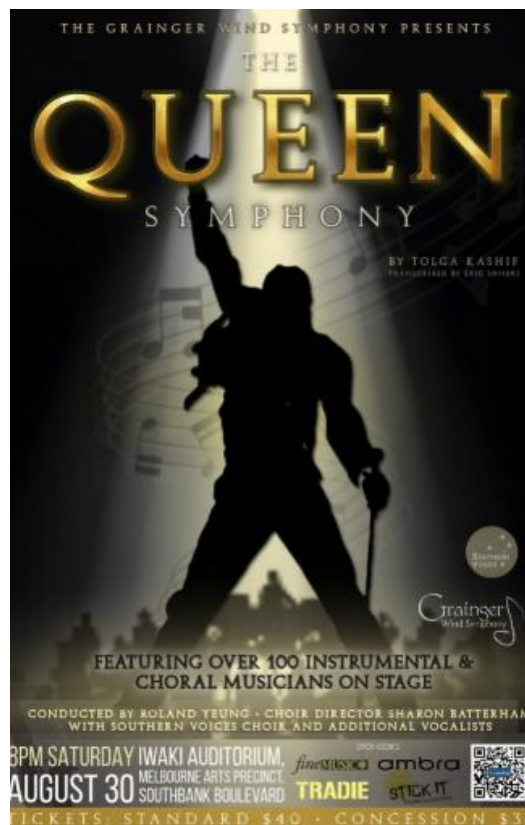




Message from the CEO and ED

#9 – September 30, 2025

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent performance (30.08.2025) with the **Grainger Wind Symphony** performing the *Queen Symphony* by *Tolga Kashif*



For more detail about the concert see-
https://graingerwindsymphony.asn.au/wordpress/?page_id=4825

The venue was the *Iwaki Auditorium* at ABC Southbank



The *Grainger Wind Symphony* - and their important work in forging community relationships - was mentioned in Chris' chapter/article - *Made in Australia*.

https://www.musicum20.com/files/ugd/6113ad_8e5b443be56a492d92d6c30ba62cd21f.pdf



The Horn section – Associate Professor Christopher McLeod (second from the right)

The concert was an important collaboration between the *Grainger Wind Symphony*, *Southern Voices*, *Melbourne Youth Orchestras*, *ABC Melbourne* and the *MSO*.

For more about the Grainger Wind Symphony see -
https://graingerwindsymphony.asn.au/wordpress/?page_id=82

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (29.08.2025) – **Teaching with Intention: Intentional Assessment Design** - *Musicum20.com*

Teaching with Intention: Intentional Assessment Design

Christopher McLeod

August 2025

The culture around assessment design must align with our intended course outcomes for learners. How we approach our assessment tools as facilitators should be geared towards the demonstration of skills that become transferable to the learner's desired workplace outcomes. Facilitators should consider the factors around how assessment is implemented in a learning environment. Good assessment is clear in its intended outcomes for the learner. Unclear assessment will muddle the prescribed course outcomes, making the overarching goal ambiguous.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_1b744264bdb7415bbeed0db8cd198c5f.pdf](#)

This is another good example of scholarship in the AGE context. For more about Scholarship at AGE see –

Scholarship at AGE (v2 January 2025) - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing Scholarship at AGE 2024 (v2 March 2025)

- https://www.guildmusic.edu.au/files/ugd/87330e_c236de23a09045c093784e013fd84197.pdf

Capturing Scholarship and Professional Development at AGE 2025 (v1 July 2025)

- [8776b7_3566ca435f39435aa0eb3f6813dcbbd5.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** and **Tom** on their recent blog (02.09.2025) – **Artificial Intelligence (AI) versus Actual Intelligence (Acl)** - *Musicum20.com*

Artificial Intelligence Versus Actual Intelligence

Greg Whateley and Tom O'Connor

September 2025



Artificial Intelligence (AI) and actual intelligence (Acl) - commonly understood as human intelligence - are two forms of cognition that occupy the forefront of technological and philosophical discourse today. As AI continues to evolve at an unprecedented rate, questions abound regarding its capabilities, limitations, and relationship to the nuanced, complex intelligence exhibited by humans.

The full article can be viewed at

- https://www.musicum20.com/files/ugd/6113ad_964798f723f64e32a1706f661aae61cd.pdf

The most recent meeting of the **Quality and Risk Committee** was scheduled for Wednesday September 10 at 10am on the *North Melbourne Campus*.

Committee membership includes –



Tracy Harris (Chair) representing the AGE Board of Directors



Emeritus Professor **Jim** Mienczakowski (independent)



Associate Professor **Tom** O'Connor (internal)



Emeritus Professor **Greg** Whateley (Secretary and ex-officio)

The Quality and Risk Committee is a standing committee of the AGE Board of Directors – see *AGE Governance Charter* - [87330e 6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#) – pp16-19

TEQSA Risk Assessment

Each year (though significantly delayed this time around) TEQSA provides a **risk assessment** for ALL providers across the country.

The 2024 Provider Risk Assessment (using 2023 data) was published yesterday (04.09.2025). An overview is available -



Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Provider:

PRV12114 - Australian Guild of Education Pty Ltd (formerly Australian Guild of ...

Risk Year:

2024

Provider Type:

HEP

Provider Category:

Institute of Higher Education

Risk Rating Summary

Historical Overall Risk Ratings by Data Year

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
O1. Risk to Students	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
O2. Risk to Financial Position	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High	High

Student/Staff Risk Ratings by Data Year

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
S1. Student Load	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low
S2. Attrition Rate	High	High	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
S3. Progression Rate	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
S4. Graduate Satisfaction	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended	Low	Low	Low	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
S5. Senior Academic Leaders	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	High	High	Moderate	Low
S6. Student Staff Ratio	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
S7. Casualisation	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Financial Risk Ratings by Data Year

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
F1. Financial Viability	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low
F2. Financial Sustainability	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

Across 11 domains – the assessment also provides an historical perspective – that is informative at least (though not particularly relevant).

The Historical Overall Risk has not changed significantly – O1 Risk to Students remains moderate; and O2 *Risk to Financial Position* remains high. This has been the case for several years.

The Student/Staff Risk shows some movement – S1 Student Load (down); S2 Attrition (up); S5 Senior Academic Leaders (down). An overview suggests the overall risk to students is a little harsh at ‘moderate’.

The Financial Risk shows significant movement downwards on F1 *Financial Viability*; but F2 *Financial Sustainability* risk has risen.

