



# ST. PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC HANDBOOK

2012



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC AT ST. PIUS X COLLEGE

St Pius X College has an outstanding Music 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 extra-curricular music activities the College has an outstanding and established record. The College boasts:

- Three Concert Bands (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three Jazz Bands (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three Choirs (Chamber, Senior & Junior)
- Three Percussion Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Three Guitar Ensembles (Senior, Intermediate & Junior)
- Full String Ensemble
- Two Chamber String Ensembles
- Numerous mixed elective class ensembles as required.
- The College also has excellent piano/keyboard, music technology and music recording facilities. Students have the opportunity to develop their own music compositions and record them.



The school has won numerous music awards over the years including:

- National Band Championships with the Senior Concert Band;
- State and Interstate Championships with the Senior Brass Bands;
- City of Sydney Championships with the Percussion, Woodwind and mixed ensembles;
- Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards from Yamaha Music Festival for A Grade Jazz & Concert Band Divisions, as well as C Grade Jazz Bands.
- Outstanding achievements with the Junior and Senior Choir in all types of music festivals;
- National Rock Band Championship awards

There have been a number of music students who have gained National and State Championship awards through all types of musical and solo performances. Selected students also participate 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 an Instrumental Music Festival 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 school can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! There are 13 instrumental music teachers at the College who teach to all levels. Tuition is available in:

Brass  
Woodwind  
Strings  
Percussion

Piano / Keyboard  
Guitar  
Voice  
Musicianship or Theory (AMEB style)

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 Music Tutor. Alternatively, students can learn to play music for sheer enjoyment and appreciation and simply participate in any one of the bands or other music ensembles. Additional information and application forms are available later in this document.





## ST PIUS X COLLEGE – MUSIC ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

St Pius X College students have the opportunity to join numerous extra-curricular bands, ensembles and choirs. Opportunities for students to display their talents include Twilight Concerts, Music Festival, Formal and Informal College Ceremonies and events, Masses and Liturgies, Band Festivals, Competitions and External Performances.



### BANDS / ENSEMBLES – REHEARSAL TIMES FOR 2012

BAND/ENSEMBLE	PORPOSED REHEARSAL TIME
SENIOR CONCERT BAND	THURSDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND	MONDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
JUNIOR CONCERT BAND	WEDNESDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
SENIOR JAZZ BAND	FRIDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND	TUESDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
JUNIOR JAZZ BAND	TUESDAY 7.30AM -8.30am
STRING ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY 8.00 – 8.45am
STRING QUARTET 1	TUESDAY 8.00 – 8.45am
STRING QUARTET 2	THURSDAY 8.00 - 8.45am
SENIOR CHOIR	WEDNESDAY 7.30 – 8.30am
CHAMBER CHOIR	MONDAY 3.15pm – 4.00pm
JUNIOR CHOIR	THURSDAY 7.45 – 8.30am
SENIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE	TUESDAY LUNCHTIME
INTERMEDIATE GUITAR ENSEMBLE	WENESDAY LUNCHTIME
JUNIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE	MONDAY LUNCHTIME
SENIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	THURSDAY LUNCHTIME
INTERMEDIATE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	FRIDAY LUNCHTIME
JUNIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	MONDAY LUNCHTIME



## GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ENSEMBLES

### SENIOR CONCERT BAND

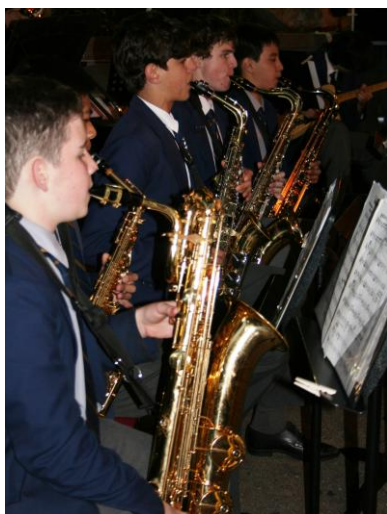
Membership of this group is by audition only. It is the 'premier' band at the College and performs at most formal occasions. Students are expected to have a high level of musical ability, as well as a high degree of punctuality and reliability. They must be able to demonstrate superior leadership skills and an ability to prepare their own parts independently though regular practise. As far as possible, the instrumentation of this band should reflect the demands of the pieces chosen for performance. Students wishing to be part of this group should strive to the highest level of musical performance. Additional consideration will be given to boys who play "endangered instruments", such as French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Tuba or Euphonium. A "professional" standard of performance is expected from these boys.

### INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND

This group caters for boys a minimum of 3 - 4 years of experience. The three main skills which boys in this band should develop are their sound (tone), playing technique and music reading ability. Repertoire will be selected to challenge the boys in these areas. Boys with a high standard of playing and a mature attitude are given the opportunity to audition for the Senior Concert Band, as vacancies arise. Performance opportunities will be made available to the boys in the following areas – Twilight Concert, Yamaha Music Festival and formal and informal College events.

### JUNIOR CONCERT BAND

This band is for boys in the middle school (Years 5 – 8, depending on ability). Rehearsals centre on the goal of developing a good sound (tone) and improving music reading ability. In this band, boys develop at their own pace, gaining confidence to progress to the next level. Boys who show signs of rapid development will be given the opportunity to audition for the Intermediate Concert Band as vacancies arise. Consideration will also include the ability to socialise with older boys. It is expected that this band would perform at some Junior School Events as well as Twilight Concerts.



