

SPEAK PERCUSSION SOUNDS UNHEARD

Percussion, Conversation, Degustation Duré Dara & Speak Percussion



**Workshop 1:
Saturday 21 February, 1:30 - 4pm**

**Workshop 2:
Wednesday 25 February, 4:30 - 6pm**

**Dress rehearsal & performance:
Thursday 26 February, 4:30 - 8:30pm**

Darebin Arts Centre: 401 Bell St, Preston

Cost: FREE

Percussion, Conversation, Degustation is a series of events featuring improvisational music and cross-artform performance led by Duré Dara, Speak Percussion and friends.

Audiences are treated to a multi-sensory 'menu' of percussion, performance and discussion – an invitation to pause, listen, eat and reflect.

Secondary students are invited to join Speak and Duré for a free mini-series of workshops exploring improvised music and a performance at the Percussion, Conversation, Degustation event at Darebin Arts Centre.

For more than 50 years, Duré Dara has been making spontaneous music and performance. She is well known for her work with the late David Tolley, in the Brian Brown Quintet and as an improvisational musician, collaborating on countless music projects with some of the most admired Australian musicians.

Duré has achieved great success as a business woman, in a number of legendary Melbourne restaurants, in philanthropy, and through her work with the Victorian Women's Trust. She has consistently championed social inclusion and received an Order of Australia Medal for her services to women's groups.

In this improvisation workshop series, secondary students will hear from Duré about her advice for young artists and explore their creativity together in a supportive environment. Duré and Speak will lead the group through a number of games and guided improvisations, working together to create a small improvised performance to be shared at the Percussion, Conversation, Degustation event on Thursday 26 February.

Duré Dara

Duré Dara OAM is Indian by race, Malaysian by birth and Australian by choice. Since the 60s, she has frequently performed on ABC radio, recordings and at festivals and concerts around Australia as an improvising musician and contemporary jazz player most notably in a duet with David Tolley. She is widely celebrated as a trailblazing restaurateur, business woman, women's equity activist and percussionist.

Speak Percussion

Speak Percussion is a flexible line-up of Australia's finest creative percussionists that has a 23-year history of commissioning, performing and creating innovative new work. Ranging from solo concerts to massed sound events, Speak Percussion's award winning work includes collaborations with a diverse range of artists and unique hybrid projects, exploring the intersection between percussion and architecture, gastronomy, installation, instrument building, astronomy and dance.

Registrations & Requirements

Students must be able to attend a minimum of 1 workshop and the dress rehearsal/ performance to take part, and will need to bring along an instrument for the improvisation exercises. All other materials will be provided.

To register for this program, please complete the application form at:

<https://forms.gle/kBdwx5gSpWqDmMtb9>

There is no application fee. Participation in this program is free.

Applications must be received before **5pm Wednesday 18 February 2026.**

For more information or assistance with your application, please contact Sounds Unheard Coordinator Biddy Connor (biddy@speakpercussion.com or 0412 258 162).

Sounds Unheard

Sounds Unheard is a free music education program for Victorian secondary music students, hosted by the internationally acclaimed new music organisation Speak Percussion. This program offers unique opportunities for young musicians and composers to expand their knowledge and creativity, develop their talents and explore innovative approaches to music making. Sounds Unheard is supported by the Department of Education, Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program and the Darebin City Council.