



2025 Festival Program

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Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival

ACN: 135 450 761

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The Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians, whose lands, winds, and waters we now all share. We pay respect to their unique values and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our communities and our nation.

The Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival is proudly supported by:





WHO ARE ABODA NSW?

The Australian Band and Orchestra Director's Association (ABODA) is Australia's premier in-service support organisation for music educators, instrumental music teachers and band & orchestra directors.

ABODA pledges an ongoing commitment to the growth of music education and community music making throughout all areas of the country. ABODA is the only in-service organisation in Australia specifically for ensemble directors and communicates with other professional development organisations both locally and internationally.

WHAT DOES ABODA DO?

ABODA provides a valuable and reliable network both on a State and National level.

The organisation operates in-services and clinics on a regular basis, including the annual conducting schools. ABODA conducts a national conference (ANBOC) bi-annually. Internationally-renowned conductors and clinicians are used at these events providing the ensemble directing community with world-class professional development.

HOW DOES ABODA OPERATE?

ABODA was founded in 1985 by Mr Russell Hammond AM. State Branches also operate in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. Representatives from each State Branch form the National Executive. National ABODA formulates broad policy and maintains important links with overseas organisations.

WHY BELONG TO ABODA?

- Receive priority information about Professional Development Courses including State and National Conferences, clinics, conducting schools and ensemble pedagogical workshops. Discounts to members apply.
- Meet and work with internationally renowned conductors and clinicians.
- Access state-wide and national network of collegiate support
- Latest information on professional issues through ABODA publications
- Opportunities for personal development through involvement on ABODA working parties & committees

JOIN ABODA NSW at www.abodansw.com.au

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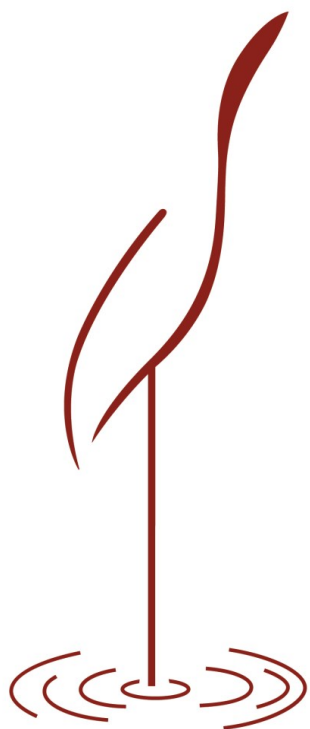
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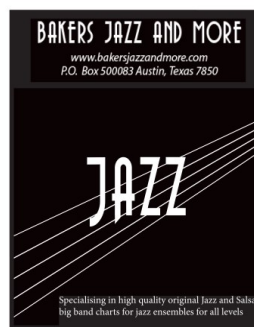


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IN AUSTRALIA

Welcome from the Patron

ANITA COLLINS



It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I welcome you to the 2025 Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival.

This year we especially welcome Yu-Wun Elementary School from Taiwan and Shenzhen Shekou Yucai Education Group Yucai No.2 Primary School from China. We trust you enjoy your participation in the Festival and your time in Australia.

The Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival (ASBOF) has, for many decades, been a beacon for music education in Australia, offering students a platform to showcase their talents, develop their artistry, and engage with the profound and lifelong benefits of musical endeavour. This Festival is not merely a series of performances; it is a celebration of the discipline, collaboration, and creative spirit that music inspires in all who participate.

As Patron, I am privileged to witness the extraordinary commitment of students, conductors, teachers, school leaders and communities who make this Festival possible. Their dedication to fostering excellence in music education is both admirable and essential, particularly in a world where the role of the arts in nurturing empathy, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence has never been more important.

At a time when education systems are challenged to meet the diverse needs of students, it is crucial to reaffirm the central place of music education within the school curriculum. Music is not a luxury or an optional extra; it is a core component of a well-rounded education. It enhances cognitive development, supports emotional well-being, and cultivates the creative and collaborative skills that our future society will depend upon. Festivals like ASBOF stand as powerful reminders of why music must continue to be valued and protected in our schools.

I congratulate all students for their hard work and courage in preparing for and participating in this Festival. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the teachers, adjudicators, volunteers, and organisers whose tireless efforts ensure the continued success of ASBOF. Together, you are shaping not only outstanding musicians but thoughtful, compassionate, and committed future Australian citizens.

I encourage all participants to savour this experience, to listen deeply, to perform boldly, and to celebrate the joy of making music together. May the 2025 Festival be a memorable chapter in your musical journey.

Warmest regards,

Dr Anita Collins

Patron
Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival

YUCAI NO.2 PRIMARY SCHOOL WIND BAND, CHINA

Founded in 2014 in Shenzhen, China—a hub of innovation and cultural exchange—the Yucai No.2 Primary School Wind Band has evolved into a model of excellence in youth music education.

Guided by a meticulously designed, multi-tiered teaching program, the band emphasizes both technical mastery and artistic expression. Members undergo rigorous daily training sessions, blending foundational skill development with advanced ensemble rehearsals to cultivate well-rounded musicianship.

The band's repertoire spans classical masterpieces, contemporary compositions, and culturally rich adaptations, ensuring members experience the joy of music while developing critical listening and interpretive skills. Regular collaborations with guest artists and performances at world-class stages,

such as the Shenzhen Concert Hall, further enrich students' artistic horizons. Committed to holistic growth, the Yucai Wind Band not only shapes skilled young musicians but also cultivates future leaders who embody creativity, teamwork, and a lifelong passion for the arts.

During their time in Australia the band has enjoyed a workshop with some of Sydney's most respected music educators and have been hosted by the staff and students of Lane Cove Public School.

The members of the Yucai No.2 Primary School Wind Band look forward to participating in the 2025 Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival.



CAMPBELLTOWN-CAMDEN DISTRICT BAND

Serving the Macarthur Community in Music.

CCDB, founded in 1946, is comprised of a wind ensemble, marching band, stage band, daytime group, a youth ensemble and a progressive training program for all ages. Regular engagements include Anzac Day marches and commemorations, Australia Day and Fisher's Ghost Festival parades and celebrations, Relay for Life/24 Hour Fight Against Cancer. We also play weddings, netball season openings, football matches and a variety of other community and private events.

We provide for, and welcome, players of all levels and instruments - all that is required is a love of music. For more information on playing with, or hiring, a band, visit our website ccdb.org.au



INSPIRATIONAL
EDUCATIONAL
MOTIVATIONAL

Welcome from the General Manager

PAT DEVERY



On behalf of the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival team, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to ASBOF 2025.

Since its founding in 1962, the Festival has been built on a simple yet powerful idea: that music has the extraordinary ability to inspire, connect, and transform young lives. Today, that vision remains at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to provide a platform where students from across Australia can come together, share their artistry, and celebrate the dedication and hard work that music education demands.

Each year, we are humbled by the extraordinary commitment shown by students, conductors, music educators, families, and school communities. Your enthusiasm and support ensure that our musical traditions are not only preserved but are also continually renewed and reimagined for future generations.

The Festival is not a competition - it is an educative experience where ensembles can focus on their own musical growth. It is a place where young musicians can take bold steps, find their voice, and be recognised for their skill, dedication, and commitment. It is about learning, listening, and being inspired by one another. Whether you leave the stage with a gold award or simply with a sense of pride in your performance, know that your contribution is valued and celebrated.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome an outstanding panel of adjudicators and educators who will provide expert feedback to help ensembles continue their musical journey. We are equally excited to witness the incredible diversity of repertoire, styles, and ideas that each performance brings to the Festival stage.

