



**CHURCHLANDS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



**CHURCHLANDS**  
**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

A handbook for new music parents

**The CSHS Music Parent Community welcomes you.**

## WELCOME

The Music Parents Committee (MPC) extends a warm welcome to all parents of incoming students in the Churchlands Senior High School music program. You are giving your child the opportunity to be involved in a very exciting and challenging high school education. As Music Parents, we have the privilege of watching our children participate in many wonderful experiences. Music Parents work together to support the teachers and the program, getting to know each other and enjoying a rewarding partnership.

This is a wonderful community and a terrific opportunity for you and your student. You are invited to be INVOLVED, and FEEL AT HOME by getting to know other Music Parents and to HAVE FUN supporting our students and their music teachers.

## CHURCHLANDS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Established in 1972 to encourage young musical talent and raise the profile of music in the community through education, the program is now one of the state's largest and most successful with graduates working in leading and principal positions in most high-profile national arts organisations.

## FROM THE PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Parents typically feel that the experiences music students have at Churchlands contribute to a rich and valuable secondary education. The program enables students to perform a wide range of music at a high standard, to work in a disciplined team, make rewarding friendships, travel, contribute to the community, and manage busy schedules. In addition, the care and interest shown to the students by the music staff provide a secure and happy environment. The cooperation and bonds between the students are also very positive aspects - our students are indeed fortunate.

## EXPECTATIONS

A commitment to enrol in G&T music is a commitment to continue music studies through to the end of Year 12. The Education Department, through the school, makes a huge investment in developing the specific balance of young instrumentalists necessary to provide our most talented students with the highest level of musical opportunity available in Western Australian schools. The disruption caused by a student leaving the program prematurely not only has a detrimental impact on the opportunities available to entire ensembles, but has a flow through effect on students at all levels of the program. **G&T students living outside of the school catchment and wishing to leave the G&T program may be asked to leave the school and enrol at their local high school.**

**By accepting a G&T music position, it is expected students will remain in the music course to the end of Year 12.**

**General music students should continue to the end of Year 10.**

General students who maintain appropriate grades are also eligible for senior school music courses. It is only possible to maintain high standards if all students are committed to the program. Attendance at rehearsals, lessons and performances, as well as having a positive attitude towards regular practice, is a requirement.

## INFORMATION

We trust this booklet will be a helpful reference for matters relating to the music program. For more information, please visit the school website.

## STRUCTURE OF THE MUSIC PROGRAM

Placement in the music program is either as a Gifted & Talented (G&T) or general music student.

G&T places are open to students from any primary school in the state. There are up to 64 places per year group in the G&T Music program for students identified as having the qualities necessary to be successful in the program. These students receive *individual instrumental tuition*, a comprehensive classroom music education, and involvement in performing ensembles.

General music placements provide students learning through the IMSS system with the opportunity to continue. These students either did not apply for a G&T music position or their application was unsuccessful. General students receive instrumental tuition in *small groups*, classroom music education, and involvement in performing ensembles.

Where instrumental students are offered a General place and they have not previously been learning with the Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Service they must continue to learn privately.

**With satisfactory results in Year 7 & 8, General Music students can elect to do the same classroom music component as G&T students in Year 9 and 10 to be better prepared for ATAR music.**

## TIME COMMITMENT FOR STUDENTS

Involvement in the program necessitates a commitment of time; however it is carefully structured so that students can maintain balanced lives at home and at school.

Apart from music classes and instrumental lessons in school time, students are involved in one or more choir rehearsals and one or more instrumental ensemble rehearsal per week. These may be before or after school, or on Saturday morning.

**These commitments are important if a high standard of performance is to be reached. We request that a note is sent into the Music Office if a lesson or a rehearsal is missed. Where possible, notice in advance is helpful to teachers and conductors.**

## MUSIC COURSE

The music course the students undertake consists of the following elements:

- Instrumental or Vocal Lessons
- Performing Ensembles
- Classroom Music

## INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL LESSONS

### TUITION

The Department of Education's Instrumental Music School Service (IMSS) provides free instrumental tuition for eligible students in the music program.

- G&T Music Students have an **individual** instrumental or vocal lesson
- General Music Students who learnt with the IMSS at primary school have a **group** instrumental lesson
- General Music Students who learnt privately in primary school must continue to do so.

### INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS

Instrumental teachers are experienced professional musicians from the Department of Education Instrumental Music School Service (IMSS).

### INSTRUMENT HIRE

Certain instruments are available for hire although most students were required to purchase one in primary school. In most cases these students continue to use their own instrument unless it is not of adequate quality, in which case they will be advised by their instrumental teacher to obtain one of better quality. All the larger and more expensive instruments can be hired by students, whether they are G&T or General Music students. It is the student's responsibility to take care of their instrument and to **ensure the case is clearly labelled with their name and a contact number**. Instruments hired through the school are insured while on school grounds during school hours however it is advisable to make your own insurance arrangements to cover the instrument at other times. This can be set up through your house and contents insurance or other more specific covers.

With very large instruments such as double bass and percussion, the school usually has extra instruments available for students to use in lessons and rehearsals to avoid transporting their instrument to and from school.

**We are not responsible for the security of instruments left on site overnight. Privately owned instruments used at school must be insured privately.**

### LESSON TIMES

Lessons are scheduled either before or during school hours. Where they are held during the school day, the lessons are organised on a rotating basis so students do not miss the same subject each week. It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on any work missed because of an instrumental lesson. For senior school students, lessons are scheduled at lunchtime or before school wherever possible. Students must consult the notice board to confirm their lesson times each week. If a student cannot attend a lesson or misses one for any reason, a note of explanation should be sent.

### PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students should generally practise daily and record this in an Instrumental Music Student Journal. The student's music journal is also the primary means of communication between the instrumental teacher and parent. The student's instrumental teacher will be more specific on the nature and the amount of practice required and this will depend on the student's year, instrument, and degree of experience. **Whatever the amount it must be regular to be effective.**

### MUSIC AND TUITION BOOKS

Students are required to purchase specific music and books for their instrument. These will be determined by the Instrumental or Vocal teacher.

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Instrumental and vocal students must participate in a **choir** and at least one **instrumental ensemble or the Perfect Pitch vocal ensemble (if a vocalist)**.

### CHOIRS

Choral training is an important and compulsory part of our course.

Dooverlackies	Year 7 students
Larrikins	Year 8 & 9 boys
Matildas	Year 8 & 9 girls
Year 10 Choir	Year 10 students
Senior Choir	Year 11 & 12 students
Chorale	Year 10 & 12 audition only
Perfect Pitch	Specialist voice students

### INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES AUDITIONS

Auditions are held towards the end of Term Three to restructure the instrumental ensembles for the next twelve months. All students, including incoming Year 6's, are auditioned, ranked and allocated to the ensemble most suitable for their instrument and ability. Placement is broadly determined by ability and vacancies, rather than year level or course in an endeavour to challenge all of our students; although the social consequences of placing highly proficient younger players ahead of their older peers, along with the need to provide appropriate leadership opportunities to each cohort is always a consideration in the final placement of students.

### WIND ORCHESTRAS (concert bands)

Wind Orchestra 5  
Wind Orchestra 4  
Wind Orchestra 3  
Wind Orchestra 2  
Wind Orchestra 1

### woodwind, brass and percussion

developing basic ensemble skills  
for junior students  
intermediate level students  
more proficient students  
the most capable students

### JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Various

The number of ensembles is subject to student interest and staff availability and is for students to develop jazz ensemble skills

### SYMPHONY & STRING ORCHESTRAS

Tutti String Ensemble  
Double Bass Ensemble  
Ripieno String Orchestra  
Sinfonia  
Symphony Orchestra  
Chamber Orchestra

### strings, woodwind, brass and percussion

developing basic ensemble skills  
double bass players  
for junior students  
for proficient students  
the most capable students  
an invitation only ensemble

### GUITAR ENSEMBLES

Strummers  
Fretwork 2  
Fretwork 1

### classical guitars

developing basic skills  
for more proficient students  
for very capable students

### CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

These are formed from year to year subject to student interest and staff availability. They may involve string, percussion, brass, piano or woodwind players.

## CLASSROOM MUSIC

This is where students learn skills that help them become better musicians. Learning to appreciate music in many forms is a very important part of music education and development.

