

MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2025



Photo: Mohammad Hosseini

Footloose Folks

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CHURCHLANDS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Coordinator's Cadenza

Vivienne Travlos, Music Parents Committee Coordinator



Oh dear. As end of term draws near
Try as we might, in the middle of the night, to gain oversight,
Of all the activities of Term Three – which is so crazy busy!
Eight ABODA days, three school concert nights,
Weeks of auditions, applications, planning Tour flights,
And yes there is more - bring on Term Four!
It is a necessity, to thank our community
Of teachers, parents and students who volunteer, year after year.
Thank you for your precious time. To help our young musicians shine.
As much as we wonder when our work is ever done?
Just playing a small part in it is FUN!

Aboda was a joyful festival of music! All who were able to be a part of the background parent team - feeding adjudicators & sound staff, manning the kiosk, running the sausage sizzle - witnessed the energetic buzz amongst the hundreds of visitors to our school. Old community connections are rekindled: “Oh wow, I think the last time I saw you was here last year!” as music brings us all together. We apologise to the few young muso’s who lost out on their reward as we ran out of bbq just before the end of the last day: “Oh no, I come here only for the sausage sizzle!”

Thank you to our new volunteers, Chloe, Ruth, Mel, Donna, Eileen, Ganite, Chamaim, Lizzy, Evelyn and our stalwarts whom I hope I’ve thanked in person. We marvel how those who are busiest seem to fit in even more.

Acknowledgement of incredible efforts amongst the Music Parent Committee goes out to:

- Gavin Woods – stage crew leader finishing up this year and handing over to an enthusiastic team;
- Tomoko Rumley – for countless hours keeping a steady income stream through kiosk supplies and events;
- Joe Smargiassi Year 7 parent “yup, I can do that” super hand on deck;
- Tracy Gralton - truly part of our furniture now, enabling Concert Hall Foyer improvements with help from the P&C.

Congratulations to our Year 12s - your joyous farewell after the Senior Concert invigorates the School of Music spirit!

Wishing our CSHS music families a good, albeit brief rest before launching into all that Term 4 will bring.

From the Director's Desk

Jess van de Ploeg, Director of Music

After a short stint as Director of Music in Term 1, I was thrust back into the seat for semester 2! I’m still whirling from the lightning speed this term has flown, and I’m sure the Year 12s agree with me.

We welcomed Mr Jeremy Duhig to our team who has quietly slotted into our fast-paced yet well-oiled machine. Term 3 began with a performance from selected Matildas alongside Perth Symphony Orchestra at Perth Museum Boola Bardip. They performed songs celebrating the life of Edith Dircksey Cowan, Australia’s first woman parliamentarian and a tireless supporter and advocate for women’s and children’s rights in Australia.

We then launched headlong into the Festival season, starting with the Jazz Festival at WAAPA, followed by the ABODA Festivals hosted at Churchlands SHS, the WA Schools Guitar Festival and Choral Festivals. All of our ensembles performed brilliantly and it is a great opportunity for students to gain feedback from and work with experienced adjudicators as well as listen to ensembles from other schools. I would like to thank all parents who baked, sizzled sausages, or manned the kiosk for ABODA as it is such a great fundraising opportunity for the School of Music.

On 15 August the Yr 12 ATAR students showcased a selection of their recital program to an appreciative audience, deftly managed by Mrs Miranda Sims. Two weeks later, despite the wet weather and a terrible cold and flu season, our Concert Hall was filled to the brim with enthusiastic parents, families, friends and ex-students for the Senior Concert. The Yr 12s were suitably highlighted

throughout the evening and made us suffer through a terrible version of Family Feud followed by too-long videos of their shenanigans at the end of the evening. Pay back for all those early morning rehearsals, maybe?!

Our Intermediate and Junior concerts were filled with joy and energy, including many bright-eyed primary school students in our Primary Outreach ensembles.

