while connecting with others in a warm, inclusive atmosphere. Experience the numerous well-being benefits of singing—come and be a part of the fun!

individual tuition

with qualified and professional local teachers and tapping into the Regional Conservatorium network across the state, we can teach everything and anything!

VOCAL Classical, Contemporary **PIANO** Classical, Jazz, Contemporary

GUITAR Classical, Bass, Acoustic, Electric **UKULELE** Acoustic

CLASSICAL STRINGS **DRUMS** **WOODWIND**

TERM 1 *Studio Concert*



1 APRIL TUES • TOWN HALL • 6:30 START

TERM 1 *Mothers' Day Concert*



MOTHER'S DAY/EISTEDDFOD PRACTICE CONCERT
10 MAY SAT • THE CHAPEL • 2PM

JANE RUTTER + LOUISE JOHNSON

Magic Flutes, Electric Harp Blues and the Silver Screen

Experience a captivating evening with the renowned duo Jane Rutter (flute) and Louise Johnson (harp) as they present a mesmerising concert of classical and jazz repertoire. Their performance features works from their album *Pan and the Angels*, including Debussy's *L'après-midi d'un faune* and tributes to jazz harpists Harpo Marx and Dorothy Ashby.

With evocative music from the silver screen, the duo showcase their impressive careers and unique instruments with works by Richard Strauss, Mozart, Bizet, Chopin, Liszt, Brubeck, Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Khachaturian and Scott Joplin. Jane plays her gold and silver flutes and Celtic whistles, Louise plays classical gold and electric blue harps.

Louise is former principal, Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Jane has recorded 25 best-selling albums and was knighted by France for her services to music. Jane and Louise will transport you to an atmosphere of glittering dreams and angelic realms.

Saturday 22 February
Quirindi 7pm

Sunday 23 February
Gunnedah Town Hall 5pm





NICK RUSSIONELLO

Award-winning saxophonist

Composed and performed by award-winning saxophonist Nick Russoniello, the *Air Mass* concert will invite YOU into the creative space by intersecting audience-generated sounds, live looping and body percussion with a virtuosic solo saxophone performance. Lyricism and groove will meet in a powerful and immersive experience that will traverse repertoire from baroque to beatbox and beyond.

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!

Contact us for more information

Saturday 22 March

**The Civic Gunnedah
7pm**







ANNA WEATHERUP & AMY VEE

Songbirds

After a successful double headline East Coast tour in 2023, enduring Hunter singer-songwriters Anna Weatherup and Amy Vee have joined forces for a second series of intimate performances during 2025.

Anna Weatherup is perhaps best known for turning all four chairs on The Voice in its second season, with her audition garnering over 1.2M views on YouTube. However, since that time, Anna has worked tirelessly to shape a truly unique and engaging creative identity, gathering a loyal community of followers via her many live shows and, during lockdowns, via live-streaming on Twitch. Anna's long-awaited album Crossing the Sea was released in 2023, with singles making waves on the iTunes charts and garnering over 100k streams on Spotify. Anna followed up with a stripped-back live version of the album, made for vinyl, in late 2023.

Amy Vee is an established and award-winning songwriter and performer with extensive touring experience in Australia and internationally. Amy has moonlighted as band member for other artists including Australian music royalty Jon English and Tim Freedman, all while building a solo career.

Sunday 13 April

Piallaway Hall

2pm

BYO DRINKS AND LUNCH.

Enjoy a picnic in the grounds
before the concert.



HOT POTATO BAND

In Residence 13-15 May

The Hot Potato Band will call Gunnedah home for three days in May and there will be many opportunities for the community to participate in a workshop or see them perform.

Hot Potato Band's larger-than-life brass collective is a breath of fresh air with a focus on setting the bar for energetic and interactive musical performances. With two studio albums under their belts, they continue to explore the sonic possibilities of acoustic instrumentation. Finding home in Sydney, Australia, they have spent the last 10 years independently curating and touring shows across Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the Middle East.

HPB's music transcends genres, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere at every show. They have reinvented the traditional brass band as a modern day dance machine and visual spectacle to complement their strong sense of pride for their fun-loving, organic, and quirky musical nature.

