

TOPOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPOLOGY, INSPIRING MUSIC EDUCATION, ANNOUNCES "TOP UP ONLINE", BRINGING COMPOSITION AND INSTRUMENTAL EXPERTISE TO SCHOOLS AND ARTISTS DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

Aria nominated Topology, operating successfully out of Brisbane for 23-years, today announced **TOP UP ONLINE**, bringing their unique and engaging education program online after sell-out composition workshops across Easter. Individuals, schools, and communities throughout Queensland and the Northern Territory will greatly benefit, along with those in metropolitan areas, amidst the self-isolation/lockdown, travel restrictions in place during Coronavirus (COVID-19).

State Award Winner for Excellence in Music Education (APRA AMCOS Art Music Awards), Topology's **Top Up** program enriches the musical journey of thousands of young people, their teachers and communities around Australia each year. **Top Up Online** is the same award-winning program – delivered virtually.

In addition to providing a supportive avenue for teachers' and parents' delivery of the Australian Curriculum during COVID-19 school's closures, **Top Up Online** offers composition workshops, instrumental lessons, and professional development with Topology's Principal Artists and expert pool of instructors, including John Babbage (composition, saxophone), Louise King (cello), Bethan Lewis (viola), Andrew Maddick (violin), Toby Loveland (guitar), Christa Powell (violin), Thomas Green (electronic/gaming composer), Andrew Johnson (bass, trumpet & music technology) and Grant Collins (drums).

Announcing the **Top Up Online** launch, Topology's Creative Director, Christa Powell said, "I am very excited to be launching Topology's Online Program. Top Up Online has always been a goal of ours - to connect artists, composers, musicians, educators, students of all ages to each other from across the globe. Now more than ever, it is vital that we stay connected. Through Top Up Online we will share and make available, both nationally and internationally, the expertise, skills and experience of our talented pool of artists and collaborators."

Top Up Online can range from one-off sessions to a series of workshops depending on participants' creative goals. Prospective participants and teachers are encouraged to consult with Topology to explore their options and get the most out of their experience.

1



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Program costs may vary depending on the scope and number of sessions requested, but Topology is committed to making this program affordable. Topology also aims to provide continued employment opportunities for their instructors, whose livelihoods have been greatly affected by the recent crisis. Topology will endeavour to strike a balance here and encourages consultation with their team regarding concerns in this area.

Top Up is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Arts Queensland, which affords subsidies to regional schools and communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory. In some cases, **Top Up Online** programs will be free of charge providing much needed inspiration and educational support during lockdown. Upon submission of an *Expression of Interest*, applicants will be notified on the subsidies they are eligible for.

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. **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 creative potential. It is well documented that arts and the creative pursuits, broaden the mind and assist with individual and community well-being.

Interested participants (schools and individuals) are invited to submit an *Expression of Interest* on the Topology website: www.topologymusic.com/top-up-online.

TOP UP Quote Bank:

"Topology made such a difference to our teaching year, it's fantastic. And it's great professional development as well. I've used the contact from their improvisation workshop 20 times since." Stephanie Grenning, Teacher at Trinity Bay College - Cairns, QLD

"Giving the students a chance to realise their creative potential was a lovely thing to see. To perform music written by their peers rather than by someone they don't know." Karen Stewart, Teacher at Tully State High School - Tully, QLD

"Working with Topology has been a life-changing experience. They're really fun to work with and open-minded about how you create." Alex Harper, Top Up participant 2016

"I'm now more willing to try new things with my music. Before I was sort of limited in what I had experience in. And now, I feel I've opened up a new opportunity that I can explore." Charlotte Blackwell, Top Up participant 2016

Feedback from TOP UP ONLINE Composition Workshops:

"It was great! I loved collaborating with fellow musicians and composers and learning creative ways to start writing music. It was a very supportive environment and enjoyable experience."

2



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"The mentors were wonderful in encouraging the creative process and being open to anything."

TOP UP

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

TOP UP ONLINE website <https://www.topologymusic.com/top-up-online/>

TOPOLOGY

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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