I offer my deepest thanks to all those who make ASBOF possible — our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and, most importantly, the school leaders, teachers and families who support these young musicians every step of the way. Your belief in the power of music makes a lasting difference.

To all participating ensembles: we invite you to perform with heart, to listen with curiosity, and to celebrate not just your own achievements, but those of your fellow musicians. Congratulations on being part of this special event.

Welcome to ASBOF 2025 — may it be a Festival full of inspiration, learning, and unforgettable music-making.

Pat Devery

General Manager

Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival



UNSW
SYDNEY

Music Performance Unit

The Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of UNSW's Music Performance Unit

Event Criteria

This overview of the event criteria provides parents, school leadership teams and general audience members with an insight into where their ensemble currently sits in the broader school instrumental music context.

The ASBOF is a non-competitive and educational event, therefore Music Directors are encouraged to select an event level which will challenge their ensemble and the individual musicians therein to continue developing their musical ability. We are aware that school ensembles change personnel from year to year. It is our expectation that schools consistently achieving gold ratings will look to challenge themselves by moving to a higher event level. Parents and school leadership teams should be aware that a band moving to a higher level may take a year or two to attain the standard capable of achieving a Gold award in that event category.

It runs counter to the philosophy of the Festival for a school to select an event level below the ability of their ensemble in order to ensure a Gold award. Parents and school leadership teams are encouraged to support MDs in continually challenging the students as they mature the instrumental program within their school.

Since 2015 it has been mandatory for all ensembles participating in the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival to perform an Australian music item at all Festival event levels. The rationale behind this is to promote a home grown Australian music culture and to support the many Australian artists who are currently composing and arranging for school ensembles.

All ensembles entering the Festival are required to:

- Present a contrasting program. A slow melody, lyrical/tone piece allows the adjudicator to assess the musical capabilities of the ensemble.
- Perform a program which complies with the time requirements of the section they have entered.
- Include at least one Australian composition in their program.

SECONDARY SCHOOL WIND BAND CRITERIA

The PERCY GRAINGER Event: Secondary School Concert Bands, Premier Event

Music Guide: Grade 5.0 and upwards. Total playing time: 20-25 minutes

This is the Premier Event of the Festival and is open to secondary school concert bands of the highest ability level.

The JODIE BLACKSHAW Event: Secondary School Concert Bands – Advanced

Music Guide: Grade 4.0 and upwards (at least one Grade 5.0) Total playing time: 20 minutes

For established bands performing at a high level or which may lack the complete instrumentation to qualify for The Percy Grainger Event.

The DAVID STANHOPE Event: Secondary School Concert Bands – Advanced

Music Guide: Grade 3.0 and upwards (at least one Grade 4.0) Total playing time: 15 minutes

This event is intended for established bands which perform at a high level, comprised mostly of accomplished players typically having played for three or more years. These bands will have a broad range of instrumentation, including any scored percussion.

The GRAHAM LLOYD Event: Secondary School Concert Bands - Advanced

Music Guide: Grade 2.5 (at least one Grade 3.0-3.5) Total playing time: 13 minutes

This event is intended for established bands which perform at a good level, comprised mostly of competent players typically having played for three or more years.

The RAYMOND HANSON Event: Secondary School Concert Bands - Intermediate

Music Guide: Grade 1.5 and upwards (at least one 2.0-2.5) Total playing time: 11 minutes

This event is intended for developing bands which perform at a competent level. Players in these bands will typically have played for one to three years.

The GEORGE DREYFUS Event: Secondary School Concert Bands - Beginner to Intermediate

Music Guide: Up to Grade 1.5 Total playing time: 9 minutes

This event is intended for bands which perform at an elementary level from schools with a single band program or development bands in schools with established programs. Players in these bands will typically be first or second year players.

SECONDARY SCHOOL BIG BAND CRITERIA

The FRANK COUGHLAN Event: Premier Big Band Event – Invitation ONLY

Music Guide: 25 minute contrasting program

The Premier Big Band event of the Festival, for bands consisting of the traditional big band line up. Artistic Director, John Morrison, will determine which bands are eligible from year to year. Bands are expected to feature soloists (including vocals) and must adhere as closely as possible to the traditional big band instrumentation. This event may take place in a commercial environment (a club auditorium or similar).

The JUDY BAILEY Event: Secondary School Big Bands – Advanced

Total playing time: 20 minutes (4 pieces max)

Open to all secondary school big bands playing at an advanced level. It is expected that bands playing in this event will attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instrumentation where possible.

The DON BURROWS Event: Secondary School Big Bands – Advanced

Total playing time: 15 minutes (3 pieces max)

This event is open to all secondary school big bands playing at an intermediate to advanced level. It is permissible for bands in this section to use alternative instrumentation, although it is expected they attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instruments where possible.

The JOHN MORRISON Event: Secondary School Big Bands - Novice

Total playing time: 10 minutes

This event is open to secondary school big bands which perform at an elementary level including Training Band/Beginner Bands from established band programs, newly formed bands with typical first year players, or players who have not previously performed in public. Electronic instruments (keyboard bass etc - up to 4) are permitted in this section.

SECONDARY SCHOOL STRING ENSEMBLE CRITERIA

The ERNEST LLEWELLYN Premier Event for Secondary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Grade 3.0 and above. Playing time: 15 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a high level, comprised mostly of accomplished players typically having played for three or more years. These ensembles will have a strong coverage of all sections, including any scored percussion.

The LORETA FIN Event for Secondary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Grade 1.0 - 2.5 and above. Playing time: 12 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a good level, comprised mostly of competent players typically having played for three or more years.

The DONALD HAZELWOOD Event for Secondary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Up to ensemble level 1.5. Includes unison playing. Open string parts permitted.

Playing time: 8 minutes

This event is intended for ensembles which perform at an elementary level from schools with a single ensemble program or a development ensemble in schools with established programs. Players in these ensembles will typically be first or second year players.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CRITERIA

The RICHARD GILL Premier Event for Secondary School Orchestras

Music Guide: Open. Playing time: 18 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a high level, comprised mostly of accomplished players typically having played for three or more years. These ensembles will have a strong instrumentation coverage of all sections, including any scored percussion.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CONCERT BAND CRITERIA

The ALEX LITHGOW Event: Primary School Concert Bands, Premier Event

Music Guide: Grade 2.5 and upwards. Time limit: 15-18 minutes

The Premier Event for Primary School Bands demanding a high standard of musicianship across a range of instrumentation. Bands are expected to use the instrumentation as scored. Substituting in electronic instruments would typically exclude a band from this premier event.

The WILLIAM LOVELOCK Event: Primary School Concert Bands - Advanced

Music Guide: Grade 2.0 – 2.5 Time limit: 12 minutes

Intended for established bands which have been performing at a high level for several years whose players are competent, but which may lack the instrumentation to qualify for the Alex Lithgow Event.

The JOE COOK Event: Primary School Concert Bands - Advanced

Music Guide: Grade 1.5 – 2.0 Time limit: 10 minutes

Intended for established bands which have been performing at a good level for some years or Lovelock/Lithgow level bands which are in the process of rebuilding. Competent players with two or more year's experience.

The ROBERT McANALLY Event: Primary School Concert Bands - Intermediate

Music Guide: Grade 1.0-1.5 Time limit: 8 minutes

Intended for developing bands formed for more than twelve months, which play at a competent level and whose players have had 12 months or more experience playing their instrument. This section may include more experienced bands with limited instrumentation.