**WORKSHOPS AND SCHOOL
VISITS AVAILABLE!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
director@gunnedahconservatorium.com**

Thursday 15 May

The Band Hall

6pm

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE



HOTPOTATOBAND





ACACIA QUARTET

Celebrating 15 years

Acacia Quartet return to Gunnedah after a stunning recital in 2024. Forming in 2010, Acacia Quartet are one of Australia's most respected string ensembles.

Having recorded twelve albums, Acacia is known for presenting versatile and inventive programs which prominently feature Australia's leading composers.

Nominated for an APRA-AMCOS Art Music 'Award for Excellence' (2013), and Aria Music Awards 'Best Classical Album', twice (2013 and 2020), Acacia are renowned recording artists with their recordings regularly featured on radio around the world.

Having toured extensively, Acacia is in high demand both locally and internationally. Locally, Acacia's engagements include the Sydney Opera House, City Recital Hall Sydney, Melbourne Recital Hall, as well as extensive touring through regional NSW and Victoria. Internationally, Acacia had their international debut in Vancouver, Canada at the Roundhouse in June 2016 and have since followed up with performances in Europe.

Acacia is passionate about supporting young musicians and are proud to share their love of music with audiences of all ages

Sunday 25 May

Sisters of Mercy

Convent Chapel

4pm



NICKI PARROTT & HER NORTHERN RIVERS BAND

Feelin' Groovy

An evening of peace, love and discovery—songs from the 1960s, the decade that brought us the everything from the Beatles to Sinatra... Nancy that is!

After 30 years of headlining New York, Japan and Europe to sold-out performances at most of the world's top jazz venues and festivals, international recording and touring artist Nicki Parrott celebrates her return home to "slow down and chill out" with her exceptional Northern Rivers Band.

Feelin' Groovy is a musical tribute to the "Swinging Sixties" presented by a world-class ensemble.

Fun for all ages!

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!

Contact us for more information

Friday 20 June

**Gunnedah Town Hall
7pm**





**'Make Music Day' is the
International Day of Music
Making held on Sat 21 June**

**MAKE
MUSIC**
June 21



Here at the Con, we celebrate it every year!



**So, wherever you are, whoever you are, and whatever
music you play, come and celebrate music with us!**

TERM 2 *Studio Concert*



24 JUNE TUES • TOWN HALL • 6:30 START

TERM 3 *Studio Concert*



16 SEPT TUES • TOWN HALL • 6:30 START

THE UKULELE MAN

BY MARCEL COLE

The story of George Formby

"The true story of wartime entertainer and ukulele legend George Formby! From the battlefields of Europe to the distant corners of the British Empire, 'The Ukulele Man' is the untold story of Britain's greatest wartime entertainer!

He was banned by the BBC, declared insane by his wife, and still became the UK's highest paid entertainer! Join Marcel Cole and Katie Cole as they take you back to an era when live entertainment was king, and pay homage to the greatest entertainer of them all. Perfectly cast as George Formby, Cole leads us through an entertaining story of the life and songs of Formby's songs throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Joined onstage by his real-life mother Katie Cole, who plays not one, not two, but three different roles with great aplomb.

Formby was also a highly paid film star making a large number of successful films. But the emphasis of the show is on Formby the ukulele and banjo-uke/banjolele playing entertainer. Some of Formby's best-known songs are lovingly performed by Cole – including 'When I'm Cleaning Windows' and 'Leaning On A Lamppost'. Anyone with a love of nostalgia, an interest in history, or just a good singalong will find much to enjoy in this show."

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!

Contact us for more information

Friday 18 July

**TBA
7pm**





- Theatre Matters

**"Cole is
a stunner"
"don't miss this"**

- The Barefoot Review

**"Do whatever
needs to be done
to get a ticket"**

- Canberra Critics Circle



COCO'S LUNCH WITH THE SAI BROTHERS

Raising Rhythms

Experience the electrifying cross-cultural collaboration of 'Australia's magical purveyors of the a cappella art', Coco's Lunch, with The Sai Brothers, as together they unite in a groundbreaking fusion of musical cultures: Raising Rhythms.