### SENIOR JAZZ BAND

Membership of this band is by audition only. Boys 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 being the positions of guitarist and pianist. Expectations are the same as those of boys who play in the Senior Concert Band, with the added requirement of a commitment to learning improvisation. There are extensive performance opportunities for boys in this band. A "professional" standard of performance is expected from these boys.

### INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND

Membership of this band is by audition only. Boys can only be a member of this band if they are already a member of a Concert Band, the only exception to this being the positions of guitarist and pianist. This group consists of boys with a minimum of three or more years experience. Boys are expected to develop skills which will see them smoothly integrated into the Senior Jazz Band when required. Boys are expected to concentrate on their improvisational skills, as well as sound (tone), playing technique and music reading. Performance opportunities for this group include the Yamaha Festival, Twilight Concerts and Colour Award ceremonies.

### **JUNIOR JAZZ BAND**

Membership of this band is by invitation and audition only. Boys can only be a member of this band if they are already a member of a Concert Band; the only exception to this is the positions of guitarist and pianist. This group consists of boys with minimum of 1-3 years of experience. Boys are expected to develop skills that will see them progress to Intermediate Jazz Band when required. Boys are expected to begin development of their improvisational skills as well as sound, technique and music reading. Performance opportunities for this group include Twilight Concerts and Junior School events.

### **STRING ENSEMBLE**

This group comprises students of varied degrees of ability. Consequently, music is specifically arranged for these students with this in mind. These boys provide music for Masses and Liturgies. They also perform at the Twilight Concert and other formal and informal College events, as required.

### **COLLEGE STRING QUARTET**

Membership of this group is by invitation only. The quartet provides chamber music when necessary for school functions, such as "Splinters, Splashes and Sounds", The Edmund Rice Oratory Competition finals, Headmasters' Luncheons and Masses and Liturgies. This group has also performs outside of the College by request.

### **STRING TRIO/QUARTET**

Membership of this group is by invitation only, although if you are interested in joining speak with Ms Ramsay, the Ensemble Director. It is from this group that boys are usually promoted to the College String Quartet. The group usually performs at Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.



### **SENIOR CHOIR**

This group includes students from Years 7 – 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.



A commitment to fun, learning and attending all rehearsals / performances on time, are the only entry requirements for this premier group. The Senior Choir prepare repertoire for Twilight Concerts, Masses and Liturgies and other formal and informal

College events.

### **CHAMBER CHOIR**

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. The Chamber Choir performs at the Principal's request and at Twilight Concerts throughout the year.

### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

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

### **SENIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

This group is for boys with highly developed guitar skills, including the ability to improvise. Boys in this group will be expected to learn and perform in a variety of styles. Performance opportunities include Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.



### **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. This group builds on the skills established in the Junior Guitar Ensemble. Performance opportunities include some Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.

### **JUNIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

In this ensemble boys begin to develop the skills that allow them to progress to the Intermediate and Senior Guitar Ensembles. These skills include a focus on reading music notation (as opposed to TAB), which is essential for all players. This group is also expected to perform at some Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.

### **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 some Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.



### **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 this group 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 Concerts, Music Festival and other College events as required.



### **JUNIOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

Students in this group 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. This ensemble also performs at some Twilight Concerts and the Music Festival.

### **ABSENCES FROM ENSEMBLES**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals. If this happens, extra rehearsals are unnecessary. If possible, please inform your ensemble directors of any absence in advance. If a student misses a rehearsal due to unforeseen circumstances, it is a matter of courtesy to present the director with a note explaining the absence. Most directors do not receive a list of absentees from the office, so communication in writing is vital.





## INSTRUMENTAL / VOCAL MUSIC TUITION GENERAL INFORMATION

St Pius X College has an outstanding Music 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 the many bands, ensembles and choirs. There are numerous opportunities for students to display their talents. Performances include Twilight Concerts, Music Festival, Formal and Informal College Ceremonies and events, Masses and Liturgies, Band Festivals, Competitions and External Performances.

The Music Department at St Pius X College offers tuition **during school hours** for students wishing to learn an instrument. Tuition is currently offered in the following areas:

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

### HOW TO COMMENCE LESSONS:

To begin lessons at the College, an application form may be obtained from the Student Reception Office, the Music Department or downloaded from the school website. Upon receipt of this application form, the Music 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 strongly discouraged from approaching 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. Music tuition fees are payable to the relevant tutor in advance, on the receipt of an account. It is appreciated if accounts are settled within two weeks of receiving the invoice from the tutor. Tutors are contracted by the College and manage their accounts independently.

There is a Music Parents Association at the College whose role is to support the Music Department. They do this by providing musical instruments, equipment, repairs and other resources. To support the running of the Music program, all families whose sons take private music lessons and participate in ensembles contribute \$95.00 per annum (per child) or \$50.00 per annum (if they are involved only with the Senior, Chamber or Junior Choir).



### PARTICIPATION IN THE MUSIC 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.

Students will be placed in the most appropriate ensemble using the criteria outlined above. It may be necessary to audition places in bands as need arises.

All students taking part in the Instrumental Music program are required to participate in the Music 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 Music 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. This is presently around \$2000 for larger instruments.

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.

### **ABSENCES FROM LESSONS**

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

### **DISCONTINUING LESSONS**

If you discontinue lessons at any time you **MUST inform both the Tutor and Music Coordinator in writing, three weeks in advance of the date they wish to finish**. Failure to do so will result in lesson charges for those three weeks.

