

# WILLOW NEILSON

Music Teacher

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## CAREER SUMMARY

Dynamic and creative music educator and curriculum designer with over 26 years of international experience in TK-8 classrooms and educational technology. Expert in crafting engaging, standards-based music curricula that incorporate SEL and culturally responsive practices while leveraging technology for interactive learning. A seasoned leader in both classroom instruction and learning product design.

## CONTACT

- ☎ +323-975-1908
- ✉ willow.neilson@gmail.com
- 🖱 [www.willowneilson.com](http://www.willowneilson.com)
- 🌐 [LinkedIn.com/in/willown](https://www.linkedin.com/in/willown)

## EDUCATION

**Master of Arts in Education**  
San Diego State University  
2016

**Post Grad. Dip: Music Education**  
University of Melbourne  
2006

**Bachelor of Music (Honors 1<sup>st</sup> class)**  
University of Sydney  
2000

## CERTIFICATIONS

- First Steps in Music – Feierabend Association of Music · 2025
- SEL-Based Drum Circle Facilitation – Rhythm 2 Recovery · 2025
- Cross-cultural Language & Academic Development– UC San Diego · 2025
- Orff Schulwerk Level I – Los Angeles Orff Association · 2025
- Coaching & NLP – Academy of Leadership Coaching & NLP · 2013

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### ○ Elementary Music Teacher (TK-4)

Los Nietos School District  
2024 – Present

- Develop and deliver sequential music instruction across multiple school sites utilizing Orff Schulwerk, Dalcroze, and Conversational Solfege
- Incorporate bilingual (Spanish-English) repertoire, world music drumming, and cross-curricular STEAM projects

### ○ General Music Teacher (K-8)

Australian International School Phnom Penh  
2020 – 2021

- Implemented First Steps in Music and Conversational Solfege (K-4), World Music Drumming (3-5), and Musical Futures (6-8)
- Conducted ensemble direction, integrated SEL into instruction, and curated culturally diverse repertoires

### ○ General Music Teacher (Grades 1-6)

Shanghai United International School · Xiamen, China  
2019-2020

- Delivered bilingual English-Mandarin music lessons for grades 1-6
- Focused on singing, rhythm, movement, and instrumental ensemble work
- Created culturally responsive lessons bridging Western and Chinese traditions

### ○ Curriculum Designer

Age of Learning  
2021-2023 & 2017-2019

- Led curriculum design for music-based educational games, videos, and interactive learning products
- Performed competitive analysis, user research, and prototyping to guide product development
- Composed and arranged music for instructional content; collaborated with cross-disciplinary teams to launch products
- Produced scripts, musical compositions, and prototypes for educational games and video lessons