

# The music man

If you thought that pursuing a career in music could never pay the bills, then you haven't met Jaime Gibson. When Jaime isn't teaching as Head of Extra Curricular Music at Oxford Falls Grammar School, he's performing with one of Australia's busiest party bands, The Smooth Groove ... or buying up property.



Jaime Gibson, Bachelor of Arts - Music, 2000

Jaime has pursued his love for music through five very different but successful careers – as a conductor, music teacher, entertainment manager, entrepreneur and performer.

He says he feels “really lucky” to have his day job at Oxford Falls Grammar.

“I find that most days I am excited to get to school and share music with the students. We now have over 680 students in the elective performing arts out of 1,050 students. When I started, there were only 90,” Jaime says.

This year Jaime has been recognised for his vibrant contribution to music education over 16 years of teaching and conducting, being awarded

a fellowship by the Collegiate of Specialist Music Educators in 2012.

Outside of the classroom, Jaime's band, The Smooth Groove, has made such a name for itself on the Sydney party circuit that it's now booked until mid-2013.

The band members have even played with the likes of The Rolling Stones, in venues such as Wembley Stadium and the Sydney Superdome.

“As a performer and entertainment manager, let's be honest, the whole thing is fun. In my band, I get to hang out with my friends, eat great food at the most exclusive venues around Australia and play a great range of music from jazz to top 40 dance,” he says.

As for juggling his time between work and play, Jaime seems to have the perfect balance.

“During most of the year, gigs are on weekends, and then as we hit the party season in December, parties are on every night, but school has finished up. So I don't really get physically burnt out.”

As a result, he's been able to reap the rewards of having such a busy career.

“Financially, it's very rewarding as well, which is something I wasn't interested in when studying music, but has become more important when it was time to buy a house!”

Jaime says he also finds that performing as well as teaching provides variety, and refuels his passion for music and passing on this knowledge to students.

Jaime began his career studying a Bachelor of Music at UWS, and praises the University for having a well-rounded music program, making it a clear choice. With such an incredible range of subjects offered within the degree – from recording and music technology through to performing in a wide range of styles – Jaime says the skills he learnt, along with his studies in conducting, have helped him stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs.

“I have had jobs tailored around those skills – I was easily putting together live video and concert band performances and showing strong practical ensemble skills in both public and private schools,” he says.

Jaime's degree also helped him manage the hardest part of managing a career in the arts – being business savvy.

“Due to the focus UWS gave me in arts management I book the musicians