

MusicNotes

CHURCHLANDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL | MUSIC PARENTS' COMMITTEE | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | TERM 1 2020

Most Glamour Ever. 2020 Year 12 Ball



Photo: Bliss Studio

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Coordinator's Cadenza

Penny McNiff, MPC Coordinator



Think back to what you were doing a month ago. Can you believe how quickly our lives have changed? Thank you to all the teachers who have had to adapt their teaching methods under pressure and for maintaining cheerful and encouraging email contact with parents and students. An especially big thank you to instrumental teachers for moving to on-line lessons – I'm sure it was very tempting to just say 'It's all too hard!'

While we have to keep our distance from strangers outside the house, there is nowhere to hide from anyone at home. We have had to adjust our expectations of what can be achieved in a day and I try, not always successfully, not to 'sweat the small stuff'. For example, if both parents are on conference calls, why would the kids even get out of bed?! When they do get out of bed, they make pancakes for breakfast ("I have cooking Period 1"), leave an almighty mess and then yell:

"Mu-um! Dad 's working in my room with headphones on and eating a hot cross bun!"

No doubt the families of parents who already home-school their primary school children, are having the last laugh.

MPC Welcome Meeting and Sundowner

On a balmy February evening, we held the MPC Welcome Meeting and Sundowner for 2020. A huge turnout from our new Year 7 parents, ensured that the bar was well utilised and provided an appreciative audience for 'the band'- our talented Year 11 jazz students. Thank you to these students for giving up their time to entertain us. We were very pleased to have six Year 7 parents put their hands up to join the MPC Committee. See the list below for their names and roles.

Obviously there are no concerts planned for the foreseeable future; however, fingers crossed, there will be concerts by second semester and we look forward to all our parents taking the opportunity to volunteer to assist the School of Music and to support their children.

Keep in touch

Facebook
facebook.com/groups/CSHSmusicparents

Email
mpc@churchlandspc.com.au

Send us a message to be added to our mailing list

MPC meetings are held on Monday of weeks 2 and 7 during term

Music Parents Committee 2020

MPC Coordinator	Penny McNiff	Festivals Team Coordinator	Julie Pegrum
Secretary	Steve Baker	Festivals Team Coordinator	Naomi Chapman
Treasurer	Lana Ledovsky	Festivals Team	Shona Vigus
Music Notes Editor & Designer	Matt Stack	Festivals Team	Anngi Tran
Music Notes Photographer	Fiona Birt	Festivals Team	Jenny Lourens
Music Notes Photographer	Art Ledovsky	Festivals sausage sizzle coordinator	Roger Spech
Stage Crew Coordinator	Dave Fudge	P&C Liaison; Licensed Events	Tracey Gralton
Stage Crew Coordinator	Hendrik Overmeire	Front of House Coordinator	Michelle Porteous
General Committee -Stage Crew	Gavin Woods	Stock & equipment	Mieke Chang
Ext Events Catering Coordinator	Jodie Tajeddine	FaceBook Coordinator	Kelly Bradley
Kiosk Supervisor Terms 3&4	Svetlana Frolova	Bar stock	Ryan Labuschagne
General Committee	Janeen Cameron	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Coordinator	Sarah Brown
General Committee	Samantha Donaghue	Entertainment Book Coordinator	Kristy Sills

From the Director's Desk

Glenn Robinson, Director of Music



I would like to thank our parents, students, and teachers alike for their perseverance as we reach the end of Term One. I also want to acknowledge the pressure on families as they deal with job losses, anxiety about loved ones, the stress of worrying how this will affect our children, and the expectation that as parents sitting idly at home, you will monitor and encourage your child as they find their way through the world of online lessons.

At the time of writing, I have no idea what schooling will look like in Term Two, however, I do want to acknowledge the stress all teachers have been under to convert face-to-face classroom experiences into the medium of the written word, short video clip, or on-line group chat. Having watched teachers preparing and delivering content via Teams or OneNote over this last week, I respect the lengths they are going to when creating engaging, meaningful, self-contained, self-explanatory lessons that suit a range of abilities and levels of access. Every 30-minute lesson has required between 120-180 minutes of preparation time. To that is added another 60 to 80 minutes of chatting to students in Teams or via email to explain concepts still not understood, talking students through the copying of a link, or sending screenshots to demonstrate the process of sharing a file. For a surprising number of students, their technological confidence exceeds their technological competence. We mustn't forget that.

