

# PRIMAL Network Inc

*(Practitioner Research In Music Across Life)*

## 1. Background

The first theorem expressed by a human was Pythagoras' tuning of a string. Music is a true symbiosis of science and art in its conceptualisation, technologies and even its expression. By not falling into traditional academic/professional divisions PRIMAL Network will invigorate musical thought and practice.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) recently highlighted the importance of music education in its 10 year blueprint for education and training, and the National Review of School Music Education listed many shortcomings currently facing Australian school systems. In particular this review sought support for productive partnerships and networking between musical organizations.

Musical expression is an essential aspect of healthy communities. Music can play important roles in social networking, relief of stress, and the maintenance and recovery of physical and cognitive activity of individuals. PRIMAL Network will undertake, facilitate and communicate current knowledge and research on music and its roles in communal wellbeing.

## 2. Strategic Direction

Primal will:

- Facilitate collaboration between music researchers in the arts and sciences with music practitioners.
- Support musical activities in all our communities and across the lifespan.
- Assist music educators and therapists
- Establish productive links with industry partners

by:

- Developing evidence-based music research models that are informed by music practitioners, theorists and musicologists.
- Identifying synergies in research skills and resources.
- Encouraging collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches and methodologies in music research through seminars and workshops.
- Supporting current musical practice and its development through research that:
  - informs musical practice
  - improves educational outcomes
  - enables multiple levels of community involvement in music
  - enables engagement in music across the lifespan, and
  - provides informed and rigorous evaluations of musical practices in educational, therapeutic, social and professional contexts.
- Supporting current musical practice and its development through practical workshops, seminars and community programs.

### 3. Organization

Primal is:

- A non-profit organization comprised of researchers, practitioners and educators in:
  - music cognition, perception and performance,
  - music theory and practice,
  - music education and therapy
  - neuroscience and psychology.

Including members from:

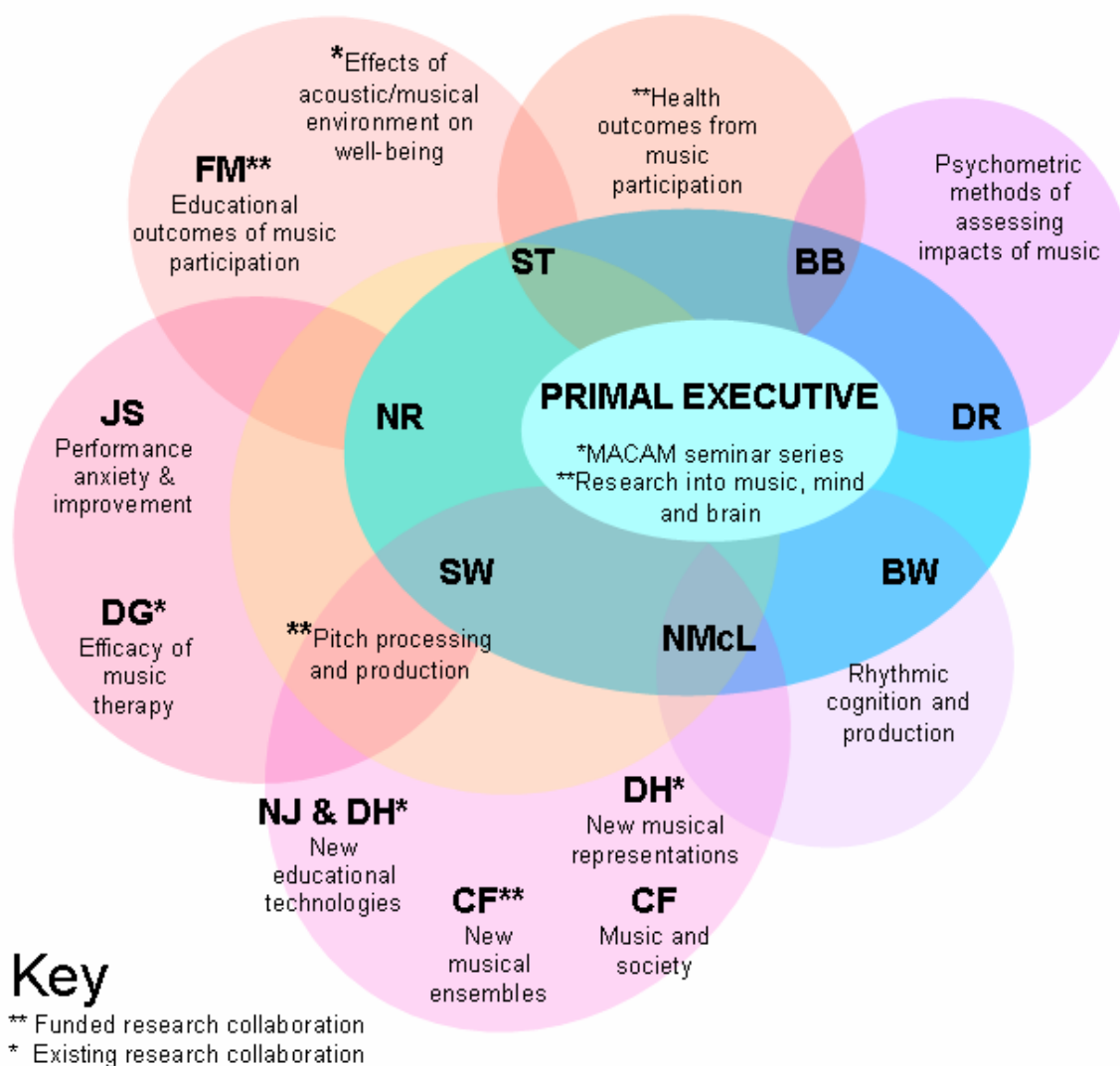
- Melbourne University
  - School of Behavioural Sciences
  - Faculty of Music
  - Faculty of Education
  - Faculty of the VCA
  - Faculty of the Arts
- Monash University
  - School of Psychology, Psychiatry & Psychological Medicine
  - Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
  - School of Music
- Swinburne University
  - Faculty of Life and Social Sciences
- National Ageing Research Institute

