



**NBSC MACKELLAR GIRLS CAMPUS**

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

**VOCAL PROGRAM**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**2023**

## **NBSC MACKELLAR GIRLS CAMPUS INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

Musical activities provide students with important experiences that can assist them in developing physical co-ordination, memory, visual, aural and language skills. They gain greater mental concentration and social awareness through musical performance with others and increase their command of music and skill levels on their instrument.

The outcomes achieved through membership of the Instrumental Program include:

- \* development of skills including playing techniques, intonation, sight-reading, quality sound production, rhythm, expressive performance and improved listening skills
- \* team work – punctuality , discipline, leadership and rehearsal skills, focus on a collective goal technically and emotionally
- \* broader knowledge of music vocabulary, cultural history and music appreciation
- \* instrument care and knowledge
- \* sense of community and service through performances enhancing Mackellar Girls Campus' school atmosphere and reputation
- \* improved self-confidence, providing an emotional outlet and fostering a lifelong enjoyment of music
- \* social interaction across age groups

## **ENSEMBLES**

### **THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM**

#### **CORE ENSEMBLES:**

- **Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE)- Years 9-12**
- **Concert Band -Years 7 & 8**
- **Orchestra - Years 7-12**

#### **OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS:**

- Big Band (Advanced)
- Stage Band (Intermediate)
- 2 Jazz Improvisation Groups- Junior and Senior
- Rock Band
- Small Ensembles and student led groups

### **THE VOCAL PROGRAM**

#### **CORE ENSEMBLE**

- **Vocal Ensemble – Years 7-12 (CORE ENSEMBLE)**

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- Mackellar Singers - selected experienced singers
- Schools Spectacular Vocal Ensemble
- The yearly Musical

Each participating music student **MUST** be a member of a **CORE ENSEMBLE** before being a member of any other ensemble. Students are placed in each ensemble according to their musical ability and for the instrument they play or voice. The availability of more ensembles will be determined at the start of each year depending on student interest and commitment.

## CONCERT BAND STREAM (CORE ENSEMBLES)

- **Symphonic Wind Ensemble - SWE** – Brass, Woodwind and Percussion – minimum standard required is 6<sup>th</sup> Grade AMEB (or equivalent) or as required as per instrument. Membership is by assessment with assessments open to all students of Year 8 in Term 3.
- **Concert Band** – Brass, Woodwind and Percussion – a minimum standard required is approximately 3<sup>rd</sup> grade AMEB (or equivalent). **Year 7 students will join this ensemble.**



Sydney Eisteddfod

## JAZZ STREAM – participating students must be members of Core Instrumental ensembles.

- **Big Band**– (Jazz/Funk Music) – Saxophones, Trombones, Trumpets, Piano, Bass, Drums and Guitar. The Big Band is for the more experienced players. Membership is by audition/invitation and often involves senior students. Vocalists are also auditioned for this ensemble
- **Stage Band** – as above but for less experienced jazz players. **Usually Years 7-9.**
- **Jazz Improvisation** – These improvisation classes have been developed to supplement the area of jazz and funk/rock performance. Students will gain valuable

knowledge and tools to equip them to improvise solos and learn jazz, rock, pop and funk standards while playing in a group. These classes are open to all students taking part in the Instrumental Music Core ensembles. There is a beginner and intermediate group

- **Rock Band** – Students write, arrange and perform covers and original material covering multiple styles including pop, rock, ska, funk and alternative.



**Mackellar Big Band at the Lazy Bones Lounge 2022**

### **ORCHESTRA -CORE ENSEMBLE**

Membership of the **Orchestra** is automatic for string players however membership in the Orchestra for brass, woodwind and percussion players is by invitation.

### **VOCAL ENSEMBLE- CORE ENSEMBLE**

Membership of the **Vocal Ensemble** is currently automatic. Membership of the **Mackellar Singers** is by invitation with students also being members of the Vocal Ensemble.





