



**MACKELLAR GIRLS CAMPUS**

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**2020**

## **MACKELLAR GIRLS INSTRUMENTAL 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 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 is thriving at Mackellar Girls and for 2020 there will be two concert bands (Performance Band, Concert Band), two stage bands (Big Band, Stage Band), Jazz Improvisation Groups, Rock Band and Orchestra. In addition to this the school also runs 2 Vocal Ensembles, Schools Spectacular Vocal Ensemble and assists with student-lead small ensembles. Students are placed in each ensemble according to their musical ability and for the instrument they play. The availability of more ensembles will be determined at the start of each year depending on student interest and commitment.

## **CONCERT BANDS**

- **Performance Band** – 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 girls will join this ensemble.**



**Performance Band at Sydney Eisteddfod 2016**

### **BIG BANDS/JAZZ BANDS**

- **Big Band**– (Jazz/Swing 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.



**2019 Principals Conference Manly**

- **Stage Band** – as above but for those less experienced in playing jazz. **Usually Years 7-9.**
- **Jazz Improvisation** – These improvisation classes have been developed to supplement the area of jazz and 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 Program. There is a senior and junior group.

## **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 musical director must also take into consideration a balanced band therefore some girls may be asked to be a member of both concert bands. Traditionally Mackellar Girls have an oversupply of upper woodwind. In order to progress up the band program it is advantageous to play a lower brass instrument and percussion. If your daughter requires a challenge or would like to change 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, a swing feel, a drum roll and one prepared piece. Please prepare this over the school holidays.**

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

Membership of the Vocal Ensemble is currently automatic. Membership of the Mackellar Singers is by invitation.



**Mackellar Vocal Ensemble 2019 at Music Night**

## **BAND POLICY**

### **Membership of a concert band is a pre-requisite for a stage band or small ensembles**

Mackellar Girls Campus Instrumental Music Program is built on a foundation of concert band music that provides a broad range of music and musical instruments. The program offers a progressive path from the Concert Band to Performance Band, and in the future the Symphonic Wind Orchestra. The stage bands are optional for those students wishing to play jazz in a smaller ensemble. Students who are in Stage Band/Big Band must continue their commitment to the concert bands to provide continuity for the larger ensembles and for the financial viability of the program. This policy is consistent with the experience of other instrumental programs in other schools. The experience of the senior students both as role models and skilled musicians is essential to attain high standards and therefore we encourage all girls to be members of these ensembles until the end of their schooling at Mackellar Girls Campus.

Any student who wishes to terminate their involvement in any of the bands needs to give one term's notice in writing to the Band Director. Girls and parents will be required to fill in and sign a commitment agreement.

## **REHEARSALS**

**Please see table below for rehearsal days and time. All small ensembles will set their rehearsal day at the start of the year. Gifted and Talented Music Program students must be in at least one large ensemble (Concert Band, 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
PERFORMANCE BAND	MONDAY	8:15am – 9:30am	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
STAGE BAND	TUESDAY	7:20am - 8:35am	Hall	Ms Patterson
CONCERT BAND	WEDNESDAY	7:20am - 8:35am and Lunchtime	Performance Space	Ms Patterson
ROCK BAND	MONDAY	LUNCHTIME	B3	Ms Patterson
JAZZ IMPROVISATION	TUESDAY/ WEDNESDAY	LUNCHTIME	Music Studio	Ms Patterson
ORCHESTRA	FRIDAY	7:45am - 8:35am	B3	Mr Fisher
VOCAL ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY	7:45am - 8:35am	Hall	Ms Hawes
MACKELLAR SINGERS	WEDNESDAY	7:45am- 8:35am	B3	Ms Hawes
MUSICAL	WEDNESDAY Terms 1 & 2	3:15pm- 5:00pm	Performance Space/B3	Ms Hawes





### **REHEARSAL PROCEDURE**

**SET UP** - All band members are to set up their own stand and chairs and assist with percussion equipment and music folders. After the rehearsal all equipment is to be packed away in an orderly manner. 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. Practice music that is handed out should be placed in a plastic sleeve folder to use at home.

