

# TOPOLOGY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### TOPOLOGY'S AWARD-WINNING MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM 'TOP UP' ANNOUNCES REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR SCHOOLS FOR 2021

Aria-nominated and internationally regarded quintet Topology, today announced registrations for schools are open for 2021 for their award-winning Top Up Music Education program.

Established leaders of musical creativity in Australia, operating successfully out of Brisbane for over two decades, Topology are prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning, passionate music educators.

Topology have an energetic community engagement and education program called Top Up, and since 1997 they have been creating and connecting 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 Brisbane and outer cities and regional Australia each year. In 2020, a restrictive pandemic year, Topology welcomed 7875 participants to 286 Top Up workshops.

The primary goal of Top Up is to build the creative capacity of participants. Topology believes that everyone is creative, and that cultivating creativity should be supported in the classroom.

TOP UP enriches the musical journeys of thousands of young people each year. In addition to supporting teachers' delivery of the Australian Curriculum, TOP UP offers tailored creative workshops, instrumental and composition workshops, and professional development programs for teachers and emerging composers. Schools can avail of two programs: **Creative Program** and **Instrumental Program**. Top Up invites music teachers to bring the expertise of Topology's pool of artists into their classrooms to empower them with the tools to start creating their own music (Creative Program) or to "top up" their instrumental skills (Instrumental Program). Through a combination of composition, improvisation and song writing workshops, the Creative Program typically culminates in a performance by the students showcasing the songs they create with Topology. In 2020 alone (and notably in a year where the pandemic posed logistical constraints), the Top Up Creative Program has seen the creation of new songs by hundreds of students from schools across Queensland, including the

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Mount Isa School of the Air, Indooroopilly State High School, Cloyna, Windera, Moffatdale and Texas State Schools.

Expressions of Interest for a tailored program to suit each schools needs can be registered here: <https://www.topologymusic.com/topup/top-up-for-schools/>

Topology affirms that regional 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 in these regional communities who have borne the brunt of prolonged climate and on-flow economic hardships. The workshops and programs, accessible to all, are important avenues providing opportunities to harness how to bring creativity into the lives of individuals and the collective regional communities, who do not benefit from the enriched cultural programs that metropolises afford. Acting as a vital bridge for skills sharing from established renowned creative practitioners and educators, individuals and organisations are supported to reach full potential in order to establish and deliver successful creative ventures for themselves and their town. It is well documented that arts and the creative pursuits, broaden the mind and assist with individual and community well-being.

Announcing the 2021 TOP UP music education program, Creative Director Christa Powell said, "We are committed to providing support, expertise and resources to music teachers who grapple with less and less funding for music programs each year. A recent report 'Music Education: A Sound Investment' commissioned by The Tony Foundation found that a large proportion of Australian primary school children have little or no access to music education. We want to help fix that."

## 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 16 albums, produced countless evening-length works, presented an award-winning concert series, and toured extensively nationally and internationally.

**TOPOLOGY** | John Babbage (Co-Artistic Director, Composer/Saxophone), Dr Robert Davidson (Co-Artistic Director, Composer/Bass), Christa Powell (Creative Director, Violin), Bernard Hoey (Viola), Therese Milanovic (Piano). <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 both past, and present.

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