



BHHS Instrumental Music Program

Term 2, 2015
Edition One



WELCOME to the first edition of the Box Hill High School Instrumental Music Program newsletter. Music is an integral part of life at Box Hill High School, students have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument in quality music programs. Box Hill High School has a long tradition of excellence in its music program. In the past, many of our Year 7 students become involved in the program and find that participation enhances both their academic and social development. We offer a comprehensive performance-based music program, students are given the opportunity to be involved in a variety of musical activities such as music camps, Victorian School Band/String Festival, South Street Eisteddfod, band workshops, guest conductors, various school events and performances in the community such as school fetes and council events.

The Instrumental Music Program offers so much for students including:

- Classroom music from Year 7 to VCE
- A wide range of musical ensembles providing a wealth of musical experiences
- Opportunities to develop musical skills
- Opportunities to learn new instruments
- A skilled and enthusiastic faculty
- A structured positive learning environment where high standards are expected

Objectives of the Instrumental Music Program

- To teach music by it's actual performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind, brass, string, percussion instruments and voice
- To provide for the musical needs of both the school and the community
- To acquaint students with different styles of music

Expectations of Students

- Students are expected to participate in the program to the best of their ability. This includes:
- Regular practice
- Attendance at lessons
- Attendance at rehearsals, performances and camps

Aims and Philosophy

- To provide an extra dimension to the school's music program ensuring that educational outcomes are maximised for all students
- Provide an opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis
- Provide ensemble experience for students that develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their musical education through Wind Symphony, Stage Band, Junior Band, Concert Band, Junior and Senior Choirs, String Ensemble, Babershop and Guitar Ensemble

Term One Review

In Term One we had 70 of our Year 7 students join the Music Program. The Music Information Night was held in February where students listened to the Wind Symphony and heard each of the instruments played by students and teachers. Before the Music Information Night, all Year 7 students were treated to a performance by Shrewd Brass. Shrewd Brass is a brass quintet made up of two trumpets, a trombone, French horn and a tuba. Students were obviously inspired as we had a record intake of brass students. Some Year 7 students have come with experience from Primary School and have joined more advanced ensembles such as the Concert Band (intermediate) and Wind Symphony (senior). Most Year 7 students are beginners and have joined the Junior Band (woodwind, brass, percussion), Junior Choir (voice), Guitar Ensemble (guitar) and String Ensemble (violin, cello, viola and double bass).

Ms Brown showed great commitment in organising several groups to perform in the wider community at two school fetes at Roberts McCubbin Primary School and Laburnum Primary School. The students involved learnt a great deal from the experience and the two Primary Schools have passed on their appreciation for their efforts as the schools raised money to improve their resources. The term finished with all senior ensembles performing for an audience of parents and friends in the Hall. The Wind Symphony, Stage Band, Senior Choir and VCE class had been rehearsing for only 6 weeks and performed admirably. Well done! I am looking forward to hearing all ensembles progressing as the year unfolds and seeing all students enjoy their musical journey.

Troy Rogers
Director of Music

Box Hill High School Music Ensembles

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony rehearses every Tuesday night after school from 3.10pm to 4.30pm. The ensemble comprises 42 students ranging from Year 7 to Year 12. The ensemble will take part in the Band Camp at Camp Oasis in Mt. Evelyn where students will rehearse over a 3 day period in May. The ensemble is also looking forward to playing at South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat, the Victorian School Bands Festival and many school-based events throughout the year.

Adam Watson

Stage Band

The Stage Band has started the new year with a few new members and a great deal of new repertoire. We welcome Gavin of Year 12 on guitar, Jordan of Year 10 on tenor saxophone and Lewis of Year 9 (brother of Spencer) on baritone sax. It can be a nerve-wracking experience when you first join a new group such as the Stage Band but they are all settling in well and doing a fine job. This year, the band will be focusing on the music of the big band greats such as Thad Jones, Sammy Nestico and Count Basie. We look forward to presenting you with some exciting music in 2015.

Martin Corcoran

Junior Band

The Junior Band had its first rehearsal on Wednesday, 15th April. P09 was full of eager young musicians ready to begin their music careers. There are 36 students who make up the ensemble and we are looking forward to working our way towards their debut performance at the Winter Concert on Wednesday, 24th June. The ensemble will take part in the Victorian School Bands Festival in November, working with guest conductors and finally playing at the Junior Music Night in late November.

Troy Rogers

Concert Band

The members of Concert Band include experienced Year 7 students to Year 9 students and they rehearse every Monday after school from 3.10pm to 4pm. The ensemble will help further educate students to develop skills and the many musical elements that make up a fine performance. The ensemble will take part in the Band Camp, the Victorian School Bands Festival and many school based performances.