**Mackellar Vocal Ensemble 2019 at CAPA Music Night**

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Assessments will be held at the start of the year for placement in the appropriate sections within the **Concert Band**. **For Year 7 this will take place early in Term 1.** All Year 7 will start in the Concert Band and it is expected that they have at least two years experience on their chosen instrument. The music director must also take into consideration balanced bands therefore some students may be asked to be a member of both concert bands. In order to progress up the band program it is advantageous to play a lower brass instrument or percussion. If your daughter requires a challenge or would like to learn a different instrument these instruments are available to hire from the school.

**Assessment requirements for Year 7 Concert Band members:** Two contrasting pieces, 1 major scale, 1 harmonic minor scale, 1 chromatic scale. Percussionists are to perform a rock feel with fills, a swing feel, a drum roll and one prepared piece. Please prepare this over the school holidays.

## **CORE ENSEMBLE POLICY**

Membership of a concert band (The Concert Band or SWE) or of the Vocal Ensemble is a prerequisite for participation in the optional extension groups in the Jazz Stream, the Mackellar Singers or other small ensembles

Mackellar Girls Campus Instrumental Music Program is built on a foundation provided in the Core Ensembles. The program offers a progressive path from the **Concert Band** to **Symphonic Wind Ensemble**. The ensembles in the JAZZ STREAM are optional extensions for students wishing to play jazz or in smaller ensemble. Students who are in **Stage Band, Big Band, Jazz Impro, Rock Band or Mackellar Singers** MUST continue their commitment to the CORE ENSEMBLES to provide continuity, for upholding the high standards of the larger ensembles and for the financial viability of the overall program. This policy is consistent with the experience of instrumental programs in other schools.

The experience of the senior students both as role models and skilled musicians is essential to attain and keep high standards and therefore it is expected that all students stay members of these ensembles until the end of their schooling at Mackellar Girls Campus.

For students to take part in an extension ensemble outside of the school within The Arts Unit or the Arts North programs they MUST also continue to be members of the Core Ensembles as per agreements signed with Arts North and The Arts Unit.

**Any student wishing to terminate their involvement in any ensemble needs to give one terms notice in writing to the Band Director.** There is no refund of fees once the semester has started.

### **REHEARSALS**

Please see table below for rehearsal days and time. **HPGE Music Program students must be in at least one CORE ensemble (Concert Band, SWE, Vocal Ensemble or Orchestra).**

<b>Ensemble</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Musical Director</b>
BIG BAND	MONDAY	7:15am – 8:15am	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE	MONDAY	8:15am – 9:30am	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
STAGE BAND	TUESDAY	7:20am – 8:35am	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
CONCERT BAND	WEDNESDAY	7:20am – 8:35am	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
ROCK BAND	MONDAY	LUNCHTIME	B3	Ms Patterson
JAZZ IMPROVISATION	TUESDAY (Senior) WEDNESDAY (Junior)	LUNCHTIME	Music Studio/B3	Ms Patterson
VOCAL ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY	7:45am - 8:35am	Hall	Ms Ravenscroft
MACKELLAR SINGERS	WEDNESDAY TBC	7:45am- 8:35am	B3	Ms Moore/Ms Ravenscroft

ORCHESTRA	FRIDAY	7:45am - 8:35am	Performance Space	Mr Fisher
MUSICAL	Mon/Wed Terms 1 & 2	3:15pm- 5:00pm	Performance Space/B3/Hall	Ms Moore, Mr Fisher, Ms Bahar



### **REHEARSAL PROCEDURE**

**SET UP** - All band members are to set up their own stand, chair and music folder then assist with percussion equipment. After the rehearsal all equipment is to be packed away in an orderly manner. Students must have a cloth or paper towel on hand for condensation left by instruments. The Band Director should never have to remind students of this. The same applies for performances.

**FOLDERS** – All ensembles have folders with original music that stay at school and are NEVER to be taken home. This ensures that we always have the music on hand. Each ensemble has a set of pigeon holes in sections for storing music. Practice parts are available through the Google Classrooms set up for each ensemble. Information regarding events, permission notes, links to recordings and music theory content and quizzes will also be found in these classrooms. Access will be given through a code at the start of the year. Students are asked to be organised at home with their practice routine.

