

BIO Sep 2011

Michael Griffin is an educator, author and pianist.

Born and bred in Adelaide Australia, Michael completed an undergraduate music education degree in 1984, and began his first appointment as Music Co-ordinator, Sacred Heart College, the following year. The 10 years at SHC were formative years that allowed for great and varied exploration of all things musical and educational, only interrupted by a brief excursion to the Whitsunday Island's to experience life as a professional pianist, as well as a secondment to the Catholic Education Office to run the state music festival. Michael's next major appointment was at Adelaide's renowned special music centre, Brighton. Although a range of positions up to Deputy Head were undertaken at one time or another, the real value of this appointment was learning to pursue excellence with vigour. This was a golden period of ensemble prize achievement for Michael and his choral and jazz ensembles, and of the more than 40 prizes and awards (half of these first prizes), the highlight is probably the Australasian Open Choral Championship 2004. This was the first time a school choir had won this award in the illustrious history of the Sydney Eisteddfod competition. Following this, Michael was awarded the Education and Arts Ministers' Prize in 2006, listed in the Who's Who SA Edition and nominated for a National Teaching Excellence award. Michael completed a Masters in Education Studies through the University of Adelaide in 2006.

With his wife Rae, Michael moved to Dubai in 2006 to take up the position of Head of Arts at Dubai British School, and prompted by speaking invitations set up business as an itinerant consultant in 2009. Now as an international conference presenter, clinician and speaker Michael keeps a busy schedule, working in more than 20 countries since then.

Michael's seminars are not just about music learning. Rather, his intense interest in the general nature of achievement and expertise, motivation, neuroscience, creativity and pedagogy sees him speaking to a variety of audiences of staffs, students and parents. In particular Michael is more regularly being sought as a study skills motivator with large groups of senior students. His presentation '[The Expertise Mindset](#)' specifically addresses intrinsically driven improvement.

Michael has authored books on music and learning as well as a number of professional articles published in Australia, the UK and the Middle East. Trained as a classical pianist, Michael is known for stylistic versatility including popular and jazz styles, and performance credits include a residency at Dubai's iconic Burj al Arab.

Selected highlights

(NB school visits listed separately at <http://www.musiceducationworld.com/?q=workshopsforstudents>)

2011

- Adjudicator: Australian National Eisteddfod, Canberra
- Adjudicator: Mount Gambier Eisteddfod, South Australia
- Featured Presenter: Association Genevoise des Ecoles Privées Geneva 'Pollens Pédagogiques' Geneva, Switzerland

- Keynote: ASME WA Summer School, Perth, Australia
- 2011 & 2010 Special Presenter: *Spring Cantus Salisburgensis* Festival, Salzburg
- Guest Music Educator: Allan's/Billy Hyde's Music Days 2011 Australian Tour
- Facilitator: United Music Teachers of NSW, Australia
- Facilitator: Gippsland SGSMP Staff PD, VIC Australia

2010

- Featured Presenter: European Council of International Schools Nice, France
- Guest Conductor: ISL *Sounds like Music* Festival Lausanne, Switzerland
- Adjudicator: Gold Coast Choral Eisteddfods. Australia
- Guest Presenter: ISME World Conference, Beijing, China
- Facilitator: British Schools of the Middle East Arts Conference, Muscat Oman
- Facilitator: MTAQ Gold Coast, QLD
- Facilitator: MEC, Christchurch New Zealand
- Speaker: ASME, South Australia

Pre 2010

- Guest Clinician: Australian National Choral Association, Adelaide
- Presenter: European Council of International Schools, Hamburg, Germany
- Guest Presenter: ISME World Conference, Bologna, Italy
- Facilitator: APEP Member Schools, Thailand
- Resident musician, Burj al Arab, Dubai United Arab Emirates
- Guest Conductor: Birmingham Young Voices, UK
- Director: Brighton Chamber Choir European Tour
- Guest Conductor: Australian National Choral Association QLD 'Boys to Men' Festival
- Director: *Hope There Is* CD of the Brighton School Choirs
- Director: Brighton Concert Choir China tour
- Conductor: Adelaide Boys' Choir
- Music Director: 'Pirates of Penzance', G&S Society, Adelaide
- Resident musician, Hayman Island, North Queensland, Australia
- Music Director: Catholic Schools' Music Festival, South Australia