

National Orff Conference 2022-2023



The 21st National ORFF conference was held in January of 2023 in Glenelg, Adelaide. It had to have been the most anticipated Conference of all time as it was supposed to run in 2022 but COVID put a stop to us all meeting in



person. It was totally worth the wait and to say I was excited to meet with old friends and make new ones was an understatement. I was also looking forward to reconnecting with myself, both personally and professionally and savour this time with out the demands of family, kids etc.

There was a wonderful selection of presenters who practice internationally and nationally and it was a joy to watch and learn from such great ORFF Practitioners.

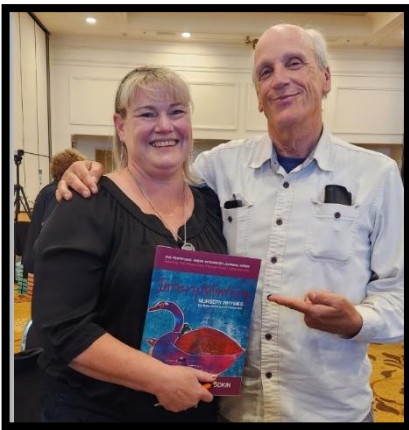
As Adelaide has 2 AFL teams I would like to do an ORFF Brownlow.

3 Votes – The International Presenters - Estaveo Marques who had the Aussie Nickname “Stevo” by the time he left the conference. He is a master of the spoons and he shared games,

songs, dances and rhythms from his Brazilian heritage with his amazing humour and humility.

Doug Goodkin was an amazing as always. I first worked with Doug

at my very first ORFF conference in Brisbane in 2002 and he opened my eyes up to so many new things. He is an amazing practitioner and it was wonderful to see him at work again and take something so simple as “One Potato” and turn it into something quite challenging and magical.



2 votes – Michelle Rollins and her tech lessons. I must say that I am a bit lacking in the music tech department, but Michelle showed us how we can integrate it into our lessons and let the children’s creativity and enthusiasm lead the way. I am much more confident to try and incorporate tech into my lessons. She opened my eyes to what is possible while making us laugh out loud.

1 Vote – The elective sessions – with 20 elective topics to choose from it was hard to choose and I got a severe case of FOMO and elective session envy after hearing what all the sessions were about. From water to



colours, stories, instrumental, movement, music tech, folk dancing, mentoring, drumming, beatboxing, choir/singing, jazz, creative thinking, tinikling, sea shanties, Balinese music, composition and indigenous perspectives and more. We are so lucky to have such a rich array of Orff teachers in Australia who are willing to share their expertise and bring JOY to us through their teaching and enthusiasm.

MVP – This must go to Micheal Acquilina and his team of dedicated volunteers to make this conference a reality for in person delegates and for the first time Virtual Delegates. The funniest and joyful session came in the ALL – IN pool session. Micheal A. got up there and entertained us and showed us the Orff can be achieved no matter the situation or amount of giggling and jiggling to be had. BRAVO to all involved.



Besides the rigour of the All in Sessions, Keynote sessions, Highlight sessions, Electives sessions and Confab Sessions taking advantage of the social side of the conference is just as important. The sundowner drinks and conference dinner were opportunities to let our hair down and celebrate the ORFF National conferences' 21st Birthday. Catching up with friends and colleagues from around the country over a few cold beverages, a beach walk, enjoying delicious food, having laughs, catching a game of BBL was all part and parcel of the Conference experience.

Personally, these conferences are all about CONNECTIONS. Connections with friends old and new, connections with my mind, body and soul, connections that bring “A-HA” moments about life and my teaching and connections with humanity in all its glory and beauty. Being in a room full of like-minded people and singing, moving and playing is something that every person on this earth should have the privilege of feeling as you can't put it into words. There were a number a goosebump moments and I will treasure those memories forever.

The other take away I got from this conference was to just *keep things simple*. Sometimes we get caught up in all the demands on us as professionals and all the problems and stress that comes with that. I came to the realisation that the best moments in your teaching will come out of keeping things simple and bringing joy to the children and letting them lead the way.

I am so excited that the next conference is in our own backyard here in PERTH. So if you have never been to a conference keep January 2025 free in your Calendar as you will never get a better or cheaper opportunity to attend as you won't have airfares. AS NIKE slogan goes JUST DO IT.

See you in 2025!

Katherine Anson

