



senior school music 2019

Music plays an important role in the everyday life of St Mary's and is a feature at times of ceremony, celebration, leisure and worship.

There are many intrinsic benefits of a high quality music education. The happiness, joy, mystery, wonder and camaraderie that students experience when involved with music are only some of the intangible rewards for our music students, who are immersed in a positive, motivated and enriching musical environment.

St Mary's Music provides a quality music programme delivered by committed teachers and musicians to students in a learning environment that fosters musical excellence, together with a sense of community and inclusiveness. Our music staff are highly talented musicians and dedicated educators, with enthusiasm and drive to create the best musical experience for our St Mary's girls.

Classroom Music

Year 7

Every student in Year 7 has one music class per cycle for the duration of the year. Our course is designed to give each girl the best experience of music education by way of offering a wide range of topics and many opportunities to develop their practical music skills. Each student will choose between learning an instrument as a beginner (with free group lessons for the year) or a classroom-based curriculum.

Year 8

In Year 8, students have their first opportunity to select music as an option subject. Year 8 Extended Music has three classes per cycle. The course has a significant focus on historical and cultural musical elements, studying instruments of the orchestra, introductory score reading and basic music forms. Music notation is covered through music theory and composition using Sibelius software, and aural skills are developed in class. As a pre-requisite of the course, students must be undertaking vocal or instrumental lessons, completing two performance assessments during the year. Year 8 students who do not elect Extended Music will take the Year 8 General Music class, which is one music class per cycle, continuing with Kodaly-based work, studying music appreciation of a variety of music styles and some basic music composition.

Years 9 and 10

Music in Years 9 and 10 are both option courses and continue to build upon the knowledge and develop the skills learnt in Year 8 Extended Music. The knowledge base of music culture and history is broadened, aural skills are extended and refined, and students' understanding of music theory is expanded. As a pre-requisite of the course, students must be undertaking vocal or instrumental lessons, completing two performance assessments during the year.

The option classes from Year 8 to 10 are an ideal preparation for students who wish to study Music in Years 11 and 12.

Year 11 and Year 12 Music

Music in Year 11 and Year 12 is accredited by the SCSA and counts towards the Western Australian Certificate of Education and for either university or TAFE admission. St Mary's studies the Western Art Music context in both of these courses. Details of the course can be found at <http://wace1516.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/arts/music>.

Learning a Musical Instrument - Music as an Extra Subject

Students may learn an orchestral or band instrument, take vocal studies or study music theory from one of the 30 specialist peripatetic music teachers who teach at the school each week. A Music as an Extra Subject form (available on the school website or from the Music Department) must be completed and handed into the Music Department. A comprehensive selection of musical instruments is available for hire through the school for students who do not have their own instrument.

Ensemble Programme - Extracurricular Music

The Extracurricular Music Programme exists to provide an opportunity for all students to take part in an ensemble and reap the benefits of music making in a group situation.

Senior School Choirs

Chorale is an inclusive choir open to students from Years 7 to 12. There is no audition necessary to join this choir – just a love of singing. The high standard of singing and repertoire produced by the Chorale is testament to the choral tradition at the School, one that is established in the Kindergarten and developed through to the Senior School. The Chorale plays an important role in many school ceremonies and is featured regularly in school and community-based concerts.



Magnificats (Years 7, 8 and 9 Chamber Choir) and Hi-Fidelity (Years 10, 11 and 12 Chamber Choir) are two specialist choirs, joined by invitation and audition only. They cater for the more advanced vocalists who will typically have strong aural skills and an ability to read music, so as to sing a range of often challenging choral repertoire.

Senior School Strings

Sinfonia is a string ensemble for intermediate players who have reached the required level on their instrument, though the focus is on inclusivity and ensemble development. The ensemble rehearses weekly, with a number of school-based performances throughout the year.

Senior Strings is by invitation only and is comprised of the finest string players in the Senior School. The ensemble will typically cover a wide selection of challenging repertoire, including playing the orchestral accompaniment for senior soloists at Concerto Night.

Senior Chamber Music Ensembles

Advanced musicians in the Senior School are given the opportunity and encouraged to participate in chamber music, organised and directed by our specialist teachers.

Senior School Bands

Year 7/8 Concert Band is a band for the Year 7 and Year 8 woodwind, brass and percussion musicians. Students will have reached an appropriate standard to join the group, though the focus is on inclusivity. The ensemble rehearses weekly, with a number of school-based performances throughout the year.

St Mary's Concert Band is open to all students learning a concert band instrument from Year 9 through to Year 12. The ensemble performs at school concerts and community events and plays a significant role in the numerous formal assemblies throughout the year.

The Jazz Band is for students wishing to develop their skills as jazz musicians, with the opportunity to take part in the Senior School jazz bands. Jazz Band (Years 7 – 9) and Big Band (Years 10 – 12) rehearse weekly, performing regularly at school concerts and assemblies. Beginner jazz musicians can join the Blues Sisters to develop and hone their performance and improvisation skills.

Hale St Mary's Music

Since 1994 St Mary's has had a strong musical liaison with neighbouring Hale School, with a regular series of combined recitals and concerts by ensembles consisting of students from both schools. This rich musical tradition enables us to provide wonderful musical opportunities for our students

and for them to perform to the highest possible musical standards.

Hale St Mary's Symphony Orchestra is a high level ensemble comprised of the finest string, brass, woodwind and percussion students from both schools. They perform seminal works by the likes of Mozart, Beethoven and Haydn, together with providing the orchestral support for senior soloists at the annual Hale St Mary's Concerto Night.

Hale St Mary's String Orchestra rehearses weekly and caters for our emerging Senior School string musicians from Year 9 onward. The orchestra performs at various school events including the St Mary's September Concert and the Hale School Senior Concert.

Hale St Mary's Symphonic Winds rehearses weekly and is comprised of the brightest senior concert band musicians from both schools. These talented musicians are extended and developed through building excellence in ensemble technique and playing significant works of the concert band repertoire.

Hale St Mary's Concert Band rehearses weekly and caters for developing Senior School concert band musicians. Rehearsal etiquette, ensemble technique and tone development are key skills instilled in the students in this ensemble, preparing them for future instrumental excellence.

Hale St Mary's Cantate is a seasonal ensemble comprised of the most accomplished senior vocalists from St Mary's and Hale Senior Schools. This ensemble gives the students the opportunity to perform in a full SATB choir with a particular focus on the ever popular annual Service of Lessons and Carols at St George's Cathedral.

Music Scholarships

St Mary's offers several scholarships each year to outstanding Year 7 and 8 music students by way of audition. A vocal scholarship or bursary can be awarded to an exceptional Year 10 or 11 vocalist each year.

Instrumental bursaries are also offered to deserving Year 7 and 8 students, providing free tuition and an instrument for the duration of the bursary.

An international music scholarship is available to overseas students at the discretion of the Music Department and Principal.

For any enquiries about music scholarships and bursaries, or music education at St Mary's, please email music@stmarys.wa.edu.au.

