SCOTCH COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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MUSIC AT SCOTCH COLLEGE

The Music department at Scotch College is a large and vital academic and performing department.

Its impact on the cultural life of the School is of considerable importance. Over 500 students receive instrumental and vocal tuition from some of the best musicians available in Perth. There are 17 instrumental ensembles and three vocal ensembles which rehearse on a weekly basis.

There are two ensembles which rehearse and perform in conjunction with Scotch College’s sister school Presbyterian Ladies’ College. The strings and wind players in these groups are working at a very high level of performance.

STAFFING

The Music department staff currently as follows

- Head of Music
- 4 Full time music teachers
- 3 Part time music teachers (2 x 0.4FTE and 1 x 0.6FTE)
- Administrative assistant
- 19 visiting instrumental teachers

BUILDING AND PLANT

The Music department building was constructed in 1983. It was designed in collaboration with the architect by Professor David Tunley who was then Head of Music at the University of Western Australia.

- Four practice rooms
- One classroom/ensemble room
- One keyboard/IT laboratory
- One large ensemble room
- One recording booth
- One percussion room
- One large instrument storage area
- One staff work room
- Five offices (which are also used as instrumental teaching rooms)
The Junior School Music building consists of

- Three practice rooms
- One large office which is used by the Head of Strings and is also a teaching space
- One office which is shared by two part-time classroom teachers
- One large ensemble room/classroom
- One storage room

There are three more rooms within the Junior School which are used for the Ensemble Development Programme (EDP).

Each practice room has a piano and each ensemble and class room also have pianos.

The Dickinson Centre is the venue for all major concerts and assemblies. The Centre is adjacent to the Music department and seats 1100 people. The stage is large enough for any major production and is completely fitted out with a set of music stands and Wenger musician’s seats. There is also a Kawai grand piano in the Centre.

**CURRICULUM**

Elective classes for Music are offered from Year 8 to Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) level. Year 11 and 12 students undertake a two year syllabus written by a committee of teachers and university lecturers under the auspices of the Curriculum Council of Western Australia. Boys in Years 8-10 elective classes undertake comprehensive courses in theory and aural training, history and analysis, composition and performance. All music elective students sing in the choir.

A Creative Arts programme is available to Year 8 students, where boys spend the year in “hands-on“ sessions in the various arts disciplines, including keyboard and computer related music programmes.

**PERFORMING ENSEMBLES**

The following ensembles rehearse on a weekly basis:

- Middle Years Concert Band  Monday 7:30-8:30am
- Senior Concert Band  Monday 3:45-5:00pm
- Choir  Monday 7:30-8:30am
- String Quartet  Monday 3:30-4:30pm
- Senior Guitar Ensemble  Tuesday 7:30-8:30am
- Dixieland Band  Tuesday 7:30-8:30am
YEARS 2-5 ENSEMBLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

All Year 2 students learn violin and are given free tuition in group lessons.

All Year 3 and 4 students, whether beginners or ongoing instrumentalists, are offered the choice of continuing on the instrument they have been learning or taking up tuition in one of the following instruments: viola, cello, double bass, keyboard or flute.

There is an expectation that once accepted on a particular instrument in Year 3 the student will continue lessons on that instrument until the end of Year 4.

Features of the Years 2-4 Instrumental Music programme

- Fully inclusive instrumental music participation
- Lessons in small groups
- Free tuition
- 40 minute lessons
- Achievement level groupings to allow each boy to progress on his instrument at his own pace
Year 5 Instrumental Music

It is expected that every Year 5 student will participate in the Instrumental Music programme. Students who have taken part in the Year 2-4 programme are encouraged to continue with the instruments they have chosen, with the exception of keyboard and flute.

Year 5 has a new student intake therefore some of the students have no experience of instrumental music. Tuition in wind instruments is offered to this year group.

Features of the Year 5 Instrumental Music Programme

- Fully inclusive instrumental music participation
- Lessons in small groups
- Free tuition
- 40 minute lessons
- Individual lessons available on request (tuition fees apply)
- Achievement level groupings to allow each boy to progress on his instrument at his own pace

Ensemble Development Programme

Years 5 and 6 instrumental music students attend an ensemble development period once a week. The Ensemble Development Programme is fully supported by the Junior School classroom music programme. Instrumental Music teachers conduct ensemble sessions.

Year 6 onwards

From Year 6 onwards students are encouraged to have individual lessons for which fees are applicable. The student is also charged a hire fee for the use of any instrument owned by Scotch College.

CONCERTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Concerts and special performances are scheduled into the School’s calendar of events. Solo and ensemble music performance opportunities are made available through formal concerts, music festivals, and special events at Scotch College and in the wider community. Junior School musicians are encouraged to play solo or in groups at Junior School assemblies.
TOURS AND CAMPS

Music tours, excursions and incursions are arranged from time to time.

Recent tours/camps include:

- Year 12 music students to Sydney/Melbourne
- Ensemble tours of WA country areas
- Junior School music camp

FRIENDS OF SCOTCH MUSIC (FOSM)

FOSM is a parent support group which meets twice each term. The aims of FOSM are to:

- support the development and promotion of all music programmes, performances and functions
- provide refreshments at performances for boys
- organise social functions for parents and boys

FOSM provides assistance to the Music department and offers a range of social events and activities at the School including Music Quiz Night and Jazz Night.