The WILBUR SAMPSON Event: Primary School Concert Bands – Beginner Bands

Music Guide: Grade 0.5-1.0 Time limit: 6 minutes

Intended for beginner bands formed this school year, schools with newly established band programs and bands whose players have been learning for fewer than twelve months.

PRIMARY SCHOOL BIG BAND CRITERIA

The ED WILSON Event: Primary School Big Bands - Open

Time limit: 12 minutes (3 pieces max)

Intended for established bands which have been performing at a competent level. Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals) and are expected, as far as possible, to restrict themselves to the traditional big band instrumentation. Rescoring for up to four (4) electronic instruments (e.g. Keyboard bass) is permissible.

The GRAEME BELL Event: For Primary School Big Bands - Novice

Time limit: 8 minutes (2 pieces max)

Intended for bands formed within 12 months performing at an elementary level or training bands from an established band program. Players typically first or second year players. Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals) and are expected, as far as possible, to restrict themselves to the traditional big band instrumentation. Rescoring for up to four (4) electronic instruments (e.g. Keyboard bass) is permissible.

PRIMARY SCHOOL STRING ENSEMBLE CRITERIA

The BRETT DEAN Premier Event for Primary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Grade 2.5 and above. Playing time: 12 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a high level, comprised mostly of accomplished players typically having played for three or more years. These ensembles will have a strong coverage of all sections, including any scored percussion.

The DULCIE HOLLAND Event for Primary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Grade 1.0-2.0 Playing time: 8 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a good level, comprised mostly of competent players typically having played for three or more years.

The NIGEL BUTTERLEY Event for Primary School String Ensembles

Music Guide: Up to ensemble level 1.0. Includes unison playing. Open string parts permitted.

Playing time: 6 minutes

This event is intended for ensembles which perform at an elementary level from schools with a single ensemble program or a development ensemble in schools with established programs. Players in these ensembles will typically be first or second year players.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CRITERIA

The ELENA KATS-CHERNIN Premier Event for Secondary School Orchestras

Music Guide: Open. Playing time: 12 minutes

This event is intended for established ensembles which perform at a high level, comprised mostly of accomplished players typically having played for three or more years. These ensembles will have a strong instrumentation coverage of all sections, including any scored percussion.

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Wednesday 25 February, 2026

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SHORE





Adjudicator

JODIE BLACKSHAW

Jodie Blackshaw (b. 1971) is a proud regional Australian who grew up in the south-east of rural Australia (Wiradjuri) and formed a very personal relationship with music early in life through the creative application of her imagination to musical colours and movement.

In 2020 Jodie completed her PhD in Composition studying with Carl Vine and later, Australian indigenous composer Dr. Christopher Sainsbury. Her music has been featured as test pieces in state and national competitions, appears on numerous state curriculum repertoire lists and has been performed by numerous school and professional ensembles throughout Australasia, Europe and the Americas.

Jodie has thrice presented at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago (2012, 2014, 2018) and is published by Manhattan Beach Music, GIA Music Inc., Alfred Music and is exclusively distributed by Brolga Music/C. Alan Publications.

In July 2022 Jodie proudly became a board member of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE).



Adjudicator

JOHN KOENIG

Dr. John R. "Rusty" Koenig completed his doctoral degree in instrumental conducting at the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music, studying with Glen Adsit and Edward Cumming. At Hartt he co-directed the Symphony Band, Wind Ensemble, the Foot in the Door contemporary ensemble and served on the conducting and music theory faculties.

John has conducted bands and orchestras in Italy and Bulgaria. He has collaborated with leading composers including Shuying Li, Susan Botti, Michael Torke, Gilda Lyons, and Joseph Schwanter. A proponent of new music, he has premiered over fifteen works in the last three years, including the world premiere of Joseph Schwanter's newest percussion concerto, *Fast Track: Concerto for Percussion and Wind Ensemble*.

John has recently been an adjudicator and clinician for the 2025 Six Flags festival at Stratford High. He has also been adjudicator for the Connecticut Music Education Association's regional honor bands from 2023 until the present.



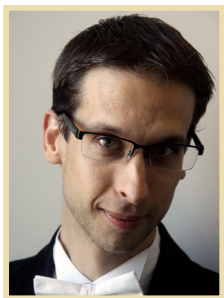
Adjudicator

KATRINA PAPALLO

Katrina Papallo obtained her Bachelor's degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and during her time there, was awarded two performance scholarships. She enjoys conducting string ensembles in several schools; mainly situated in the Northern districts.

Katrina plays violin professionally in a number of orchestras, musical societies, and is Director of her String Quartet; Carinya Strings, which performs at weddings and other special occasions. Katrina is a regular Assessor at the Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival, and adjudicated for Ryde Eisteddfod in 2021 - 2024.

Katrina is a proud member of the ASBOF Advisory Board, and is happy to assist with any queries relating to strings. She looks forward to hearing your performances today.



Adjudicator

PAUL VICKERS

BMus Studies (Perf), Grad Dip Ed, MMus (Perf - Conducting), MACEL

Paul Vickers is a passionate music educator, educational leader, conductor, consultant and coach. Since 2018, he has been the music director of the Wind Symphony at the University of NSW, where he has also lectured in Music Education.

Paul completed a Master of Music degree in conducting at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, a Bachelor of Music Studies (Performance) on trombone from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, a Graduate Diploma in Education, and is currently completing a Graduate Diploma in Organisational Coaching.

Paul is a regular contributor to professional journals, boards and advisory panels, an experienced adjudicator, speaker, clinician and guest conductor, across orchestral, wind band and jazz genres, and is regularly sought after as a consultant and coach.

Paul currently oversees a school campus as the Head of Middle School at The Scots College, Sydney.



Adjudicator

JOHN MORRISON

John Morrison has delighted audiences for more than 25 years with his humour and dedication to sounds that swing. Equally at home in a small group or big band setting, his musical facility runs the entire spectrum from traditional jazz, swing, Bebop, R&B, Soul and commercial jazz rock.

As well as fronting his own band, *Swing City*, John has played with a variety of other well-known artists including James Moody, Scott Hamilton, Richie Cole, John and Jeff Clayton, Garry Dial, Jimmy Whitherspoon, Eartha Kitt, Don Burrows, George Golla, and Bob Barnard.

John is well known for his efforts in music education and has been deeply involved with the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival for many years as an adjudicator, clinician and as the Artistic Director of the Frank Coughlan Premier Big Band event. As a testimony to the esteem in which John is held, a Festival event has been named in his honour.

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Adjudicator

RACHEL POGSON

Originally from Orange in rural NSW, Rachel Pogson is a freelance cellist, string specialist and conductor with a special interest in ensemble pedagogy. She studied 'cello with Susan Blake at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and Anthea Scott-Mitchell at Newcastle Conservatorium.

In 2005 Rachel became Head of Strings at Burwood Girls High School, conducted orchestras at Fort St High School, Sydney Girls High School, Annandale North Public School, Forest Lodge Public and spent many years conducting Sydney Youth Orchestras Strings program.

In 2019 Rachel received the Louise Crossley Scholarship through the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, working with Elana Schwarz in their Australian Conducting Academy.

Rachel is currently head of the music program at Leichhardt Public School, teaches chamber music at the Conservatorium High School, runs workshops for primary and secondary string orchestras throughout greater Sydney and maintains a wonderful studio of private 'cello students at Newtown Performing Arts High.



Adjudicator

MEGAN LIPWORTH

Megan Lipworth is a dedicated music educator and dynamic conductor of bands and orchestras, working in a variety of schools and community arts organisations, including ASBOF's affiliated ensemble, Bondi Brass.

