

Big Wollongong Con gig ahead of main Honk! Oz festival

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MUSICAL CELEBRATION: Honkski Oro organisers Tunjii Beier and Linsey Pollak dropped by Wollongong Conservatorium of Music to perform a special piece ahead of next year's Honk! Oz festival. Picture: Georgia Matts

There was no carrot in sight when Linsey Pollak dropped by for a special musical workshop in Wollongong recently.

But the well-known musical instrumentalist could produce his carrot trick when he returns to the city in January for the Honk! Oz festival.

The trick (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BISrGwN-yH4>) in question went viral after Pollak turned a carrot into a clarinet during a Ted X talk.

Using an electric drill, a carrot and a saxophone mouthpiece, Pollak played it [carrot-clarinet] all in a matter of five minutes. The YouTube video went viral with almost six million views since June, 2014.

“He is known in the mainstream as the carrot clarinet guy,” Con Artists leader David Rooney said.

“A lot of people know Linsey for that but he is much more than that. He is a multi-instrumentalist, instrument maker and community music activist.

“We want to be a community activist like him. We are trying to come up with something that will bring all Wollongong musicians together to play out on the streets of Wollongong in celebration.”



DUO: Tunjii Beier and Linsey Pollak. Picture: Georgia Matts

Pollak and fellow northern NSW composer Tunjii Beier dropped by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music on December 3.

The duo work-shopped a newly created piece of music called ‘Honkski

Oro', with over 50 musicians.

The final musical creation resulting from the workshop will be played by over 150 musicians as the culmination of the annual Honk! Oz festival of street music to occur in Wollongong on January 19-21.

Rooney said Honk was a three-day festival that promotes inclusivity for all musical genres and strongly encourages community participation. It is held in the Arts Precinct and surrounds in the centre of Wollongong.



IN TUNE: Tunjii Beier and Linsey Pollak. Picture: Georgia Matts

“It was a hugely successful day. We had almost 50 musicians attend,” he said. “We work-shopped the piece all day and then Linsey and Tunjii did a concert in the evening which was wonderful. They will be back in January to do it all again for the Honk! festival.”

Honk features over 20 street bands, dancing and art in the streets to encourage community participation, celebration and alternate activist causes. Details <http://www.honkfest.org.au/>

The story [Carrot-free Honk gig](#) first appeared on [The Advertiser Lake Times](#).