Our instrumental and voice teachers are coming to grips with the different online platforms they are expected/ obliged to use in their various schools. As a government department, we may only use approved software and online conference platforms and cannot just teach via FaceTime, WhatsApp, or Skype, even though parents may have used them extensively at home or in the private sector. Our instrumental teachers are learning to set up classes in Teams, upload music, video conference, and carry on a music lesson with mediocre audio quality and a 1 to 2-second delay. The latency means that the teacher is only able to listen or demonstrate.

Many of us are frustrated, confused, or anxious for vulnerable loved ones. Quite a few of us regularly feel overwhelmed and don't know if we are making the right choices.

We are all just doing our best.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones the very best of health and happiness for this break. I look forward to when we can join together again in our choirs, bands, orchestras, and as a teacher I can look out and see my class grinning (or grimacing) back at me.

Anzac Day

I would like our music families to consider participating in the <https://musicformateship.org/> event, at dawn on April 25. Download a copy of Last Post and Reveille, hold your own dawn service, and spare a few minutes to reflect on all of those who make sacrifices to keep us all safe.

Save the Date!

28 April	First Day of Term 2	Please note: due to Covid 19 social distancing restrictions, all regular events have been cancelled for the coming term. Parents will be advised by email from the CSHS School of Music once any mandated changes permit the return to regular programming
4 May	MPC Online Meeting 7.30pm	
8 June	MPC Online Meeting 7.30pm	
4 December	Christmas Concert (we hope)	

Women on the Podium

Article: Kristel Hawksworth

On the Labour Day long weekend, Miranda Sims and I participated in Perth Symphony Orchestra's *Women on the Podium* program. This program promotes female conductors in the Perth music community.

Two internationally respected female conductors ran the intensive sessions. Ms Jessica Gethin, Chief Conductor of the Perth Symphony Orchestra, and Ms Alice Farnham, Director of Women Conductors with the Royal Philharmonic Society in the UK took us through our paces.



Kristel Hawksworth takes to the podium

This course enabled us to have the fantastic opportunity to work with local professional string players and pianists. We studied and conducted repertoire such as Beethoven Symphony No.1, Schubert Unfinished Symphony, and works by Warlock, Imogen Holst and Glazunov. We spent a lot of time on the podium refining our conducting and rehearsal techniques.



Miranda Sims receives her certificate from Jessica (L) and Alice (R)



Conductors and PSO musicians

Jessica Gethin

Australian born conductor Jessica Gethin has been hailed by audiences and critics for her stellar musicianship, vibrant energy and charismatic stage presence, being reviewed as 'accomplished and gifted in every respect; a consummate musician who knows how to get the best out of her player'.

Chief Conductor of the Perth Symphony Orchestra (Western Australia) from 2011-19, Jessica's conductor engagements include symphonic concerts, ballet and opera seasons and tours, with contracts ranging from Malaysian Philharmonic and Melbourne Symphony to the West Australian Ballet and the Dallas Opera, to National Geographic Symphony of World Australia-Asia tour and more.

Winner of the Brian Stacey Emerging Australian Conductor Award in 2015, Jessica has been a leading advocate for the arts and music education, committed to developing the next generation of artistic leaders. She was listed as one of Australian Financial Review's '100 Most Influential Women' in Australia and is regularly engaged as presenter and key note speaker on the topics of the arts, leadership and diversity. Her mentoring positions include roles as Ambassador for the 2019 Women on the Podium Conducting Workshops (WA) and 2019 Online Orchestra Ambassador for AMEB Australia. Jessica was the recipient of a 2016 Winston Churchill Fellowship for Performance Excellence in Classical Music, as well as inaugural alumna of the Dallas Opera's Hart Institute for Women Conductors, where she has since returned to the company as both Conductor and Assistant Conductor.

