



# ST PIUS X COLLEGE

## CHATSWOOD



## CO-CURRICULAR PERFORMING ARTS HANDBOOK 2018



## CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC AT ST PIUS X COLLEGE

St Pius X College has an outstanding Performing Arts Department which has been in operation for many years. Music is an integral part of the College curriculum and students at St Pius have every opportunity to make music an important part of their lives, through participation in many different types of musical activities.

In co-curricular music activities the College has an outstanding and established record. The College boasts:

- College Orchestra
- Four Concert Bands (Senior, Intermediate, Junior & Primary)
- Three Jazz Bands (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three Choirs (Senior, Junior & Vocal Ensemble)
- Three Percussion Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three Guitar Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three String Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate and Junior)
- Two Chamber String Ensembles
- Three Digital Music Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- The College also has excellent piano/keyboard, music technology and music recording facilities

Students have the opportunity to write their own music compositions and record them.



The College ensembles have participated in a variety of competitions over the years, receiving many accolades:

- National Band Championships with the Senior Concert Band
- State and Interstate Championships with Senior Brass Bands
- City of Sydney Eisteddfod with Percussion, Woodwind and other mixed ensembles
- Yamaha Music Festival for Concert and Jazz Bands at different levels
- City of Sydney Eisteddfod and local competitions with the Senior and Junior Choirs



Many students have gained National and State Championship awards for solo performances. Selected students have also participated in external workshops, performances and competitions run by groups such as the Sydney Symphony and Musica Viva.

The College hosts three Twilight Concerts per year to capacity audiences, as well as a Performing Arts Festival (Term 4) and various other ongoing musical activities. There are also opportunities for students to play in public performances in and around Sydney.

Students wishing to learn a musical instrument at the College can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! There are 13 Instrumental Tutors who teach to all levels.

Tuition is available in:

Brass	Guitar
Woodwind	Voice
Strings	Music Production
Percussion	Musicianship or Theory (AMEB style)
Piano / Keyboard	



Students can, if they wish, undertake to do music exams (AMEB, Trinity College of London) to any level, according to their ability and upon the advice of their Instrumental Tutor. Alternatively, students can learn to play music for sheer enjoyment and appreciation by simply participating in one of the ensembles. Additional information can be found later in this booklet.



## GENERAL ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

St Pius X College students have the opportunity to join numerous co-curricular ensembles. Opportunities for students to display their talents include Twilight Concerts, Performing Arts Festival, Formal and Informal College Ceremonies and events, Masses and Liturgies, Band Festivals and Eisteddfods, as well as other external performances.

## ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL TIMES 2018

ENSEMBLE	REHEARSAL TIME	VENUE	DIRECTOR
SENIOR DRAMA ENSEMBLE (Years 9 – 12)	MONDAY 3.30 – 4.30PM	Drama Room	Ms Penny Lindley
JUNIOR DRAMA ENSEMBLE (Years 5 – 8)	FRIDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Drama Room	Ms Penny Lindley
SENIOR CONCERT BAND	THURSDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Band Room	Mrs Stella Talati
INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND	MONDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Band Room	Mrs Stella Talati
JUNIOR CONCERT BAND	TUESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Band Room	Mr Jonathan Dollin
PRIMARY CONCERT BAND	WEDNESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Band Room	Mr David Sismey
SENIOR JAZZ BAND	TUESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Performance Room	Mr Geoff Power
INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND	FRIDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Performance Room	Mr Geoff Power
JUNIOR JAZZ BAND	WEDNESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Performance Room	Mr Jonathan Dollin
SENIOR STRING ENSEMBLE/ORCHESTRA	FRIDAY 7.00 – 7.30AM (Strings) 7.30 – 8.30AM (Orchestra)	Band Room	Ms Tracey Bates
INTERMEDIATE STRING ENSEMBLE	TUESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Room 1	Mr Stewart Ross
JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE	THURSDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Performance Room	Mr Stewart Ross
SENIOR STRING DUO	THURSDAY 8.00 – 8.30AM	Music Room 2	Ms Tracey Bates
SENIOR STRING QUARTET	MONDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Performance Room	Ms Tracey Bates
SENIOR CHOIR	WEDNESDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Room 1	Ms Tracey Bates
VOCAL ENSEMBLE	WEDNESDAY 3.30 – 4.30PM	Music Room 1	Ms Pip Waters
JUNIOR CHOIR	THURSDAY 7.30 – 8.30AM	Music Room 1	Ms Pip Waters
SENIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE	WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME	Music Room 1	Mr Shane Cranney
INTERMEDIATE GUITAR ENSEMBLE	MONDAY LUNCHTIME	Music Room 1	Mr Shane Cranney
JUNIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE	TUESDAY LUNCHTIME	Music Room 1	Mr Shane Cranney
SENIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	THURSDAY LUNCHTIME	Band Room	Mr Ian Talafi
INTERMEDIATE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY LUNCHTIME	Band Room	Mr Ian Talafi
JUNIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	MONDAY LUNCHTIME	Band Room	Mr Ian Talafi
JUNIOR DIGITAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY LUNCHTIME	Digital Music Studio	Mr Stephen Cummins
INTERMEDIATE DIGITAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE	TUESDAY LUNCHTIME	Digital Music Studio	Mr Stephen Cummins
SENIOR DIGITAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE	THURSDAY LUNCHTIME	Digital Music Studio	Mr Stephen Cummins

