

# Graeme Leak

*Music Workshop Leader*

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Comprehensive CV can be viewed online at <https://graemeleak.com/curriculum-vitae/>

## PROFILE

Graeme Leak is an inspiring music educator renowned for his exceptional communication skills and positive energy. With over four decades of experience in teaching and leading workshops, Graeme has dedicated his career to sharing his deep musical knowledge and passion with learners of all levels. He offers a variety of music and instrument-making workshops tailored to suit diverse needs, drawing on his extensive performance background to enrich each session with practical insights and real-world expertise.

## SKILLS

- **Exceptional Communication:** Praised for conveying complex musical concepts clearly.
- **Encouraging and Positive:** Fosters a supportive environment with infectious positivity.
- **Patient and Inclusive:** Known for making everyone feel valued and included.
- **Energetic and Inspiring:** Leaves a lasting impact with unique energy and inspiration.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Creator and Director of the Girgarre Junkestra — 2017–2024**

Pioneering community music project in Girgarre, Victoria, Australia, featuring instruments crafted from recycled materials. Led multiple rehearsals and performances, including at the Gargarro Sound Shell and Melbourne's Deakin Edge concert hall.

### **Workshop leader and Tutor, Music for People Summer School, Giggleswick — 2019**

Delivered Make and Play and Rhythm Orchestra workshops and performances.

### **Performance Making workshops for disabled participants, Milton Keynes — 2017**

Lively creative sessions for Grid Arts, culminating in group performances.

### **Canberra Centenary Celebrations — 2013**

Programmed 110 artists on 10 boats for 11 hours of music that floated past the crowds. Wrote and directed a fanfare for brass band and led a Noise Orchestra parade.

### **The Musical Fence in Winton, Outback Australia — 2003–2011**

Designed and built a wire fence with resonators that can be played as an instrument. Led over 100 locals as *The Winton Fence Band* in concerts in 2003 and 2005.

### **Author of “Performance Making - a manual for music workshops” — 2003**

Published by Currency Press, featuring workshop plans and exercises.

### **Head of Department, La Trobe University Music Department — 1999**

Head of Performance (1990-1999) and Head of Department (1999).

### **Head of Percussion, Sydney Conservatorium of Music — 1985–1990**

Established the Percussion Department and fostered composer-performer collaboration with the School of Composition.

## AVAILABLE WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

Graeme has a vast store of workshop offerings and session plans that are well tested. They virtually guarantee positive outcomes for the participants. These include:

- **Performance Making:** Builds musical skills and imagination with exercises on pulse, metre, rhythm, tone, timbre, and texture. Very valuable for actors, dancers and musicians, but also suitable for participants of any level of skill and experience.
- **Rhythm and Reading:** Improves reading and rhythm abilities through skill-drills and rehearsing and recording sessions. Suitable for players or singers of any skill level.
- **Make and Play:** Participants create DIY instruments and end with a group performance. Suitable for various skill levels, with materials provided.
- **Noise Orchestra:** Rhythm workshop using junk objects and traditional instruments, inspired by African, Brazilian, Pacific Islands, and Afro-Cuban traditions. Includes skill exercises and teaching of rhythms, culminating in a group performance.

Workshops are scalable from single sessions to several days or weeks and can be customised for specific groups, including neurodiverse and disabled participants.

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Graeme is an experienced performer who has played with bands, orchestras, new music ensembles, solo shows, and in recording sessions. Highlights include:

- Co-creator of *The Spaghetti Western Orchestra*, with performances at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Edinburgh Festival, on *Later with Jools Holland*, and a BBC Proms Concert at the Royal Albert Hall.
- Solo show *SAVED* - performed at the 2021 Edinburgh Festival as part of Creative Scotland's *Made In Scotland* Showcase.
- Solo show *The Art of Noises* across Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong.
- Performing *From the Canyons to the Stars* at the Sydney Opera House in the presence of composer Olivier Messiaen.

## EDUCATION

- **Sydney Conservatorium High School** — Higher School Certificate, 1978
- **Associate Diploma of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (A.S.C.M)**, 1978
- **Advanced percussion studies in New York** with private teachers, 1985

A lifelong and enthusiastic autodidact, Graeme continually learns from, mentors, literature, students, recorded media, and his own endless musical exploration and experimentation.

## TESTIMONIAL

“Graeme Leak is a genuinely multitalented virtuoso performer; the arc of his professional musical journey having taken him in many directions from solo and orchestral performance, composition, instrument building, to artistic and programme direction, and community music making.”

Sir Jonathan Mills, AO,

*FRSE Festival Director + CEO Edinburgh International Festival (2013)*