## 4. Benefits to stakeholders

### Primal provides

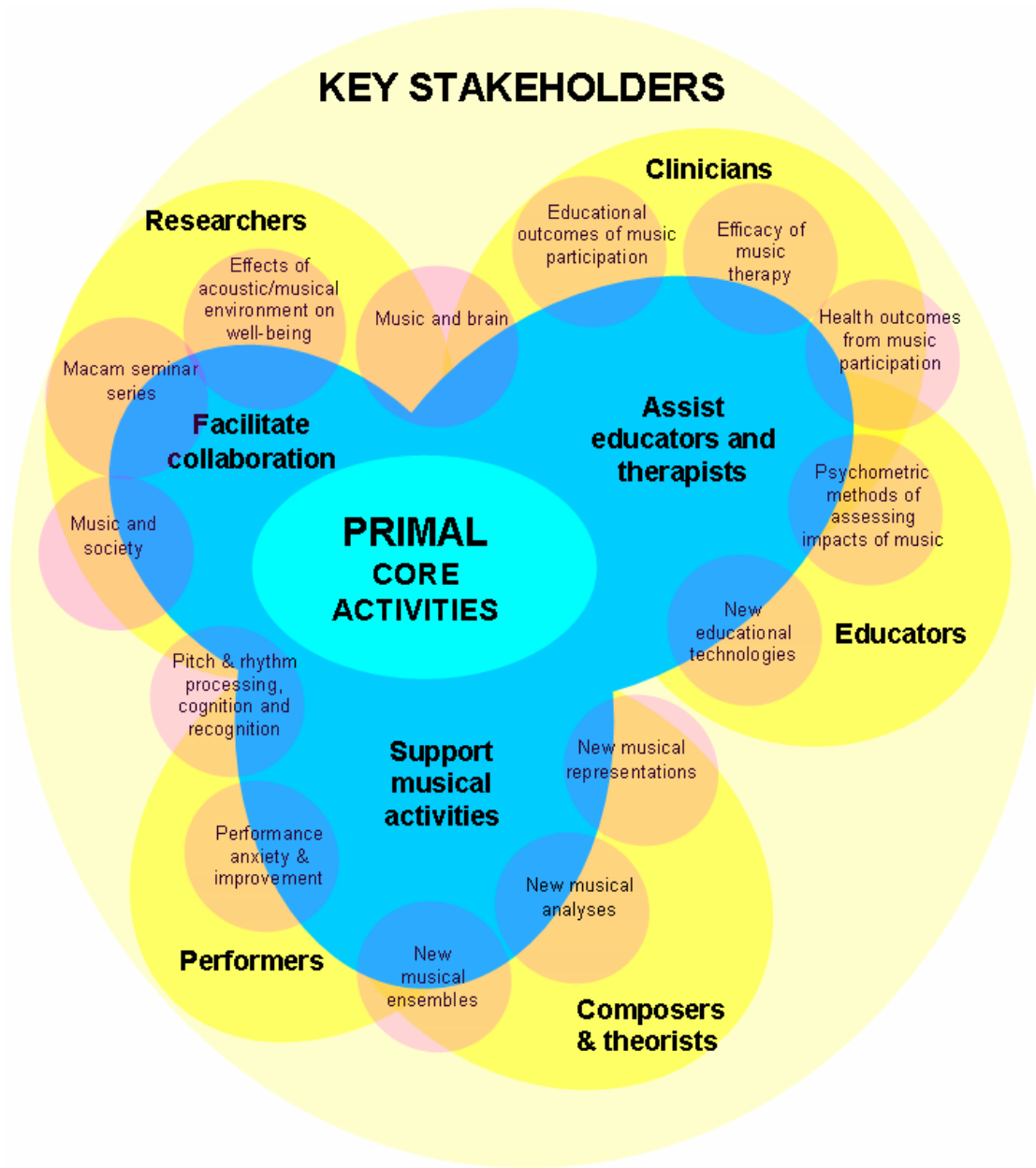
- An interdisciplinary forum to support interaction between music researchers in disparate fields, practitioners and industry.
- A network to facilitate information dissemination of research findings and unique expertise into the broader community.
- A network to engage research and practise on key social priorities such as outlined in the National Research Priority on Aging, the Federal Government review of music education and Australia Council funding priorities.
- Training opportunities for reemerging researchers and practitioners to present their work in supportive and critical forums.
- Links to industry, artists, practitioners, clinicians and academics.