**BEHAVIOUR** – Students are expected to be punctual, respectful, responsible and friendly. Our music program is recognised and extremely well respected throughout the school and

the community. Students are to continue to uphold the excellent reputation of Mackellar Girls and conduct themselves with pride within the school environment and outside the school premises. Good rehearsal technique requires great listening skills with no talking interfering with learning.

### **TUITION / PRACTICE PARTS**

It is necessary for students to have weekly private tuition in order to keep up with the progress of the musical ensembles and to improve their technique unique to their instrument. It is the responsibility of each ensemble member to ensure all their music is learnt for rehearsal and performances. Students will have access to practice parts through the Google Classroom for each ensemble. A tutor list is also available on request. At rehearsals the originals are used in folders that stay at school.

### **COMMUNICATION**

There are many ways that the Music Department may communicate to students and parents and everyone needs to be aware of these:

- \* School Newsletter
- \* Daily News Sheet
- \* Ensemble Google Classrooms
- \* Email from the Musical Director/School to student email and parent email
- \* Creative Arts noticeboards in B Block

Due to the part-time position of the Band Director, who is employed for 3 days a week (Monday - Wednesday), it is imperative that you keep an eye on all emails, noticeboards, google classroom and newsletters. **Parents are asked to please convey information to their children to ensure everyone is informed and vice versa from students.**

Please ensure that you have advised the Ensemble Director of your email address and to update it if it changes. If you need to contact the school about the Instrumental Music Program you can send an email to the school or call the Creative Arts Department.

**Band Director Email:** Vanessa Patterson [vanessa.patterson@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:vanessa.patterson@det.nsw.edu.au)

**For Orchestra and School Musical enquiries** contact Mr Fisher on [simon.fisher@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:simon.fisher@det.nsw.edu.au)

**For Vocal Ensemble and School Musical enquiries** contact Ms Moore through the school office.

**School Phone:** 9949 2083 Creative and Performing Arts Extension 180



## **PERMISSION NOTES AND PAYMENTS**

Events are notified through School Bytes. It is best to act on these immediately. Since the Band Director is part-time please respect the extra lead time required in the organisation of events. Students are to be proactive and are to check on google classrooms regarding information regarding gigs and to follow up with parents/caregivers.

## **ABSENCES**

Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. It is understood that there are times when attendance is not possible due to circumstances beyond control of the student or parent. Musical Directors **must** be notified of absences before the rehearsal. If the absence is for a performance please give as much notice as possible as **this has an enormous effect on the repertoire chosen and part allocation**. It is also important that the students communicate this to the other musicians in their section so no other student is put in an unprepared stressful situation. An email or written note must be forwarded to the Musical Director in these circumstances so that preparations can take place well prior to event.

### **Mackellar Big Band at the Manly Jazz Festival 2022**



## **MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

The gig calendar at Mackellar Girls Campus is very busy with ensembles taking part in external festivals, community concerts, regional tours and annual school events. In each of Terms 1, 2, and 3 there is a **CAPA Music Evening** showcasing all music ensembles. They are held on a **MONDAY** evening at 7pm in Week 7. The concert and stage bands perform in the ASBOF Festival, Sydney Eisteddfod, Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival as well as official events at the school and community concerts. The Big Band have been playing in the Manly Jazz Festival for 9 years, have travelled to Port Macquarie for Big Band Blast and are well regarded in the community. All other school ensembles take part in both internal and external concerts as they arise. Information regarding all performances will be advertised via the school newsletter, School Bytes, email and google classrooms. With all performances an enthusiastic audience is always valued by students, so family and friends are encouraged to hear the ensembles in concerts throughout the year.

It is of the utmost importance that all members attend all scheduled concerts and festivals. Each ensemble member is an integral part of the whole so please do not think that the student will not be missed or that there are enough instruments in the section to cover the part. Each student in the group needs to know that they can count on their fellow musicians and feel the security and familiarity of the peers around them. Permission notes need to be filled in promptly via School Bytes to aid in the risk assessment of each event as a requirement in duty of care.