## SPECIFIC ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

*All students wishing to be in a Concert or Jazz Band must audition for their place. Auditions are held in Term 3 and new enrolment auditions in Term 4. Should vacancies arise during the year; auditions will be advertised in the Student Daily Notices and Woodchatta.*

### SENIOR CONCERT BAND

The Senior Concert Band mostly consists of students from Years 9 – 12 who possess a high degree of musical ability. Students must be able to demonstrate superior leadership skills and an ability to prepare their own parts independently though regular practice. As far as



possible, the instrumentation of this Band reflects the demands of the repertoire chosen for performance. Students wishing to be part of this ensemble should strive to the highest level of musical performance. Additional consideration will be given to students who play "endangered instruments", such as French horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Tuba or Euphonium.

### **INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND**

This Band caters for students with a minimum of 3 - 4 years' experience. The three main skills which are developed in this Band are: sound (tone), playing technique and music reading ability. Repertoire is selected to challenge the students in these areas. Students with a high standard of playing and a mature attitude are given the opportunity to audition for the Senior Concert Band, as vacancies arise during the year.

### **JUNIOR CONCERT BAND**

This Band is mostly for students in the Junior School and Years 7 and 8. Rehearsals focus on the goal of developing a good sound (tone) and improving music reading ability. In this Band, students develop at their own pace, gaining confidence to progress to the next level. Students who display signs of rapid development will be given the opportunity to audition for the Intermediate Concert Band, as vacancies arise during the year. The ability to socialize with older students will also be taken into consideration, before promoting a student.

### **PRIMARY CONCERT BAND**

This Band is only for students in Years 5 and 6. It is for students new to the College who are not quite ready to go into the Junior Concert Band. Rehearsals focus on learning to play as part of an ensemble and blending the sounds of different instruments, as well as individual development of sound (tone production). The importance of reading music is also stressed in this ensemble.



### **SENIOR JAZZ BAND**

Students can only be a member of this Band if they are already a member of the Senior or Intermediate Concert Band; the only exception to this are the positions of guitarist and pianist. Expectations are the same as those of students who play in the Senior Concert Band, with the added requirement of a commitment to learning improvisation.

### **INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND**

Students can only be a member of this Band if they are already a member of a Concert Band; the only exception to this are the positions of guitarist and pianist. This ensemble consists of boys with a minimum of three or more years of experience. Students are expected to develop skills which will see them smoothly integrated into the Senior Jazz Band, when positions become available. Students are expected to concentrate on their improvisational skills, as well as sound (tone), playing technique and music reading.

### **JUNIOR JAZZ BAND**

Students can only be a member of this Band if they are already a member of a Concert Band; the only exception to this are the positions of







guitarist and pianist. This ensemble consists of students with a minimum of 1 - 3 years of experience. Students are expected to develop skills that will see them progress to Intermediate Jazz Band, as positions become available. Students are expected to begin the development of their improvisational skills, as well as sound technique and music reading.

### **COLLEGE ORCHESTRA**

Membership of this ensemble is by invitation only. It consists students who are in the Senior String Ensemble, as well as selected senior brass, woodwind and percussion students.



### **SENIOR STRING ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble comprises students of varying degrees of ability. Consequently, music is specifically selected and arranged with this in mind. These students provide music for Masses and Liturgies. They also perform at Twilight Concerts and other formal and informal College events, as required.