The data available will be considered and compared with our Level 1 benchmarking partners over the next few months. *Other key foci include documentation (including formatting); resourcing; IT management; academic integrity; data collection and sharing; and scholarship.*

See -

Self-assurance supported by benchmarking (2025) -
[6113ad_76a97e2709b64a2880055366e6b4ef48.pdf](#)

Moderation and benchmarking – powerful tools (2025) -
[6113ad_5c4f0a72138c4fb699e3fe51050905e3.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (04.09.2025) – **Beware of micromanagement**
- *Musicum20.com*

Beware of Micromanagement

Greg Whateley

September 2025

As a long-term observer of management – micromanagement (often rooted in an earnest desire to ensure excellence and prevent errors) is a workplace disaster with far-reaching consequences. It manifests when managers or leaders exert excessive control over the minutiae of their team's work, scrutinizing every detail and leaving little room for autonomy or creative freedom. While the initial intent may be noble – often driven by ambition or (perhaps) anxiety - the effects of micromanagement ripple throughout organisations, stifling innovation, eroding morale, and ultimately hindering productivity.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_f5925707b0ed44a1babbc124b7024f7b.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (04.09.2025) – **Teaching with intention: space for reflection and adaptability** - *Musicum20.com*

Teaching with Intention: Space for Reflection and Adaptability

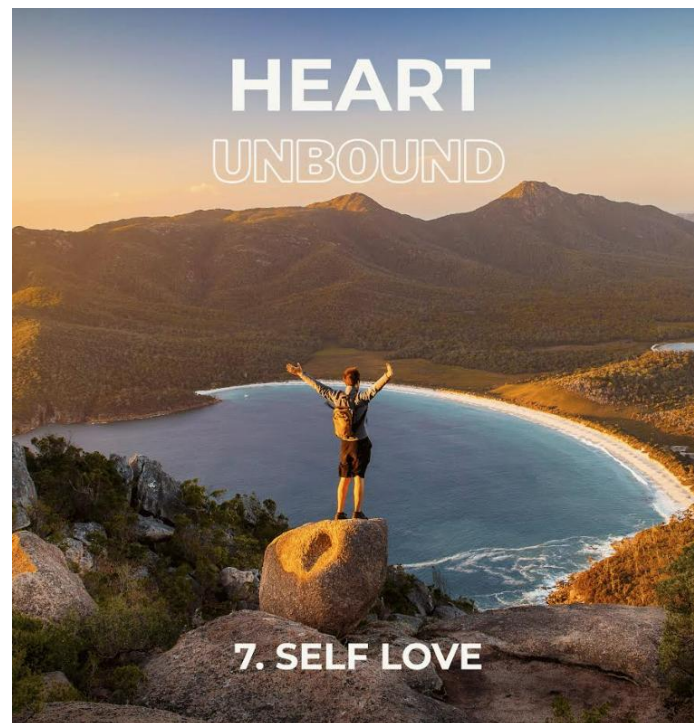
Christopher McLeod

September 2025

The modern world is defined by noise and distraction. We are bombarded by stuff, advertisements, and mobile slot machines we keep in our pockets. It is rare to find the peace and boredom that previous generations had the luxury of experiencing. The moments of solitude that allowed for the gestation and birthing of intellectual ideas away from the glowing screens of modernity. Part of the conceptual framework of minimalism is to drive a strong sense of fulfilment and balance. Human beings need moments of quiet solitude and boredom to reflect carefully on the notions of intellectual and cognitive frameworks.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_1b2095ddf0544a56910a78acb6214967.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **John** and **Christopher** on their recent (04.09.2025) media production – **Self Love – Returning to your worth – Heart Unbound Program – Meditation**



The recording is available at - <https://on.soundcloud.com/Q7gLxznkgA8TfPgYf7>

This meditation is a gentle invitation to come home to yourself. Too often, you give your energy to others while neglecting the one relationship that shapes all the rest, the relationship you hold with your own heart.

In this guided practice, you will be led to release self-judgment, soften your inner dialogue, and reconnect with the truth of your worthiness. Through breath, stillness, and affirmations of love, you will cultivate compassion for yourself, not as something to earn, but as something that already exists within you.

Whether you are a student, leader, or simply someone navigating the challenges of daily life, this meditation will help you:

- *Let go of harsh self-criticism*
- *Embrace acceptance and gentleness*
- *Reconnect with the power of your own heart*

Self-love is not selfish. It is the foundation of resilience, authenticity, and genuine connection with others. This meditation is your reminder that you are enough, exactly as you are.

Take this time to pause, breathe, and rest in the love that has always been within you.

Dr John McSwiney is currently a member of the Course Advisory Committee for the *Master of Business Administration* accreditation project at AGE and contributing to the 'culture of scholarship'.

Associate Professor Christopher McLeod is currently Course Coordinator (Music) at AGE.

Congratulations to **Jim** and **Greg** on their recent blog (04.09.2025) – **Wilful AI Blindness and Negligence in University Assessment** - *Musicum20.com*

Wilful AI Blindness and Negligence in University Assessment

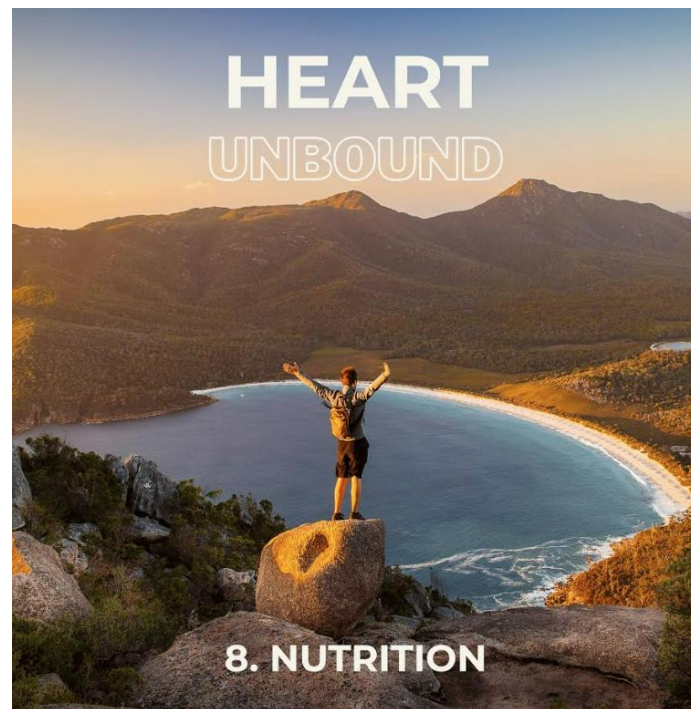
Jim Mienczakowski & Greg Whateley

September 2025

The Weekend Australian (30-31 August 2025) recently published an article by an academic claiming nearly 15 years teaching experience at Melbourne Uni (which he describes as Australia's top university). It was sad and troubling reading.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_ce3db3f586c9482ea356d8d1b1a41978.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **John** and **Christopher** on their recent (04.09.2025) media production – **Nutrition – Nourishing your body with love – Heart Unbound Program – Meditation**



