

BIOGRAPHY (current to March 2015)

Michael Griffin (M.Ed Studies, B.Ed, A.Mus.A) is an educator, speaker, author, conductor and pianist.

Griffin's talks are inspired by theory of motivation and the premise that the greatest predictor of progress - music and otherwise - is the quality and the quantity of practice time. Indeed, his latest book *Learning Strategies for Musical Success* investigates these concepts in some detail providing pragmatic solutions for music teachers and students. Griffin also presents to full staffs and student bodies on general learning essentials such as fostering intrinsic motivation and expert learning. He has spoken to groups of staff, students, parents and community audiences in more than 250 schools and conferences in 25 countries around the world. Many of these schools such as Eton, Ardingly, Headington, Bradfield and Cranleigh (UK), United World College South East Asia, Nanyang Girls HS (Singapore), ISL (Luxembourg) and Geelong Grammar School (Australia) are considered world leaders in education.

Griffin has been the Keynote or Consultant Speaker at several global education events including the European Council for International Schools (Hamburg and Nice), Association of International Schools Africa Educators' Conference (South Africa), English Schools' Foundation (Hong Kong), International Educators Conference (Brunei), APEP Member Schools Conference (Thailand), British Schools of the Middle East Arts Conference (Oman), Spring Cantus Salisburgensis Festival (Austria), Hampshire Music Service (UK), Association Genevoise des Ecoles Privées (Switzerland), ASME WA and numerous MTA, ANCA and local conferences throughout Australia. He has been an invited guest at the *New Horizons* adult education program in Rochester NY, and has consulted for Cambridge University Press designing music education curriculum for Kazakhstan.

As a conductor, Griffin's choral ensembles have received more than 40 prizes and awards (half of these first prizes) in Australian competitions including one of Australia's major choral prizes, the Australasian Open Choral Championship in 2004. Griffin has adjudicated at several eisteddfods and been guest conductor for major events including the 2014 Pemulwuy National Male Voice Festival, and several events in Switzerland, Asia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Earlier leadership experiences in SA included stints as Musical Director for *Pirates of Penzance* (G&S Society, Adelaide), *Catholic Schools Music Festival*, *Adelaide Boys Choir*, and the *Brighton School Choirs* – at that time considered among the best school choirs in Australia. In 2006 Griffin was awarded the *South Australian Education and Arts Ministers' Prize*, and is listed in the inaugural *Who's Who South Australia* for 2007 and also in 2008 for services to music education.

As well as the widely acclaimed *Learning Strategies for Musical Success*, Griffin is the author of four other music education books including *Bumblebee! Rounds & Warm-up for Choirs*,

and *Modern Harmony Method*. As a pianist, Griffin has held guest residencies at Dubai's Burj al Arab and repeat invitations to Australia's world-class resort, Hayman Island. Classical piano recordings include the compilations *Consolation* (2013) and *Shimmer* (2014). As a teacher in schools, Griffin has held a range of posts up to Deputy Head level.