

MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2025

Blue Notes



Photo: Matt Stack

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CHURCHLANDS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Coordinator's Cadenza

Vivienne Travlos, Music Parents Committee Coordinator



Welcome to 2025!

...which feels to have started exponentially and infinitely busy. Finding time to appreciate our children and their music, time to commit to various volunteering roles and time to enjoy each other's company is indeed a challenge. Though always one well worth surmounting.

Thank you to the enthusiastic team of new and old volunteers who have joined

the Music Parent Committee (MPC) meetings this term. We've been steadily planning how to divvy up events for the year. Thank you to 'new' parents Joe, Eileen, Elaine, Leigh, Grace and Ana for super progress in your new roles around exploring opportunities for fundraising, busking coordination, purchase and secretarial tasks. Thank you to the 'old team' of Tomoko, Alina, Yana, Tracey, Shirin and more for inducting new parent, Joanne, into the current kiosk set up. We welcome all 'hands on deck'. Fresh eyes and ideas will always help us to streamline and firm up our processes.

Congratulations to all Jazz Night participants on kick starting fundraising for Music Tour 2026 on Friday night 28th March! Thank you for P&C support to fund hire of the super sound system. The dream team of enthusiastic teachers and MPC volunteers did a phenomenal job at this vibey, cheerful and relaxed sundowner evening event.

Time spent searching for donations, preparing grazing boxes, carrying soft drinks and nibbles, marvelling at Ms Hopwood's energetic raffle sales and coordinating many background tasks with the music teaching team paid off with four digit \$numbers raised !!! Followed immediately the next day by almost the same team manning the kiosk sales for an external concert that raised another few hundred \$\$\$s. Huge efforts! Thank you.

The call out for assistance with the year's MPC tasks is always open. Music Tour 2026 committee formation and planning will begin in earnest in Term 2. We'll need to double our efforts for the next 12 months at both maintaining our usual events and devising targeted fundraising if our 2026 Year 10-12 students are to have the best chance to enjoy one of their greatest schooling opportunities in Music Tour. Please consider finding a few hours' time to either help out with established/usual MPC concert tasks or assist specifically with Music Tour preparations.

Never hesitate to reach out to me on 0415 301 635 if you are keen and able to take on small, medium or bigish roles within the Music Parent Committee - we always need a spare hand!

Do join our meetings twice a term on Mondays 7pm - 8.30pm in the Choral Studio - see the School Calendar and pages of this newsletter for dates across the year.

Looking forward to enjoying moments of 'time out' in the beautiful music performances of Term 2 concerts!

From the Director's Desk

Jess van de Ploeg, Director of Music



Wow, what a whirlwind Term 1 has been! We welcomed 114 new Year 7 music students into our midst, who despite the many interruptions to the term, have all made a great start to the year. They certainly are making an impressive sound every Monday morning in the Dooverlackies choir!

A huge thank you to Claire Chesney and Andre Bourgault for organising the Jazz and Yr 8+9 GATE camps in late February. Our students spent three days out in the Swan Valley rehearsing and performing for each other, as well as enjoying visits from Alumni, Performance Psychology expert Fiona Sinclair, wacky team bonding games, Irish dancing, ukulele sessions and a 'Wicked' Quiz Night.

Meet the IMSS teacher evening in mid-March was a great chance for new and not-so-new parents to chat and meet their child's instrumental music teachers from IMSS.

Twilight Jazz was yet again a wonderful evening under the stars, expertly led by Andre Bourgault. The school community enjoyed the talents of our Jazz bands and combos, with the relaxed atmosphere providing the perfect backdrop for students to practice their improvising and performing. A special shout out to the P&C for sponsoring this event for our school.

At the end of term, Churchlands Chorale collaborated with UWA Conservatorium of Music and choristers from

Hale and MLC, performing Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace at Winthrop Hall. This was a wonderful opportunity for our senior musicians to extend themselves, performing a massive work such as this together with a full symphony orchestra.