Meg trained as a professional percussionist at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University, has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Macquarie University, and has begun her Master of Teaching.

Meg is a song writer and producer, a dancer, and an early-childhood entertainer. Her accolades and achievements include an ARIA Awards nomination for Best Children's Album with her band 'TIPTOE GIANTS'.

As a conductor and instrumental tutor Meg has had a long tenure working as a conductor and tutor in percussion and vocals with the Department of Education's Arts Unit, including their State Music Camps, and other premiere organisations such as the Sydney Youth Orchestras. She was also the 2020 recipient of the ASBOF Cliff Goodchild Scholarship for Conducting.

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Adjudicator

GERALD STEINMANN

Gerald commenced his professional music career in the military where he performed at many vice-regal occasions, including the Mounting of the Royal Guards at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, and was recognised an award-winning musician.

Gerald currently directs ensembles across schools from Sydney to the far north coast of NSW, as well as being engaged as a performer, composer, arranger, advisor, adjudicator, event consultant, and guest conductor.

Gerald has adjudicated at many events, including the Sydney Eisteddfod and the Yamaha Band Festival. Gerald has a long association with ASBOF as a music director, adjudicator, and clinician at ASBOF music educator conferences. Gerald is a member of the ASBOF Advisory Board and is also the ASBOF specialist percussion advisor.

Gerald is the recipient of an ARIA Gold Record Award, holds a Graduate Diploma of Music and continues to perform with a multitude of bands and orchestras throughout NSW and QLD.

Music Scholarships at SCEGGS Darlinghurst

Do you have a passion for music, exceptional talent for your age, and are seeking to learn in a musically rich and exciting educational environment? SCEGGS Darlinghurst invites applications from outstanding young performers to be part of our vibrant music program.

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Adjudicator

SIMON SWEENEY

Simon Sweeney is professional trumpet player, composer and educator based in Sydney. Simon holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium of music and a Diploma of Law from the Legal Professional Admissions Board.

Simon is a studio musician and has been prolific in the live music scene since 1993. He has appeared as guest Principal trumpet with the SSO, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, the Adelaide Symphony and the Tasmanian Symphony. Film recording credits include *Happy Feet*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Extra*, *Hotel Transylvania 2*, and *The Bank*.

Simon is currently director of Jazz bands at Moriah College, Music Director of The Arts Unit Jazz Orchestra and director of the Leichhardt Public School Big Band. He directs Con Jazz Orchestra 2 (of 4). He has appeared as a clinician for ABODA NSW and has presented a clinic at ANBOC in early July 2024.



Adjudicator

LORETA FIN

LMusA, AMusA, ATCL

Born in Sydney, Loreta studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and was a first violinist with the Sydney Youth Orchestra. She moved to Brisbane in 1988 and has been the Principal Viola player with the Qld Pops Orchestra for over 25 years.

Loreta has presented at conferences all over Australia and was invited to present at the 2007 and 2009 American String Teachers' Association Conferences in Albuquerque and Atlanta. Loreta has written over 90 publications for young string orchestras, and are distributed worldwide by Alfred Publishing.

As a member of the Australian Strings Association (AUSTA) for over 25 years, Loreta has served as both State and National President and is currently on the National Consultancy Committee. She received the State Award for Services to Austa in 2009, and in 2015 she received the National Award for Services to Music and Excellence in String Teaching in Australia.

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Adjudicator

JASON ISAAC

Jason Isaac has been conducting orchestras, symphonic bands, and jazz ensembles for over 20 years. Currently Director of Bands at Ashbury Public, Newtown HS of the Performing Arts, Willoughby Girls High, and Director of Jazz at St Andrew's College, Sydney University; Jason also works at The NSW Department of Education Arts Unit as conductor of the NSW Public Schools' Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the NSW Public Schools' Symphony Orchestra.

In 2008 he travelled to the US to study with Victor Lewis, Jeff Hirschfield, Gregory Hutchinson and Carl Allen (Julliard). In 2009 Jason was accepted into the Symphony Services International Conductor Development Program. In 2014, Jason made his conducting debut to acclaim at Chicago's Midwest Clinic and is currently the Assistant Musica Director of the NSW Schools' Spectacular.

Jason holds a BMus(Perf), and a DipMus(JazzPerf) from the Sydney Conservatorium, and a Masters of Teaching from the University of Sydney.



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Adjudicator

JOAN THORP

Joan Thorp is the Managing Director of one of Australia's leading music publishing companies, Thorp Music. She has published over 250 works for bands, orchestras and ensembles. Joan enjoys regular praise for her creative and inspiring music for school bands.

Joan's outstanding record as a music educator has seen her direct the Junior State Band Camp Concert Band as well as the NSW Senior State Wind Ensemble. Joan's career has included directing a professional corporate function band, "Abracadabra", teaching, performing, adjudicating, guest-conducting as well as earning state and national championship titles on French Horn. She has also received an ATCL for French Horn, an AMusA for Theory of Music and a LMusA in Orchestration and Arrangement. Joan is accredited by the Australian Music Teachers' Association, the Music Arrangers' Guild of Australia and the Australian Band & Orchestra Directors' Association.

Joan has had a long association with the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival and looks forward to adjudicating again this year.

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- GRADE 1 -

Down Under *arr. J. Thorp*
Advance Australia Fair (Grade 1) *arr. J. Thorp*
Snake Charmer *arr. J. Thorp*
Volcano! *by A. Hallam*
Kung Fu *by A. Hallam*
Waltzing Matilda *arr. J. Thorp*
The Sword of Destiny *by A. Hallam*
Cops and Robbers *by A. Hallam*
Stadium Rock *by A. Hallam*

- GRADE 1.5 -

Bluey (theme) *arr. J. Thorp*
The Unknown Soldier *by A. Hallam*
Australian Medley No.1 *arr. M. Butcher*
Australian Medley No.2 *arr. M. Butcher*
Blew Bottle Blues *by G. Butcher*
A Brown Slouch Hat *arr. J. Thorp*
Haunted *by A. Hallam*
Swinging Saxes *by M. Butcher*
The Clarinets Polka *by M. Butcher*
Advance Australia Fair *arr. M. Butcher*
Waltzing Matilda *arr. M. Butcher*

- GRADE 2 -

Space Quest *by A. Hallam*
Transylvanian Dances *by A. Hallam*
Carnival Capers *by G. Butcher*

- GRADE 2.5 -

Liquorice Allsorts *by M. Butcher*
I Still Call Australia Home *arr. J. Thorp*

- GRADE 3 -

You're the Voice *arr. J. Thorp*
Starlight *by A. Hallam*
Exuberance *by A. Hallam*
Jazzin' Around *by G. Butcher*
Ragtime Square *by G. Butcher*
Captain Thunderbolt *by A. Hallam*

- GRADE 4 -

A Centivintennial Overture *by G. Butcher*
Phaeton *by A. Hallam*
The Man from Snowy River *arr. B. Bignell*
Kurrajong *by A. Hallam*
Music for a Jubilant Occasion *by G. Butcher*

- GRADE 5 -

Kangaroo Hill *by E. Johnson*
Surfonic Winds *by A. Hallam*
Parapet Crenellations *by G. Butcher*



Adjudicator

REBECCA MORRIS

Rebecca Morris is a committed, dynamic, and passionate Music Professional and Teacher, with over 15 years' experience directing and conducting a wide variety of highly successful and competitive music ensembles across all musical styles. She is currently employed as 'Director of Instrumental Music' at Knox Grammar School and works closely with a number of Upper North Shore Co-Educational Public Schools and Community Bands. She offers an innovative and collaborative approach to engaging children in the love of music and performance, together with the ability to supervise and motivate staff while incorporating modern technology and energy in the classroom environment.