The recording is available at -
<https://on.soundcloud.com/d479Yr3yRNXVMdNCCx>

What you choose to put into your body is more than fuel; it is a reflection of how you value yourself. This meditation invites you to see nutrition not as restriction or obligation, but as an act of love, respect, and care for the vessel that carries you through life.

Through gentle guidance, you will be encouraged to:

- *Listen deeply to your body's wisdom and signals*
- *Release old patterns of shame, guilt, or neglect around food*
- *Embrace nourishment as a daily ritual of self-respect*
- *Connect with gratitude for the abundance that sustains you*

This is not about diets or rules. It is about shifting the conversation with your body to one based in kindness and compassion. As you pause, breathe, and reflect, you will rediscover food as a sacred exchange of energy, a way of honouring the life within you.

Nourishing your body with love is one of the most radical acts of self-care. May this meditation help you eat, live, and thrive from a place of gratitude and heart.

Dr John McSwiney is currently a member of the Course Advisory Committee for the *Master of Business Administration* accreditation project at AGE and contributing to the 'culture of scholarship'.

Associate Professor Christopher McLeod is currently Course Coordinator (Music) at AGE.

Congratulations to **Al** on his recent composition (04.09.2015) – **Do you see it now** – *Devices Unknown* – 4:48



The song can be viewed /heard on –

Youtube - <https://youtu.be/M1vNkzcXIIQ>

Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/al-finco/do-you-see-it-now>

and

Bandcamp - <https://alfinco.bandcamp.com/track/do-you-see-it-now>



Alastair Finco is an assistant professor at AGE teaching *musicology*.

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (05.09.2025) – **Teaching with intention: personal sustainability** - *Musicum20.com*

Teaching with Intention: Personal Sustainability

Christopher McLeod

September 2025

The Philosopher and Transcendentalist David Henry Thoreau inspired by former enslaved woman Zilpha White constructed a small cabin in the woods. The premise simple: to live a meaningful life devoid of distractions. Thoreau lived this lifestyle for two years on the edge of Walden Pond near Concord Massachusetts. The result was the book Walden or Life in the Woods. His tome became a manual of guidance on simple and minimalistic living. Of carefully managing the process of work and life in an equilibrium of cyclic repetition. In other words: the avoidance of burnout.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_f4fbdcbf168440e4b598d142c5da25e6.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Tom** on his recent blog (05.09.2025) – **Drunk driving on the information superhighway** - *Musicum20.com*

Drunk driving on the Information Superhighway

Tom O'Connor

September 2025

The internet promised us a sleek, six-lane expressway of knowledge. Instead, it often feels like we're cruising down a potholed backroad with half the drivers texting, three blasting conspiracy theories through megaphones, and at least one reversing at full speed because they "did their own research." Welcome to the world of digital drunk driving—no alcohol required, just a reckless lack of judgment and a Wi-Fi signal.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_d1004bdd126e49f9b46bc628db5a8b3e.pdf](#)

The **Musicum20 2025 symposium program** has been finalised with presentations by a number of AGE staff – on the international stage.



Presentations from AGE will include –

Tuesday, October 21 (London time)

10.00 – Emeritus Professor **Greg Whateley** (F2F) – The Next 5 (Years) -

https://www.musicum20.com/files/ugd/6113ad_ad083e7f7a5c43188158ddfd225d30dc.pdf

11.00 – Associate Professor **Christopher McLeod** (Online) – Composing from anywhere – emergence of the handheld composition studio -

6113ad_fe8032db0e524cbd87971d25df1ab8b4.pdf

15.30 – Emeritus Professor **Greg Whateley** (F2F) – The implausible dream -

6113ad_bf1c441df2694d81a08242cca09f5485.pdf

Wednesday, October 22 (London time)

10.00 – Emeritus Professor **Jim Mienczakowski** (Online) – Five more years and ... the boom becomes an echo - 6113ad_418d2411436c4953bbc72b1c84c373ef.pdf

14.000 – Associate Professor **Tom O'Connor** (F2F) – Integrity in a digital age -

6113ad_e32b81bd38ad4941bfd6218a7e77e79d.pdf

The event boasts *23 presentations over three days* – each highlighting a chapter from the published book (proceedings) –

Whateley, G., Bofinger, I., Kopanakis, D. and Szram (2025) **The Next 5 (years)**. Intertype ISBN 978-1-7640856-1-8 - [The Next 5](#)

The full program can be viewed at - [London 2025 | musicum20](#)

The symposium is being held in Greenwich London at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance - [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#)



The event is proudly sponsored by –



The Academy of Music and Performing Arts – [AMPA - Academy of Music and Performing Arts - AMPA | Academy of Music and Performing Arts](#)



Campus Q (invigilator Plus) - [Campus Q | Australian education software solutions | Sydney | CampusQ](#)

The inclusion in the 2025 Musicum20 symposium also accommodates an international level benchmarking opportunity – referred to as *level 3 (international)* –

See - Self-assurance supported by benchmarking - [6113ad_76a97e2709b64a2880055366e6b4ef48.pdf](#)

Associate Professor Christopher McLeod (Course Coordinator – Music) is also being formally inducted into the Musicum20 membership giving him international access and benchmarking opportunities - [Associate Professor Christopher McLeod | musicum20](#)

Congratulations to **Sam** on his recent blog (08.09.2025) – **The Primacy of Knowledge, Education, and Information for a Better Future** - *Musicum20.com*

The Primacy of Knowledge, Education, and Information for a Better Future

Sam Corcoran

September 2025

*Human progress rests on knowledge—the cumulative refinement of understanding that enables us to explain, predict, and reshape reality. David Deutsch, in *The Beginning of Infinity*, argues that problems are inevitable but solvable through “good explanations” that withstand criticism and evolve. Education, then, is not the rote transfer of facts but the cultivation of critical inquiry—the ability to generate and test explanations in pursuit of truth.*

