

Marisa Lee Naismith (PhD)

CONTEMPORARY VOICE TEACHER, VOICE RESEARCHER, AUTHOR, INTERNATIONAL PRESENTER, MUSIC INDUSTRY MENTOR, PODCAST HOST

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Dynamic Contemporary Singing Teacher and Voice Researcher with a proven track record at Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, enhancing student engagement and fostering growth mindsets. Specializes in delivering comprehensive singing tuition across a broad range of Contemporary Music styles, demonstrating exceptional adaptability and effective communication in an inclusive learning environment. Recognized for impactful mentorship and innovative student-centred learning strategies, contributing to significant student career advancements.

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jan 2019

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University
Ranking 1 (no revisions required from both Examiner 1 & 2).

The report from examiner 1 was as follows:

This study and thesis is outstanding and a most valuable contribution to the field of vocal pedagogy. Her research is impeccable, her findings most intriguing. I heartily approve and endorse that she be awarded a PhD without reservation.

MASTERS IN MUSIC STUDIES (VOCAL PEDAGOGY)

Jan 2013

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MUSIC STUDIES (VOCAL PEDAGOGY)

Jan 2010

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University

GRADUATE CERT IN MUSIC STUDIES (VOCAL PEDAGOGY)

Jan 2008

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University

EXPERIENCE

CONTEMPORARY VOICE TEACHER

February 2019 - Present

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University

- Individual singing tuition across a broad range of commercial music styles to students across all year levels in the Bachelor of Music Program (Popular Music)
- Identifying individual student targets
- Examining individual vocal exams

CONTEMPORARY VOICE TEACHER

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University (Gold Coast Campus)

February 2015 - November 2018

- Group singing training and master classes across a broad range of contemporary music styles to students across all year levels in the Bachelor of Popular Music Program.

STAGECRAFT TEACHER

Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University (Gold Coast Campus)

February 2015 - November 2018

- Individual and group stage and performance skills training and master classes in the Bachelor of Popular Music Program

SINGING TEACHER & VOCAL COACH

January 2008 - Present

Private Studio

- Individual singing tuition across a broad range of contemporary music styles, including music theatre training to students from 15+ years, from beginner to professional.

SINGING TEACHER/VOICE COACH

February 2016 - November 2022

Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School

- Individual singing tuition across a broad range of contemporary music styles, & music theatre voice training to students from Grades 6 – 12, including HSC music exams preparation.

SINGING AND BUSINESS TEACHER/ PROGRAM DEVELOPER

February 2013 - November 2016

Dance Force

- Group and Individual voice training across a range of contemporary music styles, including musical theatre
- Tertiary and audition preparation
- Business Mentor/Career Advisor
- Program Developer/Examiner for nationally accredited ATOD
- Delivering the following Units:
 - Providing Services as a Freelance Performer - Cert III, Cert IV & Diploma
 - Develop Vocal Techniques - Cert III, Cert IV & Diploma
 - Securing Funding for Projects (Cert IV)
 - Workplace Health and Safety in the Performing Arts Studio (Cert IV)
 - Working with Children in the Performing Arts Studio (Cert IV)

SINGING AND BUSINESS TEACHER/ PROGRAM DEVELOPER.

February 2011 – December 2013

Gold Coast Triple Threat

- Group and Individual musical theatre voice training
- Tertiary and audition preparation
- Business Mentor/Career Advisor
- Program Developer/Examiner for nationally accredited ATOD
- Delivering the following Units:
 - Providing Services as a Freelance Performer - Cert III, Cert IV & Diploma
 - Develop Vocal Techniques - Cert III, Cert IV & Diploma

SINGING TEACHER

February 2010 – December 2010

Queensland Performing Arts Academy

- Group and Individual musical theatre voice training
- Tertiary and audition preparation
- Business Mentor/Career Advisor
- Delivering and assessing the following Units:
 - Develop Vocal Techniques - Cert III, Cert IV

SENIOR SINGING TEACHER - PRIVATE TUITION

February 2009 - December 2010

Hyped Performance Academy

- Individual and ensemble vocal lessons across contemporary music styles, & music theatre

OWNER/OPERATOR/VOICE TEACHER*January 2001 - December 2008*

Moonlighting Productions Academy of Performing Arts

- Marketing & Promotion of the business, (business grew from 3 to 300 students)
- Development of school holiday programs in the Performing Arts,
- Management of 12 staff, including 10 teachers
- Staff development and training,
- Implementing timetables & scheduling class bookings,
- Bookkeeping, payroll and finance reporting,
- Mentoring & music industry advice to emerging artists,
- Organization of mid & end of year concerts,
- Arranged interstate tours, itinerary, workshops and performances in Sydney & Melbourne for our Performance Group,
- Producer for students' professional recording sessions,
- Organization of fundraising events in the local community,
- Supporting local community groups with sponsorships and performance

VOICE TEACHER*January 1997 - December 2001*

Paradise Performers Academy

- Individual and ensemble vocal lessons across contemporary music styles, & music theatre

