

MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2019

Smooth Jazz: Our Jazz Ensembles impress!

Ollie Lane, Trombone, Year 12 Jazz Ensemble

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Convenor's Cadenza

Penny McNiff, MPC Convenor



I have recently taken over the role of Convenor of the Music Parents' Committee (MPC) from Annie Halse Smith who has done this role so enthusiastically for the past three years - thank you Annie! As the parent of a Year 9 saxophone player, I have taken for granted the fact that the food, drinks, stage crew and ticketing for all the concerts, sausage sizzles and the weekend-long ABODA Festivals, just magically happen. In reality, it is all organised by just 20 incredible parents on the MPC.

However, they can't do it alone. We would like every family to volunteer once or twice each year, to ensure that performances are enjoyable for all and so that we can make a meaningful donation of funds to the school. If you have any feedback or queries, please email me on:

mpc@churchlandspc.com.au

Keep in touch

Follow what's happening with the Music Parents Committee via:

Facebook - Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/CSHSmusicparents

Email - Send us a message at mpc@churchlandspc.com.au to be added to our mailing list

Meet the Instrumental Teachers

Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 7pm

Don't miss this once a year opportunity to meet your child's instrumental music teacher. It is a fun evening, with drinks and nibbles provided by the MPC. Take the time to meet other parents while you wait for your interview and enjoy the musical entertainment provided by our talented students.

If you have not yet received your password for the PTO system to book your interview, please email our fabulous Music Secretary Nicola Hills nhills@churchlands.wa.edu.au.

Music Parents' Committee 2019

Executive

Convenor: **Penny McNiff** mpc@churchlandspc.com.au

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Chamber Music Series Catering Coordinator: **Tracey Gralton** tgralton@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

When? 7:30pm Monday 6 May 2019

ALL music parents are welcome!

Hear Music Director Mr Glenn Robinson's updates on the Music program.

Where? Green Room, opp. Concert Hall

MPC meetings are held on Monday of weeks 2 and 7 during term

Festival

Festival Organising Committee: **Julie Pegrum** pegrum.family@outlook.com; **Naomi Chapman** greenwayfamily05@iinet.net.au; **Jenny Lourens** jennifer@lourens.com.au; **Shona Vigus** shona.vigus@bigpond.com

Festivals Sausage Sizzle Coordinator: **Amanda Vanderputten** vander@amnet.net.au; **David Pollock** dpollock2807@gmail.com

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Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Coordinator: **Tash Guest** rubules769@gmail.com

General MPC Committee Members

Marina Biddle, Annie Halse Smith, Tracy Taylor, Alan Lourens,

Pamela Guerinoni, Rachel Clegg, Isabel Pumar, Lana Frolova

from the Director's Desk

Glenn Robinson, Director of Music

Welcome back to another year of musical action in our dynamic School of Music. With over 500 instrumental and vocal students, we remain the biggest and most successful music program in the state, and in the words of the late Richard Gill, "something very special".

I would like to start by acknowledging our 2018 Year 12 students for outstanding results with the ATAR exams.

- Churchlands ATAR Music has been listed as one of the top schools in the state for more than eight consecutive years – longer than any other subject taught at Churchlands.
- **81% of our Year 12 ATAR Music received higher ATAR scores because they were ATAR music students.**
- Nine CSHS ATAR Music students received ATAR Certificates of Distinction in various courses and fourteen received ATAR Certificates of Merit, despite tour and other musical commitments.
- 84.6% of Churchlands Music students had a score at or more than the state mean, while the percentage for "Like Schools" was 53.5%.
- 33% scored above 75%.
- 85% CSHS Music students received A/B grades. The State Average was 62%.

Yes they are busy, but they are also very well prepared (and singing in choir is a part of that!) and it pays off.

This term has already been packed with activity including presentations from accomplished music educator Michael Griffin (more about him elsewhere in this newsletter talking to our Year 7 and 8 students and parents about effective practice and study).

We held our initial tour meeting that was very well attended. The consensus was that a tour would be supported by families with children currently in Years 9, 10, and 11, for June/July 2020. The deadline for tour applications is May 1. Being a part of the Music Tour will be the highlight of any music student's schooling.

The Music Parents Association held their AGM, electing office-bearers and welcoming new music parents. It was noted that an impressive number of parents had themselves been Churchlands music students in the last century.