*Steven Pinker, in *Enlightenment Now*, supports this claim with historical evidence: where education expands and information flows freely, human welfare improves. The spread of literacy in Europe fuelled political reform; the open exchange of scientific ideas drove advances in medicine; the rise of the internet, despite its flaws, democratized access to knowledge on a global scale. Conversely, censorship in authoritarian regimes, from Soviet-era science suppression to modern internet firewalls, threatens to stall discovery and innovation.*

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_2acbbd65524445d9b9c82dfd04b827da.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (09.09.2025) – **Work hard and be kind**
- *Musicum20.com*

Work hard and be kind

Greg Whateley

September 2025

*Inspired by a poster I saw recently I had pause to ponder the two best pieces of advice I could possibly give to higher education graduating students (and I do) – **work hard** and **be kind**. In a world that often feels unnecessarily complex and somewhat chaotic - certain truths remain timeless. Among the simplest and most profound is a guiding mantra - "Work hard and be kind." These words, unassuming yet powerful, encapsulate values that transcend cultures, eras, and professions. They do not require privilege or special talent—only dedication and empathy.*



The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad 515ea4278cf74589be6b30577854cb03.pdf](https://6113ad515ea4278cf74589be6b30577854cb03.pdf)

Benchmarking at AGE

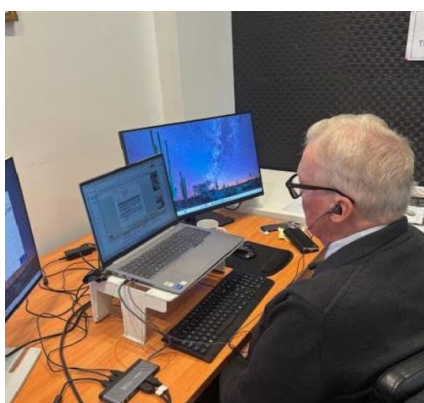
Benchmarking is a vital aspect of AGE operations and is conducted at three levels.

See – Self-assurance supported by benchmarking (2025) -

[6113ad_76a97e2709b64a2880055366e6b4ef48.pdf](#)

Level 2 involves 8 institutions in all with a comparative focus on such things as *grade distribution, EFTSL, attrition, overall pass rates, academic integrity and moderation*.

On September 9, AGE (represented by Associate Professor **Tom O'Connor**) continued its participation in external benchmarking (Level 2) activities with a number other similar private Higher education Providers.



Sessions are conducted in hybrid form – across three States

The meeting was very well conducted by **Dr Lisa Cary** from *Polytechnic Institute of Australia* (PIA) and included (on this occasion) members **Associate Professor Bron Harrison** (*Sydney Metropolitan*), **Professor Christophe Doche** (*Sydney Institute*), **Hamid Salarian** (*SISTC*), **Dr Monjur Ahmed** (*AAHE*) and **Wajeeha Butt** (*UBSS*).

The meeting (#8, 2025) first focused on reviewing the comparative data in areas such as *Grade Distribution* and *Academic Integrity* breaches. This has been put into table form to enable easier comparison.

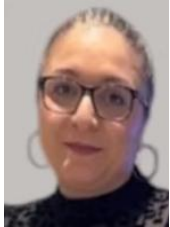
The group plans to expand its interests into looking at Moderation processes as well as Course Architecture and Course review processes. This group (Level 2) is very productive and works well together.



Associate Professor Tom O'Connor is our representative with this ongoing project.

The most recent meeting of the **AGE Finance Committee** was scheduled for Friday September 12 at 1pm.

The Committee Chair is **Alessia Calabrese**



For detail on Alessia see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

The *Finance Committee* is a standing committee of the AGE Board of Directors – see *AGE Governance Charter* - [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#) – pp12-15

The most recent *Executive Management Committee* meeting was scheduled for **September 16** at 9am

The agenda included –

S2 Update

Summer School option 2025/2026

Early Childhood Education Update

Social Work Update

Master of Business Administration Update

Bachelor of Music update

Renewal of Registration update

CRICOS Increase Update

Workforce Plan

Other Business

The meeting was chaired by **Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley** ably supported by **Associate Professor Christopher McLeod**

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (12.09.2025) – **On thinking about the future and moving forward** - *Musicum20.com*

On thinking about the future and moving forward

Greg Whateley

September 2025

*I have accepted the role of moderator of an upcoming symposium in London in October 2025. The focus is **The Next 5 (years)** and the emphasis is on predicting what things would look like in the following five years. The effort began with a twenty-year prediction that became almost impossible – given the speed of change and the unpredictability of what was ahead. Framed to a shorter five-year period the responses (papers) flew in from around the world – Australia, Macau (China), United Kingdom, Japan, France and Thailand. Also most interesting is a snapshot (prediction) across numerous Sectors including - corporate governance; music education; global business; music composition; global financial markets; business education and training; 'skills without borders'; global economic and geopolitical shifts; ES; AI skills gap; state-based funding in Asia; and creative industry challenges. Essentially - a 'Pot Pouri'*

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_067f17f982eb40699a8edbfb200fbfba.pdf](https://www.musicum20.com/6113ad_067f17f982eb40699a8edbfb200fbfba.pdf)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (12.09.2025) – **About Musicum20**
- *Musicum20.com*

About Musicum20

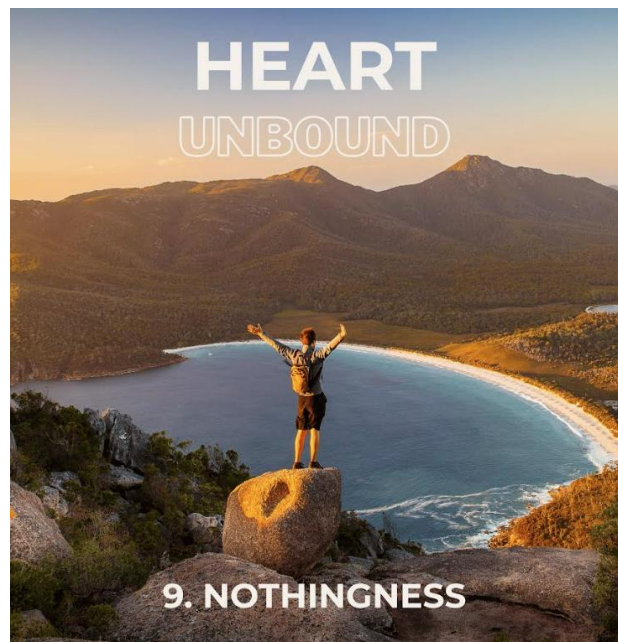
Greg Whateley

September 2025

On the eve of the eleventh (11) symposium of Musicum20 in October in Greenwich, London at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance – [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#) - it seems appropriate to share a bit of the history of Musicum20 – now in its thirteenth (13) year – and perhaps provide a hint of future developments and initiatives.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_2aaf8aeb2bf649a19101f8b447d52b16.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **John** and **Christopher** on their recent (12.09.2025) media production – **Nothingness – Embracing the Sacred Pause – Heart Unbound Program – Meditation**