VOICE TEACHER*January 1989 - December 1993*

Dance ConXion

- Individual and ensemble vocal lessons across contemporary music styles, & music theatre

VOICE TEACHER*January 1988 - December 1989*

Simon Gallaher's Stage & Television School

- Individual and ensemble vocal lessons contemporary

GUEST TEACHING/ LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM, GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Guest Teacher and lecturing in the following courses:

- 2024 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Developing a Sustainable and Inclusive Teaching Business
- 2023 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Developing a Sustainable and Inclusive Teaching Business.
- 2022 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Lecture Developing a Sustainable and Inclusive Teaching Business.
- 2021 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Generating a Sustainable Income from Your Teaching Business
- 2020 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Building a Sustainable Income from Your Teaching Business
- 2018 *Lecture Topics: Rock School Summer School Program (Gold Coast Campus)*

Vocal Health and the Gigging Singer
Vocal technique 101

- 2017 Rock School Summer School Program (Gold Coast Campus)
Lecture Topic: Vocal Health and the Gigging Singer
Vocal technique 101
- 2016 Rock School Summer School Program (Gold Coast Campus)
Lecture Topic: Vocal Health and the Gigging Singer
Vocal technique 101
- 2016 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: 10 Tips of Running a Successful Voice Studio
- 2014 Pedagogy in Practicum 1
Lecture Topic: Secret Singing Business.

INTERNATIONAL – ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS:

Guest Teacher /lecturer at the following institutions:

- 2024 Voice Study Centre – University of Wales, United Kingdom
Lecture Topic: Self-Care for Singers: How to Protect Your Greatest Asset
- 2024 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) San Diego Chapter, San Diego, Cal, USA
Masterclass and Lecture: Singing Contemporary Commercial Music Styles
- 2024 San Diego State University, Diego, Cal, USA
Lecture Topic: Navigating Contemporary Commercial Music styles in the Voice Studio
- 2024 San Francisco Music Conservatory, Cal, USA
Masterclass in Contemporary Commercial Music Styles
- 2024 Poly – Cal Humboldt, Arcata, California, Cal, USA
Masterclass in Contemporary Commercial Music Styles
Lecture Topic: Attributes of a Successful Performer
Vocal Health 101
Building Confidence as a Stage Performer
Technology in the 21st Century Voice Studio
Navigating CCM Repertoire for Sustainability
Singing Contemporary Commercial Music Styles

PUBLICATIONS

Naismith, M.E. (2022). Singing contemporary commercial music styles – A pedagogical framework. Compton Publishing, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Benson, E. A. Robinson-Martin, T & Naismith M. L. (2021). Practicing equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in the singing voice studio, *Voice and Speech Review*, DOI: 10.1080/23268263.2021.1964723

Bartlett, I. & Naismith M. L. (2020). An Investigation of Contemporary Commercial (CCM) Voice Pedagogy: A Class of its Own. *Journal of Singing*, 76(3), 273–282.

BOOK CHAPTERS IN PUBLICATION (2025):

Benson, E. A. Robinson-Martin, T & Naismith M. L. (2025). *Voice and identity*(2025) - Routledge Press
Chapter Title: Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Belonging in the Voice Studio

IN PERSON PRESENTATIONS

DELIVERED AT THE FOLLOWING CONFERENCES:

- 2024 PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference), Santander, Spain
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy: Identifying a Foundational Framework
- 2024 PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference), Santander, Spain
Title: Navigating the Broad Spectrum of Contemporary Commercial Music Styles
- 2024 PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference), Santander, Spain
Title: Choose Your Own Adventure: Student Centered Learning in the Voice Studio Parts 1 & 2
(co-presenters: Dr Travis Sherwood (San Diego State University) & David Sisco (University of New York))
- 2024 PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference), Santander, Spain
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music: How to Build Sustainable Voices
- 2023 Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Chicago, USA
Title: Responding to the Demands of a Dynamic Music Industry.
- 2023 The Voice Foundation's Care of Professional Voice Symposium, Philadelphia, U.S.
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy: It's About Function and Style.
- 2022 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference, Adelaide, SA
Title: Responding to the Demands of an Ever-Evolving Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Landscape.
- 2022 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference, Adelaide, SA
Title: Practising Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Singing Voice Studio.
- 2022 International Conference for Voice Teachers, Vienna, Austria
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Singing Voice Pedagogy - A Digital Approach
- 2022 Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Detroit, USA
Title: Responding to the Demands of a Dynamic Contemporary Commercial Music Landscape.
- 2021 Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Chicago, USA
Title: Practising Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Singing Voice Studio.
- 2021 Association for Popular Music Education Conference, Chicago, USA
Title: Towards a 21st Century CCM Singing Voice Pedagogy.
- 2021 British Voice Association, United Kingdom
Title: The Contemporary Commercial Music Singer.
- 2020 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference - Panel Presentation
Title: Self-Care for Voice Teachers
- 2020 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference –
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Singing Voice Pedagogy: A Digital Approach
- 2020 The Voice Foundation's Care of Professional Voice Symposium, Philadelphia, U.S.
Title: Navigating Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Styles: A Foundational Singing Voice Pedagogy
- 2019 PEVOC (Pan European Voice Conference) – Copenhagen, Denmark

