CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PARENTS’ COMMITTEE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

READY TO SOAR IN 2016

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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WELCOME new and returning Music Parents - to our new-look Music Notes!

A big ‘thank you’ must go to new MN Designer, Emilee Hudson, for her fresh approach to our quarterly newsletter. In addition, Annie Halse-Smith and her husband, Aidan, have come on board to assist with the busy editing/co-ordinating role of MN – thanks to you all, good people! What hasn’t changed is MN’s platform for celebrating and informing: this is the place to read about the many adventures of our Music Students (past and present), the Music Staff who are taking them on an incredible journey, and the many, many Music Families who are doing what they can to support the students and staff.

Other changes have taken shape within the Music Parents’ Committee: over the last 12 months, the Committee Executive has completely changed. First, a new Convenor (Ellie Sauvy) and Secretary (Tanya Jones) in 2015. And in 2016, Rachel Clegg has stepped into the role of Treasurer, as Louise Storey winds back her commitments. Thank you, Louise, for the years of being such a fine Treasurer, and welcome Rachel! Just as importantly, new faces are appearing in leadership roles on the committee – thank you all for stepping forward. May you all find joy in the journey.

The word “new” cropped up quite a few times in the last two paragraphs: that’s the key to why the MPC is such a successful committee. Renewal, fresh perspectives, adapting to changes, taking and making opportunities, plus experience... and the door to the MPC is never closed! All Music Parents are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and it’s never too late to join the MPC or express an interest in helping with any activity.

Next MPC Meeting:

When? 7.30pm Mon 16th May
MPC Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month (during term).

Where? Alan Bishop Choral Studio, Lucca Street

All music parents are welcome! Music Director Mr Glenn Robinson attends these meetings, armed with updates!

CONCERT HALL EVENTS
Events Hospitality Liaison Cathy Gauen delattrecyn@yahoo.fr
Car Parking Co-ordinator Lynn Canes lyn@canes.net
Licensed Event Co-ordinator Graeme Gleson graeme.gleson@gmail.com
Bar Stock Liaison Jack Wilberforce jackwilberforce@iinet.net.au, Kat Nunn katnunn@iinet.net.au
Kiosk Stock e Equipment Liaison Julie Carmichael, julcarmichael@bigpond.com
School Concerts Kiosk Co-ordinators Katie Almeida katiealmeida@gmail.com, Julie Carmichael
School Concerts Front of House Co-ordinators Annie Halse-Smith ghalsesmith@gmail.com, Ros Dungey dungeyhome@gmail.com
School Concerts Stage Crew Co-ordinators Hendrik Ouemeire ouermieire@iinet.net.au, Donnie Spears sedgeyse@iinet.net.au
Client Events Kiosk Co-ordinators Jack Wilberforce jackwilberforce@iinet.net.au, Kat Nunn katnunn@iinet.net.au
Chamber Music Series Catering Co-ordinators Tracey Gratton tgratton@gmail.com, Geoff Sinclair geoffsinc@iinet.net.au

GENERAL MPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Marina Biddle, Fiona Birt, Phil Blann, Karen Bonte, Miranda-Jo Bradford, Kelly Bradley, Jennifer Fagerstrom, Kirrily Filmer, Dave Fudge, Deidre Hall, Karin Ruegner-Wong, Susannah Soon, Louise Storey, Tracy Taylor, Darren Thompson, Heather Wayte, Trish Wells
Welcome to 2016!

If Nostradamus and Baba Vanga are correct, this year will spell the end of Europe AND the world, as well as heralding unusual weather patterns. What they completely failed to predict (shattering their credibility), is how impressive this year’s production of Sweet Charity will be and how much more disappointing the end of the world will be for you if you missed this show.

Tickets are available on-line:
churchlands.wa.edu.au

Be a “big spender” and don’t sit at home thinking “There’s gotta be something better than this”. There is! With a Sweet Charity ticket you can smugly boast “If my friends could see me now!”

We are delighted to welcome back classroom teacher and ensemble director Melissa Skinner who led our senior Jazz band back in 2007. Melissa has written teaching books for the saxophone and is currently working towards completing her Masters in Music Education. Melissa certainly has an impressive musical CV, having performed with both the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as alongside noted local, national, and international jazz musicians.

I would like to congratulate the Music Parents elected to manage the various MPC portfolios that support our program and our students, enabling us to accomplish above and beyond our means. Thank you to those parents who attended the AGM to show their support. Our particular congratulations and thanks to the ongoing Convenor, Ellie Savory.