Rebecca is a highly skilled and experienced Director, Band Conductor and Teacher of all musical styles – Concert Bands Jazz/Stage Bands, Performance and Training Bands, rock / pop, Marching Bands, Percussion Ensembles, Guitar Ensembles, Orchestras and small Chamber Ensembles.



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Adjudicator

DEBORAH L DIETZ

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, USA, Ms. Dietz has been associated with music education since her arrival in Sydney in 1975. Ms. Dietz's main instrument is the French Horn, having played Principal horn with the Ku Ring Gai Philharmonic Orchestra for over 25 years, as well as having performed with the AOBO and various professional and community organisations, including Bondi Brass.

Ms. Dietz holds Bachelor of Science (Hon) and Master of Science (Hon) degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, USA, majoring in instrumental conducting, studying with Dr. Harry Begian and Mr. Paul Vermel. During her time in the U of I Symphonic Band, she performed in recording the works of Percy Grainger, considered the best of his wind works by the Grainger Museum, University of Melbourne.

Ms. Dietz was the first woman to adjudicate the NSW School Band Festival, now ASBOF, and is a member of ASBOF Advisory Board.

A CULMINATION OF YEARS, NOT JUST REHEARSALS

When we watch a school music performance, it's easy to think of it as the result of a few weeks of intense rehearsal. But the truth is, these moments on stage are the culmination of years of music learning, years spent developing the technical skills, emotional resilience, and cognitive flexibility required to play an instrument and perform publicly.

This isn't just about music. It's about persistence, focus, collaboration, and confidence. All built note by note, mistake by mistake, over time.

The benefits of learning music stretch well beyond the rehearsal room. Students build stronger memory systems, improve their capacity to manage stress, and develop the ability to listen, to themselves, to each other, and to their world. Research shows that strong, sustained instrumental music programs across Australia are linked to improved academic achievement, better engagement with learning, and the confidence to take on new and complex challenges.

But music learning doesn't sell itself. We must advocate, constantly. That means sharing the benefits in big, obvious ways like concerts and open nights, and in small, quiet ones too.

A comment to the business manager, a hallway conversation with a parent. Advocacy lives in both the spotlight and the margins.

If we want music learning to stay central in schools, we must make its value visible, over and over again. Every performance is proof. Every learner, a living example.

Anita Collins

ASBOF Patron

BBB (Bigger, Better Brains)

Dr Anita Collins is the Festival Patron and the founder and director of Bigger Better Brains. We work to translate the powerful science behind music learning into practical tools that help schools, teachers, and parents advocate with confidence. We connect cutting-edge research with everyday teaching, showing how learning music grows stronger learners, sharper thinkers, and more connected communities. Every resource we create helps you speak clearly about the value of music.



Adjudicator

ANDREW McWADE

Andrew has been Director of Bands at Barker College since 2015 and is also the founding music director of the North Shore Wind Symphony. He holds two degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music: a Bachelor of Music Education, with a principal study in saxophone, and a Master of Music Studies in Conducting.

Andrew has been a guest conductor for many high school ensembles, representative combined high school music camps and university ensembles..

Andrew has been fortunate to study and learn from many of Australia's leading music educators and has also participated in international conducting symposiums. He is the Vice-President of the NSW Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA), where he organises and leads professional development courses.

In 2017, 2018 and 2019 Andrew received the ABODA Prize for the conductor who prepared the most challenging and entertaining program of the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festivals.

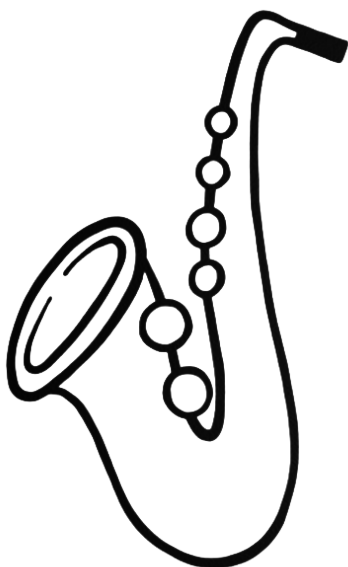


Adjudicator

DR JIM COYLE

Dr Jim Coyle is on the permanent faculty at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he lectures in Music Education. His current research is largely focussed on the idea of poly-technicality, that is music with parts for players of differing levels of skill. This is an idea which is reflected in many of Jim's compositions for school band, including the Spotlight concerto series and the OurBand series for elementary level bands. His concert band music is published in Australia by Mattklohs.com and in the USA by Maestro and Fox.

Jim is also a conductor, a mentor for young composers, leader of professional learning for music teachers and a popular pre-concert speaker for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has occasionally been observed playing the tuba.



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A FULL LIST OF ALL PARTICIPATING ENSEMBLES

Wilbur Sampson Primary School Concert Band Event

Ashbury Public School Training Band	Middle Harbour Public School Training Band
Balgowlah Heights Public School Junior Band	Mimosa Public School Training Band
Beaumont Rd Public School Junior Band	Neutral Bay Public School Junior Band
Beecroft Public School Training Band	Normanhurst Public School Training Band
Cherrybrook Public School Training Band	Normanhurst West Public School Training Band
Clovelly Public School Training Band	Northbridge Public School Training Band
Crestwood Public School Junior Band	Pennant Hills Public School Training Band
Epping Heights Public School Training Band	Pymble Public School Junior Band
Epping North Public School Training Band	Roseville Public School Junior Band
Epping West Public School Training Band	Rouse Hill Anglican College Beginner Band
Hornsby North Public School Junior Band	St Ives North Public School Training Band
Knox Junior Band	Tempe Public School Training Band
Lane Cove West Public School Training Band	The King's School Preparatory School Year 3 Band
Lindfield East Public School Training Band	Thornleigh West Public School Training Band
Lindfield Public School Junior Band	Turramurra North Public School Junior Band
Manly West Public School Training Band	Wahroonga Public School Beginner Band
Matthew Pearce Public School Junior Band	Willoughby Public School Training Band

Robert McAnally Primary School Concert Band Event

Ashbury Public School Intermediate Band	Matthew Pearce Public School Intermediate Band
Balgowlah Heights Public School Senior Band	Middle Harbour Public School Senior Band
Barker College Junior School Concert Band	Pennant Hills Public School Intermediate Concert Band
Beaumont Road Public School Intermediate Band	Pymble Public School Concert Band
Beecroft Public School Intermediate Band	Randwick Public School Performance Band
Cherrybrook Public School Intermediate Band	Riverview Regis Concert Band
Clovelly Public School Intermediate Band	Roseville Public School Intermediate Band
Crestwood Public School Senior Band	Rouse Hill Anglican College Intermediate Band
Epping Heights Public School Intermediate Band	Samuel Gilbert P.S. Concert Band
Epping North Public School Concert Band	SCEGGS Darlinghurst Bugles' Band
Epping West Public School Intermediate Band	St Augustine's College, Sydney Concert Band 2
Griffith East Public School Performance Band	St Ives North Public School Junior Concert Band
Hornsby North Public School Intermediate Band	Stanmore Public School Senior band
Kincoppal Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart Junior Concert Band	The King's School Preparatory School Intermediate Concert Band
Knox Intermediate Band	Thornleigh West Public School Junior Band
Lane Cove West Public School Intermediate Band	Wahroonga Public School Intermediate Band
Lindfield Public School Intermediate Band	Wilkins Public School Concert Band
Manly West Public School Intermediate Band	Willoughby Public School Intermediate Band

