

# MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2021

## All That Jazz. .



Photo: Kristel Hawksworth

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**CHURCHLANDS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



# Coordinator's Cadenza

## Shona Vigus, Music Parents Committee Coordinator



Term one was in full swing when we gathered for drinks and some smooth jazz in the courtyard of the concert hall for our MPC Welcome meeting. A small group of our senior jazz students showcased for both new parents and old the winning combination of talent, hard work and a fantastic music program with high quality teachers.

How fortunate I am that my kids get to be a part of Churchlands Music program and benefit from the expertise, fun and kindness that the music staff add to their school experience. After 6 years of having children at CSHS I have jumped into the co-ordinator role of the Music Parents Committee and I'm excited about the chance to get to know more parents and be a part of the

team that supports the great work of the School of Music. I am looking forward to concerts and festivals and all the events that make up the music school calendar and particularly the musical *Mamma Mia* in term 2. I am quite sure that when my kids are grown and flown I will still be coming to the CSHS musicals, they are outstanding!

I would love to hear your thoughts or ideas about how we as parents, grandparents, guardians and family members can add our bit to what goes on and show our support of the School of Music. Feel free to get in touch with me at [mpc@churchlandspc.com.au](mailto:mpc@churchlandspc.com.au) or even better – come along to the next MPC committee meeting and share your ideas.



MPC Welcome Meeting 15 March 2021

# Music Parents Committee 2021

MPC Coordinator	Shona Vigus	Festivals Team Coordinator	Julie Pegrum
Secretary	Shree Kannan	Festivals Team Coordinator	Naomi Chapman
Treasurer	Pauline Sikweti	Festivals Team	Peny McNiff
Music Notes Editor & Designer	Matt Stack	Festivals Team	Anngghi Tran
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Stage Crew Coordinator	Gavin Woods	P&C Liaison; Licensed Events	Tracey Gralton
Ext Events Catering Coordinator	Anna Mills	Festivals Sausage Sizzle Coordinator	TBA
P&C Liaison	Tracey Gralton	Stock & equipment	Mieke Chang
General Committee	Vanessa Chappel	Facebook Coordinator	Kelly Bradley
General Committee	Rashita Keena	Bar stock	Ryan Labuschagne
General Committee	Baiba Dzelme	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Coordinator	Sarah Brown
General Committee	Jill Brown	Entertainment Book Coordinator	Kristy Sills

# From the Director's Desk

## Glenn Robinson, Director of Music



Term 1 has finished in a very different way to Term 1 last year, and despite the challenges, our senior students still excelled across the board. Here is a snapshot of our Year 12 ATAR results from 2020.

- CSHS has been listed as amongst the top performing schools in the state for ATAR Music for more than **ten** consecutive years – more successful than **any other** subject taught at Churchlands!
- ATAR music was ranked **first** at CSHS in terms of the differential (a measure of how students performed in the music course compared to other courses).
- 50% of our Year 12 ATAR Music students counted music as one of their **top two scores**, contributing to their final ATAR result.
- 35% of our Year 12 ATAR Music students scored above 75%.

Only 8.7% of the CSHS ATAR students studied ATAR Music, but:

- 25% of *Certificate of Excellence* students also studied ATAR Music.
- 25% of *Certificate of Distinction* students also studied ATAR Music.
- 18% of *Certificate of Merit* students also studied ATAR Music.
- 78% of CSHS ATAR Music students had a final scaled score at or above the state mean of 53%. Only 58% of students at **like schools** were at or above the state mean.
- 74% CSHS ATAR Music had A or B grades.
- 61% was the State Average 61% for A or B grades.

In the rather short 8 week term, we managed to fit in the very successful Jazz Camp and the delightful (and briefly damp) *Jazz at Twilight*.

The Term 1 Senior Concert, which happened last year in an abbreviated online form, was an enjoyable and accomplished display of our senior ensembles.

