

# Open Music Academy

Teaching staff - Strings

## Caleb Lavery-Brook

### Guitar

#### Coordinator

Caleb Lavery-Brook is a passionate music educator. As the Artistic Director of the South Australian Youth Guitar Ensemble (SAYGE), among other school teaching appointments, Caleb directs, conducts, and mentors young guitarists, fostering their musical growth and ensemble skills.

His work with SAYGE earned the ensemble a nomination for “Best Music Educator” at the SA Music Awards in 2023. Caleb completed his Master of Philosophy in Music in 2021, mentored by Dr. Oliver Fartach-Naini and ARIA-winning guitarist Slava Grigoryan. Alongside teaching, recent performance highlights include at the Daegu International Guitar Festival (2023) and Adelaide Guitar Festival (2022).

His compositions, commissioned by Chamber Music Adelaide and the Elder Conservatorium, include Kaleidoscope and Odysseus, and have been showcased in Adelaide’s major music events.



## Edith Salzmänn

### Cello

#### Associate Director Open Music Academy

Edith Salzmänn is a German/NZ cellist with an extensive career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. She began her studies at the Music Academy in Detmold in Germany at the age of fourteen and went on to study at Indiana University, Bloomington (USA), where she studied with Janos Starker. She was a member of the Tibor Varga Chamber Orchestra, the Corda String Quartet, the Musikfabrik Duesseldorf, and various other New Music ensembles and has performed extensively all over Europe, America, Asia, and Australasia.

Her discography includes releases on Naxos, Stradivarius, EMI Germany, Atoll, and Rattle records with several CD’s for Naxos Records being scheduled for release in 2025. She regularly tours with the Pettman Ensemble, the Dorrit Ensemble and the Lumen Ensemble and records for Naxos Records.

Edith is a highly successful teacher, with many of her former students now having careers in professional orchestras or as chamber musicians. From 2001 - 2012 she was Director of Performance and Senior Lecturer at the University of Canterbury (NZ), and in 2013 she accepted a Senior lecturer position at the University of Auckland. Since 2024 she teaches at the University of Adelaide. She is in demand for masterclasses and regularly teaches in Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Italy, Germany, Poland, and Switzerland.

In 2005, she founded the Pettman National Junior Academy, a privately sponsored scholarship program for highly talented young musicians. To date, this program has been going from strength to strength, with multiple international prize winners coming out of its ranks. In 2024, Edith took on the position of Associate Director of the Open Music Program at the Elder Conservatorium.



## Helen Ayres

### Violin

#### Coordinator

Helen Ayres is a Doctoral graduate of the University of Melbourne and current violin teacher at the Open Music Academy, University of Adelaide. She is a founding member of Seraphim trio and has appeared as guest leader with numerous Australian ensembles. Helen also appears as a regular Principal violinist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

As a founding member of Seraphim, Helen has commissioned new works by Brett Dean, James Ledger, Jakob Jankowski and Richard Mills and has performed at various Australian festivals with musicians Paul Kelly, Lucinda Collins, Konstantin Shamray and Elizabeth Layton. Helen's chamber music concerts are regularly broadcast on ABC and MBS-FM radio stations and she has also presented for Radio 5MBS-FM in Adelaide. In 2019, Seraphim's *Thirteen Ways to Look at Birds* with Paul Kelly, James Ledger, and Alice Keath won the ARIA award for Best Classical Album. Other albums include *Trio Through Time*, *The Trout*, *Beethoven Piano Trios* and most recently *Women in Music*.

Helen held a permanent position with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has since performed in England, Scotland, Germany, Austria and China with the BBC Scottish Symphony and London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Helen is passionate about increasing performance opportunities for young Australian musicians. To this end she is an Ambassador for Recitals Australia and for three years convened the String and Ensemble Divisions of the Adelaide Eisteddfod Society.