Stay tuned for her new music podcast 'Conductor in Converse' to be launched globally on April 27 2020.



Alice Farnham

Listed in the Classic FM Today's Ten Best Women Conductors 2019 and in the BBC Woman's Hour Power List 2018, Alice Farnham is a British Conductor and trained at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire with the legendary pedagogue Ilya Musin. She is much sought-after in the UK and further afield, particularly in opera where her repertoire is large and varied.

She has been Music Director of Welsh National Youth Opera and her guest conducting includes the Royal Opera House, Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Danish Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Slovenia National Theatre, and Macedonia National Ballet. In 2008 she conducted the Premier of Graham Fitkin's Reel which won the British Composer 'Best Stage Work'.

She is enjoying a growing reputation in Sweden, and has recently conducted the Malmö Opera Orchestra, Dalasinfonietta, Gävle Symphony Orchestra and the Nordiska Kammarorkester. Other recent guest conducting includes the Malta Philharmonic, Southbank Sinfonia, Women of the World Orchestra and the Kensington Symphony Orchestra. Alice is a guest conductor at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and in 2019 conducted her first production for the Opera School at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the RWCMD Opera School.

Passionate about training the next generation, Alice is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Women Conductors with the Royal Philharmonic Society – a ground-breaking program to encourage women into conducting. She is also Artistic Director of the National Concert Hall Female Conductor Programme in Ireland. She is a guest lecturer for other similar programmes, including Dallas Opera's Hart Institute for Women Conductors, Dirigent Kultur i Väst and The Sorrell Women's Conducting Programme at the Royal Academy of Music.



Music Students Rock the Year 12 Ball

Article: Erica Jones



Photo: Fiona Birt

Months and months of painful shopping and planning for a 5-hour ball? Worth it!

On the 6th of March 2020, we finally arrived at the most glamorous night of our high school career – our Year 12 Ball – and yes, it was very glamorous indeed.

After some awesome pre-ball photos – in which everyone looked amazing, by the way – and a fancy limousine ride – which I’m pretty sure I’m not going to experience again for many years – we all pulled up at Optus Stadium – flex – and I think we were a bit shocked to say the least.

After seeing the same 400-and-something-ish kids in the same school uniform for 5 years, it was completely mind-bending to see everyone looking so beautiful, and I know it made some people a little emotional.

After mocktails, a bit of socialising and dinner, we moved on to speeches and a beautiful rendition of “Fields of Gold” by our very own Phoebe Tait (below), accompanied by Shuni Kogo and aided by Annika Wilson (right) – you blew us away, you guys, seriously.

The rest of the night was followed by endless dancing and photos. I don’t know how we did it, but we managed to squeeze every single music student at the ball into one big music group photo, and I must say, we scrub up good.



As for the dancing, it all started with some great ballroom moves, and then became a little less like dancing and a little more like jumping and trying not to be jumped on – but what can I say? We’re music students, not dance students, so no one can judge us for our dancing skills.

Overall, it was a beautiful and fun night, which I’m sure will stay with us. Thank you to everyone for making the night so special.

Special thanks to Bliss Studio for use of images www.blissstudio.com.au





Kaboom Summer School

Article: Samuel Hawksworth

In the summer holidays I went to the Kaboom Percussion Summer School at WAAPA, Mount Lawley. We spent three days practising many different pieces of percussion music including a piece with body percussion and another piece that used Taiko Drums. I went with fellow Year Seven music student Felix Styles. We performed in pieces such as Dance Monkey, Thunderstruck and many others.

The tutors, including Joshua Webster, Catherine Betts (she's an ex-Churchlands graduate!), Jackson Vickery, and Robert Oetomo, along with many WAAPA and UWA students, including ex-Churchlands student Gabby Lee, were all expert percussionists and made playing percussion fun. Josh and Cat (Kaboom) played a movie theme medley all on different plastic bottles that were turned into a sort of cool xylophone. It was so clever! I loved participating in this three-day camp and I hope to see more Churchlands percussionists join me next summer.

