

Biography– David Worrall

B.MUS, Grad Dip Ed, FTCL (conducting)

David Worrall has been a professional musician for over 30 years. Having trained as a percussionist with the Sydney and Australian Youth Orchestras he began his music degree studies at Sydney University studying percussion with Colin Piper, Rick Miller and Michael Askill. David was soon awarded a scholarship with the ABC Symphonia as principal percussionist. He was also an inaugural member of the famous contemporary ensemble The Seymour Group based at Sydney University. David worked with the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras as well as the various ballet and opera orchestras before joining the Air Force as a musician. He was the principal percussionist with the Melbourne Symphony in 1981.

During completion of his music degree at the University of Melbourne, David studied percussion with Larry Wilson and conducting with Dr Barry Bignell and Patrick Thomas. In 1987, he was selected by the Air Force to undertake conducting and arranging studies in Virginia USA, graduating third in his class from the prestigious USA Armed Forces School of Music. He then studied with Lowell Graham with the United States Air Force Band in Langley. On return to Australia, he took command and directorship of the Air Force Air Command Band in Sydney. Over the next 12 years David raised the profile of this band to international standing and was renowned for his passion for new music performing numerous Australian premiere performances with this ensemble. Additionally, he was jointly responsible for the establishment of a number of highly successful concert series at Macquarie University and St Andrews Cathedral.

Having directed its instrumental program for three years, he also toured the legendary North Sydney Girls Wind Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra to Europe in 2003 and led them to achieving the Director General Education NSW Award for excellence in the arts. David has also used his conducting and leadership experience to develop a highly successful and unique executive training program in communication skills running workshops in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

David was appointed Director of the NSW Police Band in 2001 -2002 and in 2003 followed his passion for education qualifying as a secondary music teacher through the University of New England. As well as a period of teaching at New England Girls School he has positively influenced music education in Sydney, Armidale and Victoria through workshops, master classes and adjudication.

David has also enjoyed an expansive executive management career with the Air Force specialising in the personal development of leaders as well as Human Resource and Information Systems Management. David currently resides in the Blue Mountains, NSW together with his partner the composer Jodie Blackshaw. Here they intend to positively influence wind band music, education and performance across Australia.