

TOPOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 30 March, 2020

TOPOLOGY, INSPIRING MUSIC EDUCATION, BRING COMPOSITION EXPERTISE TO MOUNT ISA SCHOOL OF THE AIR DURING COVID-19

Aria nominated Topology, operating successfully out of Brisbane for 23-years, are set to bring their unique musical prowess and inspiration online to the Mount Isa School of the Air (MISOTA) amidst the self-isolation/lockdown, travel restrictions in place during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Topology are established leaders in musical creativity in Australia, prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning music educators. John Babbage (saxophone) founding member and principal virtuoso musician and composer, is set to bring his unique composition expertise online for MISOTA student musicians in Cloncurry today, Monday, March 30 and to Julia Creek students of the air tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31. Delivery of the full day **Top Up** workshops has shifted to online, to ensure students do not miss this valuable skills sharing opportunity. Students of the MISOTA will, working with John Babbage across the workshops, work towards a performance outcome of their new compositional works in September 2020. The workshops will engage 17 MISOTA students ranging from Grades 4-6, with nine students of the air from Cloncurry and eight from Julia Creek.

Topology have an energetic community engagement and education program called **Top Up**, and since 1998 they have worked closely with schools and communities to compose, mentor and perform with young people, emerging artists and the greater community. The State Award Winner for Excellence in Music Education at the APRA AMCOS Art Music Awards 2015, **Top Up** has grown exponentially over the years reaching thousands of participants across regional Australia each year. The primary goal of **Top Up Online** is to build the creative capacity of participants and to help reinvigorate much needed community based social events by binding and connecting with, in this instance, the MISOTA students of the Great North West, Queensland. Topology believes that anyone -

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no matter where they live - should have access to high quality music experiences.

Top Up Online is an important opportunity to not only train the trainer but also provides the participating students market-ready upskilling in order to self-determine creative projects successfully.

Top Up Online will deliver continued access to inspiring music experiences amid this global crisis, provide much needed creative outlet for young people experiencing anxiety in this time of uncertainty. Topology will also deliver invaluable upskilling to music educators through multiple professional development sessions, and opportunities for parents to actively engage in meaningful creative activities with their children.

Topology affirms that artists are critical to a vibrant arts sector that reflects Australia's depth and diversity. Through Topology's strong commitment to educational programs, the creativity of music, enriches and empowers the individual human spirit who are bearing the brunt of prolonged isolation and on-flow economic hardships from the COVID-19 outbreak. The proposed MISOTA **Top Up Online** workshops are important educational avenues providing opportunities to harness how to bring creativity into the lives of individuals during this difficult time. Topology, through its **Top Up Online** workshop program, will act as a vital bridge for skills sharing from established renowned creative practitioners and educators, allowing for individuals to reach full potential in order to establish and deliver successful creative ventures for themselves. It is well documented that arts and the creative pursuits, broaden the mind and assist with individual and community well-being.

MISOTA Teacher Cara Taggart, distance-education teaching students across a large geographical area, from Hughenden to the Northern Territory, and up into the Gulf said of the **Top Up Online** composition and education program, "I mostly teach my students using a combination of video conferencing and phone lines. Approximately once a semester we get together to put on concerts for the school community. Through the wonders of modern technology, MISOTA students are able to access music lessons and we are able to run an ensemble. I am grateful for Topology's 'out of the box' thinking when I suggested we run the workshops online instead. We all know how music education has been proven to foster creativity, offer unique ways of understanding and interpreting the world, and promote school engagement. It is also linked to a number of wellbeing and social justice benefits, such as increased inclusion and connectedness at a time when many people are struggling with social distancing and isolation.

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Congratulations to Topology for their flexibility and willingness to continue to run these workshops!"

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Topology is a Brisbane-based not for profit organisation, operating successfully for 23 years. Established in 1997, Topology are established leaders in musical creativity in Australia, prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning music educators. Nominated for a 2014 ARIA Award for Best Classical Album (Share House), Topology has a well-established reputation for their signature work. The quintet experiments with surprising combinations of music genres, theatrical staging and cross art form collaborations to create exciting, thought-provoking music experiences for audiences of all ages, backgrounds and tastes. Resident Artist at Brisbane Powerhouse for 18 years, Topology has released 15 albums, produced countless evening-length works, presented an award-winning concert series, and toured extensively nationally and internationally.

Topology's website <https://www.topologymusic.com/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

TOPOLOGY respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and pays respect to their ancestors and to Elders past, present and future.

END

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