Figure 1: Research collaborations



| Executive   |                                |                   |                       | Members   |                          |                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>NMcL</b> | Assoc. Prof.<br>Neil McLachlan | Pres.             | Beh. Sc.<br>Melb. Uni | <b>CF</b> | Prof.<br>Cathy Falk      | Music<br>Melb. Uni     |
| <b>ST</b>   | Dr Samia<br>Toukhsati          | Treas             | Psych<br>Mon. Uni     | <b>NJ</b> | Dr Neryl<br>Jeanneret    | Education<br>Melb. Uni |
| <b>BB</b>   | Dr Bruce<br>Barber             | Public<br>Officer | NARI                  | <b>DH</b> | Dr David<br>Hirst        | Beh. Sc.<br>Melb. Uni  |
| <b>BW</b>   | Dr Ben<br>Williams             | Sec               | Hum.Beh<br>Swin. Uni  | <b>JS</b> | Prof. Jonty<br>Stockdale | VCA music<br>Melb. Uni |
| <b>DR</b>   | Dr David<br>Rawlings           |                   | Beh. Sc.<br>Melb. Uni | <b>DG</b> | Dr Denise<br>Grocke      | Music<br>Melb. Uni     |
| <b>NR</b>   | Dr Nikki<br>Rickard            | Vice<br>Pres.     | Psych<br>Mon. Uni     | <b>DL</b> | Dr Dean<br>Lusher        | Beh. Sc.<br>Melb. Uni  |
| <b>SW</b>   | Dr Sarah<br>Wilson             |                   | Beh. Sc.<br>Melb. Uni | <b>FM</b> | Fintan<br>Murphy         | Music<br>Monash Uni    |

# Figure 2: Research fields



**Table 1:** Competitive funding for music projects involving PRIMAL executive members over 5 years.

| <b>Investigators</b>   | <b>Project</b>   | <b>Funding Source</b>             | <b>Years</b> | <b>Total Funding</b> |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Barber, J.B.*<br>Ames, D.,<br>LoGiudice, D.                                | Evaluating the effects of music interventions on hospitalised people with dementia   | J.O. & J.R. Wicking trust         | 2007 - 2009  | \$256,868            |
| Toukhsati, SR*,<br>O'Connor, D<br>Thaut, M,<br>Bennett, P, &<br>Barber, B* | An evaluation of the cognitive effects of music therapy in populations with dementia of the Alzheimer's type                             | Monash Strategic Grants Scheme    | 2007         | \$35,000             |
| Rickard, NS*<br>Murphy, F,<br>Moore, D, &<br>Toukhsati, SR                 | Implementation and evaluation of an intensive music education program in schoolchildren.   | ARC Linkage Grant                 | 2006-2009    | \$348,000            |
| McLachlan, N*,<br>Wilson, SJ*<br>and Falk, C                               | Acoustical, psycho-acoustical and musicological factors in the design musical ensembles  | ARC Discovery Grant               | 2006-2011    | \$550,000            |
| Rickard, N*  | Evaluation of musical, academic and psychosocial benefits of implementing a high quality music education program in high school children | Seeding funds (CASS, Monash, CSC) | 2006         | \$16,000             |
| Wilson, SJ.*<br>and Reutens,<br>DC   | Using musical training to examine brain plasticity and cognitive skill development.  | ARC Discovery Project             | 2004-2005    | 165,463              |
| McLachlan, N*  | The prototyping of new tuned percussion instruments  | Australia Council                 | 2004         | \$24,000             |
| Rickard, N*  | Is rhythmicity an essential component of memory-enhancing stimuli?   | ARC (Small Grants Scheme)         | 2003         | \$13,500             |
| Wilson SJ*   | Using musical training to examine brain plasticity and cognitive skill development.  | ARC Discovery Project             | 2002         | 24,525               |
| McLachlan, N*,<br>Burry, M and<br>Harvey, L                                | Sonological laboratories, RMIT   | SRI grant                         | 2002         | \$508,021            |
| McLachlan, N*,<br>and Trivailo P   | Shape optimisation of musical instruments  | RMIT internal research            | 2002         | \$12,000             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |  |                                   |              | <b>\$1,953,377</b>   |

\* PRIMAL executive members