

# MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 2025

## Leavin' 2025 Toot Sweet

Photo: Naki Kursunlu

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**CHURCHLANDS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



# Coordinator's Cadenza

Vivienne Travlos, Music Parents Committee Coordinator



Silent Night,  
Holy Night,  
All is calm,  
All is bright....  
Wishing you a moment of  
pause, quiet, and peace.  
Navigating these last few  
frenzied days in the lead up  
to Christmas, the moment I  
hear this hymn, sing it only  
to myself (tone is not my  
strength), I feel humbled.

Humbled by the power of music. To ground us. To connect us. In amongst the disconnectedness of our ever more 'connected online' world, we are grateful to the CSHS School of Music for immeasurable real-life moments that ground and connect our children and us. I thank our lucky stars as I hear my children finding these moments in their music practice, which sometimes seem far between in amongst all their other activities, but when they happen – we all feel the wellbeing: My sister as she tearfully sings with the WASO chorus in the Gladiator concert Hans Zimmer's "Now We are Free"; one daughter as she speaks of the Wicked Musical Ariana Grande's vocal range musicality whilst the other appreciates Taylor Swift's poetry and I try to sing Carols ...in key 😊 For this appreciation of the power of music to connect us, we thank our teachers.

Humbled by capacity. Humbled by those in our MPC team who've gifted more hours across all our MPC and music tour fundraising activities than I could ever count. I feel I've been MIA these past months with our girls' sporting fundraising campaign, wishing I could clone myself to be in two places at once. I've been spoilt by the MPC committee as I hand over the reins, feeling I've not done enough. In giving time I've received more. We cannot monetise the goodwill given and joy received in our communal efforts, otherwise it would no longer be called volunteering. Witnessing the incredible dedication of our small team of MPC volunteers and Music Tour Fundraising team, who've pulled together fundraising opportunities through kiosk sales, market stalls, car wash, concert table sales, busking, raffle organisation – I appreciated how everyone gives what they can and through the collective capacity, my goodness, it all somehow all comes together!

Wishing you super Advent preparations, a festive Christmas and hopefully a bit of well-deserved downtime to celebrate our collective capacity.

We look forward to welcoming all back to our first meeting on **Monday 9th February 2026**, 7pm drinks and nibbles in the concert hall foyer, meeting 7.30 – 9pm. This is our AGM. Nominations for committee membership (bring \$1) are open and you just might get a tap on the shoulder to become a valued office bearing volunteer.

My deepest thanks,  
Vivienne

# From the Director's Desk

Jess van de Ploeg, Director of Music

**Reflections on a wonderful year of making music**  
What an action-packed year it has been, filled with many music performances, achievements and challenges along the way. Term 4 has been filled with ceremonies and celebrations with music taking a central role, showcasing our dedicated music students and staff.

**Term 4 highlights**  
We farewelled our Year 12 graduating class of 2025 in style at the Music Presentation Night, with our top 5 instrumentalists once again dazzling us with their talents. Sophie Lenz was awarded the Paul McGeorge top string player, the top instrumental student and the ATAR Dux. Siella de Wit was awarded the Certificate III Music Dux. Our musicians also represented the school with pride at the State Remembrance Service at Kings Park on November 11, under the expert baton of maestro Caron Walker. Beyond this, our chamber groups have been busy spreading musical joy across the community, with performances from the Wind Quintet and Year 8 String Quartet at Bethanie Aged Care, and the Mikajlo Trio at the IMSS Information Evening.

Hats off to our outgoing Music Captains, Sam Scott and Elsie Bourgault, for their outstanding leadership, creativity and enthusiasm, and to the entire Year 12 cohort for their energy and commitment. Our 2026 Music Captains, Kate Shackleton and Luca Del Borrello, have already hit the ground running—leading Section Leader workshops and chatting with incoming Year 6 music students and families about the many joys and benefits of being part of the music program.

**2026 Music Tour**  
A massive thank you to our fabulous Tour Committee for their tireless energy, patience and countless hours of planning—this tour truly takes a village! Fundraising has been in full swing, with sausage sizzles, car washes, markets, wine sales and more keeping everyone busy. We'll kick off 2026 with a Tour Camp on January 30–31, where students will rehearse repertoire, work with ensembles and learn about Indigenous history ahead of our overseas adventure. Please save the date Saturday May 2 for what promises to be the Quiz Night of the Century!



**Special thanks**  
My heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful music families—none of this is possible without your ongoing support (and driving and snacks). We farewell Mr Jeremy Duhig, who joined us this semester and quickly became a valued member of the team. We wish him all the best at his new school in 2026.

