BAND PROGRAM Q&As

What Grade do the School concert and stage bands perform at?

Our Junior and Intermediate School Concert Bands currently perform at B Grade level and our Senior Concert Band performs at A Grade level. Training Concert Band performs Grade 0.5 repertoire.

Our Junior and Senior Stage Bands perform medium to advanced Stage Band repertoire.

What festivals do they perform in and what is the repertoire?

Both Junior and Senior Concert Bands perform in the Northern Beaches Music Festival and have a balanced repertoire including chorales, marches, festival pieces and popular music.

Stage bands have the opportunity to perform at the Manly Jazz Festival and school events. Their repertoire includes jazz, swing, latin, rock, ballads and blues pieces with some including the use of solo vocalists.

Over the years we have won the Yamaha Music Festival various band sections with Gold and Command Performances with our Senior and Junior School Concert Bands

Does the band get filmed or recorded?

We have made CDs and DVDs of our Concert Bands, some of which can be found on our School YouTube channel that has over 20,000 views

Are the bands and students graded?

Our bands are graded and students are encouraged to be of a Grade 4 AMEB or TRINITY level in the Intermediate Concert Band and Grade 6 for Senior Concert Band and Grade 2 for Junior Concert Band. Students of a lesser grade are catered to by being allocated 2nd and 3rd parts, which of equal importance to the band.

What about exceptional students?

We currently have Grade 8 TRINITY and AMEB students in the Senior Concert Band who still find the experience beneficial. For exceptional students, we also have Band Leadership roles with accompanying badges. This gives the students the opportunity to grow their leadership skills along with musical skills.

What is the band’s philosophy on music?

We don’t hold auditions as we believe music should be inclusive, not exclusive, even though we do play at a high level. Music plays a role in every area of our school life including sporting events, assemblies, praise and worship and Awards nights.
Are recognised music exams held on site?

We have been a music examination studio for both AMEB and Trinity exam systems for ten years and have put through hundreds of students in that time. We have a focus and interest in both Jazz and Classical music at the highest levels. We put through an average of 100 TRINITY music exam students and 100 RockSchool music exam students from Grades 1-8 each year.

We have 420 students in our music program meaning that almost half the students in our music program sit graded exams every 12 months. It also makes us one of the largest school music examination studios in Sydney.

Is Christian music performed?

We believe in performing Christian music and do so each year in Term 3 at the Thanksgiving Service. As a result of this we performed at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in 2013 for a Christian conference in front of 10,000 delegates. We also perform Hymns and Chorales each year at our ANZAC Services and at the Sydney CBD ANZAC Day March broadcast on the ABC.

Are students encouraged to participate in external music ensembles?

We believe in supporting outside community extension ensembles and students regularly perform in them as well as maintaining their role in our School ensembles.

What do Music students do after the HSC with their skills?

Each year many of our students go on to study Bachelor of Music degrees.

Here is a quote from the Marketing Manager of the Australian Institute of Music about our graduates:

“It's great to hear our graduates are out there doing some good work. Thanks for your referrals to AIM. Your students are always of a great standard which is a true testament to your teaching and mentorship. You obviously instil a great passion and work ethic in your students which they bring with them to AIM.”