



Enter to Learn, Go out to Serve

MUSIC PERFORMANCE AT MACARTHUR



Macarthur provides a leading program in music and performance for our students that is both diverse and inclusive, encouraging a lifelong connection with music through active participation. There is much research to support the many positive influences music has on the development of the brain and the positive effect on academic outcomes. There are many opportunities at Macarthur for students to perform in a diverse range of both solo and ensemble contexts. The joys and benefits of rehearsing and performing in an ensemble range from a feeling of belonging and connectedness, to working towards a common goal to create a piece of mastery and beauty. Belonging to an ensemble enables students to reinforce what is learned in their music lessons. Through rehearsals and a collaborative learning environment students develop greater listening and music interpretation skills in a supportive group setting.

At Macarthur, Music Performance focusses on a co-curricular experience across year groups. Our programmes create a strong sense of community and encourage the pursuit of excellence, with a focus on providing students with an opportunity for their creativity to thrive. Our Music Performance Programme nurtures leadership and teamwork skills and encourages confidence in performing. We seek to be both inclusive and exclusive, providing opportunities for all our students to engage with music, while also catering for students who have decided to make the study of music a specialty. Students have opportunities to participate in a variety of Music Performance experiences. Music participation fosters creativity, collaboration and improves cognitive function. Students who learn an instrument at school are encouraged to participate in the appropriate ensemble and perform at a variety of concerts and recitals throughout the year. Students also have a variety of opportunities to participate and perform at local community events.

Please direct any inquiries you have to the Faculty Head of Music and Performance, Dr Rebecca Bennison, on 4647 5333 or email rbennison@macarthur.nsw.edu.au. For further information and online forms please go to the website under the 'Parents' tab.

Junior and Middle School Curriculum Instrumental Programmes

At Macarthur, we know that music is an integral part of education and of life. We believe that every student should have access to a range of music performance opportunities. In addition to students' classroom music lesson once a week, students from years 3-6 will learn an orchestral or band instrument in a weekly group tutorial setting.

String Programme:	Violin, Viola, Cello and Harp
Band Programme:	Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion
Drum Corps Programme:	Side and Tenor Drums

These students will also have opportunities to play as a larger ensemble within their year group. Students are encouraged to pursue peripatetic lessons and involvement in various performance based co-curricular activities.

Students will be issued a band or string instrument in stage 2 as part of the Curriculum Instrumental Programme.

Private Instrument Lesson Opportunities

Our extensive Peripatetic Music Programme (instrumental and vocal) offers individual tuition during the school day. An impressive number of our students across all year groups (excluding Transition) receive private music tuition at Macarthur as part of our Peripatetic Music Programme. The school has some of the finest instrumental and vocal teachers from Sydney and our surrounding local areas. Our Music Performance avenues are open to all students and structured to meet their developmental needs, be that beginner or virtuoso. Lessons are 30 minutes in length. It is recommended that students studying the upper AMEB or equivalent grades take 45 minute to one-hour lessons to cover syllabus requirements. This can be discussed directly with their tutor. Lessons are available in the following instruments and voices:

Strings	Piano, Violin, Cello, Harp, Guitar
Woodwind	Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Brass	Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Bassoon, Euphonium, Baritone, Tuba
Percussion	Percussion and Drum Corps
Voice	Classical, Contemporary and Music Theatre for all voice types - Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass

Co-Curriculum Programmes

For further information about the ensembles below please go to the website under the 'Parents' tab, 'Information and Online Forms' tab, then 'Co-curricular Year K-12' quick link.

String Programme

Junior Orchestra	Years 3-6
School Orchestra	Years 5-12
Arco	Years 9-12

Band Programme

Junior Band	Years 3-6
Concert Band	Years 7-12
Drum Corps	Years 5-12
Stage Band	Years 9-12
The Glissandos	Years 9-12
Chapel Band	Years 5-12

Choral Programme

The Bellbirds	Years K-4
Boys' Ensemble	Years 5-12
Girls' Ensemble	Years 5-12
Combined Choir	Years 5-12

Ukulele Group, World Music Group and Musicology Club run periodically for students' in years 5-12. When offered, these groups are during lunchtime in term time.