## **MUSIC CAMP/ REHEARSAL DAYS**

Music camp and rehearsal days are the most important learning events in the rehearsal calendar. Students make rapid improvement in the intensive learning environment and socialise with other musicians, making a cohesive unit for better performance. It is vital every band, Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble member, including Year 7 students, attends the Music Camp and extra Rehearsal Days. **The Music Camp for 2023 is 8 – 10 May in Week 4 Term 2 at Lake Macquarie.** Band Rehearsal Days occur on the **Pupil Free Days** at the start of Terms 2 and 3.





## TOURS

SWE and Big Band have embarked on extremely successful regional tours in 2022, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2013 and 2011. With numerous performances in the wider community, students gain invaluable and unforgettable experiences. In 2023 the Big Band will tour regionally mid-year and SWE and Vocal Ensemble plan to do a regional tour in November.



**On Tour 2022– Shoal Bay and Warner Bay Public School Concert with guest conductor**



## **REPERTOIRE AND MUSIC EXTENTION OPPORTUNITIES**

Music repertoire for Terms 1 and 2 are directed at achieving a cohesive group sound and preparation for the festivals most of which are held in Term 2. Most festivals have set guidelines requiring particular styles while showing diverse skills and concepts. Term 3 and 4 repertoire covers music in preparation of special school assemblies, in-school events and regional music tours.

If students require to be extended in their music learning there are a few options to consider:

**Doubling** -High school is the perfect time to learn another instrument, a term called doubling. As a professional musician there is often a requirement to play more than one instrument. The usual doublings are within the same instrument family: brass, woodwind, percussion but are not limited to this. Most success in doubling is achieved when students join another ensemble on the new instrument.

**Featured soloist/Concerto performance-** For students with soloistic flair and who are extremely dedicated musicians there is the opportunity to perform solo works with band or orchestral accompaniment. Students should make their enthusiasm for this known to directors.

**Composing and arranging-** Students could also contemplate arranging or composing for any school ensemble. This skill is heavily worked on and expected as part of the Rock Band.

**Student Conductor Mentor Program** – Students in Year 11 who are studying HSC Music and who are perhaps considering a career in music have the opportunity to experience conducting and ensemble leadership with mentoring delivered on conducting skills, rehearsal techniques and score reading.

## **UNIFORM**

All students are to be dressed in full **Mackellar Girls school uniform for all in-school time performances** unless notified otherwise. In colder weather, the school navy blue jumper and stockings are to be worn.

For all outside performances and Music Nights students in all ensembles are to wear **long black tailored pants** (NOT tights or jeans), black Mackellar Performing Arts Shirts, black shoes and **black socks**. Long hair is to be tied up in a ponytail with the option of a red ribbon.

**Mackellar Girls Black Performing Arts Shirts** are approximately \$25-\$30 and can be purchased through the school uniform shop.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be given at the end of each year. There are awards for years of service and awards for Commitment, Most Improved and Musical Excellence. Throughout the year students can also receive school merit awards that go toward Presentation Day Blues Banners.

## **ENSEMBLE FEES**

Fees are necessary to cover director salaries, purchasing print music, entry fees for festivals and instrument purchase and repair. A small amount of fundraising is also conducted through the parent/carer helpers who assist with music evenings. Fees are charged by the semester (2 terms) and need to be paid on receipt of invoice. Please be prompt with your payment. Members of the Concert and/or SWE pay one fee which covers one or both ensembles. If you are a member of the Stage Band/ Big Band/ Jazz Improvisation an extra fee is charged. See fee table below.

## **INSTRUMENT HIRE**

There are a small amount of instruments for hire, however, being a high school it is expected that students who are continuing their music studies from primary school would by now own their own instruments, particularly the smaller, less expensive ones. The larger, more expensive instruments are available for hire and cover general maintenance.

## **FEES for 2023**

### **Fees are for each Semester (i.e. 2 terms) and will be invoiced**

<b>CORE ENSEMBLE FEE</b>	
Concert Bands (SWE and Concert)	\$220
Orchestra	\$100
Vocal Ensemble	\$100
<b>EXTENSION ENSEMBLE FEE</b>	
Stage Band and Big Band	\$100
Jazz Improvisation	\$100
Rock Band	\$100
Instrument Hire	\$220

## **STORAGE OF INSTRUMENTS**

There is a storeroom in the corridor behind B3 in B Block and should be used to store the larger instruments. Please place on the shelves provided but if there is no room place neatly on the floor. Instruments must be clearly labelled with name and phone number. The door must be locked at all times. The door has a code lock and the students will be told the code at the start of the year. If the instrument fits in the student's locker, it is best to store there.



