

MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2026

Darn Tootin'



Photo: Luke Davey

IN THIS ISSUE

Coordinator's Cadenza	2
From the Director's Desk	3
Twilight Jazz.....	4
Senior Concert.....	6
Jazz Camp.....	8
Music Tour Camp	9
Student Highlights.....	10
The Road to Music Tour 2026.....	11
Noticeboard.....	12



**CHURCHLANDS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Coordinator's Cadenza

Joe Smargiassi, Music Parents' Committee Coordinator



This is my first contribution as Music Parents' Committee Convenor and second year with the MPC, having gained valuable experience last year supporting the Junior and Senior ABODA festivals. I had the opportunity to 'learn the ropes' at those events and get to know other MPC members who enthusiastically and tirelessly support the school's Music Program.

In this relatively short time, I have come to appreciate what a "well-oiled machine" Churchlands is, with Music and Sports Programs complementing the many Academic programs. Across all these programs, students are supported by exceptional teachers and staff who consistently go above and beyond. Together and working with the teachers and staff, the P&C and the MPC help foster a sense of community where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Being a MPC parent is a unique opportunity to participate in the School of Music. It allows you to participate and follow the path of your children, and their peers, as they

mature into remarkable young people. At the same time, parents can enjoy this journey alongside a community of engaged parents.

There are many ways to get involved. Some parents help remotely, while others come onto campus. Some bring specialized skills, and others offer their time and effort. The MPC is diverse and essential, providing support via roles including:

- Media & Admin: Music Notes editor, Facebook moderator, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Events & Logistics: kiosk supervisors, front-of-house and stage crew, bar team, and stock purchasers.
- Support & Coordination: Tour committee members, chaperones, external events, photographers and bakers.

The experiences offered by the music program, paired with the school's high standard of education are key to developing our students into well-rounded adults. The education our music students receive at Churchlands is unique. It is rich, challenging, collaborative, and inclusive.

Students of all talents and passions earn the opportunity to do wonderful things that will stay with them well into adulthood.

Join us and be part of the journey!

From the Director's Desk

Glenn Robinson, Director of Music



Our Specialist Music Program celebrates its **54th year** in 2026 and, as ever, it has been all systems go in the School of Music from the very start. We have a new **Music 2i/c team** in place this year, with Ursula stepping into the role alongside Jess van, while Andre continues as Instrumental Coordinator and the second point of contact for anything instrument-related. As always, your child's IMSS teacher is the **first point of contact**. My thanks to Claire for her tireless work as 2i/c over the past few years.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the introduction of the **United Sound** programme. Its mission is to remove barriers and foster social change through music, bringing students with and without disabilities together in band and orchestra through peer mentoring and adapted instruction. We already have student mentors working with two New Musicians, and it has been fantastic to see this take shape so quickly. Thank you to Jess van de Ploeg and Claire Shoebridge for making this a reality at Churchlands.

The year began at full pace, even before classes commenced, with our tour students and staff taking part in a two-day rehearsal camp. This was time very well spent in reducing pressure later in the year. Since then, **Birdland** performed at the whole-school assembly, and our ensembles have continued to represent the school at community events. Congratulations to the **new MPC team**. Thank you, Vivienne, for your leadership, and congratulations to Joe on stepping into the role. The event was supported by the student ensemble "**The Peanuts**." Our annual **IMSS Parent Information Night** was once again a great success and remains an important part of maintaining strong communication and supporting our young musicians.

Jazz Camp was, as always, a highlight of the term. Thanks to the careful planning of Claire and Andre, supported by Ursula, students had the opportunity to work with outstanding alumni now forging careers in the music industry. The results were on full display at the **Twilight Jazz Concert**, generously supported by the P&C and MPC, and very well attended by our community. On that note, congratulations to recent alumnus Flavio Colonetti, who has been awarded a 2026 **Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship** to undertake a Master of Music in Jazz Studies in New York City, a remarkable and well-deserved achievement.

Our Year 11 ATAR Music students also attended the **Set Works Concert** at the new ECU city campus on the final weekend of term. Hearing these works performed live adds a depth of understanding that cannot be replicated in the classroom. Thank you to Claire, supported by Jane, Andre, Miranda, (the Oxford comma is for Miranda) and Jess, for ensuring the success of this excursion and the safety of the students.

