

Winner of three Australasian Golden Fiddle Awards in both teaching and playing categories, Emma Nixon is a star of the Australian fiddle scene, her powerful and passionate performances of traditional and contemporary Scottish music enchanting audiences across Australia and around the world. However, Nixon is much more than a performer. She is a teacher, composer and researcher with a strong focus on inclusion through folk music, establishing and nurturing folk music communities, especially for young people. Fred Smith (OAM) calls Emma "a passionate advocate for the history and future of folk music in Australia".

Emma has taught string instruments for over 30 years in schools. She has taught fiddle workshops at many national and international festivals. Emma has a private tuition studio and has taught Scottish fiddle at music camps, notably at Music Under the Southern Cross. She incorporates folk music in all her teaching. Emma established and ran the Brisbane Celtic Fiddle Club for 20 years. Post -covid, Emma formed the Queensland Youth Folk Orchestra (QYFO) and Junior Fiddle Club to encourage young (and young at heart) musicians to engage in a variety of folk music. She creates parts of different levels to engage young people of a variety of levels and abilities to interact musically and socially. The QYFO has been exploring Australian, English, Celtic and Scandi traditional and contemporary tunes. QYFO has performed at Woodford Folk Festival, The National Folk Festival and Maleny Folk Festival.

Emma composes and arranges music for professional and student musicians. She has had her tunes published in many countries.

Emma performs and collaborates with many musicians and bands (notably cloud street, Black Bear Duo and the Ceilidh Clan) and has toured in Japan, UK Denmark and France.

Emma has researched many aspects of Scottish folk music and aural transmission and has presented papers at national and international conferences. She studied aspects of aural transmission in Scottish fiddle workshops for her Masters degree in Traditional Music in the UK.

Emma is a much loved and respected figure in the international folk community, as evidenced by this recent testimony from David De Santi: "Emma is one of the most generous and dedicated figures in the Australian folk music. Emma brings a combination of deep musical skill, inclusive spirit, and heartfelt connection to every aspect of her work, whether she's leading a fiddle workshop, composing new tunes or mentoring young players".

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Fred Smith (OAM) describes Emma's uncanny ability to knit research and practice in building folk community, saying Emma "thinks carefully about her work. She has researched many aspects of Scottish folk music and aural transmission...(and) worked assiduously to translate this theory into outcomes that change people's lives, such as by creating different parts to engage people of different levels of ability and enable them to get amongst it creating music in blended ensembles. It's people like Emma who make the folk scene the passionate and welcoming community that it is. I hope contribution can be recognised at this year's AFMA's".