

**BRIDGING THE GREAT DIVIDE BETWEEN CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY  
MUSICIANS AND CREATING WELL-ROUNDED MUSICIANS.**

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There is a great divide between classical and contemporary musicians – the way they learn music, the way they perform it, the style of music that is performed, the equipment that they use, what they know and don't know.

These musicians are often envious of each other. Classical musicians want to know more about contemporary styles of music. They want to play the piano for hours without music and to be good at working out music by ear. They want to entertain others with their music. Contemporary musicians want to be able to read music and understand the theory behind it. They want to know more about classical music, musicians and how to perform classical music. They are often in awe of the technical prowess of classical musicians.

This presentation would be designed to:

- Encourage piano teachers to incorporate a broad and varied approach to their teaching;
- To provoke thought about how piano teachers do things and why;
- Encourage teachers to widen their horizons and put the students' needs in current times to the fore; and
- Discuss with teachers about the differences between contemporary and classical musicians and encourage an amalgamation of these styles.

One topic that would be incorporated would be: if you know that you had a student for only two years, what are the things that you think they should know?

Also following, I would share ideas or how to create a balanced program with students to ensure that they become well-rounded and capable musicians. This would include the areas of theory, aural, improvisation, arrangement, composition, music appreciation and repertoire. Also how can tertiary institutions adapt to the needs of present times?