



## **Kimbali Harding**

Kimbali Harding is the current Head of Performing Arts at Hastings Girls' High School. Australian born Kiwi, Kimbali has made a name for herself as a leader and advocate for Music Education in Australia. Director of Music at Abbotsleigh School for close to 5 years, she led this Sydney girls school to new heights; achieving 'first in state' awards for the High School Certificate 3 years in a row (no other school has ever achieved this 2 years in a row), 3 consecutive international tours, 2 highly acclaimed musical productions and annual festivals specialising in Baroque and Contemporary Art Music. Prior to this, Kimbali led the education team of Australia's largest national not-for-profit music organisation Musica Viva providing music programs to over 350, 000 children across the country from urban to remote rural schools.

Kimbali started her musical journey studying violin and piano from an early age. Her first solo performance was at the age of four at the Sydney Verbrugghen Recital Hall, performing Vivaldi's Concerto in A minor for Violin. She majored in piano performance at the Sydney Conservatorium and the Cortot Conservatoire in Paris under the tutelage of French concert pianist France Clidat, during which time she competed in a number of international competitions such as the San Sebastian International (Spain), Lev Vlassenko International (Australia) and Van Cliburn Youth Festival (Texas, USA). Kimbali continued to undergo a Renaissance music education with a musicology degree from L'Universite de la Sorbonne, and after returning to Australia, found her true passion for Music Education and Conducting. Working with a variety of Sydney schools, Kimbali has had the immense privilege of conducting a number of Australian world premieres, from small chamber works to pieces with 1000 plus voice choirs and symphony orchestras. Some of her work with young musicians was featured on the award winning film 'Mrs. Carey's Concert'. Kimbali has worked with many of Australia's leading composers including Matthew Hindson, Paul Stanhope, James Humberstone, Damien Barbeler, Katy Abbott, Nicholas Vines, Michelle Leonard OAM and Luke Byrne. She is an experienced instrumental, competition and HSC examiner. Kimbali has recently returned to New Zealand and is daily grateful for the continued opportunity to work with young musicians who bring energy and imagination to the world of music.