



G.A.T.E.WAYS and Arts Centre Melbourne

**invite talented Year 5 and 6 students with
a love of music who play an instrument to**

‘Willing & Ableton’

at The Channel, Arts Centre Melbourne

Level 6, Hamer Hall, Riverside Terrace*

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Established in 1994, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*.

Ableton Live is the most popular piece of music creation software for hop hop artists, beat makers, DJs and music producers. Chances are, if you’re listening to popular music these days, it was made using Ableton Live. In this two-day program, we’ll get inside the software and show you how the professionals use it as we use virtual instruments, samples and digital synthesisers to create our own melodic masterpiece. This could be the first step in your dazzling musical career!

Requirements

Please bring a small notebook, a pencil and eraser, a morning tea snack, lunch and a drink in a resealable container (no nuts please); you may bring some money if you wish as we may walk down to Southbank if the weather permits. Also bring a USB stick on Day 2

Preparation for the Program:

You can prepare for the program by doing as many of the following activities as possible:

- Listening to a wide variety of music, and listening out for which instruments are being played, and what feeling they bring to the song
- Discussing participation in the program with your regular instrumental teacher
- Discussing or analysing chords with your 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

You will work at your own station which will enable you to create and compose at your own rate, and in a direction and style that interests you. No background knowledge of music technology is assumed, however the program will draw upon knowledge of scales and chords in the arrangements created so you must be able to read music and play an instrument.

The program has been designed so that students 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, you will put your compositions onto a CD or USB stick to take home.

Day 1

Ableton Live can look complicated when you first sit down in front of it, but we’ll walk you through the different sections until you feel at home. You’ll use a “Drum Rack” to work on your first beats and learn how to choose and manipulate your own drum sounds. Next, you’ll learn about synthesisers, using the “Analogue” synthesiser in Ableton Live to build your own bass sound and write a bassline. In the afternoon, we’ll look at the amazing world of audio effects and you’ll learn how to add reverbs, delays to your sounds and invent entirely new sounds of your own.

Day 2

On your next visit, we’ll take the skills that we learnt from the first and begin to work on a full song. We’ll use the looping and arrangement features of Ableton Live to quickly build up a song that has an introduction, verses and choruses. You’ll have time to experiment with new sounds and work on perfecting your song. At the end of the day, we’ll show you how to export your work and save it to a USB stick to show your family and friends.

About the presenters

Amy Bennett, Joshua Cowie, David Rogers and Zoe Rinkel are Creative Learning Educators at The Channel, 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 young people.

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