There were changes to the GATE Music selection process this year. One is the running of the instrument demonstration twice to be more convenient for families. Also, having it the week before the senior concert also means we can present some of our senior ensembles to prospective students and their parents.

My final observation is that we have now kicked-off preparations for next year's 50th anniversary of Specialist Music at CSHS celebrations. We would like to involve as many of our alumni as possible in the festivities for next year. If you are a CSHS music alumni, please get in touch with us.

I will conclude by wishing all of our music families the very best for the vacation, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for Term 2.

## Term 2 – Save the Dates!

- Mon 19 April First day of Term 2 / MPC Meeting 7:30pm
- Tue 27 April Meet the Instrumental Teachers Night 7:30pm
- 6th to 8th May School production: Mamma Mia
- Wed 26 May Intermediate Concert 7pm
- Fri 28 May Junior Concert 6pm and 7:30pm
- Mon 31 May Music Parents' Committee Meeting 7:30pm
- Fri 11 June Chamber Ensembles Concert 3:45pm
- 17th to 19th June Senior Music Camp
- Wed 23 June St Joseph's Rehearsal 7-9pm
- Sun 27 June St Joseph's Concert
- Fri 2 July Last day of Term 2



# Music Captains' Musings

Hi everyone, we are your much enthused music captains for 2021! Receiving this role has been an immense honour and we are looking forward to making many changes and showing many involvements in our magnificent School of Music here at Churchlands.

So far, with the help of Mrs Van de Ploeg and other music staff, we have set up a mentor program for year 12s to help the younger ensembles with playing techniques, ensemble skills or just helping them to “stay tuned” with what their band or choir directors have to say. At the beginning of term, the two of us were ready for any questions our new year 7 musos had as we hung around the School of Music in the mornings.

We have oodles of ideas and initiatives in motion, we’re always open to suggestions and will do our best to answer any questions you have for us with a smile.

*Hello you amazing people reading this! My name is **Kaiya** and I am one of your music captains for 2021. As a music captain, my admiration and respect for the School of Music runs deep. It was such a thrilling honour to be given this role and I know with the support of the music staff it will be a role I can fulfill well.*

*I am an achievement-orientated, always kind and open music-lover. I’m a calisthenics dancer at heart (many of you will not know what that is but you can search it up!) and this has been my leading passion for twelve years. I am a WAM student playing oboe as my instrument which I started at Churchlands in year 7. Currently, I am part of Wind One, Symphony Orchestra, Senior Choir, Chorale and a low-key but completely fun choral octet.*

*I have been connected to CSHS and the School of Music since I was about 10 years old and I have to say, the warmth and incredible standard of music that this school holds are what attracted me to this leadership position. I hope I can be a role model, worthy music captain or just a friendly smile to my fellow music captain, Yuta, and to all staff, students and parents involved in the Churchlands School of Music.*

*Hello! My name is **Yuta** and I am your other music captain for 2021! I am a classical WAM student and I play the cello. I have also been playing the piano for 14 years now and was lucky enough to join the jazz band as a piano player this year. Since I play for both genres of music, I’d say that I enjoy playing both just as much as each other... (Yes, a classical student can enjoy playing jazz).*

*Apart from music, some of my favourite sports are baseball and volleyball which I can always enjoy as a way to relax from school studies. I am truly passionate about music and its beauty as an art form and I wish to make this year a memorable one for all music students, staff and parents.*



2021 Music Captains Yuta Uemoto and Kaiya O'Brien

# Year 7 P&C Sundowner

In February we were delighted to welcome the Year 7 families to our annual Year 7 P&C Welcome BBQ. Parents and students enjoyed yummy sausage sizzle prepared by our community service volunteers. It was great to see families getting to know staff, families and committee members from the P&C, Music Parents, School Board and Churchlands Foundation.

Congratulations to Georgia Elliott and Parsa Rahimi who are recipients of the 2021 Churchlands Foundation Music Scholarship.