The recording is available at - <https://on.soundcloud.com/ATiNbBea4hBGteyzbq>

In a world that often measures you by what you do, what you achieve, or how quickly you move, it can feel unsettling to stop. Yet nothingness is not absence; it is presence without demand. It is the space where your heart exhales, where silence becomes a teacher, and where being is enough.

In this meditation, I invite you to step into that sacred pause. To let go of the need to fix, to strive, to become, and instead to simply rest in the mystery of what already is. Here, in the stillness, you may discover a deeper fullness than any doing can bring.

Take a breath. Let yourself unclench from the urgency of the world and allow the pause to hold you.

Dr John McSwiney is currently a member of the Course Advisory Committee for the *Master of Business Administration* accreditation project at AGE and contributing to the 'culture of scholarship'.

Associate Professor Christopher McLeod is currently Course Coordinator (Music) at AGE.

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent performance (12.09.2025) with *The Melbourne Sinfonia*



The program – ‘Opera’s Greatest Hits’ – was conducted by **Joannes Roose** - [Our Musical Director](#) | and featured Soprano – **Lee Abrahmsen** - leeabrahmsen.com



For more about the concert program - melbournesinfonia.org.au



For more about the Melbourne sinfonia - [About](#) |



For more about Associate professor Christopher McLeod - [Associate Professor Christopher McLeod](#) | [musicum20](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (16.09.2025) – **The importance of integrity**
- *Musicum20.com*

The Importance of Integrity

Greg Whateley

September 2025

***Integrity** is often described as the quality of being honest and - having strong moral principles. In Australia, as elsewhere, integrity forms the backbone of trust and respect in society, influencing everything from personal relationships to workplace culture and community wellbeing. If we can maintain our integrity – we have been successful.*

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_f77061c888cf40248aff0d45c28dbe44.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Tom** on his recent blog (16.09.2025) – **Greenwich** - *Musicum20.com*

Greenwich

Tom O'Connor

September 2025

Greenwich, located on the River Thames in southeast London, has played a pivotal role in British and global history, its significance stretches from royal heritage and maritime power to scientific discovery and international timekeeping.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_e79885b052a84201a8f2d8cabd6aacd7.pdf](#)

The most recent **AGE Board of Directors** meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 26 at 3.30pm.



The meeting was chaired by **Professor John Tarrant**

For Board membership details and profiles see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

Public Holiday on Friday September 26

There was a public holiday scheduled for FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26



‘AFL Grand Final Day, officially known as “Friday before the AFL Grand Final” or “AFL Grand Final Friday,” is Victoria’s newest public holiday, introduced in 2015. This regional public holiday occurs annually on the Friday preceding the Australian Football League Grand Final, creating a long weekend for Victorian residents to celebrate Australia’s premier football event.

The public holiday specifically applies to Victoria only and falls on the Friday before the AFL Grand Final, which traditionally takes place on the last Saturday in September at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).’



AGE was closed for the day

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (18.09.2025) – **What is the difference between scholarship and research- Musicum20.com**

What is the difference between scholarship and research

Greg Whateley

September 2025

*In academic - and professional settings - the terms **scholarship** and **research** are often used interchangeably (and usually incorrectly). They refer to distinct concepts. Understanding the difference is important for students, educators, administrators and professionals who engage with knowledge creation and dissemination. This is particularly relevant to non-research teaching only institutions – which is the case for many private providers across Australia.*

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_d67c23a894bb4ba19598437e61bb2dfe.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent creative work (19.09.2025) – **Mania Rising**
Blue Insights –

Mania Rising

What are we really telling ourselves in the moments of quiet?



The full piece is accessible at - [Mania Rising. What are we really telling ourselves in... | by Christopher McLeod | Blue Insights | Sep, 2025 | Medium](#)

Congratulations and thank you to **Tom, Rohit and Mahnoosh** for their efforts around submitting the latest *TSCI report* in a timely way (September 19, 2025) –



The Tertiary Collection of Student Information (TCSI) system required data this time around students at AGE.

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (18.09.2025) – **Top Five Cybersecurity Issues for Higher Education** - *Musicum20.com*

Top Five Cybersecurity Issues for Higher Education

Greg Whateley

September

The higher education sector in Australia faces increasing cybersecurity challenges, with universities and colleges frequently targeted by cybercriminals. Sensitive research data, personal student information, and critical infrastructure make these institutions prime targets. Inspired by a recent book by Dr Monjur Ahmed – Cyber Security Leadership – led me to consider what I thought are the top five (5) cybersecurity threats to higher education (not in any particular order).

See – Cyber Security Leadership (2025) - [Cyber Security Leadership](#)

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_f9cf0bfe0af645e5a0d131d7ad4175e6.pdf](#)

Benchmarking at AGE

Benchmarking is an important aspect of our self-assurance work at AGE. We are currently involved in three levels of interaction – **Level 1** (a three-way project); **Level 2** (an eight-way project) and **Level 9** (a twelve-way international project).