A huge thank you also to our incredible instrumental and classroom teaching staff, whose dedication makes Churchlands a truly inspiring place to make music. I am especially grateful to the Music Leadership Team—Mrs Claire Chesney, Mrs Miranda Sims and Mr Andre Bourgault du Coudray—for their support and patience during semester two of 2025 while I stepped into the Director of Music role. Mrs Chesney will be returning to the classroom and we warmly welcome Mrs Ursula Greig as she takes up the reins of 2IC.

**Farewell to the Class of 2025**  
To our graduating students, the class of 2025, we wish you every success in your future endeavours. You have left a lasting impact on our program.

**Wishing You a Musical Holiday Season**  
To all our music families, may your holidays be filled with joy and harmony. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2026.  
*Jess and the CSHS Music Crew*

## Save the Dates in 2026!

**Mon 2 Feb Start of Term 1**  
**Mon 9 Feb MPC Meeting**  
7pm in Choral Studio  
**Tue 24 Feb Meet the Instrumental Teacher**  
Night 7-9pm  
**Fri 27 Feb Year 12 Music and Graduation**  
Photo  
**Mon 9 Mar MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**9 - 10 Mar Jazz Camp**  
**Thu 19 Mar Twilight Jazz 6pm**  
**Tue 31 Mar Senior Concert 7pm TFCH**  
**Thu 2 Apr End of Term 1**  
**Mon 20 Apr Start of Term 2**  
**Thu 24 Apr ANZAC Sunset Service**  
**Fri 25 Apr ANZAC Day March**

**Mon 4 May MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Thu 14 May Intermediate Concert 7pm TFCH**  
**Fri 22 May Junior Concert 6pm TFCH**  
**Mon 25 May MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Fri 19 Jun Chamber Concert**  
**24 Jun - 15 Jul Music Tour to Europe**  
**Fri 3 Jul End of Term 2**  
**Tue 21 Jul Start of Term 3**  
**Fri 24 Jul Welcome Home Tour Concert**  
5pm TFCH  
**Mon 27 Jul MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Sun 2 Aug Jazz Festival**  
**6 - 8 Aug Senior ABODA Festival**  
**Wed 12 Aug Year 12 ATAR Music Recital**  
Night 6.30pm  
**15 - 16 Aug Classical Guitar Festival**  
**Mon 24 Aug Ensemble Audition info**

**Mon 24 Aug MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Fri 28 Aug Senior Concert 7pm TFCH**  
**Wed 2 Sep POGS Concert 12.30pm**  
**Wed 2 Sep Intermediate Concert 7pm TFCH**  
**Fri 4 Sep Junior Concert 6pm TFCH**  
**Wed 9 Sep Ensemble Auditions Due**  
**10 - 13 Sep Junior ABODA Festival**  
**Fri 25 Sep End of Term 3**  
**Mon 12 Oct Start of Term 4**  
**Wed 14 Oct Year 12 Music Presentations 7pm**  
**Mon 19 Oct MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Fri 6 Nov Chamber Concert 10.10am**  
**Wed 11 Nov Remembrance Day Kings Park**  
**Mon 16 Nov MPC Meeting 7pm**  
**Fri 4 Dec Christmas Concert 3.30pm**  
**Thu 17 Dec End of Term 4**





Mira Vickery


Jojo Ellis

Sophie Lenz

Jaslyn Chen

Elsie Bourgault

## Year 12 Music Presentations

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)   
Credit: Naki Kursunlu

### MUSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS 2025

**Milios Family Awards** Elsie Bourgault du Coudray

**Music Alumni Awards:**

**Symphony Orchestra** Zainab Hashmi

**Wind Symphony** Sam Hawsworth

**Birdland Jazz Orchestra** Reef Crew

**Paul McGeorge  
Memorial Prize** Sophie Lenz

**Top Instrumental Student** Sophie Lenz

**Music Parents' Committee  
Award for Dux of ATAR Music** Sophie Lenz

**Dux of Certificate III Music** Siella de Wit

**Taryn Fiebig Choral Awards:** Mira Vickery Lie Jie  
Lula Richter  
Logan Sills  
Sam Scott

The Year 12 Music Graduation Night was an evening celebrating the dedication and achievements of our graduating music students. The Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall was filled with proud families, friends, and staff to applaud the accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

Highlights of the evening was the heartfelt speech from guest speaker, Minnie Bhowmick, class of 2015 and now, a practising lawyer. Minnie spoke fondly of her time in the Churchlands Music Program and shared how it has helped her find joy during the more mundane moments in her adult life. She still remembers her time as a music student fondly, and of the friendships she still maintains 10 years later.


The audience was treated to the Top 5 Performers of the year, showcasing the diverse talent within the cohort: Elsie Bourgault (jazz saxophone), Jojo Ellis (classical voice), Jaslyn Chen (piano), Mira Vickery (music theatre) and Sophie Lenz (violin).







