

MUSIC CENTRAL – PRESS KIT

LOG LINE

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SYNOPSIS

One paragraph Synopsis

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Long Synopsis

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A character driven half hour MUSIC CENTRAL gently interweaves four narratives to explore connection through music. Filming the introduction of a music program at Woy Woy Public School, it provides a first-hand insight into some of the mental health challenges faced by pre-teens. Year 6 student, Jillian Lewry openly shares the common concerns of young people and the social pressures that feel which is reflected in the cohort's reluctance to sing. Relieving Principal Dan Betts is enthusiastic about the introduction of a music program with a specialised music teacher at his diverse and inclusive school. Provided by the Australian Children's Music Program, Dan is hopeful it will assist the year 5 and 6 students whose well-being suffered the most from COVID 19 lockdowns. Increased levels of anxiety and emotion dysregulation are apparent across the board. Senior teacher Louise Rayner has the skills to integrate simple music techniques into her classroom which helps engage her students so they might learn. She is excited about the fortnightly specialised class for all students in the school, particularly the most disadvantaged, as they will have the most to gain academically and in terms of their wellbeing.

Ruby Archer is a 17 year old singer-songwriter from the Central Coast and daughter of Director Kaye Harrison. Ruby gives a first-person insight into her experience of a complex mental condition that revealed itself with the onset of puberty (in year 6). Music provided an avenue for Ruby to express her emotions intuitively, to have

those emotions validated by others and provided a third person account of what was going on for her, once she could reflect. She articulates the sense of shame that envelopes many young people and how music, and the confidence she gained from that helped challenge that shame, giving her a stronger and more positive sense of self. A previous student at Woy Woy Public School, Ruby runs a workshop with a year 6 class, bringing an empathy to their reluctance to be vulnerable, suggesting they just hum if they can't sing.

Patrick Brennan is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music. A man with boundless energy and passion for music education, Patrick inspires so many young people to be the best they can be. He has very high expectations of his students which encourages them to go out of their comfort zone, make mistakes, build resilience and develop a protective self-confidence. Patrick is very comfortable with moving his body as a conductor, making himself vulnerable so it allows the young students to also make themselves vulnerable, to respond emotionally to the music they are creating and feel safe to be themselves. Absolutely pivotal to the strong community of students, parents, teachers and musicians that he works with on the coast, Patrick draws on this same community for support after he suffers a traumatic incident that threatens to destroy his career.

Uncle Kevin Gavi Duncan from the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council graciously shares his wisdom about the importance of music to First Nations communities and how it connects human beings to the plants and animals that sustain them. Music provides a constant physical and spiritual connection to mother earth and is key to First Nations people maintaining their role as custodians. This sustained First Nations people and our natural environment for thousands of years and is food for thought as we face the enormous challenges with the health of natural environment, climate change, not to mention the global mental health epidemic.

The four interwoven vignettes that are MUSIC CENTRAL reflect a broad range of life experiences and perspectives as they encompass a diversity in age, gender and cultural backgrounds. The consistent theme however is the power of music to connect and improve wellbeing and social cohesion. At a time when humanity is increasingly disconnected from self, from each other and from the land on which we live, MUSIC CENTRAL is a timely roadmap for healing.

CREW BIOS

Kaye Harrison: Director | Producer | DOP | Editor

Kaye Harrison is an independent documentary filmmaker who explores complex topics in an engaging and illuminating way. Working mostly as an observational DOP/director, Kaye develops strong relationships of trust with her participants, and this translates into a powerful intimacy in her films. Her vision is to represent her subjects with integrity and compassion so that their stories might open the hearts and minds of the audience. Kaye was director/DOP of the award-winning

documentary *Crossing the Line* (2005 ABC) that explored the challenges surrounding indigenous health through the eyes of two young non-indigenous medical students. Her second 1 hour documentary, *The Long Goodbye* (2010 ABC) explored the journeys of three families, each a loved one living with dementia. Her acclaimed feature documentary *The Sunnyboy* (2013 ABC) about Jeremy Oxley, front man of the 80's band the *Sunnyboys* and his battle with schizophrenia, premiered at the Vivid/Sydney Film Festival as a finalist in the Foxtel Australian Documentary competition. The *Sunnyboy* also had a successful cinema release and outreach campaign partnering with numerous mental health organisations around the country. *The Troublesome Priest* (2017, ABC Compass) followed controversial Anglican Priest father Rod Bower, well known for the messages on his church sign that he shares via social media. Kaye's documentary feature, *Sanctuary*, an intimate portrait of a young Iraqi man who traverses the world in search of asylum had its world premiere at the 2019 *Sydney Film Festival* where it also screened as a finalist in the *Documentary Australia Foundation* competition for Best Australian Documentary where it received a special mention. Kaye received the 2019 NSW Humanitarian Award for outstanding achievement in Media from STARTTS and the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) as director of *Sanctuary*. Kaye's latest documentary, *Music Central* (ABC Compass, 2023) was inspired by her love of music and how it boosts the wellbeing of individuals and communities living in her local area, the NSW Central Coast.

