

Music



MUSIC

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Music

Welcome

Music forms an integral part of school life at Santa Maria College, and the Music Department prides itself on an extensive co-curricular music program. Approximately 300 students currently participate in choirs, chorales and instrumental ensembles and attend rehearsals each morning of the week.

All students are invited to participate in the opportunities available in music as part of the co-curricular, curricular and instrumental music programs at Santa Maria College. Whatever your daughter's previous experience is in music, or her current abilities might be, there is an ensemble or choir suited to each student. Joining a choir or ensemble is a great way to make new friends and develop vocal and instrumental skills that will last a lifetime. Practical music-making and instrumental tuition, in particular, have proven side benefits which include increased self-confidence and resilience.

Music Curriculum – Middle Years

Santa Maria College enjoys a vibrant class music program with a focus on participation and the encouragement of all students to achieve their full potential in music. The courses aim to develop a wide range of skills, including rhythm and notation, singing, aural skills and performance.

The middle years program utilises specialised percussion instruments to foster these skills, and the College boasts a full class set of quality Orff instruments, including Sonor xylophones, metallophones and marimbas. Incorporating performance and the study of music on these educational instruments allows all students to be introduced to the keyboard and the valuable skills associated with music reading and performance.

Years 5 and 6 Music

Students are provided with opportunities to develop an appreciation of music through the exploration and analysis of repertoire in a wide range of musical styles. Singing and the development of vocal skills play an integral role in the program and students are also encouraged to join the Years 5 and 6 choir.

Students learn the basic elements of music, such as pitch, tempo, rhythm, melody, timbre/tone colour, dynamics and expression. Students in Year 5 learn to create rhythmic compositions and soundscapes for a variety of instruments.

We also hold mini-concerts throughout the year, where Years 5 and 6 students perform for their classmates in an effort to develop their confidence in solo and public performance in a safe and encouraging environment.

Year 6 Elective Music – Music Makers

Music Makers is open to Year 6 students who are keen to develop their practical ability. The girls are encouraged to participate in activities that focus on vocal and instrumental skills.

Group ukulele and guitar lessons also form part of the engaging program. Students can elect to join 6A in Semester 1 with the option of continuing in Semester 2 with 6B.

Year 7 Elective Music

Students may select the 7A (Semester 1) and/or the 7B (Semester 2) course. The Year 7 courses are designed for those students who are currently taking individual lessons in voice or an instrument and those students who are keen to begin formal tuition. There is a strong emphasis on practical music making, and students participate in a range of vocal and instrumental tasks.

Year 8 Elective Music

Students may select the 8A (Semester 1) and/or the 8B (Semester 2) course. The Year 8 courses are designed for students currently learning an instrument and participating in the co-curricular program who would like to develop more specialised and technical music skills. There is a strong focus on singing, the development of aural skills, theory, composition and performance.

Year 9 Elective Music

This course runs for the entire year and further develops the skill base acquired in the Year 8A and 8B courses, in particular aural and theory skills. Students must be learning an instrument or having vocal lessons to participate.

Year 9 music has an emphasis on analysis with the study of set works and an introduction to harmony, form and the main elements of music. Both Western Art music and contemporary music are studied, and creative projects such as composition, melody-writing and arranging are also introduced. Entrance to this course is subject to approval from the Head of Music, and the completion of 8A and/or 8B is recommended but not essential. Students also have the opportunity to perform as part of a class band in the annual 'Rock Ya Socks Off' Concert.

Music Curriculum - Senior Years

Year 10 Elective Music

This course begins with a practical focus, with the class forming rock bands and working towards the Term 1 'Rock Ya Socks Off' concert. Students develop some of the more complex aural and theoretical skills, including harmonic analysis, transposition, texture and aural dictation. Literature studies include a more in-depth analysis of contemporary set works and the various rock and pop music genres, and there is a continued emphasis on singing and small ensemble-based activities.

Years 11 and 12 Music Courses

In 2011, the decision was made to develop an alternative course within the structure of the non-ATAR pathway that would most benefit all of the music students enrolling at Santa Maria College.

Since the implementation of our new general course in 2012, class sizes have more than doubled across all year groups. This course presents students with a challenging, practical and enjoyable program of study that is designed to cater for young musicians with a range of abilities and musical interests. At present we offer units 1 and 2 in Year 11 and units 3 and 4 in Year 12. The general course is suitable for all students with a practical music background, including those who are keen to go on to further their music studies at tertiary level.

Santa Maria College has a strong history of students continuing on to study music at tertiary level, with eight students accepted into the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) over the past four years.

Instrumental Program

Santa Maria College offers exciting opportunities to students who wish to participate in the diverse instrumental music program, with over 200 students attending individual, shared and group lessons each week.

The College employs a team of instrumental tutors, all of whom hold tertiary qualifications and are experienced performers in a variety of musical styles. All students are encouraged to practice daily to maintain a good standard of progress, and the Music Department works together with parents, students and tutors to ensure that each student has the best chance of achieving their potential.

All students receive a report each semester detailing their progress and level of achievement.

Individual tuition is offered on the following instruments:

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French horn
- Trombone
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double bass
- Classical guitar
- Folk guitar
- Electric guitar
- Bass guitar
- Piano
- Drum kit/percussion
- Voice – classical and contemporary.

Individual and group theory tuition is also offered as part of the program.

For further details or to obtain the instrumental music program information and enrolment forms, please contact the Music Department on (08) 6330 0282 or email the music office on mowday.katie@santamaria.wa.edu.au.

Co-Curricular Music Program

Santa Maria is proud to offer a wide range of group vocal and instrumental opportunities through its comprehensive co-curricular program. Each group has at least one major performance each term.