Throughout the term, various chamber groups and jazz combos continued to perform at events in our community, including for the Specialist Schools Executives and for the P&C representatives from all over WA at the WACSSO conference.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Claire Chesney for her tireless work on coordinating these opportunities for our students and taking our music into the wider community. I would also like to thank Mrs Miranda Sims for stepping into the role of 2IC this semester – she has handled a very busy term of exams and concerts with aplomb! 2026 Tour planning is well underway, with an exciting itinerary awaiting the students in Austria, Hungary and Germany next year. I wish the Yr 12s all the very best for their upcoming exams and wish all music families a relaxing spring break.



Save the Dates!

Term Four 2025

Mon 13 Oct	Students return to school
Thu 16 Oct	Yr 12 Music Presentation Night 7pm
Mon 20 Oct	MPC Meeting 7pm in Choral Studio
Wed 5 Nov	Chamber Concert 5pm
Tue 11 Nov	Kings Park Remembrance Day service
Mon 17 Nov	MPC Meeting 7pm in Choral Studio
Fri 5 Dec	Christmas Concert 3.30pm
Thu 18 Dec	End of Term Four



Graduates Win at WAAPA!

Churchlands School of Music graduates have taken out a series of prizes and competitions at WAAPA. Cellist Finlay Labuschagne and violist Noah Furtado won WAAPA’s Baroque Prize and also the 2025 Chamber Music Competition - and they’re also finalists in the 2025 Warana Concerto Competition, playing concerti with the WAAPA Symphony Orchestra. Oboist and composer Marcel Howell won the 2025 Orchestral Composition Competition with his brilliant new work ‘Shimmer’, which was premiered by the orchestra on 22 August 2025.

Even more good news comes from other Churchlands/WAAPA graduates: violist Ariel Postmus is performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as one of their 2025 Orchestral Fellows. French horn player Calen Linke has won a fulltime orchestral job with the Hagen Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany. Double bassist Oakley Paul is a 2025 Emerging Artist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra; violinist Adrian Biemmi performs regularly with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra,




Orchestra Victoria and Cygnus Arioso, and soprano Charis Postmus is singing with the WA Opera, Freeze Frame Opera, Bloomhouse Projects, and OpusWA.

Bravo and many congratulations to these remarkable musicians – and to their teachers at Churchlands!

Tim White OAM - Coordinator of Classical Music, WAAPA



Year 12 Recital Night

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 
Photos: Matt Stack



Jaden Quah



Mira Vickery



Jaslyn Chen



Holly Turnbull



Sophie Lenz



Mischa Varhol



Willem Stack



Thomasz Sobkowiak



Zan Soklevski



Sam Scott



Leila Woods



Sophia Bell



Lula Richter



Tara Tricker



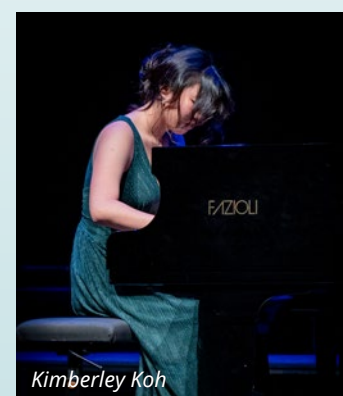
Justice Dale



Soraya Kuster



Bethany Rix



Kimberley Koh



Amy McSporran



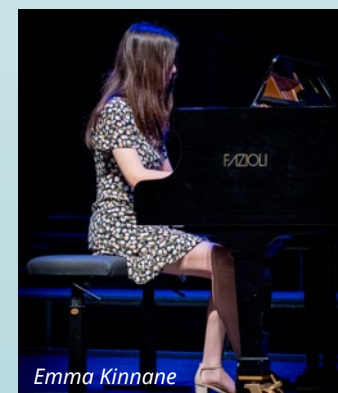
Elsie Bourgault



Sam Hawksworth



Mardi Ledger



Emma Kinnane



Jojo Ellis



Reef Crew



Alex Jones



Felix Styles



Zainab Hashmi




Senior Concert

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)