Compared to 2015, the start of this year has been serene and tranquil with only one new year group to assimilate and no tours to foreign climes to plan. That said it has still been a productive Term One starting when WASO rehearsed and performed in our own Concert Hall, giving many of our students the opportunity to see and hear these fabulous musicians up close. Our Bavarian All-Stars performed as part of the PIAF Chamber Music Festival, our newest Piano Trio set the tone for a principal’s conference, while 28 students had the chance to watch the legendary Wynton Marsalis rehearsing with the ever impressive WASO. At the time of writing our Senior Concert is looming and the ANZAC Day commemorations will follow. The ANZAC Day commitment for Churchlands involves two 55 piece marching bands, one choir, as well as numerous drummers and buglers for several public and school commemorative services.

Michael Griffin returned to our school for his first visit since 2012 and shared his discoveries about efficient and effective practice strategies with staff, students and parents alike. Sadly, you actually need to put them into practice for them to help you, so parents, please support your children by asking them to remember and put into practice the techniques that Michael shared with us.

Early next term we have the first round of upper school recitals. These are accompanied solo performances of between 15 - 20 minutes by our year 11 & 12 ATAR music students contributing towards their ATAR Music exam results. Each recital (formerly called performance exams), is marked by a panel of music teachers and is a very intensive time for the staff involved. This year we have 76 recitals to be evaluated and marked over a 4 day period which means over 22 hours worth of music being assessed!

On Tuesday, 3rd May next term (the day before Star Wars day – Mrs Sims), is the Meet the Instrumental Teachers Night. Please put it in your diaries and come along to meet the instrumental teacher who plays a huge part in the quality and value of your child’s Churchlands Music experience. Early communication can help avoid potential problems or confusion.

Music Parents or Students:
You are most welcome to submit photos/articles of students’ musical achievements for inclusion in Music Notes (high-res photos where possible) Please email to: esavory@bigpond.net.au

Music Parents:
Do I have your preferred email address? Help me keep you in the loop with events and other MPC happenings! esavory@bigpond.net.au
It never ceases to amaze me the sheer talent and commitment of Music Students, past and present. Each year my family and I have had the absolute pleasure of attending the WACO concerts held here in our Concert Hall. WACO is run by one of our very talented former music students, Samuel Parry. Sam and his team do an amazing job putting these concerts together over our summer holidays; this is a fantastic way to keep our students practicing their instruments, and was the inspiration behind Sam’s decision to create WACO back in 2008.

The WACO orchestra played some pretty cool pieces this year: Shostakovich’s Festive Overture, Debussy’s Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune, Grandage’s Left Edge and Strauss’ Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks.

The Choir were heavenly singing Handel’s Zadok the Priest and Gjeilo’s Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium); the mood took a fun turn with a Medley from “The Pirates of Pengeance”, which featured solo vocals from our very own Heather Mackay. Last of all – the absolute crowd favourite – Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody, starring Freddie Mercury’s solo. What an amazing performance he gave, with a standing ovation no less! Way to go, Mat!

Just look at how many past and present students and 1 staff member were involved this year!

A current music parent recently described me as ‘Music Mother’ in her email. I think that is a very apt title as I also feel so proud of my munchkins (as I often call them) when I see them performing at concerts. The motto for WACO “Changing Lives Through Music” definitely rings true for me. I feel so lucky to be part of the music department and have had such wonderful friendship through the students and families over the past 10 years. Working with your children has really opened up a whole new world of experiences I would never have entertained coming from a banking background. Music has definitely changed my life, so thank you!

p.s. I recorded the WACO concerts so if you would like a copy please forward a DVD to me clearly labelled.

p.p.s. Please remember that editing and putting together music DVDs does take a bit of time so your patience is appreciated.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

With every car guided to a parking spot, sausage sizzled, or cake baked for Kiosk sales, we all love to know how our fundraising work benefited the School of Music and our Music Students.

Thank you to Louise Storey, MPC Treasurer 2012-15, for this update:

After donating $21,000 in 2014 to the School of Music, the MPC donated a further $13,000 in 2015. This helped the SoM purchase a 5 string violin, 60 MP3 players (for WACE exams), plus a contribution towards the second Fazioli piano.

The profit figure for the 2015 ABODA Band and Orchestra Festivals and SIM Choral Festival totalled $13,450.

Car Parking services for events at the Concert Hall in 2015 earned the MPC $3,600.

Also, Events Hospitality for Concert Hall events (Kiosk & Licensed Bar) provided a profit of $7,500.

This is a fantastic result, and one that Music Parents can be proud of.
Imagine being presented with a jewel box: each piece is exquisite, and your gift giver explains their meaning. Dramatic, pretty, bold, goosebump inducing. By the end, you’re swooning.