Joe Cook Primary School Concert Band Event

Barker College Junior School Wind Orchestra	Forest Lodge PS Concert Band
Beaumont Road Public School Performance Band	Knox Senior Band
Cherrybrook Public School Concert Band	Lane Cove West Public School Senior Band
Clovelly Public School Senior Band	Lindfield East Public School Concert Band
Crestwood Public School Concert Band	Manly West Public School Concert Band
Emanuel School Wind Band	Middle Harbour Public School Concert Band
Epping Heights Public School Concert Band	Mimosa Public School Intermediate Band

Joe Cook Primary School Concert Band Event (Continued)

Neutral Bay Public School Senior Band	Redlands Junior Performance Band
Newington College Wyvern Winds	Rouse Hill Anglican College Performance Band
Normanhurst Public School Concert Band	Samuel Gilbert P.S. Performance Band
Normanhurst West Public school Concert Band	Tempe Public School Band
Northbridge Public School Concert Band	Turrumurra North Public School Performance Band
Oatley West Public School Concert Band	Willoughby Public School Performing Band
Pennant Hills Public School Senior Concert Band	

William Lovelock Primary School Concert Band Event

Balgowlah Heights Public School Concert Band	Mimosa Public School Senior Band
Barker College Junior School Wind Ensemble	Murray Farm PS Performance Band
Beecroft Public School Concert Band	Neutral Bay Public School Concert Band
Epping North Public School Senior Band	Pymble Public School Performance Ensemble
Epping West Public School Senior Band	Roseville Public School Senior Band
Gordon West Public School Senior Concert Band	St Ives North Public School Senior Concert Band
Hornsby North Public School Wind Ensemble	The King's School Preparatory School Concert Band
Knox Performance Ensemble	Thornleigh West Public School Senior Band
Lindfield East Public School Performance Band	Wahroonga Public School Concert Band
Lindfield Public School Concert Band	Waitara Public School Senior Wind Ensemble
Manly West Public School Performance Band	Warrabee Public School Performance Band

Alex Lithgow Primary School Concert Band Premier Event

Ashbury Public School Concert Band	Matthew Pearce Public School Senior Band
Beecroft Public School Senior Concert Band	Yucai No.2 Primary School Wind Band, China

Elena Kats-Chernin Primary School Orchestra Event

Beecroft Public School Orchestra	Knox Prep Symphony Orchestra
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Graeme Bell Primary School Big Band Event

Clovelly Public School Stage Band	Newington College Wyvern Jazz
Epping Heights Public School Stage Band	Tempe Public School Big Band

Ed Wilson Primary School Big Band Event

Beecroft Public School Stage Band	Wahroonga Public School Stage Band
Pymble Public School Stage Band	

Nigel Butterley Primary School String Ensemble Event

Beecroft Public School Training String Ensemble	SCEGGS Darlinghurst Stringalong
Epping West Public School Beginner String Ensemble	St Ives North Public School Elementary Strings
Knox Grammar Preparatory School String Ensemble	St Ives North Public School Junior Strings
Murray Farm Public School - Minuet Ensemble	

Dulcie Holland Primary School String Ensemble Event

Arden Concertante	Newington College Wyvern Strings
Beecroft Public School Intermediate String Ensemble	Redlands Junior String Ensemble
Epping Heights Public School String Ensemble	SCEGGS Darlinghurst Sinfonietta
Epping West Public School Intermediate String Ensemble	St Ives North Public School Intermediate Strings
Knox Grammar Preparatory School Camerata Strings	The Scots College Junior Preparatory String Ensemble
Lane Cove Public School Sibelius Strings Ensemble	Willoughby Public School Strings Ensemble
Murray Farm Public School - Andante Ensemble	

Brett Dean Primary School String Ensemble Premier Event

Arden Chamber Strings

Beecroft Public School String Ensemble

Epping West Public School Senior String Ensemble

Knox Grammar Preparatory School Concert Strings

North Rocks PS Senior String Ensemble

SCEGGS Darlinghurst Chamber Strings

St Ives North Public School String Orchestra

George Dreyfus Secondary School Concert Band Event

Rosebank College Concert Band

St Joseph's College Hunter's Hill Cerise and Blue

Sydney Secondary College Junior Band

Raymond Hanson Secondary School Concert Band Event

Abbotsleigh School Concert Band

Baulkham Hills High School Concert Band

Emanuel School Concert Band

Epping Boys High School Concert Band

Georges River College Combined Campus Concert Band

James Ruse Year 7 Concert Band

Kirrawee High School Concert Band

Reddam Combined Concert Band

Redfield College Concert Band

Redlands Intermediate Concert Band

Riverina Combined Schools Band

Riverview Intermediate Concert Band

Rouse Hill Anglican College Concert Band

SCEGGS Darlinghurst Clarion Concert Band

St Joseph's College Hunter's Hill Wind Ensemble

Sydney Secondary College Concert Band

Tangara School for Girls Concert Band

The King's School Middle School Concert Band

The Scots College Fortune Wind Ensemble

Graham Lloyd Secondary School Concert Band Event

Abbotsleigh School Wind Band

Asquith Boys and Girls High School Concert Band

Barker College Kurrajong Wind Ensemble

Barker College McCaskill Wind Ensemble

Baulkham Hills High School Symphonic Wind Orchestra

Concord High School Concert Band

Emanuel School Symphonic Winds

James Ruse Wind Orchestra

Macarthur Anglican School Concert Band

Manly Campus Concert Band

Mount St Benedict College Concert Band

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts Concert Band

Normanhurst Boys High School Junior Concert Band

Northholm Grammar School Concert Band

Pennant Hills High School Concert Band 2

Riverview Symphonic Wind Band

Rosebank College Wind Symphony

SCEGGS Darlinghurst Holst Wind Ensemble

St Augustine's College, Sydney Concert Band 1

St Patrick's College Strathfield Concert Band

Tara Anglican School for Girls Concert Band

The King's School Wind Orchestra

The Scots College Rowden Wind Ensemble

David Stanhope Secondary School Concert Band Event

Asquith Boys and Girls High School Wind Ensemble

Barker College Middle School Wind Orchestra

Canberra Grammar School Fischer Concert Band

Gosford High School Premier Ensemble

Manly Campus Wind Ensemble

Marist Catholic College North Shore Concert Band

NBSC Cromer Campus Concert Band

Normanhurst Boys High School Senior Wind Band

Redlands Advanced Concert Band

Rouse Hill Anglican College Symphonic Wind Ensemble

St Joseph's College Hunter's Hill Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Sydney Secondary College Wind Ensemble

The Scots College Robinson Wind Ensemble

YuWun Wind Band, Taiwan

Jodie Blackshaw Secondary School Concert Band Event

Barker Wind Orchestra

Baulkham Hills High School Symphonic Wind Ensemble

James Ruse Symphonic Band

Killarney Heights High School Symphonic Winds

Kirrawee High School Wind Orchestra

Manly Campus Symphonic Wind Orchestra

Northholm Grammar School Symphonic Wind Ensemble

St Luke's Grammar Wind Ensemble

Sydney Secondary College Wind Orchestra

Percy Grainger Secondary School Concert Band Premier Event

Barker Wind Symphony

The King's School Symphonic Band

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Richard Gill Secondary School Orchestra Premier Event