Foundation Scholarship recipients Georgia Elliott and Parsa Rahimi with Churchlands Foundation Board Chair John Gillon

Year 7 parents mingle and enjoy a sausage sizzle in the courtyard

## Vale Taryn Fiebig

The Perth music community were saddened by the passing of Taryn Fiebig, a much loved and renowned soprano associated with Opera Australia and the Pinchgut Opera.

Taryn graduated from the Churchlands SHS music program in 1989, then studying at the UWA conservatorium.

Initially trained as a talented cellist, Taryn was drawn to singing and acting, taking the lead in the CSHS musical, and then onwards to a stellar career in opera.

Fellow CSHS alumni remember Taryn’s brilliance, expression and captivating stage presence.

She died at age 49 after battling ovarian cancer. Vale Taryn Fiebig.





# 'Jazz at Twilight'

Article: Julie Pegrum

On Thursday 11 March, jazz students from all years gathered on the lawn outside F Block with instruments, family, friends and picnics. To quote Mr Bourgault du Coudray;

*... the night was aimed at showcasing all our jazz ensembles and giving our younger students an opportunity to experience and observe improvisation in structured and less structured ensembles with a supportive and understanding audience.*

To that end, the junior jazz ensembles (Ellington and the Year 9 Combo) performed to an enthusiastic crowd, followed by the Year 10 Combo and Bluenotes. As they performed the balmy Thursday night became more cloudy and humid and the rain started to come down during Flavio Collonetti's piano solo. The music staff called a halt to the event and everyone rushed to pack away valuable instruments and equipment.



# and the "Bits We Missed"



Not to be put off, the "Bits we missed" performance was scheduled in the concert hall for the following week. The mini-concert turned out to be a magical hour listening to the incredible talent of our senior jazz instrumentalists and singers.







## Jazz Camp

Article: Xin Ze Cai

Three jazz bands. Two conductors. One awesome adventure. On Thursday morning, the 18th of February, the three jazz ensembles, Ellingtons, Blue Notes and Birdland, armed with their instruments, sheet music and other camping items, vivaciously embarked on a journey to Swan Valley Adventure Centre.

The two days of camp was dense with rehearsals, masterclasses, workshops, and activities. The highlight of Thursday was the improvisation classes. The "advanced session" was with the legendary Jamie Oehlers (WAAPA) and the "beginner session" was with Jeremy Grieg (WAAPA). This was followed by a wonderful WAAPA performance, featuring Jamie Oehlers, Jeremy Grieg, and four WAAPA students, three of which are Churchlands Alumni. We wound down at night with a masquerade ball and a jazzy movie called *Soul*.

On Friday, other than rehearsals, we had a rhythm workshop, headed by one of our own, Mr A. Bourgault! This intensive rehearsal was based on polyrhythms, with each group clapping 3, 5, 6 and 10 beat motifs, with the aim of a unified clap on the 30th beat. Jazz camp concluded in the afternoon with a show-and-tell concert, displaying the progress of the three bands.

Overall, the camp was well-received by the teachers, parents, and students, with the activities firmly strengthening the bonds between members of the Churchlands Jazz community. Some fantastic photos and videos have been shared on Facebook. A massive shout out to Mr A. Bourgault and Mrs C. Chesney, because without them, none of this could have happened!





## “MUM! Why do I HAVE TO GO to choir...?”

Many parents have asked me over the years....“Why does my child have to sing in choir...they HATE it!” In particular, year 8 and 9 boys struggle to enjoy choir and find it difficult to recognise the benefits of being involved in choir. This can be a ‘phase’ some of our students go through, for the boys it can be associated with their changing voices, but also social pressures and the Aussie culture of ‘blokes don’t sing’.

Many studies have shown a correlation between singing, belonging to a choir and an improvement in mental health and a sense of well-being. Singing in a group is a very cohesive activity which bonds people together, as they work toward a common goal. During Covid lock downs, think of how many people turned to music for solace and a way of connecting with others – social media was saturated with videos of people singing in their homes, on their balconies and in virtual choirs!