**BEHAVIOUR** – Students are expected to be punctual, respectful, responsible and friendly. Our music program is recognised and respected throughout the school and the community. Students are to continue to uphold the good 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. It is the responsibility of each ensemble member to

ensure all their music is learnt for rehearsal and performances. Students will be given practice parts to take home which must be placed in a plastic sleeve folder. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure they have collected practice parts from the numerous "Practice Parts" folders. 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
- \* 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 and newsletters. **Parents are asked to please convey information to their children to ensure everyone is informed.**

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 Hawes on [laura.hawes4@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:laura.hawes4@det.nsw.edu.au)

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

**PERMISSION NOTES AND PAYMENTS** should be returned as soon as possible. It is best to do this immediately. Once again since the Band Director is part-time please respect the extra lead time required in this matter. There are two boxes behind the Creative Arts Door, an "IN BOX" for notes to be returned and an "OUT BOX" for notes that have been handed out.

Students are to be proactive and collect notes themselves if they have missed notes that were handed out in rehearsal.

### **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 situation. An email or written note must be forwarded to the Musical Director.

### **MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

The ensembles are committed to several annual events including school functions. The ensembles will take part in external competitions, eisteddfods and concerts during the year. Information regarding all performances will be advertised via the school newsletter, email and notes sent home. 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 players and feel the security from the people sitting around them. Permission notes need to be returned promptly to aid in the risk assessment of each event.

### **REPERTOIRE AND MUSIC EXTENSION 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 band 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. There have been many flute players doubling on bass



guitar. 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.

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

### **CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) Night**

In each of Terms 1, 2, and 3 there will be a **Music Evening** showcasing all the bands and ensembles. They are held on a **MONDAY** evening at 7pm in Week 7.

### **Mackellar Big Band at the Book Parade**



### **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 girls in all ensembles are to wear long black pants (not tights or jeans), black Mackellar Performing Arts Shirts, black shoes and black socks. Hair is to be tied up in a ponytail with a red ribbon.

**Mackellar Girls Black Performing Arts Shirts** are \$25 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 and Musical Excellence. Throughout the year girls can also receive school merit awards that go toward Presentation Day Blues Banners.

## **ENSEMBLE FEES**

Fees are necessary to cover salaries, purchasing print music, instrument purchase and repair and entry into competitions. Fundraising is also conducted through the parent/carer helpers who assist with extra activities. Fees are charged by the semester and need to be paid on receipt of invoice. Please be prompt with your payment. Members of the Concert and/or Performance Band 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.

## **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 2020**

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

Concert Bands (Performance and Concert)	\$190
Combined Concert and Stage Bands	\$275
Orchestra	\$75
Instrument Hire	\$190
Jazz Improvisation	\$75
Vocal Ensemble	\$75

## **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. There is an overflow storeroom under the stairs in D Block. Girls who use this storeroom need to purchase a bike lock to attach their instruments to the railings in this cupboard. If the instrument fits in the student's locker, it is best to store there.

## **MUSIC CAMP/ REHEARSAL DAYS**

Music camp and rehearsal days are the most important learning events in the rehearsal calendar. Through professional tutelage students make rapid improvement in an 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 rehearsal days. **The Music Camp for 2020 is from 6pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 8:30pm 1st May in Week 1 Term 2.** Band Rehearsal Days occur on the Pupil Free Days at the start of Term's 2 and 3.



### **TOURS**

The Performance Band and Big Band have embarked on extremely successful regional tours in 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2013 and 2011. With numerous performances in the wider community, girls have invaluable and unforgettable experiences. In 2020 the Big Band will tour to Port Macquarie for Big Band Blast and the Performance Band will do a regional tour in November.

#### **Big Band Blast Port Macquarie 2019**





### On Tour -Soldiers Point Public School Concert 2018



### 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.



## **MUSIC 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 28 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 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. Ms Patterson is committed to guiding the girls 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, Performance Band, Stage Band, Big Band, Junior and Senior Jazz Improvisation groups and Rock Band.

### **CLASSROOM MUSIC TEACHERS**

**Simon Fisher**

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

Mr Fisher has been teaching classroom music for 34 years and of that he has dedicated 25 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 2020.

**Jack Kirkpatrick**

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

Mr Kirkpatrick has been teaching classroom music since 2012 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. Outside of school Mr Kirkpatrick plays guitar in his own band and performs regularly.

### **Laura Hawes**

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

Ms Hawes will be in her 6th teaching year at Mackellar and is now a permanent staff member. As well as taking class music, the Vocal Ensemble and Musical, she will be year advisor for Year 11 in 2020. Ms Hawes 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 Hawes also performs in Musicals in the community.

### **Madeleine Moore**

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

**Ms Moore** will be joining the CAPA staff for her second year of teaching. As well as teaching class music she will assist with the Vocal Ensemble and the Musical. Ms Moore is an ex Mackellar student and sings with VOX choir as part of the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