Our German Band, The Wisecracks slipped into their leather shorts again and returned to the Rhein-Donau Club for some knee slapping fun at the annual Schützenfest, while the Symphony Orchestra had a fabulous session with a guest conductor, and we hosted a group of music students from New York City. Working with music students from other countries is one of the most treasured memories for students who have travelled overseas with past music tours.

Up until 7 or 8 years ago, we would hold annual junior and senior music camps at New Norcia, until we just became too large to be accommodated. Last year we ran a Jazz Camp which was mercifully on a smaller scale, and this year we are upping the ante with a Jazz & Year 8 & 9 GATE Camp at Ern Halliday in Sorrento.

Jazz Camp will run from Wednesday July 31 to Thursday August 1. This will include intensive rehearsals in preparation for the State Jazz Festival, and workshops with the legendary Dick Oatts from the Village Vanguard Orchestra in New York who will be in Perth at the same time.

The GATE camp starts on Thursday August 1, ending on Friday August 2 and will include performances, and workshops on creativity, culture and managing performance anxiety. Information will be sent out early in Term Two. I would like to thank Tim Forster and Claire Chesney for putting the significant time and effort into the planning and management of these camps.



Save the Date!



- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| 29 April | First day of Term 2 | 10 June | MPC Meeting |
| 6 May | MPC Meeting | 13 June | Intermediate Concert |
| 7 May | Meet The Instrumental Teachers Evening | 14 June | Junior Concert |
| 9-10 May | School Production Performances | 19 June | Chamber Concert Series 2 |
| 18 May | MPC Fundraising Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings | 28 June | Chamber Ensembles Concert |
| 5 June | Chamber Concert Series 1 | | |



1st General Meeting 2019

Article & Photos: Fiona Birt

The Music Parents Committee kicked off the year with their 1st General Meeting on Monday 25th February. New and returning parents were lured to the Green Room by the soothing sounds of Jazz, performed by the highly talented Year 12 Jazz Band, Ollie Lane, Chloe Diener, Sophie Kerr, James Strutt, Cass Evans-Ocharern, Martin Jones, Beth Smith and Harry Falloon. Some healthy mingling of parents and teachers preceded the meeting, whilst enjoying a glass of wine, soft drink and nibbles exquisitely prepared by Jodie Tajeddine and her team.

Outgoing Convenor Annie Halse Smith commenced the formal proceedings by introducing Principal Neil Hunt, who formally welcomed all attendees and delivered an insightful speech. Director of Music Mr Glenn Robinson followed, acknowledging the tremendous efforts and ongoing support of the MPC over the past year and introducing the music staff. The election of a new Committee was the major business of the evening due to a number of 2018 members vacating.

Congratulations and appreciation go to Penny McNiff who stepped up to take on the Convenor role and to all of the other parents who came forward to form the incoming Committee. With such a great team, 2019 looks set to be another strong year for the MPC.



Year 7 BBQ

Article & Photos: Fiona Birt



New MPC Convenor Penny McNiff hit the ground running by welcoming parents at the Year 7 P&C BBQ on Thursday 14th March. Penny, supported by several other MPC members, outlined the work of the MPC and invited parents with children in the music program to become involved in any way they could. Head Boy and Head Girl James Strutt and Bethany Smith, both music students, also attended.



Article & Photos: Fiona Birt

Music Scholarships



Congratulations to 2019 Music Scholarship recipients Myra Lee and Gabriel Krzak, who were presented with certificates by CSHS Foundation representative Mr Dudley Elliott.

May this be the start of a very successful music journey at Churchlands Senior High School.

Bremner Brilliance

Article: Kristen Hawksworth

On Tuesday March 19th, the members of Symphony Orchestra participated in a rehearsal with the Principal Trombone of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra – Mr David Bremner.

David Bremner is Principal Trombone of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 2002. Prior to this appointment, he was Principal Trombone of the Auckland Philharmonia. A versatile musician, David has recorded with the New Zealand rock band 'Crowded House', performed with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, as well as many brass bands across Australasia and the UK. He is a founding member of 'Bonanza' Trombone Quartet, and is Music Director of the 2013/14/15/16 Champion Band of NZ and 2015 Australian Champion Band, Wellington Brass.

Mr Bremner offered tremendous insight into what it means to play symphonic music, and he relayed some personal stories and experiences that he has had along the road to becoming a professional musician. The students, as usual, rose to the occasion and were extremely attentive. Mr Bremner commented to me after the rehearsal how impressed he was with the level of playing demonstrated by our students.