Researchers have found singing increases blood flow, improves sleep, boosts your immune system, releases chemicals like endorphins, dopamine and oxytocin, which affect our moods and happiness. And it also transports the singer to another level, to a place where they no longer think about their day-to-day worries.

At Churchlands, the fundamental reason we insist our students participate in choir, is to add value to the skills taught in the instrumental and classroom program. Choir is an important vehicle for aural training, sight singing, the application of theoretical concepts learned in class, and reinforces our studies in Literature of musical styles, genres and forms. Free from the technical difficulties of playing an instrument, students can achieve a level of expressivity in choir not easily attained until much

later on in their instrumental studies. Choral singing also has a huge impact on our ability to memorise and recognise patterns and structures in music, helping to form neurological pathways and simultaneously activating multiple areas in the brain. Of course, we all know the massive correlation between musical students and their academic success.

In a broad sense we work on all the basics of singing technique: breathing, posture, diction, tone quality and expressivity but by no means are we interested in beautiful voices. There is safety in numbers when you sing in a choir - students find they have the confidence to join in, build self-esteem and be creative without inhibition. In addition, belonging to a choir, turning up to early morning rehearsals, week in, week out, builds resilience and discipline.

According to 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”

Churchlands has 7 choirs: Dooverlackies, Matildas, Larrikins, Year 10 Choir, Senior Choir, Colla Voce and Chorale.



## Year 6 GATE Presentation

On 24th March there were two information sessions for the parents and Year 6 applicants of the 2022 Gifted & Talented (GATE) Music Program. The sessions featured performances by our Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra 1, and Chamber Orchestra, followed by the demonstration of the “beginner” instruments that are options for applicants to the GATE Program. There was a Q & A session prior to a 30 minute music aptitude test.

Thanks Mrs Turner, Mrs Walker, Mrs Sims, and Miss Hanrahan for preparing their ensembles.



## Principal's Postlude

As we finish Term 1 2021, it's been great that we are operating very close to normal. Despite the sudden lockdown in Week 1, we've been able to establish all of our regular processes so that our students receive the full range of opportunities that we've planned for them.

The School of Music, under the leadership of Glenn Robinson have had a great start to the year with all of our ensembles and orchestras rehearsing regularly. As a school, we're looking forward to the first Senior Concert on March 31 with other events to follow.

As a school, we've been focusing on our school values of Personal, Social and Environmental Responsibility with the students. This has seen staff increasing the recognition and acknowledgment of good citizenship. Our year assemblies have increased the number of awards for students to acknowledge those who actively show the school values on a daily basis. We are also putting greater emphasis on the House Point System with increased focus on competition between the houses.

We had two school activities in Term 1. The first was the School Ball, held at Optus Stadium on Friday March 12. This was an outstanding event with our Year 12 students celebrating a night that highlighted them as young adults. The second group of activities was the school and interschool swimming carnivals. Our Health and Physical Education department organised the year carnivals with a focus on student participation and selection for the interschool team. We again participated in the A grade interschool swimming carnival on Friday March 19 where we performed very well to finish in second place. Congratulations to all our swimmers.

Our focus in Term 2 is on assessment and reporting to parents. I'm looking forward to our ANZAC service and the continued performances of our music students. I wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable Easter and vacation period.

**Dr James Kent, Principal CSHS**







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



**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

[learning.e-lr.com.au](http://learning.e-lr.com.au)

Student login: student.cshs.wa Password: cornet

## 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](mailto:mpc@churchlandspc.com.au)

## YOUR MUSIC NOTES

Music Notes is a newsletter for parents, by parents! We would love to feature your contributions of short articles and photos (high-resolution photos where possible)

Please email to: [mstack23@gmail.com](mailto:mstack23@gmail.com)

## REMINDER TO PARENTS

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

## 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.

## Entertainment Book Fundraiser for Churchlands SHS School of Music



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