### **INTERMEDIATE STRING ENSEMBLE**

Students in this ensemble have had 2 – 3 years playing experience. This group continues to build upon skills learnt in the Junior String Ensemble. This group performs at Twilight Concerts

### **JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLE**

Students who have only just begun their tuition on a string instrument are invited to join this ensemble. Its purpose is to help students learn “ensemble” techniques and etiquette.

### **SENIOR STRING TRIO/QUARTET**

Membership of this ensemble is by invitation only. The quartet provides chamber music for College functions, such as Splinters, Splashes, Sounds and Stage, Masses and Liturgies. This ensemble also performs outside of the College by request.

### **INTERMEDIATE STRING QUARTET**

Membership of this ensemble is by invitation only. It is from this group that boys are usually promoted to the Senior String Quartet.

### **SENIOR CHOIR**

The Senior Choir consists of students from Years 5 – 12. They develop a love of singing through group music making. Students who wish to develop their vocal skills are warmly welcomed into this ensemble. The Senior Choir is one of the busiest ensembles in the College, preparing



repertoire for Twilight Concerts, Masses and Liturgies and other formal and informal College events.

### **VOCAL ENSEMBLE**

Membership to this choir is by audition only. The group consists of no more than twelve vocalists, as the emphasis is on performing technically challenging works, which are often performed "a capella". Students who audition for this ensemble must be a member of Senior Choir.

### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

Students in Years 5 and 6 with a love of singing are able to join the Junior Choir. They prepare performances specifically for Junior School events as well as College Masses and Liturgies and Twilight Concerts. Every second year, the Junior Choir also participates in the IPSHA Performing Arts Festival, to great acclaim.

### **SENIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble is for students with highly developed guitar skills, including the ability to improvise. Students in this group will be expected to learn and perform in a variety of styles. Students must be able to read both TAB and traditional music notation.

### **INTERMEDIATE GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble caters for students who already have reasonably well developed skills as guitarists but have not yet reached the level required for entry into the Senior Guitar Ensemble. Students must be able to read both TAB and traditional music notation.

### **JUNIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

In this ensemble students begin to develop the skills that allow them to progress to the Intermediate and Senior Guitar Ensembles. These skills include a focus on reading traditional music notation, as well as TAB.



### **SENIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

Members of this ensemble are required to display a range of abilities on varied percussion instruments, including tuned percussion. The ability to improvise is developed within this ensemble. Performance opportunities include Twilight Concerts and other formal and informal College events.

### **INTERMEDIATE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

This ensemble caters for students who already have reasonably well developed skills as percussionists but have not yet reached the level required for entry into the Senior Percussion Ensemble. The focus of the Intermediate Percussion Ensemble is on continuing to extend students' skills in music reading and general percussion technique, as well as gaining experience on a wide variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Performance opportunities include some Twilight Concert and other College events as required.

### **JUNIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

Students in this ensemble are expected to develop their ability to read music and play all of the instruments in the percussion family. They will also begin learning the skills of playing in a group.

## DIGITAL MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Students in these ensembles must be undertaking Music Production tuition. These ensembles allow students to work on projects in collaboration with others who are of a similar level and interest.

## ABSENCES FROM ENSEMBLES

Students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals. If this happens, extra rehearsals are unnecessary. Where possible, Ensemble Directors should be informed of absences in advance. If a student misses a rehearsal due to unforeseen circumstances, it is a matter of courtesy to present the Ensemble Director with a note explaining the absence. Membership of the College Orchestra does require attendance at several weekend workshops. These can be found in the College calendar.



## INSTRUMENTAL / VOCAL MUSIC TUITION GENERAL INFORMATION

St Pius X College has an outstanding Performing Arts Department that has been in operation over many years. Music is an integral part of the College curriculum and students have every opportunity to make music a part of their lives. Students have the opportunity to join one of the many ensembles. There are numerous opportunities for students to display their talents. Performances include Twilight Concerts, Performing Arts Festival, Formal and Informal College Ceremonies and events, Masses and Liturgies, Band Festivals and Competitions, as well as other External Performances.

The Performing Arts Department at St Pius X College offers music tuition **during school hours** for students wishing to learn an instrument. All lessons takes place on the College premises. Tuition is currently offered in the following areas:

- Keyboard
- Woodwind
- Brass
- Strings
- Guitar
- Percussion
- Piano
- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon
- Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba
- Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Double Bass
- Acoustic, Electric and Bass (Modern and Classical)
- All instruments in this family including - Drum Kit, Timpani, Mallet Percussion (Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Vibraphone Marimba) and Auxiliary Percussion (Congas, Bongos, Timbale, Hand Percussion)
- Voice
- Music Production
- Musicianship and Theory



## HOW TO COMMENCE LESSONS

To begin lessons at the College, an application form may be obtained from the Student Reception Office, the Performing Arts Department or downloaded from the College website. Upon receipt of this application form, the Performing Arts Coordinator will allocate a tutor, based on availability. In the case of there being no available positions in a tutor's schedule, students will be placed on a waiting list. Parents and students are asked **not** to approach individual tutors directly.