Troy Rogers

Junior and Senior Choirs

The Choirs have made a fantastic start to the year. The students have had a lot of fun learning and developing their vocal skills. Additionally, there has been a strong focus on challenging performing anxiety in an encouraging and supportive environment. The Senior Choir had a wonderful time performing at the Senior Concert earlier this year and are engaged in learning new complex works for performances at the Winter Concert and in the community. A large group of very talented Year 7's have joined the Junior Choir, adding to the already advanced group of students. Many have taken on solos and have shown interest in soloing at our next performances.

Emily Brown

String Ensemble (New)

I am excited to report that Box Hill High School's new string program is already off to an amazing start! Instrumental lessons have commenced for both beginners and more advanced players. The String Ensemble (complete with our brand new double bass!) has been rehearsing every Thursday lunchtime and is busily preparing for the Winter Concert as well as the Victorian Schools Music Festival. We look forward to performing for the school community very soon – watch this space!

Tanya Balka

Babershop

The Babershop, a singing group of 4 males, has performed at Roberts McCubbin Primary School and Laburnum Primary School. They are currently forging ahead in preparation for the Babershop Big Day Out which is to be held in May this year. The students have been requested to perform on the evening as a special act. The Babershop group fosters excellent vocal technique and aural skills as well as creating positive relationships between male students across all year levels.

Emily Brown

Guitar Ensemble

The Guitar Ensemble rehearses on Tuesday lunchtimes and this year is the first year that we have a double bass in the ensemble to fatten the bottom end of the group. Riley Jones is playing double bass for the ensemble as well as his normal bass guitar duties for some of the Guitar Ensemble pieces. This year we are featuring a program suited to the new students who have only started this year. We already have plans to perform at the aged care facility at 40 Dorking Road, Box Hill, next term along with the usual performances undertaken at school. The Guitar Ensemble welcomes new members, please contact Peter Simondson if you are interested in rehearsing and performing with the group.

Peter Simondson

Music Staff

Box Hill High School is very fortunate to have a dedicated team on the music staff who all work towards your child succeeding in playing their instruments.

Mr Adam Watson - clarinet and saxophone

Ms Vivienne Tate - clarinet and flute

Mr Troy Rogers - clarinet and saxophone

Mr Travis Easton - percussion

Mr Gianni Marinucci - brass

Mr Peter Simondson - guitar and bass guitar

Ms Emily Brown - voice

Mr Martin Corcoran - clarinet, saxophone and flute

Ms Tanya Balka - strings

Ms Anne Mather - oboe

New Oboe Teacher - Anne Mather

Anne is a former Box Hill High School student and is currently in her 3rd year at Melbourne University, studying Biomedical Science. She started playing the oboe when she was 13 at Box Hill High School and plays in the Monash Philharmonic Orchestra. We welcome Anne to our music staff this year.

New String Teacher - Tanya Balka

Having completed a Bachelor of Music/Education at Monash University in 2004, majoring in classical violin, Tanya has since developed her playing and teaching in a wide variety of musical styles such as Celtic, Bluegrass and Jazz. Between 2010 and 2014, she taught music in Hong Kong at an international school whilst also performing in several musical projects. Tanya is delighted to be back in Melbourne and starting up Box Hill High School's very first strings program. We look forward to seeing the development of the strings program over the next few years.

2015 Music Captains

Congratulations to Cole Vincent of 12H and Tiffany Choong of 12B on becoming the 2015 Music Captains! We are looking forward to them participating in the leadership at musical performances, writing articles for the newsletter and representing the music department.

Music Calendar - Term 2 Dates

14 April: Box Hill Institute - Year 12 Performance Seminar

20 April: Senior & Junior School Assemblies - Stage Band

21 April: Open Night - Stage Band and Senior Choir

4-6 May: Band Camp - Wind Symphony & Concert Band

27 May: North Eastern Instrumental Regional Concert, Hamer Hall - Available to Concert Band & Wind Symphony students

29-30 May: The Big Babershop Day Out - Available to all Choir students

2 June: 40 Dorking Rd, Box Hill - Guitar Ensemble & Choirs

12 June: Victorian School Music Festival - String Ensemble

15 June: Choir Workshop with Christine Storey

24 June: Winter Concert - All Ensembles

Benefits of Playing a Musical Instrument

- Boosts memory and brain power
- Teaches discipline, perseverance and patience
- Increases memory capacity
- Exposure to cultural history
- Sharpens concentration
- Creates a sense of achievement
- Promotes social skills
- Promotes happiness



Julie and Jeremy of Year 7

Music Fun Facts

The London Symphony Orchestra was booked to travel on the Titanic's maiden voyage but they changed boats at the last minute

A single violin is made up of over 70 pieces of wood

The Japanese word 'karaoke' comes from a phrase meaning empty orchestra

Most of Beethoven's great symphonies were composed after he lost his hearing

Contact us

For more information about the Instrumental Music Program, please feel free to contact us at the school.

Mr Troy Rogers

Director of Music

Email: rogers.troy.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you to Patricia Musumeci for her assistance in helping to create our first newsletter.



Simon of Year 7

SENIOR CONCERT – 24 March 2015

