

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS soprano wins Churchill Fellowship

UTAS Conservatorium of Music lecturer, Gina Bashford, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to help smarten the ears of Tasmanian music students.

Ms Bashford will visit prestigious music academies in Hungary, Finland and Britain to learn both traditional and new music teaching strategies, which focus on ear training (aural skills) and vocal technique – something that music students often do not learn until they reach university as it is not taught in Australian schools.

Her particular passion is finding methodologies to develop both the aural skills and vocal techniques simultaneously in order to improve the vocal performance and musicianship skills of all musicians, including composers, singers and instrument players. She will also explore vocal training techniques for her own performance skills, and also for training vocal ensemble settings.

“Hungary has a very strong musical culture with a heritage rich in choral performance and use of an aural training methodology called solfège which develops the inner-ear from a young age. They encourage the development of musicianship skills by use of voice to teach pitch and rhythm,” she said.

Ms Bashford will spend a total of seven weeks in Europe, including two weeks at the Kodaly Institute in Hungary, which is a specialist in the pedagogical technique called solfege.

A lecturer in core musicianship studies and director of the vocal ensemble at UTAS, Ms Bashford is also an accomplished soprano and vocal tutor.

Churchill Fellowships provide up to \$25,000 to enable overseas travel to investigate an issue or further professional knowledge. Ms Bashford is among four Tasmanians, out of 106 nationally, who were awarded fellowships this year.

*For more information or to arrange interviews please contact Gina Bashford,
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