In a bold exploration of creativity, these musicians forge a distinct language and style that brings together the sublime vocal textures of Coco's Lunch with the virtuosic rhythmic energy of renowned siblings The Sai Brothers on mridangam, kanjira and tabla.

With Coco's Lunch member Dr. Lisa Young's mastery as a konnakol (South Indian vocal percussion) artist and a shared teaching lineage between Coco's Lunch and The Sai Brothers, this collaboration unveils a new dimension of artistic expression, expanding the original work of the Coco's Lunch composers. Known internationally for their rhythmic prowess, ensemble-composed konnakol, soulful lyrics and skintight harmonies, Coco's Lunch with the Sai Brothers offers a transcendent musical experience that resonates both locally and globally - and is a must-see incarnation for existing fans of Coco's Lunch.





**Friday 12
September**

**The Civic
7pm**



WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!
Contact us for more information

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC PROGRAM



Our Early Childhood Music Program provides musical opportunities across the community for babies through to early years at school



SHE SINGS

by **Lucy Ravenwood**

She Sings is an all-women's singalong event hosted by former local, Lucy Ravenwood (nee Amos). Lucy leads the night on piano and vocals, with a room full of fabulous women all singing together. She Sings regularly sells out around the Sunshine Coast where Lucy now lives, seeing 100-150 attendees belting out one classic hit after another in what Lucy describes as "the girl's night out you didn't know you needed!"

Attracting ladies aged 18-80, the night is aimed at bringing friends and families together to connect over great music, food and drinks, with no experience or musical talent required. From Taylor Swift to Tina Turner, Adele to ABBA, and Wham to Whitney Houston, She Sings has something for everyone. Follow @shesingsau on Facebook and Instagram, or visit www.shesings.com.au for the latest information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 20 September

Gunnedah Town Hall

WYNONA YINUO WANG

Rising star of the Classical stage

Wynona YINUO Wang launched her career after winning First Prize at the 2018 Concert Artists Guild International Competition in New York City. Since then, she has captivated audiences across North America, performing with prestigious orchestras such as the DuPage Symphony Orchestra and the Meadows Symphony Orchestra. She has graced the stages of world-renowned venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and the Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall.

Wynona has been featured in prestigious concert series like the New York Philharmonic's Artist Spotlight and the Myra Hess Memorial Concerts. Internationally, she has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the National Philharmonic Society of Ukraine and given solo recitals across China, Spain, and Indonesia. A versatile artist, Wynona has garnered top prizes at numerous competitions, including the Sydney International Piano Competition and the Wideman International Piano Competition.

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!

Contact us for more information

Friday 17 October

**The Civic
7pm**





FLAMENCO FLAMENCO

By Arte Kanela

Flamenco Flamenco is a story by Arte Kanela. Through emotive Flamenco, it breathes life into personal narratives, and pays heartfelt tribute to the legacy of the renowned Kanela Bar. Nestled in the Spanish quarter of Melbourne at 56 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, this legendary establishment was founded on the virtuoso talents of brothers Richard and Johnny Tedesco. Over the decades, it bore witness to a tapestry of performances, international collaborations, film recordings, and infamous fiestas.

Flamenco Flamenco embodies the story of these years: years which the brothers spent refining their craft, and forging an intimate connection with the soul-stirring artform that is Flamenco. It opens a window into a deeply personal journey, weaving together the captivating tales of the Kanela Bar.

WORKSHOP AVAILABLE!

Contact us for more information

Friday 24 October

**Gunnedah Town Hall
7pm**





END OF YEAR *Showcase*



2 DECEMBER TUES • TOWN HALL 6:30

CHRISTMAS *Pantomime*



SCHOOL VIEWING: 5 DECEMBER FRI • TOWN HALL 10AM
MATINEE: 7 DECEMBER SUN • TOWN HALL 2PM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



GUNNEDAH CONSERVATORIUM IS PROUDLY FUNDED
THROUGH THE REGIONAL CONSERVATORIUM GRANT
PROJECT



AND IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE
NSW REGIONAL CONSERVATORIUMS



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE OUR FRIENDLY STAFF, VISIT
OUR WEBSITE www.gunnedahconservatorium.com.au

*'Music, once admitted to
the soul, becomes a sort
of spirit, and never dies.'*

Edward Bulwer-Lytton



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