



PACIFICA COLLEGE OF
eurythmy

NEWSLETTER | January 2023

2022: a united beginning

To start the year strongly after the many uncertainties and disruptions of 2021 we decided to combine the two cohorts of students in all except theoretical subjects for term one. This not only helped everyone feel connected, but also created a warm environment to welcome three new students into the Beta group. Ronja Schneller, Blossom Rubsamen and Sky Anderson (returning from WA) all brought significant if diverse levels of eurythmy experience to the mix and soon bonded with the others.

Patries and Josefin ran the term and created a programme that made the most of having the mixed group, allowing students to experience big ensemble works such as the Zodiac and planetary movements in speech eurythmy, and the beautiful Meditation by Massenet, for violin and piano in tone eurythmy.

Despite illness and floods it was a harmonious term and all reported feeling nourished and supported through working together.





Journey of the Jedi

In order to bring the Alpha students' work in speech and drama to a fitting conclusion in their final year, the bold decision was made by tutors and students to create a movement-based piece of theatre, Journey of the Jedi for the stage as a joint Alpha+ Beta production under Nicole Ostini's expert, patient, and creative guidance. There were significant contributions from all involved to develop the script, devise the movement, develop and cast characters, and

create flow through what turned out to be a 45-minute show with more than 20 scenes! It was a rich and tumultuous process through term two, demanding extra hours and effort from everyone. The result was worth the investment. The students had to meet each other in a new way, many showed hidden talents and together they had the children, teenagers and adults who attended the three performances at SVSS in July totally engaged, laughing and gasping in turn.



Alpha graduation performances

During Term three the Alphas were highly focussed on preparing their final performance programme, Song of the Lyrebird. Josefin and Jan began developing the content collaboratively with them in Term two and took them on tour at the end of August. Josefin organised more than 20 performances for school and adult audiences in 8 Steiner Schools: Samford Valley, Noosa Pengari,

Shearwater (Mullumbimby), Cape Byron, Kamaroi and Lorient Novalis (Sydney), Newcastle and finally at Rainbow Ridge school near Kyogle.

There were intense weeks of practice; preparing advertising; designing, sewing and dyeing costumes, and finally multiple dress-rehearsals managing the many costume changes in real-time, to ensure the programme

flowed without interruption. Anyone who has performed eurythmy professionally will know how easy it is to put eurythmy silk costumes on inside out or backwards, and we had many laughs streamlining the process!



On tour the students rose to all the challenges of a tight schedule of travelling and performing-often having to manage back-to-back shows. The feedback and reviews we have received were incredibly heartening:

...I loved that it wasn't a "concert", that you had chosen the pieces and woven them into a story

...I valued the overall creative conception, and its living and dynamic portrayal... of the vital and pulsating essence of the Australian bush and birdlife...
Leslie, speech artist

...This nuanced, flowing, humorous, serious, engrossing eurythmy performance spoke to me of an ever-evolving contemporary art form that truly speaks to our times.
Virginia, Steiner Ed. CEO

...a captivating eurythmy performance highlighting the outstanding qualities of the first graduating cohort of the Pacifica Eurythmy school...
Lynne, teacher

...The combination of humour and the sublime struck a chord for the youngest to the oldest audience members...
Kira, eurythmist

...I was delighted to witness contributions from four capable artistic Eurythmists, whose expressive work was nuanced and stage worthy. I am very glad to welcome all four of them as professional colleagues
Diane eurythmist

...[the performance's] impact was powerful, and it gave strong advocacy for the reigniting of the art of Eurythmy in Waldorf Schools
Sophia, school leader

There were many invitations to return with student performances in coming years.



The Betas

During this time the Betas continued working steadily together. In term two they experienced narrative eurythmy with the story Tulevai and the Sea. A young boy from class three at SVSS took on the role of Tulevai, and it was beautiful to watch the students engage with him. They worked hard to master the elemental movement required to bring the sea to life. In term three they gave several performances to very engaged kindergarten and home-schooling groups.

The tutors

The tutors were also busy outside Pacifica. Josefin Porteous ran a weekly after-school project in Samford village with children of all ages, and an adult class both of which were well attended. Having finished the Alpha tour she left immediately for Vietnam where she is now teaching 20+ students for two terms in their newly established training. She will return to Pacifica in Term two of 2023.

Jan Baker-Finch taught a block at SVSS, created the annual Class seven fire-eurythmy for the Winter festival and worked with children at Birali, Noosa and Mansfield schools. At Easter she was involved in an experimental performance with contemporary musicians near Stanthorpe, NSW.

At the start of 2022 Sue Simpson and Elien Hoffmans launched an intensive eurythmy course in NZ under the auspices of Pacifica College. They have had a tremendous response and interest continues to grow. Several of



the participants might complete their training with a fulltime period here at Pacifica. In the September break Sue came from NZ for another Movement for Education workshop focussing on Classes 4-6 for teachers which she ran with Sally-Anne Davison and Blossom Rubsamen. The participants worked hard, had a lot of fun and are keen to see the course offered again.

Patries Orange has been teaching in the therapy training in South Africa and travelled there in September for a final block of work with the students before their graduation. In between her stints at Pacifica, she also ran many other courses around the country.

A big ending

One of our goals for the training was to give the students a good foundation for working in education. With their performances behind them, the Alphas were ready to plunge into an intensive term of the study of child development and preparation for being in the classroom, with Sue who had prepared a very rich and comprehensive programme. She collaborated closely with SVSS where students could first observe Sue teaching various classes then try their hand. The whole process was extremely well run and the classroom work was highly appreciated by the school. Patries meanwhile led them deep into the foundations of healing which proved to be the perfect counterpart to the education work.



And then Graduation

On November 26th, in a celebration that encompassed the sublime and the ridiculous, with laughter and tears, eurythmy (of course!) singing, speeches and hilarious skits, Brianna Kairl, Sally-Anne Davison, Alexander Heap and Ty Hungerford received their diplomas in front of 60 friends and supporters. Signed by their tutors and countersigned by the Leader of the Section for Eurythmy and the Performing Arts at the Goetheanum in Switzerland the diplomas are their licence to go out to work as the first Pacifica Eurythmists, a big moment for us all!



Looking forward

We wish you all a spirit-filled Christmas and New Year, and would love to see any of you who able to visit us in Samford next year. Our doors are always open.

Enrolments for 2023 are coming in and as we farewell one cohort, we prepare to welcome the next. The training continues to evolve, and we are learning to adjust to changing circumstances and the needs and capacities of the people who come towards us.

The work goes on!

Do you know anyone who might be interested in the training?

Please direct them to our website: <https://www.pacificaerythmy.com.au/eurythmy>

or tell them to get in touch: pacificacollege@gmail.com

Would you like to help us flourish into the future?

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