

# MUSICIAN & MENTOR PROFILES

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## CALLAN ANDREWS-ARABI: Saxophone

*... aka Saxy Man*

Callan is a multifaceted musician who plays nearly every instrument under the sun at the age of 18, with the woodwind Saxophone family being his first choice of weapon. His music taste and playing styles consists of everything from RnB, neo soul, jazz, disco, hip-hop to classical, country, folk, rock, blues and music for film. The vastness of his tastes has been inspired by Leo Pellegrino, Augie Bellow, John Coltrian, Charlie Parker, Tom Misch, John Mayer, Hans Zimmer, John Powell and Duke Ellington to name a few.

Callan studied his diploma and advanced diploma of music at Ultimo Tafe for 2 years and currently teaches music programs as well as music therapy. Along with performing regularly in various local bands, Callan is also the creator of 'Muftiday Project' which is a collaboration between up and coming musicians from around Sydney. The project brings together musicians from different genres, cultures, and backgrounds to create a single once a month with a fun complimentary music video.

Callan's music and eclectic fashion sense is a reflection of his Lebanese background and love for colourful performancesstage. With his signature sparkle beards and dazzled-up suits, Callan will bring the energy to any project or performance, and never fail to make that sax sing.



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## RYAN MEAD: Lead Guitar

*... aka Cowboy*

Ryan is a versatile country & blues musician. His nostalgic playing style and writing lends itself to a distinct but familiar sound.

At 17 years of age, he has had an impressive start to his musical career. This included performing at the 2023 Tamworth Country Music Festival, being part of the winning duo (with Jade Steg) in Cronulla RSL's Clash of the Chords competition, performing at The Brass Monkey in Cronulla, debuting his solo career at the Cronulla Jazz & Blues Festival, and becoming a regular at Shire venues and greater Sydney area as a solo performer. Ryan recently played his first original headline show in Sutherland which was full Honky Tonk style.

He attended Berklee Music College in Boston to participate in their Aspire 5 Week Performance program, and was accepted in the coveted NSW DOE Talent Development Project. Ryan knows how to hustle in this industry and is always putting his own country flavour into collaboration projects and songwriting sessions. Ryan also gives private lessons for guitar and drums.

With his boots, hat and guitar in hand, Ryan brings a little bit of the Aussie outback to every stage he plays on.



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## KIN THONG TAN (Andrew): Electric and Acoustic Guitar

*... aka The K-Pop Kid*

Kin Thong Tan, most commonly known to Australians as Andrew, is a neo-soul guitarist hailing from Malaysia. Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Andrew's love for authentic classic soul music started at a young age.

The genres Andrew enjoys are Neo-Soul, Soul, R&B, Funk, Jazz and Pop and his playing style is infused with a deep sense of traditional Malaysian culture and old school blues. Andrew draws his inspiration from a variety of artists across different genres including Tom Misch's soulful guitar riffs and D'Angelo's blend Jazzy melodies. Andrew is constantly exploring different genres and artists to continue to develop his unique style.

Andrew has been playing the electric and acoustic guitar for seven years, and has also had experience playing the bass and piano for a year. Andrew's technical proficiency and professionalism on guitar is matched by his keen ear for tone and sound quality, making Andrew a popular studio recording guitarist for local musicians.

Andrew holds an advanced diploma in music industry (performance) from TAFE, and is currently studying Creative Technology (Audio) at AIM. Andrew also teaches guitar and assists with various audio engineer projects.

First you'll hear him, then you'll see him in K-Pop inspired outfits on stage, you literally can't miss him. Despite his amazing talent, Andrew is the most humble and kind person who is always striving to unite people through music and inspire others to pursue their dreams.



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## SEBASTIAN KRUISHEER: Artist, Producer, Pianist & Songwriter

*... aka Skruish*

Sebastian Kruisheer is a 21 year old pianist, producer, singer and artist - well recognised in the up-and-coming Sydney circle of musos by his stage name 'SKRUISH.' which is a clever combination of his Latino background and first and last name. Sebastian has been making music for over 10 years in his home studio, gathering inspiration from names such as Sam Wills, Gareth Donkin, Tyler The Creator, ELIZA, Men I Trust, Alice Phoebe Lou, Saya Gray and Mac Ayres.

His ear for composing and producing music is like none other. He has an intuitive sense of harmony, rhythm, and melody, and is able to create music that is both complex and accessible. His compositions often incorporate a wide range of instruments and sounds, from Rhodes to electronic beats to sampled vocals.

With his personal music incorporating genres such as Indie, Pop, RnB, Neo-soul and Jazz, Sebastian is achieving success after success in the music community, playing headline shows every month as a solo act and in local bands, having released 3 singles and an EP and studying his diploma and advanced diploma of music through 2021 and 2022.

In addition to his impressive and emotionally resonant music, Sebastian is a natural entertainer. He has a great sense of humour and is not afraid to bring an abundance of energy to the stage.