See – **Self-assurance supported by benchmarking** (June 2025) -

[6113ad_76a97e2709b64a2880055366e6b4ef48.pdf](#)

A third meeting of the Level 1 project (AGE, AMPA and KIHE) was conducted online on September 18, 2025. The focus of the meeting was fourfold –

- *Timelines associated with re-accreditation/renewal of registration*
- *Scholarship*
- *Moderation (including normalisation)*
- *Cybersecurity*

Several stimulus papers were distributed prior to the meeting including –

Scholarship can take on many forms in a business school environment (April 2025) -

[6113ad_13f3e8dd22d74ef69115b627c09751a1.pdf](#)

Understanding scholarship – and customising it for your own institution (May 2025) -

[6113ad_d79ff452410c4a1ea824f4929a8e4584.pdf](#)

What is the difference between scholarship and research (September 2025) -

[6113ad_d67c23a894bb4ba19598437e61bb2dfe.pdf](#)

Moderation and benchmarking – powerful tools (August 2025) -

[6113ad_5c4f0a72138c4fb699e3fe51050905e3.pdf](#)

And

Top five cybersecurity issues for higher education (September 2025) -

[6113ad_f9cf0bfe0af645e5a0d131d7ad4175e6.pdf](#)

Participants, this time around included –



Professor Ian Bofinger (CEO and ED, AMPA)



Emeritus Professor Clive Smallman (CEO, KIHE)



Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley (CEO and ED, AGE)

For more about AMPA – [AMPA - Academy of Music and Performing Arts - AMPA | Academy of Music and Performing Arts](#)

For more about KIHE – [Home - Kingsford Institute of Higher Education](#)

For more about AGE - [School | Australian Guild of Music Education | Australia](#)

The next **Level 2** session is scheduled for October 7, 2025 (*Associate Professor Tom O'Connor*)

The next **Level 3** session is scheduled for October 21-23, 2025 (*Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley, Associate Professor Tom O'Connor, Associate Professor Christopher McLeod and Emeritus Professor Jim Mienczakowski*).

Congratulations to **Tom** on his recent meeting (19.09.20225) with Federal Minister Hon **Chris Bowen** MP in Melbourne.



The discussions centred around climate and energy, Transnational Education (TNE) opportunities, and efforts to incorporate climate/energy dialogue into postgraduate awards (*in our case the proposed Master of Business Administration*).

The proposed MBA structure is best captured in the following table –

PROPOSED COURSE STRUCTURE		
Code	Name	Credit Points
Year 1 Core		
MBACORE801	Technology and Business Information	10
MBACORE802	Strategic Leadership in the Digital Era	10
MBACORE803	Data-Driven Decision Making	10
MBACORE804	Financial Strategy in the Digital Age	10
MBACORE805	The Future of Work: AI, Automation, and Human Capital	10
MBACORE806	Marketing in the Age of Personalization	10
MBACORE807	Business Models for the Creative & Tech Economy	10
MBACORE808	Law, Ethics, and Intellectual Property in Digital Business	10
Year 2: MBA Creative Industries Specialisation		
CREATIV901	Creativity, Storytelling & Technology	10
CREATIV902	Design Thinking and Innovation in Creative Businesses	10
CREATIV903	Creative Entrepreneurship: Building a Scalable Business	10
CREATIV904	Digital Content Creation and Monetization	10
CREATIV905	Virtual Production, Gaming, and the Metaverse	10
CREATIV906	Managing High-Performance Creative Teams	10
Year 2 MBA Technology Leadership Specialisation		
TECLEAD901	Digital Transformation and Enterprise Innovation	10
TECLEAD902	Cybersecurity, Risk, and Compliance	10
TECLEAD903	AI and Automation in Business Strategy	10
TECLEAD904	Cloud Computing and Scalable Tech Solutions	10
TECLEAD905	The Future of Blockchain and Web3 in Business	10
TECLEAD906	High-Performance Tech Leadership & Culture	10
Year 2 MBA Project Management Specialisation		
PROJMAN901	Advanced Project Management in the Digital Age	10
PROJMAN902	Risk, Crisis, and Change Management	10
PROJMAN903	Financial and Contract Management for Projects	10
PROJMAN904	Managing Global and Virtual Teams	10
PROJMAN905	AI, Data Analytics, and Decision-Making in Projects	10
PROJMAN906	Sustainable and Ethical Project Leadership	10
Year 2 Core		
MBACORE901	MBA Capstone Project (Double Unit)	20

With a solid emphasis on technology – the design of the program lends itself to the key issues discussed.

The MBA proposal for accreditation is in the final stages with a careful consideration of the Expert Opinion recommendations being followed up and embedded.



Associate Professor Tom O'Connor is currently Academic Director at the *Australian Guild of Education* (Melbourne)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (22.09.2025) – **Invigilated Exams – Ensuring Integrity and Equity in Assessment** - *Musicum20.com*

Invigilated Exams - Ensuring Integrity and Equity in Assessment

Greg Whateley

September 2025

Invigilated exams - also known as proctored assessments - are a cornerstone of academic and professional evaluation. These exams involve direct supervision by an invigilator to ensure that all candidates adhere to established rules and standards. In the context of education and certification, invigilated exams play a vital role in maintaining fairness, credibility, and the value of qualifications. Invigilation can be done in person OR online.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_5ca24ec7b2be483ea22649a3cc7bac84.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Tom** on his recent blog (22.09.2025) – **Fear and Loathing in Higher Education** - *Musicum20.com*

Fear and Loathing in Higher Education

Tom O'Connor

September 2025

C. P. Snow's novels on life in Cambridge, especially 'The Masters', could be retitled Fear and Loathing in Higher Education. Forget the noble pursuit of truth—Snow shows us that the real sport in academia is inflating one's ego while quietly suspecting everyone else of plotting your downfall and engineering theirs.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_85b25f0df8214e9285df67232dff3b0c.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg and Tom** on their recent blog (23.09.2025) – **Higher Education Policy and Procedure Design and Approval** - *Musicum20.com*

Higher Education Policy and Procedure Design and Approval

Greg Whateley and Tom O'Connor

September 2025

The effective design and approval of policies and procedures are fundamental to the governance and quality assurance frameworks within higher education institutions. There are a number of important considerations with regard to an approach for developing, reviewing, and approving policies and procedures, ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements and institutional objectives in the Australian context.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_103295189cdb4d9d90839962b1f12076.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Art** (and his company 101 Music Pty Ltd) on the sponsorship of the 2025 **GEMA Awards** (TV/Streaming Australia-New Zealand)



The award ceremony was conducted on Friday, September 19 at the CIC Telstra Building, Sydney



For more about the GEMA Awards - [GEMA ANZ | HOME](#)

For more about 101 Audio - [What We Do | 101 Music PTY LTD](#)



For more about **Associate Professor Art Phillips** - [BIO – ART PHILLIPS | 101 Music PTY LTD](#)

Community Music Event – pedagogy in action

Congratulations to **Sam** who conducted a three-hour music workshop/community music event in *Emerald* on Sunday, 21 September 2025.