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## Rob Nairn

### Bass

#### Coordinator

Rob Nairn is on the faculty of the Elder Conservatorium as lecturer in historical performance and lower strings. He held teaching positions at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, as head of the Early Music department and was previously a Distinguished Professor of Music at Penn State's School of Music, on the Faculty of The Juilliard School and a Kulas Visiting Artist at Case Western Reserve University. He has lived and worked in Germany, England, Australia and the United States performing with such groups as the London and Oslo Philharmonic Orchestras; the Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestras; the English, Scottish and Australian Chamber Orchestras, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, West Australian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, the London Sinfonietta, the Halle Orchestra, the London Mozart Players and the Australian World Orchestra.

Rob is a specialist in historical performance, and has been principal bassist with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra since 2017 and a member of both Ironwood and Adelaide Baroque. He was principal bass of Boston's Handel and Haydn Society from 2003 - 2017, and also principal bass of the Boston Early Music Festival and Juilliard Baroque. He has performed with the English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique, Concerto Caledonia, Washington Bach Consort, Rebel, Florilegium, The Smithsonian Chamber Players, The Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra, Muffat Collective, Bach Akademie Australia, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.



## Stephen King

### Viola

#### Coordinator

Dr Stephen King's extensive career spans a decade as the violist of the Australian String Quartet, following a similar period with the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO). He has participated in countless performances, festivals, recordings and collaborations both in Australia and overseas. Stephen has played as soloist with ACO, Melbourne, Sydney, Tasmania, Vancouver and West Australian Symphony Orchestras and shared the stage with rock musicians from Lou Reed to Powderfinger to Missy Higgins. Currently Stephen is Principal Viola of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra (ARCO) and collaborates with a diverse group of chamber musicians around the country.

Stephen's academic accomplishments include a Doctorate in Chamber Music, with studies under esteemed string ensembles such as the Emerson and Guarneri String Quartets. Stephen shares his musical knowledge through teaching viola and chamber music at the University of Adelaide, Elder Conservatorium, and regularly tutors at National Music Camp, for AYO, AdYO and ARCO's Young Mannheim Symphonists. He regularly sits on adjudication panels and many former students have leading roles in Australian and overseas orchestras and chamber ensembles.



## Zoe Frelsberg

### Violin

#### Coordinator – Young Strings Program

Hailing from Gympie Queensland, Zoe has fast built a career as one of the most versatile Australian violinists of her generation. She made her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 15, before continuing on to perform as concerto soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. As a recitalist she has performed extensively throughout Australia, the United States of America, Spain, Estonia, and in 2017 toured mainland China alongside English pianist Alexander Ullman. In high demand as an orchestral violinist, Zoe performs regularly with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician Zoe has appeared at the Orange Chamber Music Festival, Sanguine Estate Music Festival, Huntington Estate Music Festival and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, working alongside artists such as Alexander Sitkovetsky, Andrew Haveron and Ian Munro. In 2021 Zoe led the orchestra for Hugh Jackman's *The Greatest Showman* tour throughout Australia.

Zoe holds both a Masters Degree and Performer Diploma from the Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where she studied with Distinguished Professor Mauricio Fuks and Professor Mark Kaplan. She also is a graduate of the Australian National Academy of Music where she studied with Dr. Robin Wilson and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music Griffith University, where she studied with Michelle Walsh.

Passionate and active as a pedagogue, Zoe has taught violin, viola and chamber music throughout the United States of America and Australia. Zoe taught at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music String Academy, where she worked alongside distinguished pedagogue Mimi Zweig. Extending her experience in pre-tertiary education, Zoe currently teaches at Immanuel College in Adelaide, and has previously taught at Haileybury in Melbourne, John Paul College in Brisbane.



## Heather Lander

### Cello

Heather Lander is a dynamic performer, passionate classical musician, and dedicated cello teacher based in Adelaide. She holds a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and is currently completing a Master of Teaching degree. Heather is the only Australian to hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Specialised String Teaching, a combined practical and university-accredited program delivered by the European String Teachers Association and the University of Chichester (UK). She is also an accredited Colourstrings and Stringbabies teacher and incorporates Dalcroze methodology into her holistic teaching approach.