Website: <https://www.treehousemedia.com.au/>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/kaye-harrison-667b6723

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/musiccentral_documentary/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/musiccentraldocumentary>

Drone Cinematography & Additional Camera: Ryan Andrew Lee

Ryan Andrew Lee is a cinematographer and artist known for his unique creative flare and signature aesthetic. Currently based on the NSW Central Coast, Ryan's interest lies mainly in impact and experimental documentary however has a demonstrated history of working within a diverse range of areas throughout the industry including commercial, music video, short & feature film, fashion and television/broadcast. Ryan brings his relaxed yet effective work ethics, adaptability and professional approach into any given scenario. Ryan is a Cinematographer Member of the ACS.

Website: <https://www.ryanandrewlee.com/about>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ryan_andrew_lee/

Darcy Archer: Music Composer

Darcy Archer is a percussionist and composer who is making her mark as a musical storyteller for screen. Darcy composed her first scores as a teenager to short films created by her mother. She immediately fell in love with the art form of telling stories through music and in 2019 auditioned and was granted entry to the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music to study composition and percussion. In 2020, Darcy composed for her first film, *The Watcher* which went on to be a nominee for Best Youth Short Film at the 2021 St Kilda Film Festival (Director, Kasey Vesperman).

In 2022, Darcy was selected to undergo a year-long exchange at Sweden's most Northern Music University, Piteå Musikhögskolan. Over the course of her exchange, she was mentored by accomplished composer Fredrik Högberg as well as renowned Swedish choral conductor, Erik Westberg. Her score for *The Watcher* was performed live by the Sinfonia 941 Orchestra in the 2023 Midwinter Festival, Piteå. Darcy was also selected by Erik Westberg to compose a choral piece for Sweden's most prestigious choir, the Swedish Radio Choir. In mid 2023, Darcy had the great honour of having her choral piece *Annabel Lee* performed by the Swedish Radio Choir at the Piteå Choral Festival. Darcy also composed for two Australian films, *Music Central*, a half hour documentary by director Kaye Harrison and 40 min horror/comedy, *MOTHERTONGUE*, directed by Amelia Foxton. Both films premiered at the Coastal Surge Film Festival, June 2023 and *Music Central* will broadcast on ABC Compass in July 2023.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/darcydolores>

CAST BIOS

Kevin Gavi Duncan

Gavi was born in Moree, Gavi is a proud Gomilaroi, Mandandanji and Awaba man and an accomplished musician, vocalist and storyteller, artist and dancer. He is an elder and a former member of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council. Gavi has played a key role in liaison between Gosford City Council and local Indigenous people and the non-Indigenous community. In that capacity, Gavi became a founding community member of the 5 Lands Walk and has been a generous contributor to 5 Lands collaborative art projects including the Land Art on the Skillion at Terrigal, notably with American artist, Daniel Dancer, with whom he created a whale totem. With 5 Lands artist, Paul Haggith, he has created murals at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal and Central Coast Leagues Club. Gavi is the Senior Education and Tourism Officer at the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, where he started in 2018 in what was then a newly-created position within the Land and People, Culture and Heritage team. He has been working with the team to help expand Darkinjung's involvement in tourism and education for its members and community. He has a strong history in cultural education including at the Bara Barang Aboriginal Corporation and Youth Connections, where he was the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Advisor. He has also worked at Coorallie High School in Moree where he fought for equal rights in education for Aboriginal people. Gavi recently started a position as Director of Nyanga Walang providing Cultural and Education Tourism. Nyanga Walang means to Give and to Learn, to give and share our wisdom our knowledge and to learn and create a better world of understanding between each other. To be one in Spirit, Body and Mind is to be one with our Mother Ngura.

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Ruby Archer

Ruby Archer is a 17-year-old singer-songwriter from the NSW Central Coast. Her melodic yet intense approach to composition and performance makes Ruby a unique and exciting talent. A multi-instrumentalist, Ruby's musical development began in school choirs, progressed as a percussionist in ensembles and orchestras and found

its rightful place as a pianist and vocalist. After being exposed to jazz and the composition side of the musical world via teacher and mentor Doran Mode, Ruby realised that songwriting is what resonates with her most.

Ruby's original compositions have been awarded prizes in the national Australian Children's Music Foundation Songwriting Competitions (2019, 2020 and 2022), and she was invited to perform her original work at YIPA (Youth in Performing Arts) in 2021 and 2022. Ruby was runner up as a duo with Stella Hannagan in the 2019 Discovered talent competition Central Coast Council and in late 2021, Ruby was invited to participate in Kasey Chamber's inaugural Creative Music & Songwriting Day Camp at The Rabbit Hole Recording Studio.