Photos: Naki Kursunlu, Mohammad Hosseini and Matt Stack




Intermediate Concert

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 
Photos: Naki Kursunlu, Mohammad Hosseini and Matt Stack



Junior Concert

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 
Photos: Mohammad Hosseini



Big Apple Jazz

When it comes to jazz education at Churchlands, we're not just playing the changes—we're making them. Over the years, our Jazz program has grown louder than a high C on lead trumpet, thanks to events like Jazz Camp, Twilight Jazz, and our big bands performing in the community. With every ATAR student now studying jazz, it's more important than ever that our staff stay in the groove.

After a jazz educator from Indiana visited in July 2024 and inspired us to take our jazz directing to the next level, we knew what to do: book a ticket to the Big Apple. With the generous support of the Churchlands Foundation, Mr. Bourgault and Mrs. Chesney headed off to the Band Director's Academy at Jazz at the Lincoln Centre—the home of the Essentially Ellington program and the heartbeat of swing in America.

Our trip began with 3 days in Foxborough, Massachusetts, at their legendary Jazz Improvisation Camp attended by 90 students of all skill levels. This isn't just any camp; this is the 44 year legacy of Steve Massey, a highly respected high school jazz director.

Steve's secret to swinging bands is dancing to the swing groove - before you play, you've got to feel the beat. Watching 90 students shuffle, sway, and say syncopated rhythms in time to brushes on a snare, we knew this was something we were going to implement in our program.

Then came a full hour-long blues call-and-response session with faculty made up of Berklee grads and NYC gigging cats. They drilled phrasing, syncopation, articulation, and all those delicious details that students had to imitate to perform authentically.



In ensemble sessions the mantra of the camp was "Learn it fast (with music), lose it fast. Learn it slow (by ear), lose it slow." That hit us like a crash cymbal, reminding us about the aural tradition of jazz. We left Foxborough buzzing with ideas - and we hadn't even hit New York yet!

After a very hot and scenic drive back, we fought the traffic, broken monorail and broken train into the city that never sleeps. Then came the main gig: the Band Director's Academy at Jazz at the Lincoln Center. Four jam-packed days of inspirational swing, tradition, and serious jazz pedagogy.



The theme: 100 Years of Big Band Rhythm Section Grooves. We dove deep into early jazz styles, rhythm section techniques, brass mute magic, and even woodwind doubling tips. We discovered how to fine tune our rhythm sections to sound like a well-oiled Ellington machine. What we don't know isn't worth knowing!

The faculty leading the academy were incredible musicians and educators in their own right but a highlight was meeting a Kodály-trained jazz educator, Pete Churchill, who delivered innumerable pearls of wisdom.

To wrap it all up, we got a crash course in jam session etiquette (because nobody wants to be that guy on the bandstand), followed by lunch at Dizzy's Club, overlooking Columbus Circle and Central Park, with a live faculty set that left us in awe. That's how you finish on a high note.

No jazz pilgrimage to New York is complete without a trip to the Village Vanguard. We caught the iconic Monday Night Orchestra doing what they have been doing every Monday night since 1966 - swinging hard and reminding us why this music still matters. We also caught unbelievable gigs at jazz clubs such as the BlueNote, Birdland and The Jazz Gallery, and went to a jam session to hear some CSHS alumni who happened to be in town with WAAPA for the 'Jazz Arts Collective' camp.



Back in Perth, we didn't just unpack our suitcases—we unpacked the groove. Our department got the full debrief, plus some practical activities straight from the source. Our jazz students are now moving to the beat, working call-and-response, and learning tunes by ear because jazz isn't just something you play - it's something you feel.

We have returned inspired, energized, and ready to help our students not just play the notes, but make them swing, because at Churchlands, jazz isn't just a subject—it's a vibe!

Massed Choir Festival

The Massed Choir Festival has been providing a unique musical experience for primary school students for the last 32 years . Over the last 11 years Churchlands string quartets have accompanied the Massed Choir in their concerts at Winthrop Hall, Perth Concert Hall and HPC stadium in front of crowds of 1000 + audience members each night.

