



Winter Blues Festival 2023  
'Songwriters Studio'  
Connecting you to music.



Three days of songwriting and performance workshops on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th, leading up to the public performance on Friday 28th July from 5pm to 7pm.

**NEW VENUE: Paramount Picture Theatre,  
392 High St Echuca**

To participate in this year's "Winter Blues Songwriters Studio" scan the QR code above or go to the website. [www.winterblues.com.au](http://www.winterblues.com.au)

There is a \$92 participation fee. Please note we will not be doing "cash on the day" as per previous years.  
**PLACES ARE LIMITED, PLEASE APPLY EARLY!**

### **PLAY WBF HOMEGROWN STAGE!!!**

This year for the first time, we are very excited to be offering four spots on the Festival's Homegrown stage on Saturday to participants of the Songwriters Studio.



If you have any questions contact Michael Pollitt, on [0415 869 658](tel:0415869658) or [mjp@breakneckrecords.com](mailto:mjp@breakneckrecords.com)

*"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." Plato*

The ability to express yourself in a positive and creative way is sometimes difficult for young people in traditional Australian school environments where sport is king. There is now significant neuroscience which shows that playing music is one of the most game-changing positive activities a young person can do to improve their emotional and cognitive abilities. **WBF's Songwriters Studio** helps participants to discover their tribe, and themselves, and explore the fun, joy, and life changing self-confidence that playing music in a group can deliver.

**WBF's Songwriters Studio** is a fun and challenging, two day and one evening, highly interactive workshop, where participants will gain theoretical and practical music industry skills from experienced music industry professionals with a strong focus on original song composition. The skills will then be practically applied via a public concert at the **EchUCA Moama Winter Blues Festival**. **The performance will feature as many original songs as possible.**

**WBF's Songwriters Studio** is designed for all instruments and is for students from 12 to 25 with an intermediate ability level for instrumentalists and beginner to intermediate level for vocalists. Students with learning difficulties are encouraged to attend.

**WBF's Songwriters Studio** encourages freedom of expression and fosters cooperation and team building, and also deals with performance skills, song writing, and Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S). Our outstanding group of industry professional tutors have the experience to answer questions on every

aspect of performance and the business side of music in a practical and useful way.

**WBF's Songwriters Studio** will explore the craft of songwriting and stage performance with an [APRA Songwriting Ambassador](#) as well as [APRA Workshops](#) where participants will register as APRA songwriters, register their original compositions, and complete their first APRA Return! Drum kit, PA. and Microphones provided.

### **Participants to please bring:**

- Original songs completed or partially written (priority will be given to these), and
  - Song titles as ideas, or theme ideas for new original compositions; and
  - List of possible other or 'cover' songs that we can workshop in-between the original songs.
- We kindly request the students to bring their own exercise books, AND copies of lyrics printed for their band mates.
- **Students to please bring their own instruments/amps, strings, strap, leads, picks, sticks, notebooks, lyrics, lyric stands, and chord charts!**

The WBF Songwriters Studio is drug and alcohol free.

### **Songwriters Studio TUTORS 2023**

**Kelly Auty** Vocal specialist. Kelly delivers inspiring shows with her earthy and powerful singing style. She teaches singing and stage-craft to all ages in education centres, schools and privately. Kelly is known for her successful work with young people who want to develop confidence; as well as comfortable, safe singing techniques. Trained classically and in the Jo Estille figures for voice model, she also developed and ran a highly successful

program called “Noisy Girls” over several years for disadvantaged young women in numerous Community Education centres.. Kelly was the MBAS Australian Blues performer of the year in 2017/18.

**Michael Pollitt – Leader** Apart from running a successful social media music marketing business, performing as “Mr. Black & Blues” and with his new band HEAVY MEDICINE nationally and internationally, and running his own record label, Michael was a tutor for the highly successful 2014-16 Melbourne Blues Appreciation Society (MBAS) Youth in Blues program. Michael has received accolades such as: MBAS best debut album, Australian Artist of the year, Best Australian Blues Album, and Best Australian Album by Rhythms Magazine Readers Poll.