Vocal

Years 5 and 6 Choir

The Choir is open to all students in Years 5 and 6 and rehearses weekly on Thursday morning at 7.30 am All are welcome, and no audition is required.

Years 7 and 8 Choir

The chorale is open to all students in Years 7 and 8 and rehearses weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7.30 am Entry is by audition.

Years 9 and 10 Chorale

The chorale is open to all students in Years 9 and 10 and rehearses weekly on Thursday mornings. Entry is by audition.

Years 11 and 12 Chorale

The chorale is open to all Years 11 and 12 students and rehearses twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7.30 am. Entry is by audition.

Instrumental

Santa Maria has a wide range of instrumental ensembles that rehearse on a weekly basis. All instrumental students learning at the college or through a private tutor are encouraged to participate in at least one ensemble. Regular concerts and events ensure students get the opportunity to experience the many benefits that performance brings.

Symphonic Orchestra

This ensemble is the largest in the program, involving more than 70 students. Brass, wind, percussion and string playing students rehearse once a week in Terms 2 and 3.

Concert Band

Concert Band is open to all brass, wind and percussion players who are at a reasonable level of proficiency. This ensemble rehearses on Wednesday morning at 7.30 am.

The McAuley Concert Band

This ensemble is open to all brass, wind and percussion students from Years 5 - 9 and rehearses each week on Friday morning at 7.30 am.

String Orchestra

The String Orchestra involves violin, viola, cello and double bass students from all year groups who are at a reasonable level of proficiency. The String Orchestra rehearses every Friday morning at 7.30 am.

The McAuley String Ensemble

This string ensemble is aimed at younger players or those who are in the early stages of learning their instrument. This group rehearses each Wednesday morning at 7.30 am and is a valuable supplement to weekly individual lessons.

Guitar Ensemble

This versatile ensemble is designed for those guitar students who also like to sing. The current ensemble is led by singer/songwriter Helen Shanahan and performs regularly throughout the year. The group rehearses weekly on Wednesday afternoon at 3.30 pm.

Swing Band

The Swing Band is open to advanced brass and saxophone players and involves a rhythm section. The ensemble rehearses on Monday morning at 7.30 am. The band plays a number of styles including jazz and rock.

Saxophone Ensemble

Entry to this ensemble is by audition and students are challenged by the advanced repertoire. The Saxophone Ensemble rehearses once a week in the lead up to major concerts.

Extension groups

The flute choir and flute quartet are available free of charge to those flautists who are in concert band or McAuley band. Flute students not in either of these groups can pay a small fee to participate.

Percussion Ensemble

This group is open to all students studying percussion and/or drum kit and rehearses on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30 pm.

Events Schedule

Dates will be confirmed at the commencement of the school year.

Term 1

Opening Mass
'Rock Ya Socks Off'
Term 1 Choral Concert
Easter Liturgy

Term 2

Semester 1 Ensemble Concert
Community Outreach Mass
Music Camp Concert
Term 2 Choral Concert

Term 3

Annual Music Showcase
Mercy Day Concert
Year 11 Recital
Year 12 Farewell Recital
SMC Music Eisteddfod

Term 4

Year 12 Valedictory Assembly and Mass
Year 10 Recital
Music Students' End of Year BBQ
Middle Years Awards Night
Senior Years Awards Night
Solo instrumental and vocal recitals

Further Opportunities

In addition to the performance calendar and instrumental program, the Music Department offers a variety of additional opportunities in music, including:

Santa Maria College Music Eisteddfod

This event is a fantastic opportunity for instrumental and vocal students to perform in front of an appreciative and supportive audience of friends and family. This is a non-competitive event, designed to allow students to develop musicianship skills and gain experience in public performance. Each participant receives a detailed report of comments, a certificate and feedback from the adjudicator.

International music performance tours

In 2015, the College completed its first music performance tour, with a tour chorale of 36 students travelling to Ireland, London and Paris. The tour began with students completing two days of study at the Mercy International Centre, focusing on faith development and the Mercy mission. The tour then continued with formal and informal performances, workshops and traditional music and dance lessons. The students rehearsed for a year in preparation for the tour and represented the College beautifully. The next tour group will commence rehearsals in Term 2, 2019 and travel again to Ireland at Easter in 2020.

Music Camp

The highlight of the calendar - our chorales, String Orchestra and Concert Band head to Hillarys for four days of rehearsals and fun, with a camp finale concert to conclude a wonderful time of music-making. The evening entertainment includes a movie night, quiz night, talent show and musically-themed fashion parade, along with lots of learning and laughs!

Future Music Series

This series of concerts hosted by Santa Maria College Music features Perth's most talented artists. The series is aimed at fostering our ongoing relationship with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and provides students with access to live music, master classes and workshops that would normally only be available at a tertiary level.

Music Facilities

McDonald Building

A multipurpose facility, which was opened in 2012 and is used for all formal performances. The facility features tiered seating for an audience of 480, a raised stage and integrated audio and visual technology.

College Theatre

Features tiered seating for an audience of 160. The theatre features a recently upgraded sound and lighting desk, green room and dressing rooms and is used for College productions and smaller performances.

Music classrooms

The Music Department has two dedicated music classrooms, both equipped with a grand piano, AV projector, and PA systems.

Instrumental practice rooms

All instrumental lessons take place in the ten dedicated teaching rooms. There is also a separate percussion studio. All practice rooms are available to students from 6.30 am – 5.00 pm.

Instrumental storeroom

Students may store their instruments securely in a locked and fully monitored storeroom within the music office.

Computer laboratory

The lab features 14 Apple iMac computers, all with MIDI keyboards, studio headphones, AV projector and sound system. All computers are also equipped with both the Cubase and Garageband sequencing software programs.



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