So it was with the WA Charity Orchestra’s (WACO) 3 performances in February 2016, at the Churchlands Concert Hall. From Shostakovich’s Festive Overture to Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody, director and WACO founder Sam Parry swept the audience along on one of the most extraordinary musical journeys.

Sam himself is proudly a product of CSHS’ School of Music (Class of 2006), and WACO boasts a healthy number of past/present Churchlands Music Students.

Mathew Leak (Class of 2015) took on the iconic role of Freddie Mercury with the solo vocal in Bohemian Rhapsody: harp replaced piano, electric violin replicated the first guitar solo, and the brass section rocked the second, while the WACO choir tossed hair everywhere!

Here’s what Mathew had to say afterwards about being a member of WACO:

I have been involved in WACO for the past 2 years (the choir for both 2015 and 2016 and the orchestra for 2016). My experiences in both ensembles have been unforgettable and I have made many friendships through WACO. To have a choir full of people who all want to sing for a great cause is just awesome. It’s also great to have a conductor like Sam who really helps us along. The only way to describe performing in WACO is that it’s indescribable. I’ve never been in a room filled with more dedicated people than the WACO choir. The concerts, especially this year, are spectacular. Because of the dedication people give and the fun we’re having, everyone including the audience and performers are having a great time. I mean I can’t think of anywhere else that would perform Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen with a full orchestra and choir backing the soloist, and being the soloist was mesmerising in itself. Because I wasn’t singing along with choir all the time, there were a couple times in rehearsals I got lost in amazement just listening to the choir and orchestra together. Anybody considering joining WACO for 2017 (the choir or orchestra), should do and I can promise you won’t regret it.

Wynton Marsalis’ Swing Symphony Rehearsal

On Wednesday March 2nd, selected members of the Jazz Ensembles were invited to travel to the Perth Concert Hall to attend a Wynton Marsalis’ Swing Symphony rehearsal. We examined the rehearsal of work composed by virtuoso trumpeter and bandleader, Wynton Marsalis. The big band featured some of the top musicians from the American jazz scene and their expert take on jazz classics which has filled concert halls around the world. Marsalis and his band shared the stage with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) as they rehearsed Marsalis’ homage to the evolution of swing. Marsalis’ third symphonic composition, Swing Symphony has been performed with the world’s great orchestras. Now WASO is added to this list, joining Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra for one huge musical celebration. From ragtime and mambo to bebop and African-American church music, the experience was virtuosic jazz on a grand scale.
Tapestry Strings, directed by Kristel Hawksworth

SIM Trumpet teacher, Adam Hawksworth, shows us how it’s done!

Dooverlockies with Christie Sullivan
and fifteen
Christmas CONCERT

(All photos by Deepa Bhowmick)
 TERMS REVIEW

Dr Rob McWilliams visits our School of Music

By Nicole Turner, Music Teacher

On 3rd March 2016, the CSHS School of Music had the honour of hosting Dr Rob McWilliams, an internationally accomplished musician, conductor and educator. Dr McWilliams was born and raised in Melbourne, graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree of Music Education from the University of Melbourne. From 1991 to 2014, he lived and studied in the US, completing a Master’s Degree in Instrumental Conducting at Florida State University, and later a PhD in Music from the University of Minnesota. He now lives in Queensland.

Dr McWilliams ran a workshop with Wind Orchestra 4, working with both Music Teacher, Christie Sullivan and Year 12 Music Student, Jeremy Mazurek. Jeremy has displayed a keen interest in studying conducting beyond Year 12; he will make his debut as a conductor with Wind 4 Orchestra at the Junior Concert on 2nd June!

The members of Wind Orchestra 4 were specifically directed by Dr McWilliams on the following:

- to develop their awareness of the sound that they produce as an ensemble;
- to develop their team skills by interpreting the conductor; and
- in the same way with the same effort, follow the musical directions, such as dynamics and phrasing.

Both the staff and students gained a great deal from Dr McWilliams’ visit. We would like to thank Dr McWilliams and his sponsor, Yamaha, for making the visit and valuable time with us possible.

Christmas Hampers 2015

Belinda Mackay finds some room for all the hampers!

At the end of the 2015 school year, thanks to the outstanding generosity of Music Parents, the MPC was able to present hampers chock-full of all sorts of gourmet goodies to the Music Staff. This is a yearly tradition where Music Parents pitch in to acknowledge the dedication of our wonderful Music Staff and all they do for our children’s musical education.

A big thank you also goes to Music Parents Nicole Stewart and Deepa Bhoumick for organising and presenting these beautiful hampers to the Music Staff.

