



**CHURCHLANDS  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



**CHURCHLANDS  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**The CSHS Music Parent Community welcomes you.**

## WELCOME

The Music Parents Committee (MPC) extends a warm welcome to the parents of incoming music students. You are allowing your child to be involved in an exciting and challenging high school education. Music Parents have the privilege of watching their children participate in many wonderful experiences. Music Parents work together to support the teachers and the program, getting to know each other and enjoying a rewarding partnership.

This is a wonderful community and a terrific opportunity for you and your child. You are invited to be INVOLVED and FEEL AT HOME by getting to know other Music Parents and HAVING FUN supporting our students and their music teachers.

## CHURCHLANDS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Established in 1972 to encourage young musical talent and raise the profile of music in the community through education, the program is now one of the state's largest and most successful, with graduates in leading and principal positions in most high-profile national arts organisations.

## FROM THE PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Parents typically feel that the experiences music students have at Churchlands contribute to a rich and valuable secondary education. The program enables students to perform a wide range of music at a high standard, to work in a disciplined team, make rewarding friendships, travel, contribute to the community, and manage busy schedules. In addition, the care and interest shown to the students by the music staff provide a secure and happy environment. The cooperation and bonds between the students are also very positive aspects - our students are indeed fortunate.

## EXPECTATIONS

A commitment to enrol in GATE music is a commitment to continue music studies through to the end of Year 12. The Education Department, through the school, makes a huge investment in developing the specific balance of young instrumentalists necessary to provide our most talented students with the highest level of musical opportunity available in Western Australian schools. The disruption caused by a student leaving the program prematurely not only has a detrimental impact on the opportunities available to entire ensembles but has a flow-through effect on students at all levels of the program. GATE students living outside of the school catchment and wishing to leave the GATE program may be asked to leave the school and enrol at their local high school.

**By accepting a GATE music position, students are expected to remain in the music course until the end of Year 12.**

**General music students should continue at least until the end of Year 10.**

General students who maintain appropriate grades are also eligible for senior school music courses. It is only possible to maintain high standards if all students are committed to the program. Attendance at rehearsals, lessons, and performances, and having a positive attitude towards regular practice, is a requirement.

## INFORMATION

We trust this booklet is a helpful reference for matters relating to the music program. For more information, please visit the school website.

## STRUCTURE OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM

Placement in the music program is as a Gifted & Talented (GATE) or general music student.

GATE places are open to students from any primary school in the state. There are up to 64 places per year group in the GATE Music program for students identified as having the qualities necessary to succeed in the program. These students receive *individual instrumental, or vocal tuition*, a comprehensive classroom music education, and involvement in performing ensembles.

General music placements provide students learning through the IMSS system with the opportunity to continue. These students either did not apply for a GATE music position or their application was unsuccessful. General students receive instrumental tuition in *small groups*, classroom music education, and involvement in performing ensembles.

General students who were not learning with the Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Service (IMSS) must continue to learn privately.

**With satisfactory classroom music results General Music students may elect to do the same *classroom* music component as GATE students to be better prepared for ATAR music.**

## TIME COMMITMENT FOR STUDENTS

Involvement in the program necessitates an extra commitment of time. Apart from music classes and instrumental lessons in school time, students are involved in choir rehearsals and instrumental ensemble rehearsals each week. These may be before or after school, or on Saturday morning.

**These commitments are important if a high standard of performance is to be reached. Please advise the Music Office if a lesson or a rehearsal is missed.**

**Where possible, notice in advance is helpful to teachers and conductors. Like any team activity, an absence affects the whole team.**

## MUSIC COURSE

The music course the students undertake consists of the following elements:

- Instrumental or Vocal Lessons
- Performing Ensembles
- Classroom Music

## INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL LESSONS

### TUITION

The Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Service (IMSS) provides free instrumental tuition for eligible students in the music program.

- GATE Music Students have an **individual** instrumental or vocal lesson
- General Music Students who learnt with the IMSS at primary school have a **group** instrumental lesson
- General Music Students who learnt privately in primary school must continue to do so.

### INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS

Instrumental teachers are experienced professional musicians from the Department of Education Instrumental Music School Service (IMSS).

### INSTRUMENT HIRE

Certain instruments are available for hire, although most students were required to purchase one in primary school. In most cases, these students continue to use their own instrument unless it is not of adequate quality, in which case they are advised by their instrumental teacher to obtain one of better quality. All the larger and more expensive instruments can be hired by students, whether GATE or General Music students. It is the student's responsibility to take care of their instrument and **ensure the case is clearly labelled with their name and a contact number**. Instruments hired through the school are insured while on school grounds during school hours; however it is advisable to make your own insurance arrangements to cover the instrument at other times. This can be set up through your house and contents insurance or other more specific covers.

With very large instruments such as double bass and percussion, the school usually has extra instruments available for students to use in lessons and rehearsals to avoid transporting their instrument to and from school.

**We are not responsible for the security of instruments left on site overnight. Privately owned instruments used at school must be insured privately.**

### LESSON TIMES

Lessons are scheduled either before or during school hours. Where held during school hours, the lessons are organised on a rotating basis, so students do not miss the same subject each week. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed work. Senior school students have lessons scheduled at lunchtime or before school wherever possible. Students must consult the notice board to confirm their lesson times each week. If a student cannot attend a lesson or misses one for any reason, a note of explanation should be sent.

### PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students should generally practise daily and record this in an Instrumental Music Student Journal. The student's music journal is also the primary means of communication between the instrumental teacher and parent. The student's instrumental teacher is more specific on the nature and the amount of practice required and this depends on the student's year, instrument, and degree of experience.

**Whatever the amount, it must be regular to be effective.**

### MUSIC AND TUITION BOOKS

Students are required to purchase specific music and books for their instrument. These details come from the Instrumental or Vocal teacher.

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Music students must participate in a **choir** and at least one **instrumental ensemble or Colla Voce (if a vocalist)**. Piano students only participate in a choir.

### CHOIRS

Choral training is a compulsory part of our course.

Dooverlackies	Year 7 students
Larrikins	Year 8 & 9 boys
Matildas	Year 8 & 9 girls
Galahs	Year 10 students
Senior Choir	Year 11 & 12 students
Chorale	Year 10 - 12 audition only
Colla Voce	Specialist voice students

### INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES AUDITIONS

Auditions are held towards the end of Term 3 to restructure the instrumental ensembles for the next twelve months. All students, including incoming Year 6's, are auditioned, ranked, and allocated to the ensemble most suitable for their instrument and ability. Placement is broadly determined by ability and vacancies, rather than year level or course to extend and challenge our students.

The social consequences of placing highly proficient younger players ahead of their older peers, along with the need to provide appropriate leadership opportunities to each cohort are considerations in a student's final placement.

### WIND ORCHESTRAS (concert bands)

Wind Orchestra 5  
Wind Orchestra 4  
Wind Orchestra 3  
Wind Orchestra 2  
Wind Orchestra 1

### woodwind, brass, and percussion

developing basic ensemble skills  
for junior students  
intermediate level students  
more proficient students  
the most capable students

### JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Ellingtons (Junior)  
BlueNotes (Intermediate)  
Birdlands (Senior)

The number of ensembles is subject to student interest and staff availability and is for students to develop jazz ensemble skills

### SYMPHONY & STRING ORCHESTRAS

Tutti String Ensemble  
Double Bass Ensemble  
Ripieno String Orchestra  
Sinfonia  
Symphony Orchestra  
Chamber Orchestra

### strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion

developing basic ensemble skills  
double bass players  
for junior students  
for proficient students  
the most capable students  
an invitation only ensemble

### GUITAR ENSEMBLES

Strummers  
Fretwork 2  
Fretwork 1

### classical guitars

developing basic skills  
for more proficient students  
for very capable students

### CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

These are formed from year to year, subject to student interest and staff availability. They may involve string, percussion, brass, piano or woodwind players.

## CLASSROOM MUSIC

Students learn the skills to become better musicians. Learning to appreciate music in many forms is an important part of music education and development.