Title: Towards a 21st Century Pedagogical Framework for Singers of Contemporary Commercial Music

- 2019 Australian National Association of Singing Teachers, Brisbane, Queensland,
Title: CCM Repertoire for the Pre-Change Voice Workshop and Masterclass
- 2019 Australian National Association of Singing Teachers, Gold Coast, Queensland,
Title: Keeping it Real: Creating an Authentic Sound Across Contemporary Commercial Music styles
- 2018 The Voice Foundation's Care of Professional Voice Symposium, Philadelphia, U.S.
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy: Style Matters
- 2018 The Voice Foundation's Care of Professional Voice Symposium, Philadelphia, U.S.
Title: Perfect Harmony: The Future of Cross-Over Singing Voice Education in University Music Programs - Panel Presentation
- 2018 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference - Luera, NSW
Title: Profiling the 21st Century Pre-Adolescent Voice Teacher: The Tortoise and the Hare Syndrome
- 2018 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference - Luera, NSW
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy: Fitting a Square Peg into a Round Hole
- 2018, Australian National Association of Singing Teachers, Brisbane, Queensland
Title: The Tortoise and the Hare: Teaching Pre-Pubescent Voices.
- 2017 International Conference for Voice Teachers, Stockholm, Sweden
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal Pedagogy: The Upside-Down Approach
- 2017 Australian National Association of Singing Teachers Gold Coast, Queensland,
Title: CCM Repertoire: A Matter of Style
- 2016 The Voice Foundation's Care of Professional Voice Symposium, Philadelphia, U.S.
Title: CCM Vocal Pedagogy: Fitting a Square Peg into a Round Hole
- 2016 Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre & Higher Degree Research Symposium:
Title: In & Beyond the Academy Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy: As a Matter of Style
- 2015 Pan European Voice Conference, Florence, Italy
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy: A Class of its Own
- 2015 Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing National Conference – Hobart, Tasmania
Title: Contemporary Commercial Music Repertoire: More than Words
- 2014 Australian National Association of Singing Teachers, Mackay, Qld
Title: The Business of Running a Voice Studio (Regional Workshop)

WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Vocology for Singers – an independent international training organisation delivering vocal pedagogy training for voice teachers and other industry personnel
Title: Responding to the Demands of the Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Industry
- 2021 Vocology for Singers
Title: Vocal Hazards for the Professional Singer
- 2017 Australian Voice Association
Title: The 21st Century Voice Studio

Vocology for Singers is an independent international training organisation which has partnered with respected otolaryngologists, vocal coaches, and voice specialists to deliver science-based, reliable, and practical workshops to inform and train singers and voice professionals.

CREATOR & PODCAST HOST

A VOICE AND BEYOND

2021 – Present

- Developer and host of *A Voice and Beyond*, a podcast dedicated to self-care, professional development, and personal growth within the voice community and beyond.
- This platform is also used to advocate for an ethical and inclusive pedagogy
- Features interviews with healthcare practitioners, voice teachers, and music industry professionals, sharing their expertise and insights to benefit the audience's personal and professional journey.
- Solo episodes provide actionable strategies for enhancing self-care, focus, productivity, confidence, energy, and mindset, aiming to empower voice professionals to excel in their fields.
- The podcast has gained a global reach, ranked in the top 0.5% of podcasts worldwide, with almost 1 million downloads from listeners across 103 countries

MENTORING (BUSINESS AND ARTIST DEVELOPMENT)

PERFORMANCE MASTERY COACHING

2021 – Present

- Creator and facilitator of a 12-week ONE TO ONE Performance Mastery Coaching program, focused on empowering individuals to transform their mindset, enhance personal and professional growth, and unlock their full potential.
- Program targets 12 key areas crucial to personal and career development, providing clients with the skills, strategies, and mindset needed to achieve their goals and maximize their impact.
- Designed for individuals seeking significant positive change, including those aiming to advance their careers, build stronger relationships, improve well-being, or overcome limiting beliefs.
- Ideal for emerging artists, young professionals, entrepreneurs, and those navigating career transitions, offering a structured, goal-oriented approach to foster clarity, focus, and actionable direction.
- Delivering one to one coaching which incorporates individualized strategic career planning, including developing business and marketing planning.

AFFILIATIONS

- Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing
- National American Teachers of Singing
- Association of Popular Music Education
- Golden Key Academic Society

SKILLS

- Student Engagement
- Student-Centered Learning
- Inclusive Teaching Environment
- Learning Assessments
- Community involvement
- Growth Mindset
- Positive Role Model and Mentor
- Positive Learning Strategies
- Collaborative learning
- Practical Instructional Methods

- Flexible and adaptive
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Problem-solving abilities
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Effective listening
- Time management abilities
- Effective Communication
- Self-Driven & highly motivated

REFEREES

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Jeannette LoVetri
Founder and Director of The Voice Workshop™ and creator of Somatic Voicework™
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