Bunnings Innaloo sausage sizzle on 13th March 2016

39 degrees Celsius is not the nicest temperature to be hovering over a hot BBQ, turning over sausages and onions! But some pretty hardy Music Parents did just that at the first Bunnings sausage sizzle for the MPC this year: they watched the ice melt in the drinks tubs and the pallet of pool salt nearby slowly disappear as the day wore on.

Even so, the Bunnings customers rolled up and the team raised a respectable net profit of just under $1200 for the day – a great way to kick start the MPC’s fundraising for 2016! Thank you parent helpers, everyone who donated drinks, and Brett Coombes and David Jones for co-ordinating and superimising!

**The next Bunnings fundraiser is on Saturday, 14th May 2016**

Ellie Savory, MPC Convenor
Leah Petrie Young Composers Project

In the Term 4, 2015 edition of Music Notes, we congratulated the now Year 12 Music Student, Leah Petrie, for being invited to participate in a composition workshop with Lachlan Skipworth, WASO's 2016 composer-in-residence. Leah achieved this on the strength of her composition submissions to the Young Composers Project, run by the Australian Society of Music Education (ASME).

Proud Mum, Bev Petrie, told MN:

"During the Christmas school holidays, Leah had the privilege of a one-on-one workshop with Lachlan and a local quartet, to develop her composition piece, at John Septimus Roe College in Mirrabooka.

"The quartet later performed her piece at the ASME Teachers Workshop, in front of a large audience of music teachers. They were amazed to learn that Leah was only in Year 11 when she wrote it. Lachlan, a young and very talented composer, said there wasn’t much tweaking that needed to be done on Leah’s piece, as it had arrived in very good form, complete and finished.

“Leah said she was very thankful for the opportunity to have worked with Lachlan, and learnt quite a bit from the experience. As a result, she feels very encouraged to continue with compositions, and is considering it as a career option.”

Leah Petrie Young Composers Project

Australian Youth Orchestra National Summer Camp

The Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO) Summer Camp was held in January in Canberra, at the Australian National University (ANU). After undergoing auditions in August 2015, 220 people aged from 14 to 30 years were selected from more than 1000 applicants nationwide. Five talented Music Students from CSHS were selected: Andrew Crothers, Tze-Wen Lee, Robyn Blann, Ariel Postmus and James Wayte.

The camp is an intensive two-week experience with a program that includes symphonic or chamber orchestra repertoire. The students were involved in sectional rehearsals, tutorials, public concerts in Llewellyn Hall at the ANU, and live broadcasts on ABC Radio.

During the two-week course, the students did get one day off to explore some of Canberra’s attractions!
YEAR 12 BALL

Nicholas Stapleton
Matthew Gamrad
Thomas Filmer
Calum Hall
Draven Woodbridge
Izaac Masters

Jonathon Exon
Adrian Biemmi
Jeremy Magoon
Blake Houlahan

Victoria Lowry
Thomas Filmer
Kate Higson
Jeremy Magoon
Taylor Cathcart
Blake Houlahan
DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 25th April  
ANZAC Day Parade, Perth CBD

Tuesday 26th April  
Term 2 begins  

Tuesday 3rd May  
Meet the Instrumental Teachers Night  

Saturday 14th May  
Bunnings Innaloo Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser  

Sunday 15th May  
Chamber Music Series, Concert 1  

Monday 16th May  
MPC Meeting  

Thursday 26th May  
Intermediate Concert  
27th - 29th May  
PeC Community Art Exhibition

Thursday 2nd June  
Junior Concert

Wednesday 8th June  
Chamber Music Series, Concert 2  
16th-17th June  
Senior Ensembles Workshop

Monday 20th June  
MPC Meeting  

Monday 27th June  
Opus Concert, Perth Concert Hall  

Wednesday 29th June  
Chamber Music Series, Concert 3  

Thursday 30th June  
St Joseph’s Concert  

Friday 1st July  
End of Term
Welcome
new Music Parents,
and congratulations to
the Music Parents’
Committee of 2016!

Convenor, Ellie Savory, thanks former Music Parent, Janet Ryan,
for her dedication and service to the MPC.

Principal, Neil Hunt, addresses the AGM

Bev Petrie, Julie Carmichael, Adrian O’Brien,
music teacher Mirelle Hopwood, and Tracey Gralton

Director of Music, Glenn Robinson,
addresses the AGM

Retiring MPC Treasurer, Louise Storey, speaks about ‘Care, commitment and trust’ as a school parent

The School of Music’s 2nd in Charge, Robyn Griffin and
Director, Glenn Robinson, at the MPC’s AGM

All photos by Deepa Bhowmick