

Michael Griffin



Testimonials

Conferences

I particularly enjoyed our Keynote speaker Michael Griffin and wished I could have gone to all of his sessions. Mr Griffin clearly has good credentials as a musician and a music teacher in his own right but he has then gone on and reflected on the influences and experiences that have shaped him and his ideas as a music educator. He has synthesised those views and is now sharing them in an articulate way to a varied audience. I admired the range and depth of the people that he quoted as well as the fact that he was very much in touch with relevant contemporary investigation and thinking. I particularly liked the fact that Michael's talks were well structured but still flexible enough to be responsive to the particular audience, their comments and suggestions. I admired the way that he responded so positively and encouragingly to those who contributed and also liked his openness to other people's ideas. Isn't it terrific when an 'expert' is also interested in new ideas and opens to further discovery?

ASME WA Summer School 2011, Keynote speaker. Comment by Sheena Prince, Albany WA

Michael, I thought your workshop/lecture was the best one I attended at the ECIS 2010 conference. It was thoroughly enjoyable and useful, and I wish I could have attended your other sessions. The way you started was excellent and I like the way you involve your audience and present concepts in such a user-friendly way. I hope we can have you visit and speak at our school.

European Council for International Schools 2010, Nice, France. Featured speaker for Mathematics.

Comment by M. Hawthorn, Head of Mathematics, Oman

I must say that I was really impressed with the course that you did for us on Friday and have recommended the morning session as something that all of our staff would benefit from. I can honestly say that it is by far the most thought provoking INSET that I have undertaken.

British Schools of the Middle East: Arts Conference, 2010, Muscat, Oman. Keynote Speaker.

Comment by John Talbot, Head of Creative Arts, British School of Kuwait

Presentations to staff

Michael, on behalf of the entire music staff (45+) at our school, may I thank you most sincerely for your inspiring, thought provoking and enjoyable presentation today. I have heard nothing but praise from the staff in attendance for your insightful, relevant, engaging and positive discussion. Your passion and expertise are obvious, and I could not have wished for a better start to the year. With every best wish, and in anticipation of another session for staff and/or students in the near future.

Trinity Grammar School, Kew, VIC, PD day Feb 2011. Comment by Michelle Stanic, Director of Music,

(Return invitation as the keynote speaker for whole of staffs PD day Trinity Grammar and Ruyton Girls Grammar, Feb 1 2012. Subject: Motivation, Engagement and Expertise.)

Dear Michael, I loved every moment of your session and was acutely aware that the skills we witnessed was just a fragment of your work. Brilliant! Bravo!

Allans/Billy Hyde Music Educators' Day, Keynote. Comment by Paul Jarman, TSS QLD,

The primary teachers were delighted with your tips for choirs and rushed off to put into practice at rehearsal today. Long may it continue! Having the chance to sit down and just talk about music with you was a huge breath of fresh air. Having an expert come in who speaks the same language and sings from the same hymn sheet has helped my sanity no end!

Comment by Director of Music Helen Long, Garden International School, Malaysia.

Well researched and informed. Presented in a well-structured manner and in a way that gives us much to reflect upon. You have an important part to play in promoting and encouraging music in the crowded curriculum; moreover the aspects of professional development you offer are important to the support and mentoring of music educators.

Comment by Neville Forsyth, Christchurch Music Teachers, New Zealand

Presentations to students

Michael, I have had several boys talk to me about your talk, and I have found myself doing things differently and giving different advice since you came. Clearly you made an impact, partly because you were so clear. Several boys have mentioned your "flow" diagram. That had a great impact. Thank you so much for coming. It would be very good to get you here to talk to other musicians; I do hope we meet up again soon.

Comment by Ralph Allwood, Precentor and Director of Music, Eton College, Windsor UK.

Thank you so very much for the presentations you gave to both our Academic and Music Scholars. Your passion for the subject is infectious and you pitched the material just right to keep everyone engaged and entertained. The neurological evidence for the most effective and efficient practising techniques was particularly fascinating and has certainly given even our most advanced music students some real food for thought. For the teachers too it was wonderful to have an outside speaker backing up with hard scientific evidence all the advice we give in our day to day work. We certainly hope you will be able to come again to inspire the next generation.

Comment by Marcus Pashley, Director of Music, Cranleigh School, Surry, UK.

Dear Michael - The enthusiasm you show for music and singing has been infectious and encouraged students to join. Since your visit to ISL, the numbers of the SHOW CHOIR have increased and the members of the BOYS ONLY vocal group have renewed vigour. With your expertise at our music weekend, you have helped change the image of singing at ISL into something that is fun to do and so very rewarding. Aside from the above, I also wish to thank you for your encouragement of me and my work.

Comment by Veronica Marrie, Head of Music, International School of Lausanne, Switzerland

I organised Michael's visit as guest presenter at ISL after hearing very positive feedback from other teachers at various international schools, and we had a wonderful experience. Along with my colleagues here at ISL, I strongly recommend Michael's presentations.

Comment by Demosthenes Dimitrakoulakos, International School of Luxembourg.

Michael, a huge thank you for a wonderful workshop with our staff and students. My Year 12 class said they all gained so much from it, and they talked about how they would specifically apply it to their individual programs.

Comment by Cathy Holt, Woodleigh School, Victoria

Student voice

The seminars were great and I learned a lot about practicing and the psychology of music. I hope we get another opportunity to do similar workshops again.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mr Griffin's workshops. I learnt a lot more about myself and knowledge in general. Thank you for everything!

The music workshops were very enjoyable; the one about Beethoven amazing! It was great that he played the pieces himself, or got other students to play them for him, that way we could hear the music "live". It was a great learning experience and I would very much like to do it again next year!

Mr Griffin's workshops were really interesting and taught me new things that will be helpful in future. The workshop about Beethoven showed Mr Griffin's wonderful piano skills which made it even more enjoyable. I really appreciated these two days as they clarified some of my doubts about the musical world and life and I strongly thank Mr Griffin for spending his time with us.

The Beethoven workshop was great, especially because he played the pieces so amazingly for us, instead on just delivering boring facts. I learnt a lot.

I found the lecture about the practice and performance really interesting and useful because it answered my questions about the brain and how we can learn certain things. This has inspired me to practise my instrument more.

Students from Lumen Christi Catholic College, NSW Australia (May 2011)

It was awesome to learn new techniques for practising. Ashley

'Flow' really speaks to me. Thanks! Tom

Hard work is more important than natural talent! Jordi

Thanks heaps for talking about flow. Gavin

A very enjoyable and insightful presentation. Max

I really enjoyed your workshop; it gave me new light on how to learn musical pieces. Paxton

Enlightened by this workshop – thanks! I realised I can practise wherever, whenever. Sam