At **all** levels of the course **all** music students also participate in at least one choir & an appropriate ensemble. In addition to this, **all** music students must be having regular instrumental or vocal lessons.

### YEAR 7 & 8

**G&T Music:** Year 7: 2 periods of the Musicianship course  
Year 8: 3 periods of Musicianship, Literature & Concert Practice

**General Music:** Years 7 & 8: 2 periods of the Musicianship course

**Musicianship:** Kodály based ear training and music theory  
**Music Literature:** Score reading, analysis, and music history  
**Concert Practice:** Performing to develop critical listening skills

### YEAR 9 & 10

**G&T Music:** 4 periods of classroom music including a specialist focus area  
**General Music:** 2 periods of classroom music encompassing musicianship and concert practice

**Musicianship:** Kodály based ear training and music theory

*G&T Music students must **also** select a focus of either Western Art Music or Jazz*

#### Western Art Music

**Music Literature:** Score reading, analysis, and music history; plus  
**Concert Practice:** Performing to develop critical listening skills

OR

#### Jazz

**Jazz styles and analysis:** Jazz history and jazz styles; plus  
**Improvisation Workshop:** Jazz improvisation, arranging and performance

### YEAR 11 & 12

There are both Certificate and ATAR (Jazz or Western Art Music) music courses available.

**All G&T Music students are expected to enrol in an appropriate music course.**

General Music students are eligible to enrol in the senior school music courses if they complete the lower school course to a satisfactory standard.

Aside from 4 periods per week, consistent with all Year 11 & 12 courses, music students must continue to attend Choir & Ensemble rehearsals and performances, as well as instrumental or vocal lessons.

## ROUTINE OF THE YEAR

Most weeks in the school calendar will involve performances or workshops with guest clinicians however most children are involved in only five or six of the performances each year. At the beginning of each year a full schedule including dates is distributed to all families. It is essential to diarise the relevant dates for your child as they are compulsory events and absentees cause problems for the whole ensemble.

## CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES and other EVENTS

Six concerts are held during the year, two each for Junior, Intermediate and Senior ensembles. There is also an annual series of festivals, a Government schools showcase concert (the Opus Concert), and occasional special events which include charity events, memorial services, short tours and specific school occasions.

**Tickets to school concerts must be purchased online via the relevant Trybooking link on the Churchlands SHS website calendar. A small number of tickets may be available for cash at the door but attract a surcharge. Avoid the queue by booking your tickets seats online.**

## MUSIC UNIFORM POLICY

Music students participate in many performances at school, as well as within our community and internationally. Presentation is very important. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of dress and conduct whenever they represent the CSHS and its School of Music.

### FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM

- Boys:** Black concert shirt with music crest  
Teal music tie  
Black concert trousers and a black belt.  
Black leather lace-up dress shoes and **long black socks** (not sports shoes)  
Churchlands school tie
- Girls:** Black concert jacket with music crest  
Teal camisole  
Black concert trousers  
Low heeled plain black shoes; lace up or court style. No high heels, strappy or exaggerated styles. Not sports shoes.  
**Black stockings or long black socks**  
Black or teal hair ribbon for long hair  
**No jewellery may be worn** (small studs and sleepers are acceptable)

Hair for boys and girls is to be neat; long hair tied back, off the face and behind the shoulders.

**Music uniforms are purchased through the Churchlands SHS Uniform Shop. Year 7 students will be contacted for a uniform fitting early in Term One.**

## MUSIC TOURS

Since 1982 the School of Music has regularly toured to destinations in Australia, Europe, Asia or North America. Tours are an educational experience for the students and the destinations are chosen for their musical opportunities with students involved in many performances and cultural activities. Such an undertaking is very expensive and a considerable amount of effort from the families of participating students is needed to raise funds.

*Whilst participation in a tour is not compulsory, most eligible students do take part.*

Tours typically take place in the middle or end of Semester One and at three weeks are longer than most other school tours. All students enrolled in music courses in Years 10, 11, and 12 of the touring year are eligible to participate, dependant on them demonstrating a consistently positive attitude and a high standard in behaviour and attendance in all subjects within the school.