Beginner students are encouraged to give at least **one semester** of effort to their lessons before re-evaluating whether music tuition suits them or not. Students usually have 8 - 10 lessons per term. Tuition fees are payable to the relevant tutor in advance, on the receipt of an account. Accounts should be settled within two weeks of receiving the invoice from the tutor. Tutors are contracted by the College and manage their accounts independently. Tuition fees for 2018 are \$45.00 per half hour lesson.

There is a Performing Arts Parents Association at the College whose role is to support the Performing Arts Department. They do this by providing musical instruments, equipment, repairs and other resources. To support the running of the Performing Arts program, all families whose sons take private music lessons and participate in ensembles contribute \$230.00 per annum (per child).

## PARTICIPATION IN THE ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

All students who learn an instrument are encouraged to join an ensemble appropriate to their instrument and ability. However, for students who learn or hire a "band / orchestral" instrument through the College Program, participation in one of the Concert Bands or String Ensemble is mandatory, once the required standards are reached. This usually takes 6 – 8 months for a beginner. Choir is also mandatory for students who are having voice lessons.

All students taking part in the Instrumental Music program are required to participate in the Performing Arts Festival during Term 4. At this series of concerts **all students** are expected to perform to the level of their experience.

## HIRING AN INSTRUMENT

The College purchases and maintains (with the assistance of the Performing Arts Parents Association) a set of instruments for the use of students. This includes most band and orchestral instruments (with the exception of Percussion, Piano, Keyboards and Guitars). Students who use one of these instruments for music lessons are charged a hire fee. This cost is added to the College fees once per year (usually at the end of Term One). Students are responsible for College instruments for the term of hire and parents will be required to complete and sign a Loan Agreement form to cover this. All losses and damages to the instrument (beyond normal wear and tear) are the responsibility of the student and parents. Repair and replacement costs (in the case of loss or damage beyond repair) are to be borne by the hirer of the instrument. In the case of insurance claim, it is expected that the hirer covers the excess of the College's premium. Parents are encouraged to add the instrument into their own Home and Contents Insurance Policy to cover damage and loss, whilst it is at home or in transit. The hire cost for an instrument in 2018 is \$245.00 for the year.



## ABSENCES FROM LESSONS

If a student is absent, or will be absent from a lesson, they must inform their tutor directly via their personal Mobile Phone / Email **or you will be charged the cost for the lesson**. Tutors do have a College calendar and receive weekly College newsletters but some activities are sometimes left off these documents. This would include absences due to sickness. Leaving a message for the Performing Arts Department is **not** the best way of communicating with individual tutors as sometimes, due to teaching commitments; the messages are not read until later in the day. It is best to contact the tutor directly.

## DISCONTINUING LESSONS

If a decision is made to discontinue lessons, both the Music Tutor **and** the Performing Arts Co-ordinator must be informed **in writing, three weeks in advance**. Should notification be given during school holidays, then three lessons will be invoiced at the start of the following term.







## CO-CURRICULAR DRAMA AT ST PIUS X COLLEGE

Drama has flourished since being introduced into the College curriculum in 2014.

### DRAMA PRODUCTION

Each alternate year the College will stage a major drama production, musical or concert. In the case of the drama production or musical students will be able to audition in late Term 4 or early Term 1. Students do not have to be undertaking Drama as a subject in order to audition.

### DRAMA ENSEMBLES

Drama Ensemble allows students to extend and enrich activities which they undertake in the academic Drama course. It also allows students who are not studying Drama as a subject to be involved in exploring their creative side. Whilst theatre sports is the most popular of activities undertaken in Drama Ensemble, students will also have the opportunity to develop short performance pieces for College and regional festivals, competitions and liturgies, as well as entering the National Shakespeare competition.



Senior Drama Ensemble is for those students in Years 9 – 12 and Junior Drama Ensemble for those in Years 5 – 8. In the years where there is a production, both ensembles will combine during Term 1, rehearsing for an extended time on Monday afternoons.

