



Coonabarabran High School

Music Skills Workshop Day

On Friday 25 May, a Music Skills Workshop Day will be taking place at Coonabarabran High School. Various local and not-so-local musicians will be visiting the school and teaching students instrumental skills in small groups. The line-up for the day is as follows:

Workshop	Presenter	Students
Song writing	Stormcellar	Year 11/12 Music students
Guitar (6-string)	Paul Armstrong	<i>Spots available</i>
Bass guitar	Paul Armstrong	<i>Spots available</i>
Drum kit	James Moffat	<i>Spots available</i>
Brass Instruments	David Henry	Students playing brass instruments; <i>spots available</i>
Band workshop	David Henry	All students playing brass and woodwind instruments; <i>spots available</i>
Voice	Jack Ayoub	All members of the ensemble and leads for the musical <i>We Will Rock You</i>
Voice (extra session)	Jack Ayoub	<i>Spots available</i>
Baroque instruments and music	Nathan Cox	Year 11/12 Music students

The workshops will take place **during school time** at **Coonabarabran High School**. Most of the workshops are open to all students who would like to learn new skills on the different instruments. Students who would like to participate must please let Mrs Rossler know as soon as possible. Paul Armstrong and James Moffat are part of the teaching staff at school and are well known in this area for their musical skills. You can read more about the other presenters below.

On Friday night, there will be a concert in the school hall featuring these musicians, as well as a few CHS school students. For any further information, please contact Aimee Rossler at the school.

Born in Geelong Victoria **David Henry** joined the Royal Australian Air Force Band and moved to NSW in 1980. He served 26 years in the RAAF Band including a 5 months posting to the UK with the Royal Air Force Band London, David also directed the RAAF Big Band as Flight Sergeant for 16 years. Since leaving the RAAF David has worked as a freelance musician in Sydney playing on many recordings and professional shows such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Cats*, *Anything Goes*, *Annie*, *The Lion King*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Priscilla*. David has toured with Ian Moss, Melinda Schnieder and is currently lead trombone in the Sydney Jazz Orchestra along with other freelance work.

Jack Ayoub grew up in Coonabarabran and completed his schooling at Coonabarabran High School in 2013. In his own words, he stated that he “has achieved much” through the “generosity and extraordinary support of the Coonabarabran community”. He completed a *Bachelor of Music Performance* degree at the Sydney University Conservatorium. Jack’s passion is opera and, under the tutelage of Rowena Cowley, his voice and repertoire have developed and expanded. In 2014 he performed in the opera chorus in the production of *Carmen* in Armidale. In 2015 he performed in two operas one of which was under the direction of Richard Bonning. He has also performed in Verdi’s *La Traviata*, Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Williamson’s *English Eccentrics*, Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass*, Leoncavallo’s *Il Pagliacci* and Mahler’s Second Symphony. He has also performed in many concerts and recitals.

Nathan Cox is in his final Honours year in the Bachelor of Music program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music specialising in early keyboards with Professor Neal Peres Da Costa. At the SCM he has performed many concerts with the Early Music Ensemble including for the SCM Centenary celebration concert in 2015 directed by Paul Dyer, and in productions of Purcell’s *Fairy Queen* (2016), Cavalli’s *La Calisto* (2017) and in the award-winning *Dowling Song Book Project* at Elizabeth Bay House (2016). Already, he has had professional engagements as a continuo player with Bach Akademie Australia, Australian Haydn Ensemble, Australian Baroque Brass and at the Canberra International Music Festival and Peninsula Summer Music Festival.

Earlier this year Nathan took part in masterclasses at the Amsterdam Conservatorium, and attended a winter academy at the Hochschule für Kunst in Bremen. His recent performances include Sydney Baroque Music Festival, and Handel’s *Ariodante* with the newly established Apollo Opera Collective. Nathan is in demand as an early keyboard technician for several major music institutions including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Sydney Philharmonia, Sydney Chamber Choir, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Antipodes, Pinchgut Opera, Opera Australia, Ironwood, Australian Haydn Ensemble, Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Nigel Kennedy's Orchestra of Life, Talgum Music Festival, Sydney Baroque Music Festival, and Van Diemen’s band. He is also a historical instrument technician at Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

After 10 years, 9 albums, including 3 #1's & 4 US tours, **Stormcellar** were reviewed in the December 2017 edition of Living Blues, the Roots publication of record since the 1960s, marking a rare mention for an original song-writing Australian band.

Stormcellar has never shied away from following their own path. In a career eerily reminiscent of the Blues Brothers, they are now pursued with torches and pitchforks by Country folk, Blues Folk, Folk Folk, Jazz Folk, Pop Folk and other folk who joined the mob because it looked like fun was to be had.

Stormcellar's 9th album, 'Defiance', was released in June 2017. It is the third album in their 'Mid-West Triptych', a three-part concept recorded over the last 4 years in Australia and the US. Defiance went to #1 on the Australian Blues & Roots Charts, their third #1 album.

Stormcellar's work has received critical recognition in the US, France, Canada, Australia, the UK, with (as at Oct 2017) 3 #1 albums on Australian charts.

They have topped the Australian Roots chart three times, have been on the charts approaching 40 months, and were the first band to be on the chart with two albums simultaneously.

On return from their 4th US tour at the height of the US election, Stormcellar commenced an 'anti anxiety' project reflecting the calm of the Australian environment, recording new songs in, amongst other places, the dome of Skywatch Observatory in the Dark Skies area of Coonabarabran.