Despite ANZAC Day falling in the school holidays, we have many students performing at various community services on ANZAC Day. Our Wind Symphony and Wind Orchestra will once again proudly march through the city as part of the annual RSL ANZAC Day parade in the City of Perth.

Our wonderful music secretary Erin Clatworthy is getting married over the holidays, and will return in Term 2 as Mrs Erin Bower. We wish her a wonderful wedding celebration!

It has been an eye-opening experience to be in the Directors' chair for the latter half of this term. With our European Music Tour in 2026 now approved, I look forward to handing the Department back into the safe and experienced hands of Glenn after the term break!

Save the Dates! Term Two 2025

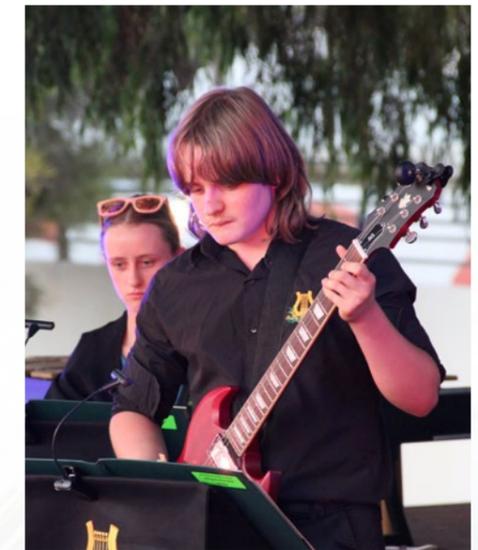
Tue 29 April	Students return to school	Mon 26 May	MPC Meeting 7pm in Choral Studio
Mon 5 May	Music Parents' Committee (MPC) Meeting 7pm in Choral Studio	Fri 6 June	Primary School Music Tour
Fri 16 May	Senior Concert 7pm Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall	Wed 18 June	Chamber Music Concert 5pm
Thu 22 May	Intermediate Concert 7pm Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall	Wed 2 July	Gina Williams Concert - Year 8s and Music Students
Fri 23 May	Junior Concert 7pm Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall	Fri 4 July	End of Term Two
		Tue 22 July	Students return to school Term Three



CSHS, MLC and Hale choristers join the UWA Conservatorium to perform Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace

Photo: Matt Stack

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)



Twilight Jazz

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#) 📷

Photos: Naki Kursunlu and Matt Stack

Once again, our Churchlands Jazz students performed an enjoyable evening of Jazz on what was a perfect night for a free outside picnic concert. Underneath a beautiful lit canopy, Twilight Jazz involved numerous students performing in big bands and small combos as well as improvising (some for the first time) in front of a large supportive crowd of family, friends and peers.

Our three polished big bands played with power and finesse, while small combos explored new music and provided plenty of entertainment.

Thanks to everyone involved who helped make this night such a success - the Music dept, the MPC, the P&C, Mr Jenkins and of course the students for all their efforts in preparing and performing the music. Twilight Jazz is fast becoming one of the most anticipated nights of the year, so make sure you are there next year!

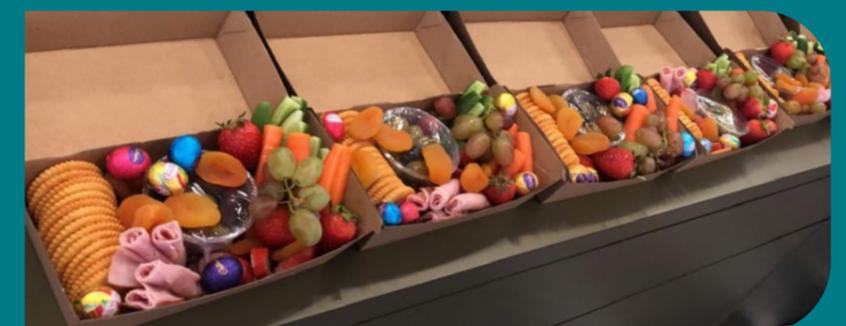


Fabulous Fundraising

With generous donations from local businesses, fundraising for the next Music Tour got underway at the Twilight Jazz Concert. There were fabulous raffle prizes, Mrs Hoppy's \$400 Lucky Number Bonanza! and sumptuous grazing boxes for alfresco enjoyment.