This year the students involved across the seven nights were Sophie Lenz, Misha Varhol, Zainab Hashmi, Willem Stack, Leila Woods, May Li, Soraya Kuster, Georgia Nissen, Alice Travlos, and Putu Aryawan.



PSO WA Stories

A selected group of the Matildas choir, alongside senior vocal students, recently performed together with the Perth Symphony Orchestra, underneath Otto the blue whale at Hackett Hall, Perth Museum Boola Bardip. The girls were invited to sing as part of PSO's WA Stories series. This concert celebrated the life of Edith Dircksey Cowan, the first woman parliamentarian who worked for the rights and welfare of women and children in Australia. "Singing with the Perth Symphony Orchestra was such a fun and valuable experience. I really enjoyed singing with and getting to know the younger students in the music program. Edith Cowan was such an inspirational person and it was such a privilege to be able to honour her life and contributions to Australian society through this concert" – Anaya Manning

2026 Music Tour Update

The 2026 European Music Tour plans are well under way, with the itinerary being confirmed for around 150 people! Almost all passports have been submitted and flight bookings are being coordinated.

Preparations for learning tour repertoire will begin early in Term 4 and Tour staff are aiming to maximise performance opportunities for all students. Stay tuned for details on a two-day 'tour camp' which will likely occur on the school site at the end of January before Term 1 commences. This will allow the tour ensembles and staff to establish themselves and become familiar with the repertoire they will need to learn.

The Tour Parent Committee are facilitating a variety of fundraising activities to benefit students both individually and collectively. Touring families are encouraged to keep a close eye on the Friday Bulletin, the Tour Website and the "Parents CSHS Music Tour" WhatsApp group for all information coming through from the Tour committee.

Please reach out to coordinator Vivienne Travlos on 0415 301 635 or via our communications team e-mail cshs2026musictour@gmail.com

You can visit our website where we have a countdown for the tour, frequently asked questions and an overview of the committee and all the activities.

<https://lilianhah.wixsite.com/cshsmusictour2026/>

Noticeboard



CSHS MUSIC PARENTS ON FACEBOOK!

To keep up to date with all the news, join the CSHS Music Parents' Facebook group.

www.facebook.com/groups/CSHSmusicparents/

CSHS SCHOOL OF MUSIC ON YOUTUBE!



Use this QR Code or search for the "Churchlands SHS School of Music" YouTube channel to rewatch and share all of the main concerts and fabulous extras.



JOIN THE MUSIC PARENTS COMMITTEE

All music parents are welcome and encouraged to join in and help the committee support the CSHS School of Music. It's a great way to connect with other music parents and get involved with your child's music school journey.

Please come to the Term 4 MPC meetings on Monday 20 Oct (week 2) and Monday 17 Nov (week 6) at 7pm in the Choral Studio. Look out for updates in the weekly Music Bulletins emailed on Fridays.

CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY

We ask that you do not take photos or videos during the school concerts. Our dedicated volunteer photographers will take high quality images throughout the performances, to be published in the Music Notes newsletter. All photos are available to download at this QR Code, or look for these icons: [MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)



YOUR MUSIC NOTES

Music Notes is a newsletter for parents, by parents! We would love to feature your contributions of student stories and photos.

Please email hi-res photos to: mstack23@gmail.com



CHURCHLANDS MUSIC PARENTS COMMITTEE

MEMBER # C11493921



Please join in with MPC fundraising by quoting our member number when you take your eligible empties to a CFC recycling depot!



Please support our Churchlands Music Parents Committee Entertainment Book Fundraiser

WE ARE FUNDRAISING WITH

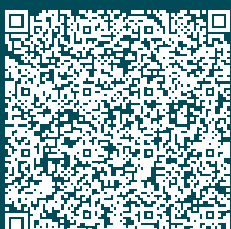
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