

Emma Nixon

**Australian Folk Music Awards
Contribution to Folk category.**

Over the past 25-30 years I have known and worked with Emma Nixon in a diverse number of teaching activities.

She is a gifted teacher and musician who intrinsically understands the value of connecting the 'whole learner' with their developing musical journey.

She does this in her teaching and performing practice by incorporating a wide repertoire of folk tunes which facilitate ensemble learning. This in turn allows for total inclusivity of individuals' learning pathways. Using both spontaneous and prepared multi-level arrangements, students are able to build elemental musical skills at their own pace whilst remaining connected to a group.

Emma has:

- presented at QMEC on how to embed aural skills in instrumental music lessons using folk tunes;
- produced recordings and sheet music of various folk musics for students to develop playing skills.

She also runs:

- free (pay by Tam Tams) community music groups for primary school students;
- Qld Youth Folk Orchestra (for teens and +) which performs at community functions and festivals and are now learning how to play for bush dances. This adds an authenticity to the students' development in a variety of forms.

These groups are forming new communities. Emma is also a highly competent performer and plays at a level which inspires learners.

The teaching of instrumental music is greatly enhanced by these practices and activities.

I have no hesitation in recommending her work as both a teacher and a musician.

Megan Grimmer (B. Mus. Ed)