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## TIM ROFFE: Drums

Tim is a dynamic drummer from Sydney and has been playing drums for over 10 years. His style is a unique blend of jazz, rock, soul and funk. Tim gathers inspiration from names such as Dave Weckl, Vinnie Colaiuta, Keith Carlock and Steve Jordan. At the age of 20, Tim has already made a sought-after name for himself in the music community, having performed in the Schools Spec Orchestra in 2018 and 2019, the NSW Public schools Jazz Orchestra in 2021 and various bands across Sydney. Along with his busy music career, Tim teaches at Studio 57 and is studying engineering at Wollongong Uni.

What sets Tim apart from other drummers is his infectious energy on and off stage and unwavering dedication to his craft. He is a master of rhythm and timing, able to shift seamlessly between different grooves and tempos to keep the music moving forward. His ability to come up with unique and creative drumming patterns and fills always adds to the musical diversity of collaboration projects and overall musicality of a song.

... aka Rolex



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## MARCUS BRECKNELL: Bass and Guitar

Marcus Brecknell is a 20 year old groovy bass player from Sydney. With his technical skill, impeccable sense of rhythm and bold outfits and sunglasses, he can't be missed. What makes Marcus a sought-after bass player is his history in music. Growing up, Marcus started his musical journey on the trombone playing in concert jazz bands. From there, he made his way across many instruments; piano, guitar, drums and bass. Marcus has become an amazing bass player through learning to play different instruments and styles. His ability to lock in with the drummer and provide a solid foundation for any song has earned him a reputation as one of the best emerging bass players.

Marcus has studied cert II and cert III Music Industry at Tafe NSW and currently works at the International Convention Centre and Aware Super Theatre as a lighting technician. This involves designing, installing and operating lighting systems for live performances. Having all the knowledge and behind the scene insights when it comes to the music industry makes Marcus an invaluable musician and roadie to have on your side.

Whether it be his funky bass fills on stage, colourful sunglasses or ability to install a disco ball at any band rehearsal, Marcus always completes a task with groove and soul.

... aka Chameleon



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## BENJAMIN BRUCKARD: Musician, Composer and Arranger

Benjamin Bruckard is a 19 year old musician, composer and arranger from Sydney and Canada. Ben has been musically minded from a very young age, always getting his hands on anything he could create a sound with. Having now developed a strong foundation in music theory, composition and arranging, Ben is able to understand and interpret different musical styles and create arrangements that highlight the strengths of each musician. Ben has achieved cert II in Music Industry studies at Tafe, Grade 5 in classical piano and currently teaches music. In every collaboration project, everyone needs a Ben to glue together musical ideas.

His personal music influences include; Ben Folds, Foo Fighters, Coldplay, Franz Ferdinand, The Beatles, Silverchair, Dave Brubeck, Matt Corby, Pierce Brothers and Arctic Monkeys. Therefore, his ability to work effectively with other musicians and create innovative and diverse music is a testament to his long history of musical influence and dedication to the art. Without having a preference for musical genre or instrument, Ben is able to fill the space with any instrument in any genre by being a versatile and flexible musician.

Apart from his professional mindset, Ben happens to be the most smiley and bubbly person you'll ever meet. His energy is infectious which makes him a pleasure to work with.

... aka Smiley



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## ETHAN PUSE: Producer, Composer and Songwriter

Ethan Puse is a 20 year old producer and songwriter whose passion for creating music is rooted in his Filipino culture and experimentation of sounds. Ethan's music production style combines RnB, Soul, Jazz, Hip Hop, Funk and Rap while pushing the boundaries of traditional production styles and sampling sounds.

Ethan is known for his ability to create a comfortable and collaborative atmosphere in the studio. He is remarkably humble and doesn't boast about his achievements. Ethan's talents stretch far beyond production, from graduating the renowned Talent Development Project in 2022, composing music for screen to performing in festivals and acting in TV series, Ethan's versatility and appreciation for the wider arts community is what sets him apart from other producers.

Despite his outgoing nature, Ethan remains grounded and focused on his craft and is constantly learning from his inspirations: "Frank Ocean taught me quality over quantity, Moses Sumney taught me how to take risks in songwriting, Angelo De Augustine taught me the beauty in simplicity and my family has always been encouraged to pursue our creative passions as it's in our Filipino culture".

Looking forward, Ethan is excited to continue exploring new musical frontiers and promoting Filipino culture through his music. With his exceptional talent and commitment to innovation, there is no doubt that Ethan Puse is a young producer and songwriter to watch.

... aka Mr Beats



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## PETER COUSENS: Mentor

Peter Cousens (OAM), is a highly regarded actor, singer, producer, director, teacher and film director. Peter has appeared in numerous stage productions, including the Australian and London productions of Les Misérables, West Side Story, and The Phantom of the Opera. He has also appeared in several Australian TV shows, including Home and Away and All Saints. He has starred alongside Russel Crowe in Blood Brothers, the late Richard Harris in Camelot,

As a singer, Peter has released several albums, including his debut album "Peter Cousens" in 1994, which reached number four on the ARIA charts. He has also performed at the Sydney Olympic Games Closing Ceremony.

Peter is currently the Artistic Director of the Talent Development Project which conducts workshops and master classes with elite talented musicians across NSW and has had an extensive career playing major roles in musicals throughout Australia, New Zealand and England.

... aka The G.O.A.T.