10 children (accompanied by parents) attended – ranging from 7 weeks old to 7 years old – in Sam's words 'it was joyous morning'



Most children were 2.5 years old - this is a challenging age to keep focussed, so he deployed some *Orff Schulwerk* approaches including - playing simple musical games; clapping in time to the music; stomping in time with the music; dancing and freezing when the music stops; and being creative with world instruments.



He also channelled some *Kodály*, wherein they sang some familiar folk songs/nursery rhymes all together.



He further encouraged a few kids to perform - well more accurately - they insisted on performing! And all Sam had to do was get out of the way!

'It was beautiful to see the power of music to build community in action.'



Assistant Professor Sam Corcoran teaches Pedagogy in the Bachelor of Music program.

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent article (23.09.2025) – **Alternative modes of delivery**
- *Musicum20.com*

Alternative Modes of Delivery

Greg Whateley

September 2025



As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic (now an almost forgotten event) there has been an involuntary shift to online learning – in its many manifestations. In turn, this has highlighted and facilitated a range of alternative modes of delivery for international students. These are sometimes referred to as flexible modes of delivery and at other times as alternative modes of delivery. The traditional face-to-face mode was overtaken (certainly for a period of time) by a range of alternative arrangements that catered for lockdowns and community restrictions. Arguably, the most challenging part of those restrictions had been their unpredictability, making planning and strategy difficult. The option of having alternatives to face-to-face delivery ready and available was a most-valued commodity at the time.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_0caeaebce6234b4cbe41ea26073e5a6c.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (24.09.2025) –**Invigilated exams – ensuring integrity and equity in assessment** – *Invigilator Plus*

Invigilated exams - ensuring integrity and equity in assessment

Invigilated exams - also known as proctored assessments - are a cornerstone of academic and professional evaluation. These exams involve direct supervision by an invigilator to ensure that all candidates adhere to established rules and standards. In the context of education and certification, invigilated exams play a vital role in maintaining fairness, credibility, and the value of qualifications. Invigilation can be done in person OR online.

The full article can be viewed at - [Invigilated exams - ensuring integrity and equity in assessment — invigilatorPlus Blog](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** and **Tom** on their recent blog (25.09.2025) – **The importance of HESF Standards 5 and 6** - *Musicum20.com*

The Importance of HESF Standards 5 and 6

Greg Whateley and Tom O'Connor

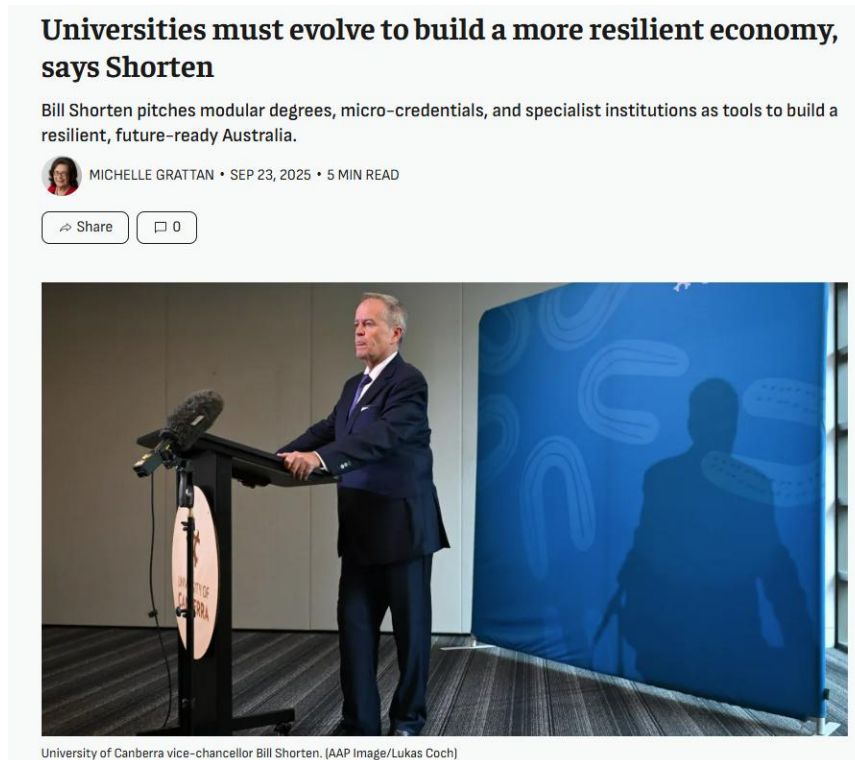
September 2025

The Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 (HESF) sets out the minimum requirements for higher education providers in Australia. These standards (referred to as the 'Threshold Standards') are designed to ensure quality, consistency, and integrity across the sector. Among the various standards, Standards 5 and 6 are particularly significant as they relate to institutional quality assurance and governance, which are fundamental to maintaining trust and excellence in higher education.

See – What are the Threshold Standards and why are they important (September 2024) - [6113ad_8584b9e8e229438d830f63af90c030dd.pdf](#)

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_090b49407fa34d32a81578d596f8976a.pdf](#)

An interesting article by **Michelle Grattan** (*the mandarin.com.au*) on 23 September 2025 captures the elements of a key-note speech by *Bill Shorten* (current VC of Canberra University/former Federal Minister) is well worth a read –



The full article can be viewed at - [Universities must evolve to build a more resilient economy: Shorten](#)

The key issues include (though not limited to) –

- Breaking the monopoly of the three-year degree
- Creation of micro-credentials
- Structural fragility of Australia's economy
- Faster learning pathways are required
- Using technology to move beyond 'batch-processing students'
- Funding required to remove debt from the individual
- Specialist universities

This is a good read for those interested in the future of higher education.

