



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

EST. 1869

MUSIC AT ST MARY'S
ENSEMBLES



Community • Justice • Growth

ENSEMBLES

AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Participating in the co-curricular music ensembles at St Mary's College offers students numerous benefits, fostering community, developing key skills, and contributing to academic success.

Music develops discipline, resilience, literacy, and community engagement. Additionally, it provides a safe space for self-discovery and the development of confidence. The College's emphasis on learning, relationships, and innovation is evident in its music program, encouraging students to fully engage in the College community. Musically inclined students receive support in pursuing their passion, and all students are encouraged to explore instrumental and ensemble learning opportunities.

Involvement in instrumental, vocal, and ensemble music contributes significantly to students' overall schooling experience, promoting community building and personal growth.

All students are encouraged to participate in the College's music program, regardless of musical background, as the focus is on connection and personal development. In the words of renowned Doctor of Music Education, Cheryl Lavender:

"The fact the children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children."

[Music Ensemble Registration 2026](#)





ENSEMBLES

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St Mary's College provides a range of ensembles for musicians who achieve the appropriate skill level on their instrument or voice. Many of our ensembles reach out and are part of wider community events. These include Generations in Jazz (Mount Gambier), Social Justice Day, College Masses, College Productions, Classical, Cabaret and Jazz Nights, Catholic Schools Music Festival, ABODA Band Festival, fundraising, corporate, private functions, and regional, interstate and international tours.

In most cases, students should undertake instrumental or vocal tuition (internally or externally) to be eligible for membership in an ensemble. Students learning a musical instrument at St Mary's are required to participate in an ensemble appropriate for their age, ability and instrument as soon as they are able.

There is a \$50 levy per student in Reception to Year 6 and a \$100 levy per student in Year 7 to 12 to participate in the ensemble program.

Rehearsals for all ensembles will begin in Week 2 of Term 1 unless otherwise stated by the Ensemble Director.

Concert Bands (Junior Concert Band, Middle Concert Band and Senior Concert Band*)

Concert Bands are open to students that play woodwind (Flute, Piccolo, Saxophone, Clarinet), Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba) and both tuned and untuned percussion instruments. The repertoire for the Concert Band includes exciting and challenging music suited to the ability of the students and represents a wide range of musical styles. Senior and Middle Concert Band members may be called upon to play for the College musicals.

String Ensembles (Junior Strings, Senior Strings)

The String Ensembles support students that learn violin, viola, cello and double bass who wish to work on their music reading and ensemble skills, while providing an opportunity to connect with other string students.

Stage Bands (Stage Band 1, Stage Band 2)

These bands perform varied Stage Band repertoire of Swing, Latin and Funk. They are open to students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, tuned percussion, bass guitar and drums. The Stage Bands at St Mary's College are strongly connected with many College and community events, including Generations in Jazz. Placement in a Stage Band is dependent on instrument skill.

Small Jazz Combo

This group fosters the opportunity for students to learn basic improvisational techniques and perform many jazz standard charts. Students are also expected to be a member of one of our Stage Bands. This ensemble participates each year at Generations in Jazz. Entry is by invitation.

Rock Bands

St Mary's College offers a range of rock bands for students in Year 5 to 12 who have a passion for rock music and wish to work with others who share their passion. Entry is by expression of interest or invitation.

Vocal Ensembles (Year 2 to 4 Choir, Year 5/6 CSMF Choir, Middle School Choir and Concert Choir*)

These ensembles are open to students from Years 2 to 12 who can sing in tune. Although, generally students are not auditioned, there may at times be a need to audition for particular parts and solos within the ensemble.

Vocal Jazz (Vocal Jazz One, Vocal Jazz Combined, Vocal Trio)

Vocal Jazz consists of students who love to work on close jazz harmonies and specialist vocal techniques. The ensemble performs at a wide range of community events. Entry is by expression of interest or invitation.

**Senior Concert Band and Concert Choir are timetabled elective selections open to students in Year 10 to 12 only.*

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

ENSEMBLES

Conditions of Membership of an Ensemble

- Students must commit themselves to the full year’s musical program. Withdrawal from an ensemble will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and following a meeting with the student, parents and Head of Music.
- Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances within the calendar year. If students are unable to attend, as much advance notice as is practicable should be given to the Ensemble Director so alternative arrangements can be made.
- Students are expected to arrive at rehearsals at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time for setting up and tuning. All students must help pack up at the end of rehearsal.
- Students are expected to adopt a professional attitude to rehearsals - exercise good rehearsal technique, be attentive and maintain effort to the best of their ability. Practicing their parts with their Instrumental Tutor, and at home will also benefit the ensemble.
- Every student participating in an orchestra, band, choir or ensemble must purchase a black display folder. Each student is responsible for their own music folder, which must be clearly named. A pencil must also be brought to all rehearsals.

Attendance Policy

Regular rehearsal attendance is an essential component of the Music Policy. Rehearsals and concerts take the highest possible priority. It is important to understand that our performances reveal to the public the standards of our College.

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances within the calendar year.

In the case of an unforeseen absence, the Music Technology and Administration ESO must be informed in advance, via SEQTA or email. This message will be forwarded to the Ensemble Director.

Should a child not attend and no reason is given, the parent/guardian of the child will be contacted to advise of the absence. Absentee notes and messages must come from the parent/guardian of the ensemble member, not the child. Any student who misses a number of ensemble rehearsals or is continually late to rehearsals, without just cause; and/or found not to be contributing positively to the ensemble; will be asked to discontinue being a member of that ensemble.

In the unforeseen event a student is unable to participate in a performance, communication from parents/caregivers is required a minimum of 2 weeks before the performance. If a student fails to attend a performance without notification, they may be disqualified from further participation in the ensemble. If a student is sick and unable to perform, they must notify the Head of Music and Ensemble Director as soon as possible.

Contact Details

Mr Hamish Buckley
 Head of Music
Hamish.Buckley@stmarys.sa.edu.au

Ms Alexandra Mantis
 Music Technology and Music Administration ESO
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REHEARSAL TIMETABLE

2026 ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School 7.40am - 8.40am		Junior School Concert Band Ms Turner 8.00am - 8.40am		Junior Strings Ms Stubberfield 8.00am - 8.40am	Vocal Jazz Combined Mr Buckley 7.40am - 8.40am
					Year 2 to 4 Choir Ms Bollard 8.00am - 8.40am
Timetabled Lesson 1 to 6/7		Concert Choir Ms Stubberfield Lesson 1 and 2		Senior Concert Band Mr Deslandes Lesson 1 and 2	
Lunch <i>Monday</i> 12.20pm - 1.00pm <i>Tuesday to Friday</i> 1.05pm - 1.45pm				Year 2 to 4 Choir Ms Stubberfield	
After School <i>Monday</i> 2.45pm - 3.45pm <i>Tuesday to Friday</i> 3.30pm - 5.00pm	Senior Strings Ms Sutora	Stage Band 1 Mr Deslandes	Vocal Jazz 1 Ms Stubberfield	Stage Band 2 Mr Buckley	Small Jazz Combo Mr Deslandes
		Middle School Choir Mr Buckley	Middle School Concert Band Mr Deslandes		

Rehearsal times are subject to change.

Junior School and Rock Band rehearsal times will be confirmed at the beginning of 2026.



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