



ANU, Manhattan music schools come together

Alison Ramage

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The Australian National University's School of Music has formed a high-tech partnership with its counterpart in New York.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Manhattan School of Music, allowing students from both institutions to take part in lectures, tutorials and auditions via video conferencing technology.

Manhattan School of Music president Robert Sirota says they are blazing a new trail for distance learning.

"We hope to serve as an international model of best practices between our two countries," he said.

"As we bridge the challenges of distance we really see that there's really nothing that can keep us from being one world together in the arts.

"The technology is here; the passion and dedication is here."

The ANU's Kirsty Guster says the project is only possible due to advances in video conferencing technology.

"This is about reducing the tyranny of distance. So with this technology we are now able to communicate not just through normal video conferencing, but music specific video conferencing, and that's important for musicians in order to hear all the subtleties of tone and timbre integrity," she said.

The new classes will begin in March.

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