### **Shane “Steele” O’Neill**

Shane is a drummer, percussionist, bass player, songwriter and mental health councillor who rose to national prominence in 90’s hit band “Ooh La la”. As a much sort-after drummer Shane can be seen regularly performing around Australia with luminaries. Shane also records with bands and other songwriters including the Widowbirds, and perennial festival favourite The Pigs.

### **Sweet Felicia**

Sweet Felicia charms audiences around Australia with her distinctive and powerful yet touching vocals and bass work. Her band swings hard and her music reminds us of the hot clubs of the 40s and 50s. Sweet Felicia played bass for Lil Fi and the Delta Rhythm Kings for four and a half years and during this time a highlight was supporting the legendary BB King. She has numerous awards to her credit including semi-finalist in the 2010 International Blues Challenge in Memphis USA.

**VENUE: Paramount Picture Theatre, 392 High St Echuca**

### **TIMETABLE**

#### **DAY 1 - Wednesday July 26th, 2023**

**9:00** Participants arrive and situate instruments onstage. Billing, rollcall, introduction to introduce tutors and Songwriters Studio structure. Brief OH&S discussion

**9:30** Our Theme “**Songwriters Studio**” original songs!

**9:45** Entire ensemble and Tutors - Writing an original composition using the 1, 4, 5 chord progression.

Lyrics and melody. Write original “ENSEMBLE PIECE”.

**10:30 Morning Tea**

**11:00** Ensemble Groups selection – choosing and listing songs for performance and creating the initial song list. Original songs have priority!

**11:30 Song-writing Workshop** – Split into four groups with a tutor each to create four new original compositions, lyrics and basic chord structures.

**12:30 Lunch**

**1:30** Acapella Vocal Performance workshop “VOCAL ENSEMBLE” Stagecraft with Kelly

**2.30pm APRA Workshop** - Song Registration process, artist registration, plus registering five new songs, plus any other original songs.

**3:00 Preparing for performance’**. Two hours with Tutor ensemble groups and duos, trios etc. Ensemble groups practice sessions. Ensemble groups each choose a song for performance. Consolidating 11am session. Roving tutors.

**4:50** De-brief of the days’ work, Instructions on what to prepare for day two.

**5:00 Finish.**

#### **DAY 2 - Thursday July 27th, 2023**

**9:00** Review previous day

**9:05** All Participants up onstage to run through progression for ensemble piece “ENSEMBLE PIECE”

**9:30 Guest Tutor (APRA Songwriting Mystery Guest)**

**10:00** Social Media workshop – promote your/our gig

**10:30 Morning Tea**

**11:00** Relocate to various practice rooms for Tutor lead original compositions.

**11:30** Preparing for performance. One hour ensemble groups practice sessions. Roving tutors. Priority on original songs.

**12:30 Lunch**

**1:15 PLAYING MUSIC** – Roving Tutors

- Tutor Ensembles – original comps x 4

- Kids Ensembles – originals or covers

- Run “ENSEMBLE PIECE” and “VOCAL ENSEMBLE”

**4:40** Group discussion of performance format, presentation, and performance costumes.

**4:50 OH&S**

**5.00 finish and clear stage by 5:30pm**

#### **DAY 3 - Friday July 28th, 2023**

**Students to eat lunch before they arrive**

**1.00** Participants arrive and relocate instruments and all stage equipment

**1:30** Dress Rehearsal start

**4:00** Dress Rehearsal hard stop. Participants to eat provided meal (tutors adjourn for dinner)

**4:45 Places for Performance**

**5:00 Performance: First Half**

Ensemble Group piece start, tutor groups, individual groups,

**5:50 Break 15 mins**

**6:05 Performance: Second Half**

Tutor groups, Individual groups, A’Capella group Close

**6:50 Finish**

**7:00 Close (Hard Stop).**