## Remembrance Day 2025

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)   
Credit: Naki Kursunlu



## Chamber Concert





# 2026 Music Captains

Congratulations to Kate Shackleton and Luca Del Borrello! We wish you every success in your new roles and know you will both do an amazing job representing Churchlands Music and its students.

Kate and Luca are excited to take on the role.



*When I came to Churchlands and saw the Music Captains in Year 7, I immediately dreamed of being them one day. Now that I'm here, I feel elated and honoured, especially given all the other deserving applicants. Sam and Elsie have left big shoes for us to fill, but I'm excited to try. I'm looking forward to representing Churchlands as Music Captain on Music Tour! - Kate*

*It is such an incredible honour, and this position means a lot to me as I have a deep passion for all things musical. Being able to represent Churchlands' music program nationally AND internationally alongside my fellow captain, Kate, is quite literally a dream come true. I'll strive to be the best leader I can, and to encourage others to express their own musical passions. - Luca*



## Elsie and Sam Sign Off!

*Over the past year, we have had the privilege of being Music Captains at Churchlands. During our time, we established the Primary School Outreach Program, worked with staff and students and almost scammed everyone...if you know, you know.*

*We are both so incredibly grateful for this opportunity from the recess meetings in the Gillian Croston Green Room, to the time management skills we've learned, and friendships made along the way. We wish the graduating class of 2025 all the best for their futures, and good luck to Luca and Kate, you'll be amazing!*

*Love from your 2025 Music Captains - Elsie Bourgault & Sam Scott*



## Leaning-in to Leadership

Late in October, the newly appointed Music Captains for 2026 and Churchlands Music Staff, ran workshops for the section leaders of various ensembles. Students engaged in activities designed to encourage critical thinking, collaboration and self-reflection on their leadership styles. The workshops included discussions on non-verbal communication and leadership challenges, as well as an exploration of skills expected of section leaders. They celebrated together with some afternoon tea.

This initiative is another example of how Churchlands Music fosters leadership within its student body while strengthening connections between younger and older students.



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# Student Highlights

## Ensembles Outreach

Churchlands students put on a fabulous Christmas Concert recital to the residents of Bethanie Geneff Aged Care this festive season. Congratulations to the Wind Quintet comprising Aaron Pelc, Charlie Day, Alkim Kurnsulu and Jessica Bourgault, and the Year 8 String Quartet including Pierre Tan, Mika Sim, Aisha Hashmi and Dorian Ivanescu.

Other events this term where Churchlands students have contributed include:

- Regional GATE Information night - Wind Quintet
- Alumni 50th Reunion Morning Tea - Mikaljo Trio featuring Putu Aryawan, Kyla Liew, Jaslyn Chen
- Churchlands Arts Showcase - Year 10 String Trio (Sara Lenz, Ari Vickery, Patrick Kew)
- Australian National Diving Championships - Rose Hiscock performed the anthem for opening ceremony.
- IMSS Information Evening - Mikaljo Trio



## Alice & Klara Sailing for Australia

The natural position of a 29er, with its tall mast and big sails, is upside down. Building the skills to control the power whilst racing amongst the world's fastest and strongest young sailors aspiring for line honours is .... a team effort.

Alice and Klara Travlos appreciate the full support of CSHS Music School and their peers, enabling them to juggle studies, train and race on at least four days a week, early morning and late night practice, snatching precious moments with friends between travelling to selection regattas which earned them the honour of sailing for Australia in Portugal this December at the Youth World Sailing Championships (<https://worldsailingywc.org/news/>). With only one team qualifying per country, per class, this is an exceptional achievement.

Sailing relies on the often-unpredictable nature of wind and weather, hence anticipation of challenges, preparation, planning and problem solving begins even before you get to the sailing venue, then requiring patience and clear-headedness to stay prepared and alert through waiting to racing time. We are looking forward to continuing our journeys in sailing on Music Tour, testing our nerves, growing experience at national and international events, and broadening our appreciation for different systems and cultures. We would love to see sports and music participation increase across in the community, learning life skills and building problem solving skills, organisation, time management, self sufficiency and teamwork.



# The Road To Music Tour 2026

As we look back on the past months, we're absolutely thrilled to share the amazing progress our Music Tour 2026 community has made together.

## Building Our Community

We've built a WhatsApp Community where parents and students can plan fundraising activities and share information - [see tour website for details](#). We've created something truly special from the energy and dedication of the Music Parents and Music Tour students. A huge thank you to Danielle and LiLian from our communications team for keeping everyone connected and informed throughout this journey.

