

Music Talent Development Program



BUNBURY CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Studying music at school paved the way for my future career in music. Since graduating, I have studied music at university and now work as a choral singer and conductor. While at school, I enjoyed a rich array of performance opportunities, the opportunity to be part of a number of vibrant ensembles, and passionate teaching staff in the classroom, which instilled in me a love of music which has stayed with me ever since.

Kate McNamara (2010) Conductor, Soprano



Benefits of Music

Research has consistently demonstrated the benefits of a music education. Music improves confidence and self-expression and fosters creativity, teamwork and collaboration. Music develops neural pathways and enhances brain function. Students involved in high quality music education programs at school perform better on tests than students that are not engaged.

Whole School Program

The Music Program offered at the School provides students with opportunities to explore music making in a variety of contexts. Whether it be learning to play an instrument, performing with an ensemble or writing music, students are encouraged to develop their skills and enjoy the music making experience.

Music education starts in Primary School, with a specialist music teacher taking students for weekly lessons. Students are given the unique opportunity to learn a string instrument as part of the Year 3 Strings Program and a wind/brass instrument in the Year 5/6 Band Program.

In Secondary School students are invited to be part of the Music Talent Development Program to continue to develop their musicianship. This program is for students in Years 7 to 9 who have joined one of the School ensembles. From Year 10, students are able to apply to join the Creative Industries Specialist Pathway program. This Pathway program aims to provide students looking to pursue Music as a career pathway with opportunities to further develop necessary skills and understanding of the many opportunities available.

Students from all year groups can take individual instrumental lessons from the full range of orchestral instruments (strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion) as well as piano, guitar and voice. Lessons cover a range of styles including traditional Western Art music, Jazz and Contemporary music. Numerous ensembles provide opportunities for students to play music with others. Students can choose to participate in more than one ensemble; with Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands, Secondary Choir, Intermediate and Senior Strings, Big Band, Vocal Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and Brass Ensemble all available to join. An extensive teaching and learning program in the classroom provides opportunities for students to pursue the study of Music through to ATAR Music (Western Art) or to Certificate III in Music Industry.

The School regularly hosts workshops run by visiting professional musicians, who provide skill development activities for our students and enrich the School based program. Our School has a strong reputation for music talent development and we are a beacon for music education in the South West.

Music Talent Development Program

Students who are members of an ensemble (Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands, Senior Strings, Secondary Choir) are invited to apply to join the Music Talent Development Program. Students in the Music Talent Development Program will be invited to participate in:

- the annual Music Camp in February;
- a range of performance opportunities including school based activities such as the annual Band BBQ, Soiree, Music Gala Concert, Carols Night and Speech Night;
- opportunities to work with visiting artists on campus (in 2019: Young Voices of Melbourne, WA Youth Jazz Orchestra, Australian Girls Choir, UWA School of Music); and
- off campus events such as the Music Tour, competitions and excursions to see professional performances.

Participation in the Music Talent Development Program will provide students with opportunities to develop their musicianship and ensemble skills. Students will be able to learn about music by making it in collaboration with others. They will be challenged to develop excellence in a supportive environment.

To be eligible to apply for the Music Talent Development Program, students need to be committed members of at least one large ensemble (Intermediate or Senior Concert Bands, Senior Strings, Secondary Choir) and attend weekly rehearsals and all events related to that ensemble.

Students who are selected for the Music Talent Development Program in Years 7 to 9 will be invited to apply to the Creative Industries Specialist Pathway Program from Year 10. Students interested in pursuing Music as a career pathway, coupled with an interest in gaining experiences in the suite of creative industries, should consider applying. Students selected for the Creative Industries Specialist Pathway Program will be provided with a mentor and will be invited to participate in the rich array of musical activities.

How to apply

Students who have joined the Intermediate or Senior Concert Bands, Senior Strings, Secondary Choir and Year 6 students who have completed their band program will be invited to join the Music Talent Development Program. An online application form will need to be completed to provide details of music experience and to confirm the commitment from students and parents to the Band or Ensemble.

In Year 12, playing in music ensembles provided an opportunity for me to take a break from studying. I was also able to spend one awesome week each year performing at regional primary schools and had a great time with some of my best friends, who I still speak with to this day. The music program was certainly a highlight of my high school years.

Jamie McGregor (2018 Dux)