After the rehearsal, our trombone and euphonium students were treated to a masterclass with Mr Bremner. Students were given the opportunity to perform for David, and also listen to him demonstrate to them which was a real treat.



Article : Tim Forster

Riverdale High Visit



On 18th March we were fortunate to host a group of 4 staff and 18 students from Riverdale High School in New York. Their jazz students were accompanied by the Riverdale Director of Music, Jason Curry (also a respected performer and educator at Jazz at the Lincoln Centre) who held a workshop for Jazz Orchestras 2 and 3. The string students spent the morning rehearsing with the Symphony Orchestra.

During the morning, the Churchlands students were excellent hosts, showing the visiting students around the school and taking them to their classes. They were very welcoming and friendly at all times, and we finished the morning with a shared morning tea in the Green Room.



"The American visitors were very interesting to talk to as we compared the similarities and differences between our school music program and theirs. They don't do musicianship at their school, as their music lesson is orchestra which they do twice a week, with no other commitments involved in their music program" **Alice**

"When they came into our band and started playing they were amazing, accomplished jazz musicians and surprised us with their version of Equinox." **Ruby**





WAYJO Jazz Excursion

Article: Tim Forster

The Year 10 & 11 Jazz Classes went to His Majesty's Theatre in Perth to hear WAYJO present a workshop on the music of Count Basie. The workshop was run by Ricky Mallet with the WAYJO Tuesday Night Orchestra, which featured our very own Oliver Lane on trombone. The focus of the workshop was the album "Atomic Mr. Basie" which was recorded 60 years ago.

It was very interesting to see the minor details that were required to replicate this music, such as how the brass players used mutes, how the saxophones used vibrato and how the orchestra were able to 'lay back' while staying strictly in time.



WAAPA Jazz Summer School

Article: Tim Forster

During the holidays six Churchlands music students attended the three-day WAAPA Jazz Summer School which started on Monday 21st January. The course involved a number of workshops and presentations relating to the history and performance of jazz. There was a Churchlands connection among the WAAPA Jazz teaching staff with Jeremy Grieg (father of Charlys and Mitch) and Chris Tarr (father of Jai) conducting some of the ensembles. The Summer School ended with a performance on the final day which showcased the achievements of all the small groups involved. I would like to acknowledge the students involved for their initiative (and bravery!) in choosing to be part of this event: Julian Tearney (9), Oliver McQuoid (9), Logan Thorpe (9), Jai Tarr (10), Yoshie Watters (10) and Felix Buddle (11).



Baroque Rocks!

Article: Zoe Hawsworth and Mrs Sims

We had the privilege of having Shaun Lee-Chen attend one of our rehearsals. Mr Lee-Chen has had an amazing career since graduating as an alumni of Churchlands SHS. He was the winner of the Young Performers Award, has been nominated for an Aria award, and is a member of WASO and the Artist in Residence at the UWA Conservatorium of Music. Mr Lee-Chen is also the Concertmaster of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and has performed solo with WASO, the Queensland Orchestra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

Mr Lee-Chen helped guide our rehearsal with the more detailed nuances of playing in the Baroque style. His knowledge of the Baroque Era helped bring out the best sound for our piece that we are studying. He showed us his Baroque violin which weighed just a little over a block of butter! Lisa Smith had an opportunity to play it. This was very interesting and helped us make the connection of the light, fast and forward driving style of Baroque performances. Mr Lee-Chen was very inspiring and rewarding. I really enjoyed having him help us and making our ensemble sound even better.



Music Education Specialist Michael Griffin presented his insights to Year 7 and 8 students during Term 1 and a parents' session was provided in the evening. He focused on how to encourage students to practice and highlighted that the great motivator is PROGRESS. His tip was, don't say 'just do your best' if they are struggling with motivation, as this will lead to underachievement. Children need to set specific goals. E.g. if you want to get an A, practice for x minutes per day; if your goal is to achieve a B, only practice y amount per day. Success is achieved if they ultimately take responsibility for their practice themselves and this improves self-esteem, which benefits all their school subjects.



Children underestimate how much work is required to progress, and avoid the 'hard bits'. Experts practise the hard bits and the things they don't like. One example to break up the regular practice routine is to close your eyes and play the piece slowly, to prove that you really know the piece.

Michael emphasised that sleep is very important for memory – the last two hours of sleep consolidate skills learnt the day before. It was interesting to note that research shows that brighter children consistently sleep longer...I can see this being used as an excuse to sleep in and miss a morning rehearsal!