**All touring students participate in a choir and *may* also be in one or more of the instrumental ensembles.** The normal teaching routine is not interrupted during a tour year, and students not going on tour are involved as normal in the appropriate ensemble for their ability. Separate information will be available to families prior to a tour proposal.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

In Years 7 & 8 at CSHS students have no electives, and instead experience a range of subjects. In Years 9 & 10, music is automatically an elective for music students. It does reduce their number of other electives, but it must be remembered that they have elected to do music with its advantages and expectations.

**For year 9 G&T students, two of their four music classes are scheduled off-grid, giving them an additional elective choice.**

**For year 11 & 12 G&T students, music is automatically one of their six subjects.**

### SPORT COMMITMENTS

Most students interested in sport manage to combine their music commitments with sporting involvement. While attendance at rehearsals is mandatory, in specific cases of clashes, every effort is made to find alternatives that allow the child to meet sport commitments and fulfil the requirements of the music course.

### TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL/CAR POOLING

As students often live some distance from the school and need to be at rehearsals early in the morning it can be useful to car pool. The Music Parents' Committee can help to put you in touch with other parents if you would like to arrange shared transport.

### HOW CAN A PIANIST BE INVOLVED?

Students entering the program as pianists are expected to continue with private lessons. They may find opportunities to accompany instrumentalists or ensembles as their ability and opportunities allow.

### SHOULD I CONTINUE WITH MY PIANO LESSONS?

Absolutely! The reading and comprehension skills developed through learning the piano enable many students to progress faster in other areas of the music course. They may also have opportunities to accompany other students if their skills allow.

**The Music Parents' Committee is a vibrant group of parents serving as a vital link between music parents and the School of Music.**

## MUSIC PARENT COMMUNITY

CSHS Music Parents are involved practically in the music program in many ways:

### THE MPC

This is a committee of office bearers formed annually to oversee various responsibilities. The MPC meets regularly (during term) and everyone is welcome. Activities are voluntary; your help is highly valued.

### MUSICNOTES

Our newsletter, created by music parents for music families and included with the school newsletter. Please feel free to contribute articles and photos.

### EMAILS OF NEWS AND MPC UPDATES

We keep in touch with you through the year by email regarding school and MPC activities. For us to contact you effectively please ensure that the School and the MPC are made aware of any changes in your contact details.

### **MEET THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS NIGHT**

Each year, the MPC provides parents an invaluable opportunity to meet with the instrumental teachers to discuss the progress of your child and to address any concerns you may have. It is a social evening with the opportunity to meet other parents.

### **CONCERT HALL CATERING AND CAR PARKING VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are rostered to help direct traffic and to organise and serve refreshments for external groups hiring the Concert Hall. Parents with an RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) certificate may help at Concert Hall events with a licensed bar. Parents also assist serving refreshments at our own school concerts and events.

These roles generate funds for the MPC.

### **STAGE CREW VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are rostered at concerts to assist setting up the stage for the various ensembles.

### **FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are rostered at concerts to assist with ticketing, seating of patrons and controlling entrance/exit from the Concert Hall during performances.

### **OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

Parent involvement in one or more fundraising opportunities is expected: e.g. Sausage Sizzles, and coffee & cake stalls at Festivals. Money raised improves the music education your child receives at Churchlands SHS.

### **TOUR FUNDRAISING**

15 months prior to a tour, a specialist tour committee is established for organisation and fundraising activities. It is a busy time for parents, but the end result is worthwhile. The wealth of past experience makes the task fairly streamlined and efficient.

**All Music Parents are expected to help at some point each year.  
Such a large and enjoyable music program cannot be as  
successful without the sincere commitment from families.**

### **HOW CAN YOU BE A PARTICIPATING MUSIC PARENT?**

1. Please complete and return the Music Parent Helper Form promptly to the Music Office or directly to the MPC Convenor.
2. Email the MPC Convenor with offers of help.
3. Throughout the year there are opportunities to help at various events. Check your inbox regularly for updates!

We look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the next six years. This is a special community and being involved is the best way to really feel at home and to know what's happening.

**The Music Parent Community welcomes you**

## **The Music Parent Committee**

supports the vision of the School of Music by enhancing the musical opportunities and experiences of our children through the provision of practical support, and additional resources via fundraising.

The School of Music is a place where parents participate in the journey and the achievements of their children and make lasting friendships.