**All** music students participate in at least one choir & an appropriate ensemble.

**All** music students must be having regular instrumental or vocal lessons.

### YEAR 7 & 8 (Music classes are FULL YEAR units.)

**GATE Music:** Year 7: 2 periods of classroom music  
Year 8: 3 periods of classroom music

**General Music:** Years 7 & 8: 2 periods of classroom music

**Musicianship:** Kodály based ear training and music theory  
**Music Literature:** Score reading, analysis, and music history  
**Concert Practice:** Performing to develop critical listening skills

### YEAR 9 & 10 (Music classes are FULL YEAR units.)

**GATE Music:** 4 periods of classroom music  
**General Music:** 2 periods of classroom music

**Musicianship:** Kodály based ear training and music theory  
**Music Literature:** Score reading, analysis, and music history; plus  
**Concert Practice:** Performing to develop critical listening skills  
**Improvisation:** Jazz improvisation, arranging and performance

### YEAR 11 & 12 (Music classes are FULL YEAR units.)

There are both Certificate and ATAR music courses available.

**All GATE Music students are expected to enrol in an appropriate music course.**

General Music students may enrol in the ATAR or Certificate music courses if they complete the lower school course to a satisfactory standard.

Aside from 4 periods per week, consistent with all Year 11 & 12 courses, music students must continue to attend Choir & Ensemble rehearsals and performances, as well as instrumental or vocal lessons.

## ROUTINE OF THE YEAR

Many weeks in the school calendar involve performances or workshops with guest clinicians, however most children are involved in only five or six of the performances each year. At the beginning of each year, a full schedule including dates is distributed to all families. It is essential to diarise the relevant dates for your child as they are compulsory events and absentees cause problems for the whole ensemble.

## CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES, and other EVENTS

Six concerts are held during the year, two each for Junior, Intermediate and Senior ensembles. There is also an annual series of festivals, a Government schools showcase concert (the Opus Concert), and occasional special events including charity events, memorial services, short tours and specific school occasions.

**Tickets to school concerts must be purchased online.  
If not sold out, a small number of tickets may be available for  
cash at the door but attract a surcharge.  
Avoid the queue by booking your tickets seats online.**

## MUSIC UNIFORM POLICY

Music students participate in many performances at school, as well as within our community and internationally. Presentation is very important. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of dress and conduct whenever they represent the CSHS and the School of Music.

### FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM

**Boys:** Black concert shirt with music crest  
Teal music tie  
Black concert trousers and a black belt.  
Black leather lace-up dress shoes and **long black socks** (not sports shoes)  
Churchlands school tie

**Girls:** Black concert jacket with music crest  
Teal camisole  
Black concert trousers  
Low heeled plain black shoes; lace up or court style. No high heels, strappy or exaggerated styles. Not sports shoes.  
**Black stockings or long black socks**  
Black or teal hair ribbon for long hair  
**No jewellery may be worn** (small studs and sleepers are acceptable)

Hair for boys and girls is to be neat; long hair tied back, off the face and behind the shoulders.

**Music uniforms are only available through the Churchlands SHS  
Uniform Shop.**



## MUSIC TOURS

Since 1982 the School of Music has regularly toured to destinations in Australia, Europe, Asia or North America. Tours are an educational experience for the students and the destinations are chosen for their musical opportunities with students involved in many performances and cultural activities. Such an undertaking is very expensive and a considerable amount of effort from the families of participating students is needed to raise funds.

**While participation in a tour is not compulsory, most eligible students do take part.**

Tours typically occur in the middle or end of Semester 1 and at three weeks are longer than most other school tours. All students enrolled in music courses in Years 10, 11, and 12 of the touring year are eligible to participate, dependant on them demonstrating a consistently positive attitude and a high standard in behaviour and attendance at school.



**All touring students participate in a choir and *may* also be in one or more of the instrumental ensembles.** The normal teaching routine is not interrupted during a tour year, and students not going on tour are involved as normal in the appropriate ensemble for their ability. Separate information is available to families prior to a tour proposal.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

In Years 7 & 8 at CSHS, students have no electives and instead experience a range of subjects. In Years 9 & 10, music is automatically an elective for music students. It does reduce their number of other electives, but it must be remembered that they have elected to do music with its advantages and expectations.

