



G.A.T.E.WAYS and Arts Centre Melbourne's Channel

invite creative Year 5 and 6 children with a love of music to

'COMPOSE YOURSELF'

at Arts Centre Melbourne's The Channel

Hamer Hall – St Kilda Road, Melbourne**

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children.

The program has been developed specifically for established musicians with a solid understanding in music theory and good keyboard skills. Typically this would equate to AMEB Grade 4 or equivalent. This is likely to be studied on piano or keyboard; however students whose major instrument is not the keyboard, but who have reasonable keyboard skills could still participate well. Students with strong improvising skills, or those who like to experiment with writing their own music would also benefit from the program. Students should be able to read treble and bass clefs.

Requirements: a small notebook, a pencil and eraser, a morning tea snack, lunch & a drink in a resealable container (no nuts please) or some money for lunch (we may walk down to Southbank); a blank CD or a USB stick on Day 2

This 2-day program gives young established musicians the opportunity to compose and score a musical work. Composers will apply their knowledge of music theory and their musical keyboard skills to the creative process of composing via music technology. Using the software program *Sibelius*, students will investigate musical concepts such as instrumentation and melodic and harmonic construction through the writing of their own piece of music. Dynamics, articulation, lyrics and phrasing will be added as necessary. Discussions will cover various styles of classical music and their characteristics, instruments (ranges and how to write for them) and various musical forms.

Composers will be working on their own, enabling them to create and compose at their own rate, and in a direction and style that interests them. No background knowledge of music technology is assumed, however the "Compose Yourself" program will draw upon knowledge of scales and chords in the arrangements created so participants must be able to read music and play an instrument.

The course has been designed to run over 2 days so that participants can develop a deep understanding of the software and the associated technology, as well as having time to explore musical ideas in a positive and creative environment.

At the end of the 2 days participants will put their compositions onto a CD or USB stick to take home.

Aims and Objectives of "COMPOSE YOURSELF" are:

- An increased awareness of the elements of music and music technology.
- The increased ability to critically reflect upon music creation, its manipulation and instrument selection.
- An increased awareness of the creative process looking specifically at form, arrangement and instrumentation.
- An increase in knowledge and understanding of music theory via its direct use in the creative process.

****The Channel, Terrace level, Hamer Hall – entrance is at bridge/road level, facing the river and next to Fatto Cantina**

Preparation for the Program:

Students who have enrolled for the “Compose Yourself” program would benefit from engaging in as many of the following activities as possible before attending:

- Listening to a wide variety of music, and deliberately analysing which instruments are being played, and what they contribute to the piece
- Discussing participation in the program with their regular instrumental teacher
- Experimenting making up tunes of their own
- Discussing or analysing chords with their music teacher
- Practising playing chords on the keyboard, based upon simple arpeggios
- Listening to pieces with drums and percussion, and tapping out the beats
- Practising playing in time with a metronome

About the presenters

Amy Bennett, Joshua Cowie and David Rogers, and Zoe Rinkel are Digital Educators at the Digital Learning Hub at Arts Centre Melbourne. All are working musicians and composers/songwriters and experienced in music and multimedia education. They have all worked at Arts Centre Melbourne presenting G.A.T.E.WAYS courses for many years and have extensive experience in teaching filmmaking, animation, studio recording, music composition and multimedia production to kids.

