

## **LAURA McDONALD**



Laura started her musical journey with Suzuki lessons from Nada Brissenden (piano) and Harold Brissenden (violin).

Laura graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree gaining 1<sup>st</sup> class Honours in piano performance. She was awarded a full travelling scholarship from Sydney University which allowed her to continue her studies in Italy and Russia. While abroad Laura competed in international piano competitions and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Concorso "Pausilipon", Italy, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and the people's choice prize at the Concorso Internacional "Jean", Spain. She was also a finalist at the Concorso "Pozzoli", Italy and participated in the 1997 Hamamatsu, Japan, 2000, Warsaw Chopin Competition, and the 2004 Sydney international competition.

Laura is a trained Suzuki teacher and Suzuki Piano Teacher Trainer and loves teaching young children with this method. Having spent many years abroad studying and performing Laura also enjoys working with advanced students and in particular on aspects of performance practice.

Laura lives in Sydney with her husband Masaki Nakamura and has three children Beatrice (18) Dylan (14) and Charlie (5).

Laura has taught at the Sydney Conservatorium, University of NSW, St Catherines's School, Ascham School and currently is Head of Keyboard at MLC, Burwood.

## ERICA BOOKER



Erica Booker graduated from the NSW Conservatorium of Music in both Performing and Teaching. She studied with two of Sydney's foremost piano teachers, Igor Hmelnitsky and Alexander Sverjensky.

Erica has been a performer, (solo, ensemble and concerto), an accompanist, a piano and classroom HSC music teacher, a choral conductor and an adjudicator of eisteddfods, competitions and exhibitions.

Since 1978 Erica has taught piano and lectured around the world following the Suzuki philosophy.

She is a Suzuki Piano Teacher Trainer and was also a pioneer NSW Suzuki Early Childhood Education Music teacher. Her studio has students across the spectrum from age 3 to advanced, tertiary, and trainee teachers.

Erica's music studio has four pianos with three different sized keyboards, unique in the world. She is a foundation member of PASK and is an advocate for different sized piano keyboards for different sized hands. Erica has given lectures on this subject in Boston, UK, Serbia, Iceland and Australia.

## COLIN WATTS



**Qualifications:** A Mus A (Pianoforte Performing), L Mus A (Pianoforte Performing), Licentiate, Trinity College, London (Pianoforte Performing), Fellow, Trinity College of Music, London (Pianoforte Performing), Diploma of Music Education, Bachelor of Music (University of Durham), Master of Arts (University of Sydney (thesis topic Suzuki and AMEB Piano Pedagogy)), Diploma I in Suzuki Talent Education, and Certificate 4 in Workplace Training and Assessment.

**Tertiary studies** at Alexander Mackie Teachers College and Conservatorium of Music, University of Durham, England, and the University of Sydney. Member of the Institute of Music Teachers.

**Career:** Secondary music teacher (1969-1972), Lecturer in Music at Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education (1973-1979) and Sydney College of Advanced Education (1980-1989), Lecturer in Music at the University of New South Wales (1990-2006). Taught piano privately since 1973 up to L Mus A Level and Suzuki Piano Level.

**Publications:** "About Harmony" and "Chords on Keys" (Texts for Tertiary music students)

**Suzuki History:** Initial association with Suzuki method 1973. Suzuki piano teacher since 1989 teaching up to Level 11 Graduation. Attended many regional, national and international Suzuki conference as a piano tutor. Teacher trainer for Suzuki Talent Education. Attended Suzuki Summer School in Japan 1981.