Baulkham Hills High School Orchestra

St Patrick's College Strathfield Orchestra

James Ruse Chamber Orchestra

Sydney Secondary College Symphony Orchestra

Manly Campus Chamber Orchestra

The Scots College Symphony Orchestra

Jazz Combo Beginner

St Augustine's College, Sydney Jazz Ensemble 2

John Morrison Secondary School Big Band Event

St Augustine's College, Sydney Big Band 2

Sydney Secondary College Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Combo Advanced

St Augustine's College, Sydney Jazz Ensemble 1

Don Burrows Secondary School Big Band Event

Asquith Boys and Girls High School Jazz Combo

Normanhurst Boys High School Junior Big Band

Asquith Boys High School Stage Band

Pennant Hills High School Junior Stage Band

Asquith Girls High School Stage Band

Redlands Advanced Stage Band

Georges River College Stage Band

Riverview Big Band

James Ruse Stage Band

Rouse Hill Anglican College Jazz Band

Kirrawee High School Stage Band

St Augustine's College, Sydney Big Band 1

Macarthur Anglican School Stage Band

St Joseph's College Hunter's Hill Stage Band

Manly Campus Stage Band

St Patrick's College Strathfield Jazz Orchestra

Mount St Benedict College Big Band

Sydney Secondary College Intermediate Big Band

NBSC Cromer Campus Stage Band

Tara Anglican School for Girls Stage Band

Judy Bailey Secondary School Big Band Event

Killarney Heights High School Big Band

Normanhurst Boys High School Big Band

Kirrawee High School Jazz Orchestra

Sydney Secondary College Jazz Orchestra

Manly Campus Big Band

The Scots College Big Band #1

Loreta Fin Online Secondary School String Ensemble Event

NBSC Cromer Campus String Ensemble

Loreta Fin Secondary School String Ensemble Event

Brigidine College Randwick String Ensemble

Rouse Hill Anglican College Giocosio Strings

Concord High School String Ensemble

Sydney Secondary College String Orchestra

Mount St Benedict College String Ensemble

Ernest Llewellyn Secondary School String Ensemble Premier Event

Baulkham Hills High School String Ensemble

Manly Campus String Ensemble

Canberra Grammar School Senior Chamber Strings

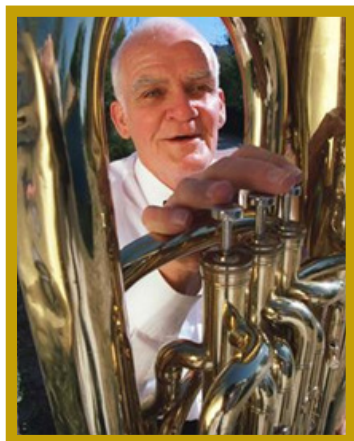
Normanhurst Boys High School String Ensemble

James Ruse String Ensemble

Redlands Combined String Ensemble

Macarthur Anglican School Sinfonia Strings

Sydney Secondary College Chamber Strings



CLIFF GOODCHILD OAM

Scholarship

The Cliff Goodchild OAM Scholarship was established in 2016 to provide ongoing professional development for directors of school band programs.

The Scholarship will fund professional music educators to work as mentors with the recipient in their school context within a twelve month period in areas such as: Conducting and rehearsal technique, repertoire selection, instrumental pedagogy, band program management.

Eligibility

The Cliff Goodchild OAM Scholarship recipient will:

- Be currently working as a Music Director in a NSW primary or secondary school
- Be a current member of ABODA
- Have presented bands at the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival for at least the previous two (2) years
- Have the express support of their school and/or school band committee to undertake the Scholarship program within the coming twelve month period
- Have shown a commitment to engage in professional activities to improve their teacher practice and student learning

See the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival Website
for Application Details



***ASBOF is pleased to announce
Tyler Barnes as the recipient of the 2025 scholarship***

Previous Recipients:

2019 Clare Brassil

2020 Megan Lipworth

2021-2023 Not Awarded

2024 Logan Birchall



KNOW YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Andrew Steindler

Andrew is a long-time member of Bondi Brass' trombone section and is our current Financial Officer. Andrew's mum, Elisabeth, is also a much-valued member of the band family and has previously featured in our Know Your Volunteers section.

How did you start playing a brass instrument?

Whether I ever agreed with signing up to be in the school band or not will be a conversation lost to time, but in Year 3 during one lunchtime I found myself in the school hall, with several other students, being given an instrument. It was a lottery that day. Some kids got saxophones, some got a trumpet, others got a flute or a clarinet, but I won big. Literally. I was given a euphonium!

It wasn't until high school, at the prompting of my music tutor, that I switched to trombone. The motivation was more practical than desire. My tutor had a trombone for sale and playing the trombone was something that had more potential should music ever have become a serious endeavour.

What do you do for your 'real job'?

At university I studied engineering. In my third and fourth years at university I began to specialise. Civil engineering initially and then the sub-discipline of geotechnical engineering. The highlight of this has been the opportunity to work on the construction and development of Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport, which will open in late 2026 to be Sydney's second international gateway airport.

What's your earliest memory of music?

Who can go past seeing the Wiggles before they became big. It would have been in the early nineties and the Vacluse (Kimberley Reserve) playgroup organised for them to come and perform one day.

Favourite music/performer/concert?

Tom Jones, playing at Bitts Park, Carlisle UK. Tom Jones was great; however, nothing can match the reaction of two teenage girls watching a clip of their mother racing up to the stage and throwing a few articles of clothing onto the stage while Tom Jones was singing Sexbomb. Absolutely priceless!

Besides your current instrument what's the one other instrument you would really love to have learnt and why?

The saxophone. I would love to play a ripping saxophone solo. (Sounds like you should have been a child of the 80s!)

What's your earliest memory of ASBOF? How long have you been a volunteer?

My first Festival as volunteer was the final year that the event was held at Randwick Boys High School. That was probably

around 2000. Apart from one or two years when I have taken a holiday to escape my volunteer duties, I have been at every school band festival helping out back stage.

How has ASBOF changed in the time you have been involved?

It has got bigger and embraced technology. When I first started the festival ran over two consecutive weekends in late July and early August. In the lead up to the event there would be a group of us sitting around a table stuffing envelopes with application forms, affixing address addresses and stamps.

Since then, the internet and technology has come along. Communications with schools and band registration is done via the festival's website, and tracking of bands from marshalling area to warm-up rooms to stage is now managed through an app. But the size of the festival has exploded. Three-hundred odd schools, over nine Sundays, in three different venues and running for two months.

What do you most like about ASBOF and why do you volunteer?

Seeing familiar faces each year. Whether it is other volunteers or the music teachers. There is a rhythm to the festival. It has unique appeal to it, that it is not about competition. Yes, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are given to each participating band to reflect their relative skill, but primarily it is a festival of music and education. An opportunity for bands and musicians of whatever skill to be on a stage, to perform for their parents and revel in the opportunity to make music. It's that love and passions for music from all those who attend that keeps bringing me back each year.

If you won the lottery, what would you do?

Pay off the mortgage or maybe even donate some to the band. We are still looking for a new permanent rehearsal venue! (Very generous, Andrew. We just might hold you to that!)

What advice would you give to the young musicians here at today's Festival?

Smile, make music and just have fun!

Yuwun Elementary School Wind Band



The Yuwun Elementary School Wind Band was established in 2011 with the dedicated support of conductor Mr Chia-Ming Hsu, executive director Ms Ling-Ya Yeh, and the parent association of Yuwun Elementary School in Tainan City, Taiwan.

