



Pacifica College of Eurythmy



Our Story

On February 4th, after seven years of dreaming, plotting and planning we opened the doors of Pacifica College of Eurythmy to our first cohort of six students, and last week, on Friday November 22nd they gave their term four presentation marking the completion of the first year of their four-year course. Getting to day one felt like a big achievement; getting to the end of year one seemed even bigger and this is still just the beginning!

We are very grateful to have the use of the spacious eurythmy room which overlooks the hall and amphitheatre in the heart of Samford Valley Steiner School, (SVSS) near Brisbane and for all the support and encouragement the school gives us, and we make sure we give back where we can. This year amongst other things, we have invited children, parents and staff to observe classes and presentations, contributed to the winter festival, cared for the gardens around the building, helped out with the big national Waldorf 100 conference and offered eurythmy to faculties and college and in a variety of workshops. SVSS has undergone some changes in leadership recently, but the mutual commitment remains strong and we'll continue to work closely together.

Who are we?



The college is comprised of seven eurythmists from Australia and New Zealand, five of whom have tutored this year, always working in pairs. Jan Baker-Finch was the 'anchor' for three terms, while the other tutors: Josefin Porteous, Sue Simpson, Elien Hoffmanns and Patries Orange came in rotating four-week blocks. From the start we wanted students to experience a range of styles and approaches, and looking back we all feel we have struck a good balance between change and stability. The arrangement means tutors have also been able to cover for each other when need arose. To provide further richness, we have had wonderful SVSS colleagues teaching the complementary subjects each week or in blocks.

What have first year eurythmy students done during four full-time eight-week terms? In addition to speech- and music/ tone- eurythmy lessons daily, they have had regular classes in speech and drama, music theory, choir, gardening, form-drawing (including drawing the skeleton), philosophy/ anthroposophy, and an introduction to working with colour. As they will all testify, doing eurythmy daily is surprisingly demanding work and it took only a few weeks for everyone to start bringing their pillows and blankets for a midday nap on the (comfortably carpeted) floor!



Unexpected news:

A totally unpredictable and very exciting development took place mid-year. Four friends/ colleagues were able to purchase the beautiful five-acre property with its large homestead and separate studio directly adjacent to the school. They are making the studio available for Pacifica, so we will now have two teaching spaces for our two year-levels in 2020 and great potential for further development. You can imagine what a boost this has been!



Looking Ahead:

We tutors meet regularly by Skype or zoom and beyond the day to day running of the college there is a lot to be done building good will for example by developing relationships with schools and with Steiner Education Australia; securing our funding into the future; liaising with the International Eurythmy Training Association; developing our profile and showing we are committed to strengthening all areas of eurythmy: in education, as an art form, as therapy and as a practice for promoting health in the workplace (a field full of potential in the Pacific region). We operate as a not-for-profit association, and are in the process of setting up a public fund so we can receive tax-deductible gifts.



Thank you:

Many people have helped us get started and more keep emerging along the way. Just last week a benefactor offered to buy a piano for the new studio, another gifted a student scholarship, and two schools have now committed to a funding contribution for three years. We have already acknowledged the major support of SVSS, and the studio proprietors. To everyone who has seen Pacifica College as a worthy endeavour and offered sponsorship and encouragement our thanks, and to any of you who might yet be tempted- please feel warmly invited to contact us!

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