Heather's teaching philosophy draws on internationally recognised pedagogical approaches including Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Colourstrings, and Stringbabies. Heather focuses not only on technical development but also on creativity, expression, movement, and enjoyment, fostering confident and musically expressive performers.

Heather has appeared at festivals including the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, and has performed in association with the Adam International Cello Competition. More recently, her work has expanded into live theatre productions, studio recording for songwriters and soundtracks, and performances of original music projects such as *A Blanket of Stars*. She regularly performs in professional engagements throughout South Australia and beyond.



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## Kai Gerbi

### Violin

Kai is an exciting young teacher with specialisations in violin, musicianship, and composition. Kai completed his undergraduate bachelor's degree (BMUS Classical Performance – Violin) in 2018 with Dr Elizabeth Layton and a subsequent Honours (First Class). He is currently engaged in a Master of Philosophy at the Elder Conservatorium, for which he is the recipient of a highly competitive research scholarship. Alongside his university studies, Kai developed skill in piano playing under Professor Stefan Ammer and embarked on extensive studies in music analysis, music theory, and composition with Dr John Polglase. In 2023, Kai received training in musicianship, aural skills, and pedagogy from Dr James Cuskelly of the Australian Kodály Certificate.

Kai began teaching in 2016 and has worked with young musicians of all skill levels in the positions he has held. Passing on his passion for music he has obtained excellent results from his students, who have played in the Adelaide Youth Orchestras, competed in Eisteddfods, and been admitted into Conservatorium studies. As a teacher, Kai utilises the full depth and breadth of his knowledge to instil both musical and technical understanding in his students. In his role at the Open Music Academy, Kai provides instrumental tuition on the violin, lessons in music theory and composition, and has been chosen to deliver the Academy's first musicianship and aural training course.

## Sam Morris

### Electric / Jazz Guitar

Sam Morris is a musician and teacher based in Adelaide, South Australia. She has over ten years of performance experience in the live music industry playing a wide variety of styles from Jazz to Latin Pop to Punk and everything in between. Since graduating from the Elder Conservatorium in 2019 she has taught guitar to students of all ages, skill levels and musical proclivities. She is passionate about tailoring the learning experience of each of her students to their individual interests, needs and goals.



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## Natalie Maegrath

### Violin

Natalie (B.Mus.perf.Grad.Dip.perf) is a violist and music educator, ensemble coach and student ensemble conductor. She has worked with Saint Peters Girls School, where she was Director of Strings in 2020-2022, and was relief Head of Strings at Prince Alfred College in 2018 and Pulteney Grammar College in 2015. Natalie taught for many years at St Ignatius Junior and Senior schools teaching private students and directing ensembles, and has been viola section tutor at South Australian Music Camp and Adelaide Youth Orchestra.

Natalie has worked regularly with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra since 2011 and in 2024-2025 as contract player, and has also played with Sydney Philharmonia, Adelaide Cantata Band, toured with State Opera Company's 'Love Burns' Chamber Opera in 2022, and has also played for live shows including Cat Empire, Sigur Ross, Josh Pyke, Beatles Rubber Soul Reviver and White Album shows, Damian Leith, Glen Hansard, Paul McDermott, Shirley Bassy, Barry White and two Michael Crawford Australian tours. Natalie played on David Hirschfelder and David Hobson's album 'Inside this room' and was a quartet member for their live shows.

Natalie's first ever Australian tour was with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the late Luciano Pavarotti performing Verdi's Requiem, and she was violist for Michelangeli Ensemble's Twilight Pastoral Music series at long Acres Gallery, Arthur Streetam family home, Olinda, VIC.

Natalie has played several Candlelight Fever concerts including Taylor Swift and Hans Zimmer.