Ruby was the proud recipient of a 2020 Bouddi Foundation for the Arts grant and ORiGIN Music Publishing Award which allowed her to record her debut EP chamomile tea with Producers Jack Nigro and Aria Award winning Producer, Scott Horscroft (The Grove Studios) with mentoring from Philip Mortlock (ORiGIN Music). In 2021 Ruby was awarded another Bouddi Foundation for the Arts grant; Narelle Jones Memorial Award to assist with the distribution of her music. Ruby's debut EP, chamomile tea was released February 2022.

Throughout early 2022, Ruby gradually put together a band of like-minded musicians. In July of that same year, Ruby and the Groovy Doobies won first prize in YouthRock. She also had the honour of signing with music publisher company ORiGIN Music, who are providing mentoring support as she establishes her music career. In August 2022, Ruby made her acting debut as Veronica in the 10 x 30min series Soundtrack to Our Teenage Zombie Apocalypse for ABC ME and ABC iview. Ruby also received a grant from Create NSW and has been recording her debut album throughout 2022 and 2023 with Producer Jack Nigro (The Grove Studios and Sonora Studios). Oh So Tender will showcase Ruby's diverse songwriting abilities and will be released in 2024. In June 2023, Ruby won the 15 Years of triple J's Unearthed High Competition and the right to perform with her band at Vivid Sydney.

Website: <https://www.rubyarcher.com.au/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rubyarcherrr/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rubyarchermusic/>

Patrick Brennan

Patrick Brennan holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Before becoming a conductor, he worked as a professional bassoonist performing with Australia's leading orchestras for more than 15 years. In his capacity as a conductor and music educator, Patrick has created and developed a number of cornerstone organisations, including the Northern Sydney Schools Wind Orchestra, Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Central Coast Opera and Regional Youth Orchestra NSW.

As a music educator, Patrick has worked within the Department of Education Arts Unit, in government and non-government schools as well as in tertiary institutions,

including the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. He was also the NSW representative of the Bassoon syllabus for the Australian Music Examinations Board and in 2018 was invited as the Keynote Speaker for the Music Teachers' Association of NSW annual conference. In 2020 Patrick was delighted to be selected to gain further professional development as one of Australia's emerging conductors through the Australian Conducting Academy. This took place with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra under the expert mentorship of Maestro Johannes Fritzsich.

Patrick has held the Artistic Directorship of the Central Coast Conservatorium since 2012. This position was elevated to that of Artistic Director and CEO in 2014. Through his leadership of close to seventy teaching staff, the Conservatorium delivers excellence in comprehensive music education and performance to more than 1,500 students on a weekly basis. Patrick's inspirational approach and passion for collaborative music education projects led to the formation of Central Coast Opera which has now delivered full scale productions of The Magic Flute (2016), Carmen (2017) and La Bohème (2018). He is currently the Musical Director for the Central Coast Chamber Orchestra, Central Coast Youth Orchestra, Central Coast Concert Band, Central Coast Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Central Coast Philharmonia Choir, and in 2021 was delighted to create and musical direct the Central Coast Children's/Youth Choir.

Patrick is also the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble (NSSWE), which he founded in 2010 as an extension program for school-aged woodwind, brass and percussion musicians. In 2017, he created the NSSWE Plus program, which offers weekly professional development for tertiary music students, focusing on best practice in pedagogy and conducting. In 2021 he created a conducting program for high schools and tertiary students at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music. This has led to an exciting new offering of a Bachelor of Music degree through the University of New England to conducting students on the Central Coast.

As Chief Conductor of Regional Youth Orchestra NSW and chair of the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums (ANSWRC) he has delivered incredible performance projects for students of regional NSW with some of the world's greatest orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin and the Australian World Orchestra.

Website: <https://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/>

CREDITS

Credit line to be used in publicity - Key credit in all publicity materials (key part of the funding agreement with Council):

“Music Central was produced by Treehouse Media, supported by Creative Art Central, Central Coast Council”

Key credits

Director, Producer, DOP & Editor: Kaye Harrison

Cast/key participants: Kevin Gavi Duncan, Jillian Lewry, Ruby Archer, Patrick Brennan, Dan Betts, Louise Rayner

Drone and additional camera: Ryan Andrew Lee

Music Composer: Darcy Archer

Conform & Grade: Roen Davis, Central Business Digital

Sound Mix: James Andrews

Additional sound: Daniel Miao

Social Impact Producer: Fern Mei Sim

Edit Consultant: Toni Houston

NEWS DIGITAL ARTICLE is currently in production, written by Catherine Taylor

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CONTACT DETAILS FOR KEY TALENT

- Director: Kaye Harrison, Treehouse Media kaye@treehousemedia.com.au
- Any requests for interviews with Kevin Gavi Duncan, Ruby Archer, Patrick Brennan or the staff of Woy Woy Public School should go through Kaye Harrison kaye@treehousemedia.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL (IMAGES)

Please find on drive in separate folder