Why do I have to go to choir?

At various times we've all heard this question! Music educators, scholars and pedagogues all agree that singing in a choir is an extremely valuable experience for young musicians. It is an important vehicle for aural training, sight singing, the application of theoretical concepts learnt in class, and reinforces literature studies showing how different musical styles fit into history.

Being in a choir gives students valuable ensemble skills and teaches them to work within a team, striving towards a common goal. Vocalisation is without the technical difficulties associated with playing an instrument and therefore students can achieve a much higher level of musicianship. By singing in a choir students' often perform with a level of expressivity not easily achieved in their instrumental studies until much later in their development.

According to the late leading conductor and choral specialist Richard Gill, "....without an ability to sing or an understanding of singing, there can be no real music making. It is from singing and vocal music that all other musical forms have evolved and it is to singing that all music owes its allegiance.....singing is the very root of music education and indeed should occupy the central focus of music making. It also stands to reason that from singing an enormous variety of musical concepts can be taught and learned. By 'singing' it is meant singing in tune, with a secure sense of rhythm and expressive qualities. It is not meant that each person who sings should necessarily have a beautiful voice".

Any trained musician will tell you that the ability to sing accurately is the gauge by which we measure any instrumentalist's skill and musicianship.

Churchlands has six choirs; the Dooverlackies, the Matildas, the Larrikins, the Year 10 Choir, Senior Choir, and Chorale. Students sing all different types of music in Churchlands choirs rather than concentrating on some of the pieces more regularly performed by mass choirs, allowing students to experience a wide range of choral repertoire. However, students' experiences will enable them, if they wish to join one of the amateur or professional choirs in Perth while either at school or later in life.



Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) staff meetings can sometimes be rather 'dry' events where we discuss administration and curriculum matters. Our most recent staff meeting was refreshingly different, however; as the two highest achieving students in the ATAR performance exams from 2018 performed for the staff. Both of these students achieved 100% in their Year 12 final performance exam with SCSA. What an incredible achievement! The students were Bhavna Venkat from John Curtin College of the Arts (contemporary vocal) and our own **Aaron Dungey** on viola (Western Art of Music).

Picture an old primary school hall, quite hot and stuffy, full of music teachers. One can imagine how challenging performing can be at the best of times, let alone for a huge room full of music teachers. Representatives from the SSTUWA, along with the Principal and Deputy Principal from JCCA, were on hand to present awards to these two students to recognise their achievements. I, along with all staff members, was transfixed by these two performers; Aaron played like a seasoned performer, with wonderful musicianship, flair and humility. After taking us on a wonderful Schumann journey, he had a minor mishap with the bow hair on the very last note. His reaction (laughter) demonstrated to all how that he is a totally comfortable, consummate performer. The audience laughed along and offered rapturous applause. During the performance I couldn't help but think about all that goes into creating a diamond like Aaron. Diamonds are created by having a myriad of correct conditions and of course considerable pressure. Consider for a moment all of the conditions and opportunities that must be present at Churchlands to allow the creation of not just an exceptional student such as Aaron, but a whole cohort of wonderful musicians and people. Yes there's pressure, but look at the result!

Aaron began viola lessons through IMSS in Year 8 after he secured a place in the Gifted & Talented music program at Churchlands. He was taught by Tzvi Friedl and Kierstan Arkleysmith, and benefited greatly from their tutelage. At Churchlands, Aaron was involved in lessons, masterclasses, choirs, and ensembles, including the symphony and chamber orchestras and string quartets. He is a member of WA Charity Orchestra and WA Youth Orchestra, and has played with the UWA Chamber Orchestra and WAAPA's Faith Court Orchestra. He has twice attended the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp. In 2018, Aaron was awarded the Paul McGeorge Memorial Prize for Most Outstanding String Player, and the Top Instrumental Student Award for highest cumulative performance marks at Churchlands SHS. His successful audition resulted in him being awarded a Delano Prize by UWA, and he is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts at UWA (Music Studies and Music Specialist Studies) under the tutelage of Sally Boud.

Aaron has been an outstanding student and leader. He is a wonderful ambassador for our school and an example of what can be achieved through Music. My sincerest congratulations to Aaron, his teachers, his peers and of course the incredible Music program that offered him these opportunities.



Article: Michael Biddle

Schützenfest



Schützenfest is a traditional cultural festival of Germany (and Switzerland) featuring a target shooting competition. The Churchlands German Band were once again honoured to be invited to perform at the Rhein Donau Club in celebration of the Schützenfest festivities this year, presented by the Eagle Eye Air Rifle Group.