Please be aware the school is locked well before 6pm each night so students should make sure they do not forget to take instruments home. All school visitors including parents must go via from office if an instrument needs to be accessed. Even for music night events when we use the hall or Performance Space, students must have collected instruments during the day as B Block is alarmed at 6pm.

### **FUNDRAISING**

To replenish the ageing instruments, purchase new music and to support future tours and performances there may be fundraising activities through the year.

### **BAND PARENT HELPERS**

Parents are often asked for support and assistance during the year especially for performances and fundraising. This is not usually exhaustive. Any help will be gladly received and is often asked through emails.

## **PROGRAM EDUCATORS**

### **BAND DIRECTOR**

**Vanessa Patterson**

**Bachelor of Music Education, Jazz Extension Studies Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

Mrs Patterson has been a passionate music educator for over 31 years and has conducted primary, secondary and professional ensembles varying from concert bands, big bands to small jazz ensembles. Her professional performing experiences on saxophone and clarinet include the Australian Wind Orchestra (separate tours in America including performing at Carnegie Hall and the Mid-West Clinic; Europe, Hong Kong and New Zealand), the Sydney Wind Orchestra, NSW Police Band, Mell-O-Tones Big Band, KJ All-Stars Big Band, Kinderjazz, Powerhouse Big Band, Venus (corporate function band), The Jazz Vault Project plus original funk bands and cover bands. Mrs Patterson has recorded numerous CD's with all the aforementioned ensembles and continues to perform with many of these same ensembles. In 2015 she was selected to conduct the Junior State Wind Band for Opera House Concerts and in 2015 and 2017 the Wind Orchestra for Senior State Music Camp. She is also called upon as guest conductor for the Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Ms Patterson is committed to guiding students to a high standard of musicianship, to experience many styles of music performance and to instil a lifelong love of playing music. Ms Patterson will direct the Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Stage Band, Big Band, Junior and Senior Jazz Improvisation Combos, Rock Band and small ensembles.



### **CLASSROOM MUSIC TEACHERS**

**Simon Fisher**

**Bachelor of Music Education Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

Mr Fisher has been teaching classroom music for 37 years and of that he has dedicated 27 years to the Mackellar Girls Campus. He is passionate about composing and arranging, having composed many musicals especially for Mackellar students. He also arranges music for large and small ensembles that are used for presentations in the school. Mr Fisher is an accomplished pianist and string player taking the baton for the Orchestra for 2023 and assisting with the musical.

**Jack Kirkpatrick**

**Bachelor of Creative Arts University of Wollongong, Master of Teaching University of Western Sydney**

Mr Kirkpatrick has been teaching classroom music since 2013 and is a permanent staff member at Mackellar Girls Campus. Aside from teaching class music Mr Kirkpatrick teaches the Entertainment Classes where his classes assist with sound and lighting for all school performances. Mr Kirkpatrick also works at the Arts Unit. Outside of school Mr Kirkpatrick plays guitar in his own band and performs regularly.

**Laura Ravenscroft**

**Bachelor of Music AIM, Grad Diploma of Education Southern Cross University**

Ms Ravenscroft is a permanent staff member taking class music, the Vocal Ensemble, Mackellar Singers and Musical. Ms Ravenscroft is and has been a tutor and conductor for

the Australian Girls' Choir and her expertise has been invaluable in her efforts with the Mackellar Girls Vocal Ensemble and the Mackellar Singers. Ms Ravenscroft also performs in Musicals in the community.

### **Madeleine Moore**

**Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Education (Secondary) University of New South Wales**

**Ms Moore** is a class music teacher and for 2023 will assist with conducting the Vocal Ensemble, Mackellar Singers and the Musical. Ms Moore is an ex Mackellar student and sings with VOX choir as part of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.



**Recording Session 2019**