Drama

Drama Club	Years 7-12
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Audio/Visual

Tech Crew	Years 7-12
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School Musicals



A musical is presented by students from Years 7-11 every year in the Winter Term. Students from Years 3-6 present a musical biannually.

Senior Musical

Students in Years 7-11 are invited to audition for the Senior Musical in Spring Term. Rehearsals are run in both Summer and Autumn Terms, including select dates in the July holiday period. Previous Senior School musicals performed include *Les Miserable* (2019), *The Music Man* (2022) and *Pirates of Penzance* (2023).

Junior Musical

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to audition for the junior musical every second year. The musical is normally only 1 hour in length. The students audition in the Summer Term of the performance year. Rehearsals are run in both Summer and Autumn Terms. Previous Junior School musicals performed include *The Little Mermaid* (2016), *Aladdin* (2018) and *Dr DoLittle* (2023).

Co-curricular Matters

Attendance

Commitment to weekly attendance is a requirement for all music co-curricular groups. Students who miss rehearsals on a regular basis will be asked to reconsider their commitment to the group. Participation at all performance events including lunchtime concert series, ensemble nights, the Festival of Arts and Speech Night is an expectation of all ensemble members.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals commence in Week 3 of Summer Term to start the calendar year. Co-curricular groups re-commence in various weeks for the rest of the calendar year, notification of this is given each term. It is imperative that all students are collected by parents promptly at the completion of rehearsals. A late bus to Camden is available for students to catch at 4.25pm each day. In exceptional circumstances rehearsal may need to be cancelled. Where possible prior notification will be provided via email from the Faculty Head.



Concerts and Performances

Live music is an experience unlike any other. When it comes to Music Performance, for the performers and the audience alike, there is an energy, vitality and connection that often defies words. Through the raw power of music, the ability of giving thoughts and emotions, free expression and communicating to an audience is truly a remarkable transaction. Macarthur is renowned for the high calibre of our performances. Music students showcase their talent and musical prowess at annual concerts and events which are always a highlight on the school calendar. The Festival of Arts, Annual Band, String and Choral Nights, and Speech Night are our large audience events and feature outstanding performances from our large number of soloists and ensembles from Year 5 to Year 12. The Music and Performance Faculty also offer our school community glimpses into rehearsals and instrumental workshops throughout the year. Our students bi-annually look forward to participation in HICES workshops and concerts, and our Junior School students enjoy the experience of IPSHA performances held at the Sydney Town Hall. We seek to establish and nurture a lifelong love of music in our students. Music has always been a much-loved part of our school's life and Macarthur has long had a reputation for the excellence of its Music Performance programmes. We look forward to introducing your child to the joys of our Music Performance Programme at Macarthur.

Music Button and Colours

All students in Years K-12 participating in music co-curricular programmes will be presented with a music button to be worn on the lapel of the School Blazer. Buttons will be issued after one term of a student's involvement in a co-curricular group. If a student withdraws their involvement, they also withdraw the right to wear the button.

Colours are awarded to students who are active and committed participants of co-curricular groups. These are embroidered onto the students' blazer. All recommendations for Colours are presented to the Headmaster, via the Faculty Head and Dean of Students, for his consideration and determination before being awarded to the student.

Half Colours	Awarded after 1 full year of ensemble commitment
Full Colours	Awarded after 4 full years of ensemble commitment

Music Scholarships

When students strive for excellence, their dedication deserves to be rewarded and celebrated. Partnership with our large number of Music Scholarship students in Years 7-12 is a vital part of our school life. Across a broad range of musical genres and our variety of ensembles, students are given every opportunity to develop their musical artistry under the guidance and support of the Music Faculty Staff. At Macarthur, our music scholars are challenged to realise their full potential, being encouraged to pursue their unique creative musical interests, and grow in confidence and experience in their learning journey through to graduation. Music Scholarships are offered to students entering Year 7 (Level 1), Year 9 (Level2) and Year 11 (Level 3).

Renting or Hiring an Instrument

Please contact the Faculty Head, Dr Rebecca Bennison, should you wish to discuss renting or hiring an instrument. Musiccorp is a reputable firm who will provide you with short term rent or rent-to-own options. There are also many second-hand options which can be pursued.

Dr Rebecca Bennison
Head of Music and Performance