Meanwhile, our Senior Wind Band and Chamber Orchestra students performed for families of prospective **Year 6 GATE Music applicants**, providing demonstrations and a clear insight into the standard of music-making at Churchlands. As expected, they showcased the programme at its very best. It was timely that the head of Victoria's leading school music programme visited mid-term. Following his visit, he described Churchlands as "*a model of what excellence in music education looks like. This makes it the complete program that utilises music education to its full extent as a means of creating community, belonging & a tribe for all.*"

The **Senior Concert** was another standout event, with all ensembles performing at an impressively high level and generating a real buzz for those parents new to the glories of a "Senior" concert.

Looking ahead, our focus now turns to **ANZAC Day commemorations** both at school and in the community. Senior band students have embraced their Saturday morning marching rehearsals, the Memorial Band is preparing for the **Sunset Service**, and our buglers are working alongside musicians from the Australian Army to deepen their understanding of the significance of the Last Post.

In the background, a great deal of **tour planning** work continues, led by Jess van de Ploeg and Caron Walker, alongside the **2026 Music Tour Committee**, as we navigate options for a 2026 music tour. We are determined to make it happen, somewhere.

All that in a 9-week term!

DC al fine



Save the Dates!

Mon 20 Apr Start of Term 2

Thu 24 Apr ANZAC Assembly, Sunset Service, Memorial Band

Sat 25 Apr ANZAC Day Various Community Services – Drums and bugles

Sat 25 Apr ANZAC Day March Wind Symphony and Wind Orchestra marching bands

Sat 2 May Music Tour Quiz Night fundraiser

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 2pm

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 - 9 Aug Senior ABODA Festival

Wed 12 Aug Year 12 ATAR Music Recitals

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



Twilight Jazz

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 📷

Photos: Luke Davey, Mohammad Hosseini and Matt Stack

On a beautiful warm evening on Thursday 19th March 2026 the talents of the Churchlands School of Music jazz ensembles were showcased to an appreciative audience of family and friends on the lush lawns of the campus.

Starting with the junior ranks' first performance in their new formations, and finishing with the seniors' polished perfection in the Birdland ensemble, the lineup also included some cameos by guest alumni from years past. When you put it all together it is a fine testimony to the jazz journey that the Churchlands program nurtures.

Importantly the Music Parents Committee were out in force raising funds for the Music Tour 2026, with a bumper crop of raffle prizes, a lucky number competition and the now-famous grazing boxes, all of which brought much joy as well as much-needed support for the students' tour endeavours. Big thanks to all the volunteer helpers and generous contributors to the cause.





Senior Concert

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 📷

Photos: Mohammad Hosseini and Luke Davey



Jazz Camp

"What would you do if you were stuck in one place and everyday was exactly the same?"

Luckily for us, jazz camp was anything but!

From improv sessions to archery tag, camp was as dynamic as our pieces and the best one yet. It was only reminiscent of Groundhog Day when each day we were summoned to rhythm training and call/response for what felt like hours on end.

First jazz camp for many, last jazz camp for some, we're grateful for Mr Bourgault, Ms Chesney, and Ms Greig's efforts towards making education fun. It was also nice to see some familiar faces perform for us from WAAPA, and even more exciting to see some of our peers questioning how to pursue a musical career!

We're sad to go, but all of our memories shared at jazz camp will forever stay with us.



Music Tour Camp

At the end of a long summer holiday break, the students who will be heading to Europe in June gathered for two days of getting familiar with the ensembles and tour repertoire, with lots of activities.

Day One culminated with an excursion to the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre to connect with the significant nature reserve near the school, traditionally named Nookenbuttra. Aboriginal elder Noel Nannup talked to the group about living on country in the past and the present day, assisted by Mr Roger Harris.

Later back at the school, Uncle Noel conducted a smoking ceremony to unite the tour group and families as a community on country, to start with a strong sense of our place before heading to faraway lands, where the tour repertoire will include choral work in Noongar language.



Student Highlights

WAAPA Wonderland!

On Saturday, our Year 11 ATAR students visited the brand new West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) facilities @ECU Perth City campus.

Each of the ATAR Music designated works was performed in an informative concert by WAAPA students. Following this we were lucky enough to have a tour of their incredible facilities, which include a Playhouse Theatre, Recital Hall, a Jazz and Contemporary Soundhouse as well as state-of-the-art recording studios, many floors (!) of fully equipped rehearsal spaces in all shapes and sizes, and a beautiful Sky Garden which is fully equipped for outdoor performances.

Thank you to the music staff who attended, and to WAAPA staff who welcomed us on the weekend and helped facilitate the excursion.



Flavio's Fulbright Future

Flavio Colonetti, a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University (ECU), has been awarded a 2026 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake a Master of Music in Jazz Studies in New York City later this year.



