

The Arts Unit Virtual Learning  
On line arts education support  
wherever & whenever you need it.

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These notes are designed to accompany the Virtual Learning eModule  
'Shaking it Up with Richard Gill'  
from the series: Teaching Music in Your Primary Classroom

### Introduction

This eModule utilises the skills of celebrated industry expert, Richard Gill, to provide specific support for teachers introducing new choral repertoire. Incorporating video, interactive information and progressive questioning to clarify pedagogy, this resource supports teachers to understand both musical concepts and best practices in educational instruction.

### Professional Standards addressed.

2.1.2 – Apply knowledge of the content and teaching strategies of the teaching area to develop engaging teaching activities.

6.4.2 – Participate in learning to update knowledge and practice, targeted to professional needs and school and/or system priorities.

6.4.4 – Undertake professional learning programs designed to address identified student learning needs.

### Richard Gill Biography

*"Through singing, you can educate children in all the musical phenomena" – R. Gill.*

Richard Gill is one of Australia's most recognizable musical personas. A celebrated conductor, a sought after speaker and a passionate advocate for music education, Richard Gill has built an impressive career spanning over 50 years. He is well known for his conducting, working with choral, orchestral and operatic productions, and also specialises in musical theatre, vocal/choral training and music education. Beginning his career as a high school music teacher in Marsden High School, Richard Gill went on to become the Dean of the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music in 1985, to then the Music Director of the Victorian Opera in 2005, became the Musical Director of the Sydney Chamber Choir in 2014. He has held workshops and presented all over the world from Australia, to the USA, to Salzburg to New Zealand.

Richard Gill's expertise, service and mentorship have been nationally and internationally recognized. He was the recipient of the Order of Australia Medal in 1994, which was later promoted to Officer level of the OAM in 2016. Among many others, he is the recipient of the Don Banks Music Award (2006), the APRA Art Music Award (2014), and was also

given the Australian Music Centre's award for 'Most Distinguished Contribution to the Presentation of Australia in Composition by an Individual' (2014). He has also received honorary doctorates from Edith Cowan University, WA and from the Australian Catholic University. Richard Gill also featured on the ABC documentary, *Operatunity Oz*, in 2006, and has appeared as a guest panelist on ABC's *Spicks and Specks* music quiz show.

Always an advocate for the power and importance of music, Richard Gill is at the forefront of music education in Australia. In addition to personally implementing and supporting initiatives to introduce quality music education to children and to nurture talented musicians, Richard has also inspired and mentored many others. Recent programs include the National Music Teachers Mentoring Program (2015) for K – 2 teachers sponsored by the Australian Youth Orchestra and Federal government. The program aims to develop skills and confidence of classroom teachers and to bring quality of music education to students across Australia. Now expanding across the country in 2016, the program is currently running in NSW, Victoria, Western Australian and the Northern Territory. Clear benefits to the program include a convincing 97% of students previously involved demonstrated improved musical competency, 100% of teachers reporting improvement in skills and confidence. Further reported benefits include a positive shift in learning environments and a noted improvement in confidence and language acquisition with students in an EAL/D background. With further involvement in The Arts Unit, Richard Gill continues to provide inspiring and high quality professional learning for teachers in a variety of contexts from infants, to primary to high school and beyond.

#### Further Information and references

Gill, R. (2011) The Value of Music Education, Ted Talk, June 15, 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=herus3nvwbe>

Gill, R. (2013) Every child needs music: Richard Gill still arguing 50 years on. Jan 19.

Limelight. <http://www.limelightmagazine.com.au/Article/329408,every-child-needs-music-richard-gill-still-arguing-50-years-on.aspx>

Westwood, M. (2015) October 27, Richard Gill: Schooling that Sings, The Australian,

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/music/richard-gill-schooling-that-sings/news-story/3f4d2432d76f2b3bbd2554c9230befd4>

Resources by and about Richard Gill, Australian Music Centre,

<http://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/artist/gill-richard>

## Quality Teaching Links

Examples of ways this particular resource embeds the Quality Teaching Framework are highlighted below.

Domain	Element	Example
Intellectual Quality	Deep Knowledge	Throughout the workshop students are introduced and guided through a range of musical concepts, eg pitch, duration, harmony
	Metalanguage	Tutor questions students to ascertain knowledge of musical terms. As needed, rephrases and contextualizes – eg accompaniment, articulation
	Higher Order Thinking	Tutor employs a series of why questions to prompt and support students to match concepts with musical tasks (apply, analyse and evaluate), eg “Why do I do that?”, “What does it do?” “Tell me a reason why...”
	Substantive Communication	Students are engaged in a series of structured, spoken discussions that examine key ideas presented through the workshop that have / will be demonstrated through vocal exercise. These ‘conversations’ also take place in the artistic form of singing.
Quality Learning Environment	Social Support	Tutor provides positive feedback to students answering questions and completing tasks. Clear respect between teacher and students, eg aside to teacher Mrs Grozier, continual student feedback
	Engagement	Students are fully engaged with short activities that require verbal and physical participation. Eg, video shows students attentively listening and participating

Further Information:

Link [here](#) or go to <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/music> for more information on The Arts Unit Music Programs:

### **About The Arts Unit Virtual Learning**

The Arts Units Virtual Learning provides access to quality arts education support from The Arts Unit wherever and whenever you need it. Through Virtual Excursions, Streamed events and an expansive library of interactive Professional Learning content, learners are able to explore content in a way that is both meaningful and memorable.

Further information go to the website or email [theartsunit@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:theartsunit@det.nsw.edu.au)