

# Music Program at Swan Christian College

Welcome to the Department of Music in the Arts Learning Area at Swan Christian College. We are a progressive and diverse creative Music Department and welcome anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of music in all its practical, historical, cultural and theoretical forms.

## Year 7 Music

Music in Year 7 concentrates on practical and theoretical skills, and making music in a group. Students are introduced to keyboard technique, percussion, and guitar. Vocal training and sight-reading skills are also introduced through an aural development program. Students will be engaged in exploring Western art music, contemporary music and world music and be asked to make a series of written responses.

We provide a music questionnaire to students on Orientation Day to determine those who have past musical experience in playing a musical instrument, so that we can engage them in an advanced music program in the classroom. Parents and students are encouraged to contact the Music department for further information.

## Year 8 Music

Courses offered are Advanced Music and Music for Leisure. The Advanced Music course is a whole year course. It is directed at students who have experience in playing a variety of instruments and can read musical notation. Those who have engaged in lessons on the piano, keyboard, guitar (classical), bass guitar and electric guitar, drums, woodwind, brass, string instruments and voice are encouraged to enrol in this course. It is designed to establish a high standard of music practice within its practical and written component to enable students to advance their skills for future music studies.

The Music for Leisure course requires students to have a basic ability to play a musical instrument in a band environment. Hence, some instrumental experience is essential. However, the course welcomes students who have never played a musical instrument before, provided that they take private instrumental tuition with an approved music tutor. Private tuition enables students to quickly learn the necessary skills needed to play in a band or ensemble. Enthusiasm and energy are welcomed. Music for Leisure is an experiential and practical music course that runs for six months. It involves creative music making in the classroom, engaging students with rehearsal techniques, arranging skills and ensemble skills.

## Year 9 Music

Courses offered are Vocal Studies I, Advanced Music Studies I, and Band Method I. Students can opt for two of these courses.

### Advanced Music Studies 1

The course is directed at students who have prior experience in playing the piano, keyboard, guitar (classical), bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, woodwind, brass, string instruments and voice included. While the written component explores western art music as its context of study, the practical component allows students to explore contemporary, jazz or western art music styles; and engages them in solo performances. The course is designed to establish a high standard of music practice, improving the musicianship of students through written and practical activities and equipping students with the necessary music skills for future music studies at examination level. This course requires a high level of musicianship, particularly performance, and therefore students must be enrolled in (1) a private music instrumental tuition programme with an approved music tutor for the whole year, and (2) one music ensemble offered at the College.

### Band Method I

This course is a seamless extension of all Year 8 Music courses, with strong emphasis on developing instrumental skills and provides opportunities to play in a variety of bands. Students will experience and explore a variety of musical styles, how to rearrange songs, read 'lead sheets' and have experience in playing a variety of instruments. Students will be engaged in learning general stage performance techniques, rehearsal techniques, basic sound production skills and recording programs. Singers are also welcome. This course is both practical and theoretical and is suited to musicians of all abilities who wish to improve their playing and musicianship. Students are encouraged to undertake private musical tuition on the instrument of their choice (voice included) and choose one optional practical study activity offered by the Music Department.

### Vocal Studies I

Students will develop their vocal technique and find singing styles that suit individual voice range, tone and sound production. They will learn how to create music and compose their own songs, and in addition, these experiences will increase the student's confidence in performance, thereby increasing personal enjoyment and satisfaction. The course provides all styles of vocal music including contemporary, soul, blues, jazz, gospel and musical theatre, individual coaching for performance purposes, voice production and technique, vocal health and anatomy, and singing in small ensembles, solo, duets and choral works.

## Year 10 Music

Year 10 Music courses are a seamless extension of the courses offered in Year 9 Music. Courses offered are Vocal Studies II, Advanced Music Studies II and Band Method II.

### Advanced Music Studies II

The course is directed at students who have prior experience in playing the piano, keyboard, guitar (classical), bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, woodwind, brass, string instruments and voice included. While the written component explores western art music as its context of study, the practical component allows students to explore contemporary, jazz or western art music styles; the practical component engages students in solo performances. The course is designed to establish a high standard of music practice, improving the musicianship of students through written and practical activities and equipping students with the necessary music skills for future music studies at examination level. This course requires a high level of musicianship particularly performance and therefore students must be enrolled in (1) a private music instrumental tuition programme with an approved music tutor for the whole year, and (2) one music ensemble offered at the College.

### Band Method Studies II

This course has a strong emphasis on developing instrumental skills and provides opportunities to play in a variety of bands. Students will experience and explore a variety of musical styles and extend their knowledge regarding how to rearrange songs, read 'lead sheets'. They will be engaged in playing in a variety of instruments. Students will be engaged in learning general stage performance techniques, rehearsal techniques, basic sound production skills and recording programs. Singers are also welcome. This course is both practical and theoretical and is suited to musicians of all abilities who wish to improve their playing and musicianship. Students are **strongly recommended** to undertake private musical tuition on the instrument of their choice (voice included) and choose one optional practical study activity offered by the Music Department.

### Vocal Studies II

The Year 10 Vocal Studies course is designed to present students with, and develop a greater understanding of, as many aspects of the unique language of music as possible. It is intended to be primarily a performance, appreciation and vocal technique course where they will explore a number of avenues of musical expression through listening, aural and historical studies as well as both group and solo performance. Vocal performance is a key area of personal expression, and as such, the student's solo and group performance skills will be particularly encouraged as a means of developing confidence in presentation and authenticity in performance. Students are **strongly recommended** to undertake private musical tuition on the instrument of their choice (voice included) and choose one optional practical study activity offered by the Music Department.

## **Year 11 and Year 12 Music**

Students are provided with the opportunity to further their music experiences. The Curriculum Council's ATAR exam music courses and non-ATAR exam music courses are offered. Students undertaking ATAR exam music in Year 12 are required to undertake formal private music lessons on their chosen instrument (including voice). Certificate II Music is introduced to students in Year 12. Students who undertake Cert II music should have experience in playing a musical instrument (voice included).

Performance opportunities – assemblies, Whole School Production, Awards Night, Year 12 Valedictory Dinner, festivals and Eisteddfods, restaurants, tea parties, community events, churches.

### **Do you have instrumental music experience?**

We would like to meet all students who are currently enrolled in music lessons, have taken music examinations or play an instrument. This will enable us to get to know you, find out about your musical needs/requirements and musical strengths.