

Music



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.

Year 5 Music

This is a practical course that teaches students basic instrumental and vocal performance skills through their participation in class ensemble and choral activities. This includes a ukulele program, keyboard techniques, alongside drum kit, African djembe, and other percussion skills. Students are encouraged to explore their creativity through interactive and practical group composition projects. Students bring stories to life through a program music unit where they use instruments to demonstrate their understanding of a given story. An assembly performance allows students to share their skills with the wider school community and builds their confidence to perform. Students also learn about lyric writing and singing techniques through a vocal composition project.

Year 6 Music

The focus of this course is to give students the opportunity to explore a variety of instruments and build their confidence to perform as a class and in small groups. Students further their skills on drum kit, keyboard, xylophone, ukulele and have the option of solo singing. The practical nature of this course allows students to develop their creativity and learn the challenges of playing in a contemporary band setting. The Japanese taiko drumming project provides students with a strong rhythmic focus, and they also continue learning vocal techniques through part-singing in class choir.

Year 7 Elective Music

The Year 7 course is designed for those students who are currently taking individual lessons in voice or an instrument and those 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, which include composition and band performances.

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. In Semester 2, students begin rock band tasks that prepare them for participation in the Tribute event in Term 4.

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. A highlight of the course is the Rock Ya Socks Off concert where the students form rock bands and perform in front of a crowd in an arena style event.

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. 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 14 students accepted into either the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) or UWA School of Music over the past six years.

Instrumental Program

Santa Maria College offers exciting opportunities to students who wish to participate in the diverse instrumental music program, with over 300 students attending individual, shared and group lessons each week.

The College employs a team of instrumental tutors, with many being experienced performers in a variety of musical styles. All students are encouraged to practise daily in order to maintain a consistent 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.

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 music@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.

- AcaMaria's
- Concert Band
- Guitar Ensemble and Junior Guitar Ensemble
- McAuley Concert Band
- McMahon String Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Saxophone Ensemble
- Soul Band
- String Orchestra
- Swing Band
- Symphonic Orchestra
- Years 5 and 6 Choir
- Year 7 Choir
- Year 8 Choir
- Years 9 and 10 Chorale
- Years 11 and 12 Chorale

In addition to the Co-curricular program, there is an extension group for flute students:

- Flute Choir

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 and Mass

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

Years 5 & 6 Awards Night

Years 7 - 11 Awards Night

Solo instrumental and vocal recitals

Tribute Night Concert

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. When the current restrictions ease, we will be looking forward to planning the next tour.

Music Camp

The highlight of the calendar – our chorales, String Orchestra, a Concert Band and Guitar Ensemble 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!

Year 5 Beginner Band Program

This program gives Year 5 students the opportunity to learn flute, clarinet, cornet or saxophone with a view to joining the co-curricular program. Entry is via audition. Further information will be sent to all prospective students in Year 5, 2023.

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.

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 between 7.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Instrumental storeroom

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

Computer laboratory

This lab features PA, recording software and AV projector.

Performing Arts Centre

The College is on track to commence the construction of a new Performing Arts Centre in 2023.