**For year 9 GATE students, two of the four music classes are scheduled off-grid to give them an additional elective or study-period choice. Year 10 students may have an off-grid option as well, depending on demand and interest.**

**For year 11 & 12 GATE students, music is automatically one of their six subjects.**

### SPORT COMMITMENTS

Most students interested in sport manage to combine their music commitments with sporting involvement. While attendance at rehearsals is mandatory, in specific cases of clashes, every effort is made to find alternatives that allow the child to meet sport commitments and fulfil the requirements of the music course.

### TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL/CARPOOLING

As students often live some distance from the school and need to be at rehearsals early in the morning, it can be useful to carpool. The Music Parents' Committee can help to put you in touch with other parents if you would like to arrange shared transport.

### HOW CAN A PIANIST BE INVOLVED?

Students entering the program as pianists are expected to continue with private lessons. They may find opportunities to accompany instrumentalists or ensembles as their abilities and opportunities allow.

### SHOULD I CONTINUE WITH MY PIANO LESSONS?

Absolutely! The reading and comprehension skills developed through learning the piano enable many students to progress faster in other areas of the music course. They may also have opportunities to accompany other students if their skills allow.

**The Music Parents' Committee is a vibrant group of parents serving as a vital link between music parents and the School of Music.**

## MUSIC PARENT COMMUNITY

CSHS Music Parents are involved practically in the music program in many ways:

### THE MPC

This is a committee of office-bearers formed annually to oversee various responsibilities. The MPC meets regularly (during term), and everyone is welcome. Activities are voluntary; your help is highly valued.

### MUSICNOTES

Our newsletter, created by music parents for music families and included with the school newsletter. Please feel free to contribute articles and photos.

### EMAILS OF NEWS AND MPC UPDATES

We keep in touch with you through the year by email regarding school and MPC activities. To contact you effectively, please ensure that the School and the MPC are aware of changes to your contact details.

### **MEET THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS NIGHT**

Each year, the MPC provides parents an invaluable opportunity to meet with the instrumental teachers to discuss the progress of your child and to address any concerns you may have. It is a social evening with the opportunity to meet other parents.

### **CONCERT HALL CATERING AND CAR PARKING VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are rostered to help direct traffic and to organise and serve refreshments for external groups hiring the Concert Hall. Parents with an RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) certificate may help at Concert Hall events with a licensed bar. Parents also assist in serving refreshments at our own school concerts and events.

These roles generate funds for the MPC.

### **STAGE CREW VOLUNTEERS**

Parents assist in setting up the stage for the various ensembles.

### **FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are rostered at concerts to assist with ticketing, seating of patrons and controlling entrance/exit from the Concert Hall during performances.

### **OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

Parent involvement in one or more fundraising opportunities is expected: e.g., Sausage Sizzles, and coffee & cake stalls at Festivals. Money raised improves the music education your child receives at Churchlands SHS.

### **TOUR FUNDRAISING**

15 months before a tour, a specialist tour committee is established for organisation and fundraising activities. It is a busy time for parents, but the end result is worthwhile. The wealth of past experience makes the task fairly streamlined and efficient.

**All Music Parents are expected to help a couple of times each year. Such a large and enjoyable music program cannot be as successful without the sincere commitment from families.**

### **HOW CAN YOU BE A PARTICIPATING MUSIC PARENT?**

1. Please complete and return the Music Parent Helper Form promptly to the Music Office or directly to the MPC Convenor.
2. Email the MPC Convenor with offers of help.
3. Throughout the year, there are opportunities to help at various events. Check your inbox regularly for updates!

We look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the next six years. This is a special community and being involved is the best way to really feel at home and know what's happening.

**The Music Parent Community welcomes you**

## **The Music Parent Committee**

supports the vision of the School of Music by enhancing the musical opportunities and experiences of our children through the provision of practical support, and additional resources via fundraising.

The School of Music is a place where parents participate in the journey and the achievements of their children and make lasting friendships.