Big thanks go to:
Spudshed Innaloo
Coles Innaloo

Woolworths Karrinyup
The Herdsman Market
Farmer Jacks Gwelup



Chamber Workshop

MORE PHOTOS HERE 

Article: Patrick Kew Photos: Matt Stack



On Saturday, March 15th, the CSHS Chamber Orchestra comprising of string students Year 9-12, participated in a workshop with the wonderful Darlington String Quartet, comprised of WASO violinists Semra Lee and Zac Rowntree, violist Sally Boud and cellist Jon Tooby.

The Darlington String Quartet are a highly regarded professional ensemble, well-known and respected in the Perth music community. They are currently in a residency with the Classical String program at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

We got to hear the quartet perform a piece for us which was so amazing to hear. The quartet also guided us through Greig's Holberg Suite and Serenade in C major by Dohnanyi, sharpening our dynamics and articulation. The quartet also fostered greater connection amongst the students encouraging us to listen out for one another and aid each other through the pieces.

Three of the WAAPA String Camerata joined in the session; Churchlands alumni Zoe Hawksworth ('21), Finlay Labuschagne ('23) and Chelita Fontana ('24).

It was a resounding success, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity, improvement to our sound and learning opportunity provided. It was amazing to sit alongside such incredible players, listening to their sound as well as our own. A truly worthwhile experience!



Jazz Camp

The theme for Jazz camp '25 was La La Land, a movie that challenges viewers to believe in their talents and chase their dreams, no matter the cost. Was Mr Bourgault trying to make a point?

After an excited bus ride, we rolled into camp and got to work with rehearsals for Birdland and Ellingtons whilst BlueNotes went on a team-building adventure. Armed with bows and foam arrows, a few wannabe Katniss Everdeen's attempted to 'shoot' their friends with many asking how is this team building? Problem solving and improvisation skills quickly came into play with many students needing to work on their aim and strategy before next camp.

After lunch, all students participated in Jam Sessions and enjoyed improvising solos with a live rhythm section. It was fantastic to see all of the students happily opt in and take solos on their instruments which demonstrated the supportive atmosphere of the camp which was so great.

We were then joined by the amazing Libby Hammer Quintet, who performed for us and showed us how it should be done! We then split into two workshops which were taken by Libby Hammer and her band, to improve our own performance.

After dinner, with everyone dressed up inspired by La La Land, we competed in a heated Jazz quiz that tested our knowledge of all things Jazz. There was plenty of sledging, dancing and silliness before the Yr 12 boys were awarded Jazz know-it-alls.

The next day, our WAAPA Alumni students performed for us and answered our questions about studying Jazz at WAAPA. They also gave our drummers an opportunity to sit in and play which was a valuable experience for them.

To conclude the camp, we performed for the year 8-9 GATE students who had just arrived as well as our parents.

Once again, Jazz Camp inspired, challenged and created lasting memories and friendships that many will never forget.



Year 8 & 9 GATE Camp

Article: Bianca and Alessia

Year 8 and 9 GATE music students arrived at Swan Valley Adventure Camp to kick the day off with a very yummy morning tea. We did some icebreaker activities such as balloon races that tested our teamwork and coordination. Then all students, and parents of jazz students, came together in the concert hall to watch an amazing performance by the jazz students from year 7-12. After, we were split up into groups where we did Irish dancing, and had a guess speaker talk to us on how to improve our performance skills, we learned a lot.

As a music student, we all wonder what a music career would look like when we finish school, this is why ex-GATE music students came to perform and answer any questions we had about persuing music after school. We were all amazed at how talented they were!