We arrived at the venue, changed into traditional German dress and then played to a lovely warm and supportive community. The atmosphere was magical and reminiscent of a true German Beer Garden. We even had an opportunity to join in the target shooting competition. The whole experience was very gratifying and lots of fun!

Concert Dos and Don'ts

Be prepared for Music Concerts with our handy list of Dos and Don'ts!

Do

- Try your uniform on to check it still fits!
- Give it a wash and an iron before concert night
- Make sure you have BLACK socks or BLACK opaque stockings
- Make sure you have smart black concert shoes
- Check the hem on your pants - you may have grown since 2018!
- On concert night, make sure your hair is off your face and out of your eyes – long hair should be at least partially tied back away from the face

The shoes are perfect...

The socks are correct...

.....but the pants are too short



Have you tried your uniform on since last year?

Does it still actually fit??



Do your hems need adjusting?



Tie your hair back off your face!



Must wear black socks / stockings..



Yes, even the lads



Don't

- Jewellery is not a part of our concert uniform - discreet sleepers or studs only
- Don't assume because you are a boy you can have long hair that is not tied back! The rules are the same for guys and girls
- Don't wear sneaker style black shoes – concert shoes should be more formal and 'dressy' in style
- Don't wear short ankle socks, you must wear a longer style that comes high enough not to reveal skin when you sit down to play.

Are you wearing jewellery??

Discrete earrings only, no bangles, bracelets or necklaces please



NOTICEBOARD



To keep up to date with all the news, join the CSHS Music Parents' Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/CSHSmusicparents/

DID YOU KNOW...

The School of Music has its own YouTube channel? If you have not already subscribed, go to www.youtube.com and search for "Churchlands SHS School of Music". This is a perfect way to share some of your child's musical achievements with friends and family.

Check it out!

CSHS School of Music on YouTube!



WANTED

Unloved, spare or surplus musical brass, woodwind or string instruments for children at a disadvantaged school wanting to experience the **magic** of making music.

Please drop the instruments off to the Music Office marked:

"Attention Mr Robinson: Donation!"

Playable or easily serviced instruments only, please.



MUSIC RESOURCE

The School of Music has an ongoing subscription to an online music education resource for students' use.



Check it out at

<http://learning.e-lr.com.au>

Student login: *student.cshs.wa* Password: *cornet*

SCHOOL PICKUPS

Parents, please be mindful of local traffic when you are dropping off or picking up children.

For the safety of all, please ensure you pull over safely into one of the bays on the side of the road: **do not** stop in the middle of the road when collecting children and loading bags and instruments.

Thank you!



MUSIC PARENTS

Do I have your preferred email address?

Help me keep you in the loop with events and other MPC happenings!
mpc@churchlandspc.com.au

PARENTS AND STUDENTS

MusicNotes: a newsletter for parents, by parents! We would love your help by contributing short articles / photos (high-resolution photos where possible).

Please email to: alex@jumpingjigsaws.com.au

REMINDER TO PARENTS

CSHS is only able to provide supervision for **up to 20 minutes** after the conclusion of a rehearsal or concert. Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your child to be picked up so they are not left unattended.

Principal's Postlude

Mr Neil Hunt



I would like to start by acknowledging the performance of the 2018 cohort of Year 12 music students, who at the ATAR level achieved outstanding results averaging just under 70% and all non-ATAR students achieving Cert II qualifications.

Throughout Term One we have many music students involved in our school production which will be showcased in the second week of next term. The performance of "Wicked" is an event that the whole school is looking forward to, and I am sure will rival many outstanding previous productions.

The music department has outlined its proposal for the 2020 Music Tour following a very successful 2018 tour when students toured to Europe at the end of Term 2, with all ensembles and students performing at a high standard and making an

excellent impression wherever they went. This event is always excitably looked forward to by students and is something that they always take with them post school as an experience of a lifetime. Parents are possibly not as excited, depending on the depths of their pockets!!

Term One, 2019 has also seen the commencement of the largest cohort (530) of Year 7 students at Churchlands SHS, many of whom are musicians now beginning to realise the commitment required to succeed in our GATE and General programs. It will not be many weeks before they will be involved in their first performance as Churchlands SHS "Musos".

All in all 2019 promises to be another exciting music year, filled with promise, opportunities and performances which I have no doubt our students and community will make the most of.