## Fundraising Success - We're Making It Happen!

We've already reached nearly 10% of our ambitious goal of raising \$150,000! This wouldn't be possible without the incredible efforts of our fundraising dream team, and all the dedicated parents and students who've given their time and energy to make our event successful. Some highlights include:

- **Car Washes** - A shout out to organisers Bec and Jason, along with all the parent helpers and students who rolled up their sleeves to make our car washes such a success!
- **Wine Sales** - Cheers to Grace, in partnership with Donnelly River Wines, who gave families a chance to stock their cellars while supporting the tour.
- **Wembley Downs Scout Fair** - Thank you to Michelle and Chris on making our bric-a-brac stall a wonderful success. Thanks to all the generous donations and volunteers leading up to the event, and on the day itself.
- **Mini Christmas Market** - What a festive celebration! Our Christmas kiosk brought joy before and after the Christmas concert, with bakers and makers contributing beautiful gifts and treats. Thanks to Aileen, Bec, Grace and Michelle for making this happen.
- **Hoyts Movie Tickets** - Families enjoyed savings up to 50% off on movie tickets while supporting the tour. Thanks to Audrey for making this happen!
- **Bunnings Innaloo Sausage Sizzle** - Our team served up sizzling BBQ support for the Music Tour. Thanks to organiser Aileen and the sizzler crew, parent helpers and students for all the hard work over the day.

- **Busking Opportunities** - Our talented musicians have been sharing their gifts across Perth, from Westfield Innaloo to Floreat Forum, Scarborough Sunset Markets, Applecross Jacaranda Festival, Claremont, Kyilla and Kalamunda Markets. Every performance has showcased the incredible talent heading to Europe in 2026! Thank you to the massive effort of our coordinators Ichina, Elaine, Bec, and Kelly for all the lugging of busking gear.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

- **Busking Continues** - We have an exciting schedule lined up across Perth venues throughout 2026, giving our musicians even more opportunities to shine.
- **Music Tour Camp** - 30 to 31 January 2026! This will be a lovely bonding experience for our tour students. Families are invited to join the Smoking Ceremony and sausage sizzle on Friday afternoon from 4.30pm.
- **Raffle Tickets** - To be released 31 Jan at music camp and drawn on 2 May. Families have the opportunity to cover \$ 2100 of their tour costs by selling raffle tickets widely, with incredible prizes to be won including a \$10,000 travel voucher, a Lenovo laptop, and a Qatar travel pack.
- **Quiz Night** - Saturday 2 May 2026 - Save the date for what promises to be THE event of the year! Bamboozled Quiz Masters are booked and ready to deliver an evening jam-packed with energy, interactive games, and non-stop laughter. With awesome prizes and a silent auction, this is going to be an unforgettable night. Early bird tickets are available now until 28 February via Paperly!

## Get Involved in 2026!

We need YOU to make this tour the experience of a lifetime for our talented musicians! Whether you can help organize events, volunteer at fundraisers, donate items for the Quiz Night, or simply spread the word to friends and colleagues - every contribution makes a difference. The support we've seen so far has been phenomenal, and we're so grateful to every single person who's contributed. As we head into 2026, let's keep this momentum going strong!

For any questions or to get involved, please reach out to [cshs2026musictour@gmail.com](mailto:cshs2026musictour@gmail.com) or visit our website at <https://lilianhah.wixsite.com/cshsmusictour2026/> for updates.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey!





# 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/](https://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 1 MPC meetings on Monday 9 Feb (week 2) and Monday 9 Mar (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](mailto: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!



## Principal's Postlude - Music, Community and Belonging

Music, at its heart, is about finding and being part of a community. It brings people together, whether as performers or audience members. Music unites, gives purpose, and creates meaning in ways that are often hard to articulate but deeply felt.

I didn't fully understand this until my own daughter began learning an instrument. One afternoon she came home from school absolutely determined to learn the harp. At the time, I thought it was simply a new interest, perhaps even a phase. What I didn't yet understand was the doorway music was about to open not just to learning, but to belonging.

Fast forward to when my now Year 8 daughter started high school, knowing only one other girl from her primary school. Again, I underestimated just how important being part of a choir, band or ensemble would be to her sense of connection. It was at Year 7 choir camp that she found her people. I vividly remember picking her up and seeing a level of confidence, ease and joy that told me she had finally found a place where she belonged. Music gave her that.

This is a story I share often with primary school parents during tours and orientation events. One of the most common questions I'm asked is how music students form

friendships when they arrive at high school knowing few, if any, other students. My answer is always the same: through music itself. Our music program is a place where deep connections are formed, where purpose is found, and where friendships often lifelong begin.

We see the power of these connections most clearly at our Year 12 music graduation evenings. When we invite graduates back to speak to current students, we consistently hear stories of camps, rehearsals, tours and performances. While these experiences undoubtedly shaped their musical skills, what stands out most is their social impact. Again and again, graduates speak about finding their "crew", their "people", and a sense of connection that carried them through their schooling and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of our music program that nurtures talent, builds confidence and, most importantly, creates a place where students find belonging.

Kate Grayson, Principal