Flavio graduated from the Churchlands School of Music GATE Program in 2021 with honours including Top Instrumental Student and The Dux of ATAR Music.

Flavio described the Fulbright award as both a personal affirmation and a professional turning point. "It makes the dream of studying in New York a tangible reality," he said.

"Being able to focus entirely on my craft, while knowing I have the support to bring what I discover back home to the Australian jazz community, is a profound privilege."

As a Fulbright Scholar, Flavio will undertake practice-led research aimed at developing a new improvisational language for the piano. Building on his previous research of Bud Powell's bebop vocabulary, his Master's project will focus on merging counterpoint, hand independence and advanced rhythmic concepts.

"I want to combine the counterpoint style of pianists like Eric Lewis and Brad Mehldau, and integrate rhythmic concepts inspired by artists such as Ari Hoenig and Tigran Hamasyan," he said.

"I will bring this expertise back to Australia, conducting workshops to empower the next generation of musicians with new improvisational tools and contributing to the growth of our national jazz community."

We congratulate Flavio on this recognition and wish him well for his American Odyssey.

The Road To Music Tour 2026

As we patiently embrace uncertainty about how the next months' travel plans will eventuate, we can certainly be excited about all the efforts going into fundraising for our tour. A massive **THANK YOU** to the sustained energy brought by the following teams and many others:

- Grace, Alina, Chris, Bec, Taryn, Audrey, Aileen and the fundraising team, who are collecting "WOW!" an incredible stash of Quiz night prizes, made us near \$2000 at Jazz night, generated us all income through Grill'd, Gin, Wine, KrispyKreme, Christmas market initiatives and are still planning more!

- Yana who keeps a meticulous overview of all the income and expenditure, with many hours' in-kind help from Arlene in school finance
- Renee who single-handedly brought the raffle to fruition
- Bec, Audrey, Taryn and team for pulling together multiple car washes and to all the students who've given their hours raising money for the communal effort
- Arlene in school finance who patiently chips away at navigating the functions of Paperly for our various needs and requests
- Michelle who pops up in all teams and together with Claire will keep an eye on our young musicians' optimal health
- Ichina and Elaine who continue to facilitate multiple busking opportunities
- Principal Kate Grayson and Director of Music for donating to all of us through auction of their car bay!
- Danielle and Lilian who somehow keep an eye on it all, collate and share the info for us through WhatsApp and the Music Bulletin.

Please do reach out if you would like to contribute to the communal fundraising efforts:

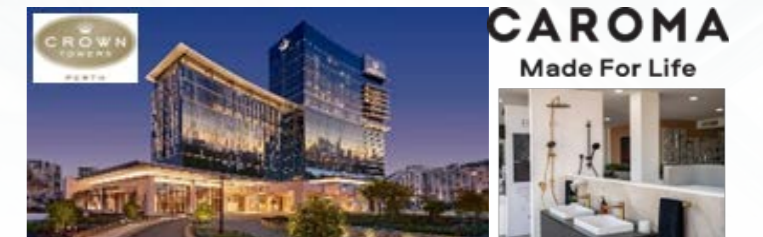
cshs2026musictour@gmail.com

For all the latest updates, you can visit our website at:

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

Vivienne, Music Tour Parent Committee convenor

We thank our generous major sponsors for supporting the fundraising efforts of the Music Tour:



Noticeboard



CSMS MUSIC PARENTS ON FACEBOOK!

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

www.facebook.com/groups/CSMSmusicparents/

CSMS 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 CSMS 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 2 MPC meetings on Monday 4 May (week 3) and Monday 25 May (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

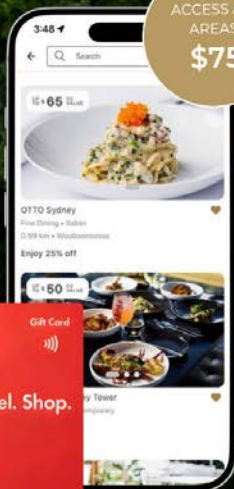
Music Notes is a newsletter for parents, by parents! We would love to feature your contributions of student stories and photos. Please email hi-res photos to: mstack23@gmail.com



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!



ACCESS ALL AREAS
\$75

\$20
VALUE



Stop. Fuel. Shop.

WE ARE FUNDRAISING WITH

Fill Up, Head Out, Save More.

With Entertainment

Turn Everyday Spending into Everyday Savings with an Entertainment Membership.

Access offers in all areas across Australia, New Zealand, and Bali, all while supporting our cause.

+

FOR A LIMITED TIME
Receive a FREE \$20 Shell Gift Card*

[Click here or scan QR code to find out more!](#)