Schützenfest

Schützenfest is a traditional cultural festival of Germany (and Switzerland) featuring a target shooting competition. The Churchlands German Band were once again invited to perform at the Rhein Donau Club in celebration of the Schützenfest festivities this year, presented by the Eagle Eye Air Rifle Group.

Our students arrived at the venue, changed into traditional Bavarian dress before playing to the very appreciative crowd, who even sang along at times. Our students then had the opportunity to join in the target shooting competition, with one of our young musicians winning a trophy! The whole experience was very gratifying and lots of fun! Thank you to James, Millie, Finn, Alex, and Shuni.

Article: Glenn Robinson



Fundraising for Tour 2020

Article: Julie Pegrum

One of the many CSHS music events cancelled because of the global COVID-19 epidemic is the much anticipated 2020 CSHS Music Tour. With luck the music tour will be held in 2021 and involve the current year 9, 10, 11, and 12 students. More information will come out about this in Term Two.

As we speak, the Tour Treasurer and other members of the hardworking committee are hard at work reconciling the music tour trust account and organising refunds for families. The music staff, tour committee, parents and students put an enormous amount of work into organising and fundraising for the 2020 tour, including:

- An exciting itinerary was put together and travel bookings were made.
- Air tickets were negotiated and booked.
- Details like travel insurance and sim cards were researched and organised.
- Tour ensembles were formed and repertoires rehearsed.
- Uniforms were fitted and ordered.
- New car was purchased and raffled.
- Many, many chocolates were sold at school and at workplaces all over Perth.



- Sausage sizzles were held at Bunnings.
- Westfield Innaloo welcomed our students and many hours were spent busking.
- Parents and friends enjoyed a wonderful fundraising dinner at Bada Bing.
- Quiz night was organised and had to be postponed days before it was to be held.
- "Sound of Music" evening was planned and booked.



Busking at Westfield Innaloo was one of the most successful fundraisers for the music tour. Centre management went to great lengths to make our performers feel welcome and most Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays saw Churchlands students singing or playing their instruments near the food court.

Some had to overcome severe stage fright to stand up and perform on their own in the middle of a busy shopping centre. Performers gave 25% of their takings back to the tour fund and their contribution between August 2019 and March 2020 was approximately \$5,500, which was a great achievement.

Westfield Innaloo is keen to see our students back in their centre raising money for the 2021 music tour, so it's a great time to work on new repertoires for later in the year.



Year 7 P&C Sundowner

Article: Penny McNiff / Photos: Fiona Birt

The Year 7 Sundowner was held on Thursday 19th March, which was back in those ancient times when there was talk of a flu virus and not a pandemic called COVID-19. This was in fact the last time that I shook hands with a person, which I did without thinking. Soon after, I received my first elbow-shake, which I thought was a good laugh and an 'extreme' reaction for the times. How we would all love to be able to elbow-shake new acquaintances now!

Many thanks to the Year 10 students who served sizzling sausages and super salads to the Year 7 families, as part of their voluntary Community Service work.



MPC Coordinator Penny McNiff, P&C President Kate Sinfeld and John Gillon demonstrate the now-defunct "elbow bump" gesture.



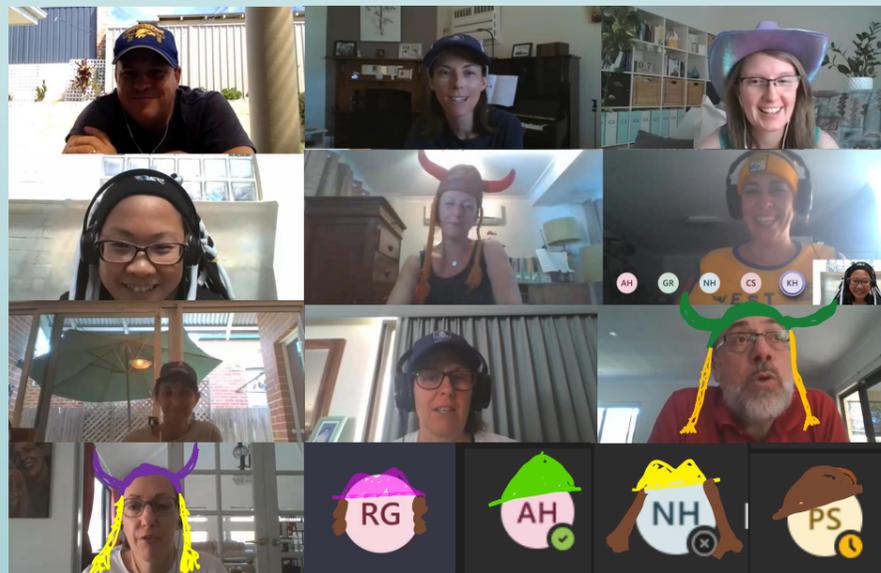
Foundation Scholarship recipients Sophia Bell and Sophie Lenz with Churchlands Foundation Board Chair John Gillon