Next, we headed to learn ukulele and a variety of percussion instruments. We played along to a wide range of different songs and genres of music. It sounded great! Soon after we headed back to our dorms and got ready in our costumes for dinner and a quiz night. The theme was Wicked the movie. It was so funny watching everybody turn up to dinner in their interesting but great costumes - we all had a laugh. Little did we know we would have to eat dinner in these funny but uncomfortable costumes.

Next we headed to the hall where we set up in groups for the quiz night and answered all sorts of questions, from 'which music teacher had fallen off a stage during a performance', to figuring out whether the picture of a person on the screen was a serial killer or musician. We also had an interval doing a Just Dance. We added up the scores and the winning table got prizes. This was one

of the biggest highlights of camp. After quiz night, we settled back down in our dorms and got ready for bed after a busy day.

Day 2 started bright and early, starting the day off at 6:30 am. We then headed to breakfast to fuel ourselves up for the day with a filling brekkie. Our first activity was Taiko drumming, where we learned rhythm and coordination, as well as some Japanese rhythmic car brands to drum along to. Our last activity of the day before we headed home was drama and team-building. We formed groups and made still motion pictures using our bodies. We finished the day off with some more yummy snacks and were then packed and ready to go home. We all had so much fun and would highly recommend it to anyone in the GATE program. We would love to thank the music staff for putting their all into making this camp such a great experience for us students.



Student Highlights

AYO National Music Camp

Year 10 GATE Music violin student, Georgia Nissen spent two weeks in Adelaide in January attending the prestigious Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp. Joining with the country's very best young musicians, she experienced rehearsals and tutorials with some of Australia's most respected tutors and conductors.

The first week was under the baton of conductor Alexander Briger AO who was strict and knowledgeable and taught many different and new techniques. Georgia also experienced sectionals with lots of experienced musicians, working on specific details within challenging pieces. These teachers performed in different chamber groups, inspiring students who in turn created chamber groups- rehearsing every day.

Conductor Natalia Luis-Bussa led the second week, which culminated in a performance that Georgia's parents travelled from Perth to attend. Performing was a great experience, with fun and exciting pieces, even involving choreography, costumes and audience participation.

Not only did Georgia meet new friends and connect with many musicians, she also got to explore the city of Adelaide. Georgia will now look forward to the Young Symphonists program in Canberra in October.



Gondwana Voices

In December last year Year 9 student Rose Hiscock had the unforgettable experience of performing with Gondwana Voices along with The Sydney Children's Choir at the Sydney Opera House. Rose got to join with choristers from all over Australia led by amazing conductors such as Lyn Williams. An intense rehearsal period of six hour days culminated in the performance "Voices of Angels" on the Concert Hall stage.



Jazz Drumming with Joel

2024 graduate Joel Driberg, returned to school this term to give his first drum clinic to our up and coming Jazz drummers. Joel is no ordinary 1st year WAAPA student with amazing virtuosity on the kit and a wealth of performance experience to draw upon. As humble as ever, he was generous with his time and gave our students tips regarding tuning and setting up the drums as well as helpful advice for them to work on with their technique and style. It was an informative and relaxed session which our drummers are keen to take advantage of again. Overall, it was an enjoyable afternoon playing for each other, our parents and instrumental teachers, inspired from expert musicians to enhance our own playing.



Busking's Back Baby!

Getting back into the rhythm for some serious fundraising for Music Tour 2026, Churchlands music students pitched up at the Polkadot 3:1 Markets in the Claremont Showgrounds Pavilion on the 5th and 6th April 2025.

As well as raising funds for the tour collective and the individual tourists, the busking is great experience for young musicians to perform in public and engage with an appreciative audience.



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/

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 2 MPC meetings on Monday 5 May (week 2) and Monday 26 May (week 5) 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!



Year 12 Ball 2025



Photo: Matt Stack