QUINN CARTER

Quinn's passion for music was evident from a young age; learning to sing at 3 years old, he has expanded his instrumental repertoire throughout his life, picking up piano at age 7, violin and cello at age 9, percussion and drums at 10 years of age, then proceeding to teach himself ukulele, guitar and bass at 12 years old. Because of his knowledge and love of music, Quinn is still expanding his instrumental repertoire, picking up instruments and new habits as he experiments with sound through life.

Quinn first started busking in small markets in 2013, and has since performed all over the Central Coast, Sydney, and Newcastle as both a busker within and out of markets, and as a paid musician for both public events, as well as private functions, working closely with Coasties Entertainment, Fairplay, and JC Entertainment.

In 2014 and 2015, Quinn was lucky enough to perform as a featured artist in Newcastle's Starstruck, and had gone back to perform as a featured soloist from 2016-2018. Under the guidance of mentors such as Dan Wilson, Damien Clift, Marissa Saroca, Kristy Nardelli, Sarah Patterson and Francine Bell, he quickly gained knowledge and experience performing in an arena to thousands.

In 2015, Quinn was privileged to be cast as a featured vocalist in Sydney’s School’s Spectacular - organised by The Arts Unit, Sydney - and was a recurring vocalist for the next 3 years. During that time, he was given the opportunity to record backing vocals for a School Spec Alumni original, “Supernova” (performed 2016) at Soni Studios with Adrian Breakspear in Sydney, which he graciously accepted. The entire experience was awe-inspiring, and further encouraged him to pursue his career in music.

Prior to School’s Spec and Starstruck, Quinn was involved in another Arts Unit-funded music camp, called Solo Vocal Camp in 2013 - 2015. Auditionees accepted travelled to Sydney to spend an intensive week learning and improving on skills as singers, performers, instrumentalists, and songwriters, in 4 groups categorised by age. At the end of the intensive week, each group, along with a few soloists from each age cluster, put on a concert for friends and family to watch. Quinn was lucky enough to be asked to perform an original he wrote with one of his school friends, “Unknown Zone”, as a soloist in the 2014 concert.

Quinn auditioned, and was accepted, into Sydney’s Talent Development Project as a singer-songwriter in 2018. TDP required him to travel to Sydney twice a term to take part in a 4-day intensive weekend to improve skills as a performer and a writer, completing tasks set by the mentors – some of which the participants of the course had only a single day to prepare for. During TDP, Quinn had the opportunity to work with producers, writers, and performers such as, but not limited to Phillip-Marc Anquetil, Peter Cousens, Marion Rouvas, Veronica Beattie George, Sharon Millerchip, Imogen Clark, and Greg Agar.

Quinn was part of Hunter Regional Wind Ensemble as a percussionist from 2011-2017, training under the mentorship and expertise of Charissa Ferguson, Scott Ryan, and Michael Scott. Through the program, he was fortunate enough to perform at venues such as The Sydney Opera House, and The Sydney Conservatorium of Music on more than one occasion. He was also lucky enough to play with the Australian Army Band (Newcastle), as well as train under the AAB-N’s conductor.

No stranger to the stage, Quinn is also part of the musical theatre and arts scene, performing both onstage in the cast, as well as in the pit as an orchestra member. In his first show, “Boy From Oz” (Gosford Musical Society, 2010), he was part of the children’s choir as a soloist at 11 years old. From then, he went on to play Tiger Lily (“Peter Pan” - Wyong Musical Theatre Company, 2012), Pepper (“Annie” - GMS, 2018), and Tyson (“Under the Blue Blood Moon” - Jopuka Productions, 2018). In 2018, GMS’s “Honk” proved to be a fun challenge, as Quinn was cast as Lowbutt, and was also one of the percussionists for the show.

In 2018, Quinn was tasked with writing 2 LGBTQ+ pride anthems for Jopuka’s upcoming play, “Gaybies”. He jumped to the challenge, and later recorded and released “Closet House” and “Will We”, before performing both originals in the play. His song “Closet House” has since been the topic of many a radio interview, and Quinn was lucky enough to be able to sing his original on the Jopuka float at the 2020 Mardi Gras. Marching with other queer and allied thespians was an absolute honour, and both he and Joshua Maxwell, the artistic director of the youth theatre company, were interviewed for the televised event. To say it was an incredible experience as a young trans (FtM) artist is an understatement, as he hoped to use the opportunity to be a role model and encourage gender-non-conforming youth to do what they love.

Quinn has been working closely with Maxwell at Jopuka Productions and was awarded a Life Membership for the company in 2019. Prior, he’d musical directed his first show (“Thirteen: The Musical” - 2017) at Jopuka at just 17 years of age and “Rock of Ages” (WMTC - 2018).

In 2017, Quinn graduated high school with a 94% in his music HSC and went on to study at The Grove Studios Academy to do a Diploma in Music Industry (Major Sound Production) where he met Brendan Dawes, Alicia Davies, and Jon Tiddy (2019). He and Davies were later recruited by Dawes and his friend, Alex Ilijas, to form an alt indie rock band called After Hours. With the help of Tiddy as their producer, they released their debut single, “Rock Phase” in April of 2020, and signed to Jon Tiddy’s independent record label, Northwest Records, in July the same year.

Other higher education accomplishments include completing his grade 5 piano AMEB exam, grade 6 percussion AMEB, and grade 8 vocal AMEB exams. Quinn now uses his knowledge to educate other musically-minded people, finding work at Central Coast Music Factory (2018 - current) as a private vocal, piano and drum tutor.