Music Staff Moments

Article: Mirelle Hopwood



Riley Byfields receives the coveted 'Golden Bog Roll' prize from Mrs Sims for correctly guessing the number of students at school in week 9



In week 10 music staff conducted their usual Tuesday faculty meeting on the 'Teams' app - with hats! Serious and thought-provoking topics were discussed in relation to the way forward next term. Music staff are always good at keeping their sense of humour in the face of adversity!

Online Music Lessons

Article: Matt Stack



In response to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WA State Government called for children to stay home from school where possible in the final weeks of Term 1.

This has called upon resilience and adaptability by teachers, parents and students to maintain the school programme from home by testing-out the technology and communication skills needed for music lessons via computer or phones.





To keep up to date with all the news, join the CSHS Music Parents' Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/CSHSmusicparents/

DID YOU KNOW...

The School of Music has its own YouTube channel? If you have not already subscribed, go to youtube.com and search for "Churchlands SHS School of Music". This is a perfect way to share some of your child's musical achievements with friends and family.



CSHS School of Music on YouTube!

WANTED

Unloved, spare or surplus musical brass, woodwind or string instruments for children at a disadvantaged school wanting to experience the magic of making music. Please drop the instruments off to the Music Office marked:

"Attention Mr Robinson: Donation!"

Playable or easily serviced instruments only, please.

MUSIC RESOURCE

The School of Music has an ongoing subscription to an online music education resource for students' use. Check it out at

learning.e-lr.com.au

Student login: student.cshs.wa Password: cornet

MUSIC PARENTS

Do I have your preferred email address?

Help me keep you in the loop with events and other MPC happenings!

mpc@churchlandspc.com.au

PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Music Notes is a newsletter for parents, by parents! We would love your help by contributing short articles/photos (high-resolution photos where possible)

Please email to: mstack23@gmail.com

REMINDER TO PARENTS

CSHS is only able to provide supervision for up to 20 minutes after the conclusion of a rehearsal or concert. Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your child to be picked up so they are not left unattended.

SCHOOL PICKUPS

Parents, please be mindful of local traffic when you are dropping off or picking up children. For the safety of all, please ensure you pull over safely into one of the bays on the side of the road: do not stop in the middle of the road when collecting children and loading bags and instruments.

Thank you!

Your Music Notes!

This newsletter is a great opportunity for parents, extended families and the broader community to feel connected to the Churchlands SHS Music School.

To make sure we're getting the best value out of the publication, we'd love to hear your feedback on your experience with the newsletter so far, and any ideas you have for the future of *Music Notes*.

Please respond to our online survey and we'll report on the findings in the next issue:

For parents and community readers

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NHFBZ>

For music students

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2Z6DZ9N>

Online survey questions include:

- How familiar are you with the *Music Notes* quarterly newsletter?
- What are the most important benefits of *Music Notes* from your point of view?
- How closely do you usually read *Music Notes*?
- In which publication format would you prefer to receive the *Music Notes* quarterly newsletter?
- How likely would you be to contribute writing or photographs to *Music Notes*?
- Do you visit the Music Parents Committee Facebook page?
- Do you visit the Churchlands SHS School of Music YouTube Channel?
- How likely is it that you would recommend *Music Notes* newsletter to a friend or fellow parent?
- What suggestions do you have for the *Music Notes* newsletter?