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (29.09.2025) – **Key inclusions for a Higher Education Governance Review** - *Musicum20.com*

Key Inclusions for a Higher Education Governance Review

Greg Whateley

September 2025

A governance review in higher education is a vital process for maintaining standards, ensuring accountability, and fostering continuous improvement within universities and colleges. This review identifies strengths, addresses weaknesses, and provides recommendations to enhance governance structures and practices. Undertaking a review (best done by an independent expert) usually considers a range of foci – not always all those listed depending on the nature of the organisation and the history of the institution.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_9320272f3f604eeca4a0aa2b7637526a.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Art** (and his team at 101 Music Pty Ltd) on a finalist nomination in the 'Music and Sound Awards 2025'



The nomination is for the SKY TV New Zealand – *Sky Movies January 2025 promo* (0.59) -

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/57c29e6o6bj3rsoimsiwr/SKY-promo-NZ-using-101-Music-s-catalogues-powers-music-group-copy.mp4?rlkey=ihr0uknet5lbwbctzd6r7rglp&st=ln9i2spr&dl=0>

Art Phillips is a member of the Bachelor of Music Course Advisory Committee

For more about **Associate Professor Art Phillips** see – [BIO – ART PHILLIPS | 101 Music PTY LTD](#)

For more about **101 Music Pty Ltd** see - [What We Do | 101 Music PTY LTD](#)

Art will be attending and presenting at the *Production Music Association Conference 2025* at Universal City Los Angeles on Tuesday, October 7 –

The poster is for a conference session titled "Mitigating the Risk: The 3L's Legalities, Liabilities & (the art of) Listening". It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, from 3:15pm to 4:15pm at the Hilton Universal City. The session is moderated by Art Phillips. The poster features five speakers: Art Phillips, Judith Finell, Peter Anderson, Brad Marraodi, and Alex Black. It is sponsored by 101 and presented by all rights management.

**Mitigating the Risk:
The 3L's Legalities, Liabilities
& (the art of) Listening**

TUESDAY 10.07 | 3:15pm-4:15pm HILTON UNIVERSAL CITY

MODERATOR:

ART PHILLIPS
Owner, Director & CEO,
101 Music Pty Ltd®

JUDITH FINELL
Musicologist & President,
Judith Finell MusicServices Inc.

PETER ANDERSON
Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

BRAD MARRAODI
VP, Sync Catalogue Services &
Music Production, BMG

ALEX BLACK
CEO, Sonoton Music

Sponsored by **101**
emotional solutions
through music

**PMC
2025**
Presented by **all**
rights management

Art is the presenter/moderator of - **Mitigating the Risk: The 3Ls - Legalities, Liabilities & (the art of) Listening**

He writes -

‘Whether you are a production music label, a music sub-publisher or distributor representing multiple music libraries, a music creator or an industry business entrepreneur - it is in your greatest interest to be pro-active and highly alert of what is being created and what you are representing. The ‘chain of responsibility’ starts with the music composer and runs on through to the music producer, to the original music publisher and label, on through to the territorial sub-publisher representatives who license music to their local clients.

It begins with education and whether the trustworthy creative who composes the original work bothers to take on the role of a true musicologist, in one’s own right, to understand copyright and ‘what is an infringement’. We’ll be discussing how to police infringements, and the hot topic of the decade, **AI and AI detection tools** to help mitigate and keep the copyright shark well away from your reality.’

Art Phillips is a member of the Bachelor of Music Course Advisory Committee

For more about **Associate Professor Art Phillips** see – [BIO – ART PHILLIPS | 101 Music PTY LTD](#)

Congratulations to **Greg and Tom** on their recent blog (30.09.2025) – **What needs to be incorporated into a Cyber Security Policy for a Higher Education Institution**

- *Musicum20.com*

What needs to be incorporated into a *Cyber Security Policy* for a Higher Education Institution

Greg Whateley and Tom O'Connor

September 2025

A comprehensive and informed cyber security policy is critical for higher education institutions to safeguard sensitive data, support academic operations, and maintain trust among students, staff, and stakeholders. A policy of this nature is also an essential part of academic integrity.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_b87586af3123460fa266969fc2265f54.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent acceptance - as a full professional member - into the *Australian Academy of Cinema Television Arts* (AACTA)



The Academy is a high-profile organisation that allows its members (professional level) to vote in the upcoming awards ceremony.

For more AACTA see - [Home | AACTA](#)



For more about Associate Professor **Christopher** McLeod see - [Associate Professor Christopher McLeod | musicum20](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent performance (September 20, 2025) with **Dami Im**



Associate Professor **Christopher** McLeod – second from the left

Western Region Concert Band presents An Evening with...
Dami Im

Western Region Concert
Band presents An Evening
with... Dami Im

Saturday, 20 September, 7:30pm



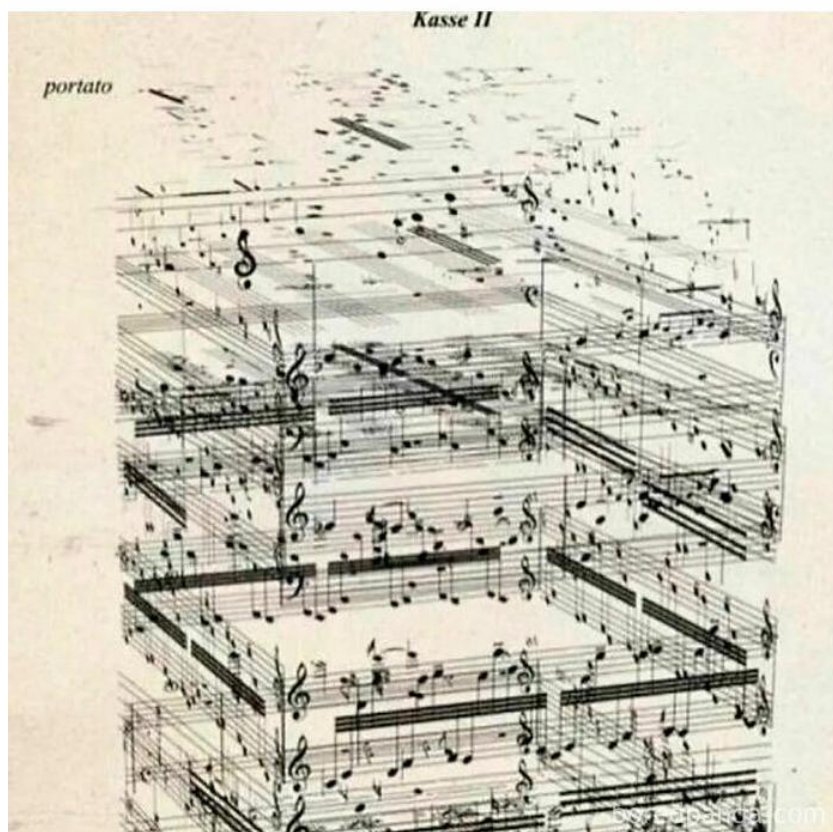
The event was titled: **Westgate Regional Concert Band presents an evening with Dami Im.**

The concert was at the Clocktower Centre in Moonee Ponds -



Chris was delighted to be part of the world premiere of Dani's new single – **Bubble-**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-AEBEsLDro>

Teacher: You're taking too much
liberties, just read the score
The score:



September 2025