Yuwun Wind Band consists of students from third grade to sixth grade, and is divided into two groups: Beginner Level (Group B) and Intermediate Level (Group A). The band actively participates in various performances and activities both on and off campus and holds regular concerts. Over the years, Yuwun Wind Band has consistently earned top honors in the Tainan City Student Music Competitions. Since 2017, the band is constantly selected to represent Tainan City in the Taiwan National Student Music Competition, where it is awarded Excellent Performance in Wind Ensemble Competition. In 2025, through the efforts of teachers and students, Yuwun Wind Band achieved the highest honor—Superior with Distinction—at the national level competition.

YuWun Wind Band has established a solid and fruitful reputation with the diligent efforts of teachers and students. To further broaden students' international horizons, the band organized music exchange programs with several renowned wind bands in Osaka, Japan in 2017 and 2023, and will continue organizing music exchange activities internationally to deepen students' global perspectives.

Children of Yuwun Wind Band greatly enjoy their rehearsal time, delight in playing musical instruments, and bring joyful music to all. Within the big family of YuWun Wind Band, they grow together and create cherished memories. We are very much looking forward to performing at the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival in 2025.

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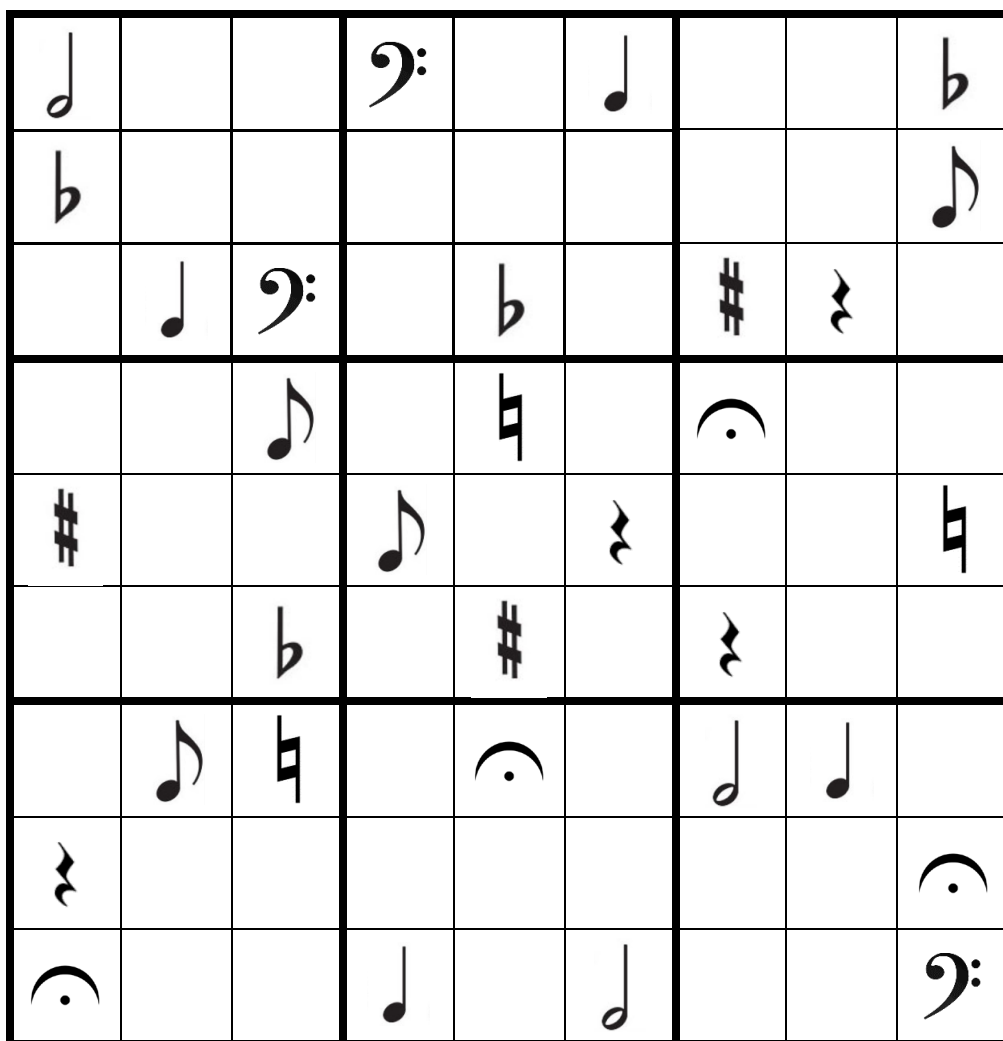


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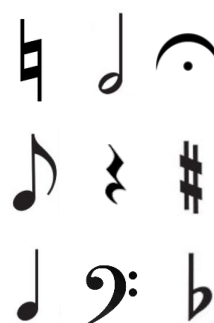
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MUSICAL SUDOKU



Medium difficulty INSTRUCTIONS

Enter the musical symbols and notations below in the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3 X 3 box contains only one of each symbol/note.



Solutions can be found on the ASBOF website: www.asbof.org.au



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NINE LETTER WORD CHALLENGE

R	F	E
R	E	O
M	P	R

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find as many words as you can using only the letters in the box
2. Words must be between 4–9 letters
3. No letter can be used more than once (unless duplicated in the puzzle)
4. All words must contain the centre letter
5. No plurals ending in 's', no proper nouns, no words not generally used in English

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SCORE: 12 Good **15** Very Good **18** Excellent

Solutions can be found on the ASBOF website: www.asbof.org.au



QUIZ - WHERE WERE YOU IN THE...

1990s

1. Which boy band, formed in 1995, included Justin Timberlake as a member and became global superstars?
2. Who was the original lead singer of Powderfinger, the Brisbane band that rose to fame in the late 1990s?
3. Which Australian singer released the worldwide hit **"Torn"** in 1997?
4. What is the title of the 1992 hit song by Whitney Houston, famously featured in the movie *The Bodyguard*?
5. What was the name of classical music phenomenon, featuring José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti, which captured global attention during the 1990s?

2000s

1. Which Australian singer won the first season of Australian Idol in 2003?
2. Which American artist released the album *The College Dropout* in 2004, launching his career as a global hip-hop star?
3. Which Australian singer released the international smash hit **"Scar"** in 2004?
4. Which British singer exploded onto the charts in 2008 with her album **19**?
5. Which pop megastar famously performed at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Closing Ceremony?

2010s

1. Which 2012 song by Gotye (featuring Kimbra) became an international #1 hit?
2. Which English singer-songwriter released the massive album ÷ (**Divide**) in 2017?
3. Which Australian band won Best Group at the 2015 ARIA Awards with their debut album *Hills End*?
4. Which Australian pop star had a hit with **"Chandelier"** in 2014, despite rarely showing her face publicly?
5. Which singer from New Zealand shot to fame with the 2013 hit **"Royals"**?

MIDWEST CLINIC CHICAGO

2024 REFLECTIONS

In 2024 ASBOF supported two of our regular Music Director participants to attend the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, arguably the world's largest band and orchestra conference. Megan Lipworth and Maddy Shearer share with us some reflections on this experience.

Thanks to the generous support of ASBOF, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2024 Midwest Clinic in Chicago — an experience that was nothing short of transformative. As a first-time visitor to both the United States and this international conference, I was overwhelmed (in the best way) by the scale, calibre, and scope of the event.

Over four days, I participated in a range of clinics that explored leadership, curriculum development, ensemble pedagogy, and program administration. Standout sessions included *Architecting Exceptional Music Programs*, *Teaching the Band You Have to Develop the Program You Want*, *Jazz for Leadership*, *Improving Student Retention in School Bands*, and *Becoming the Leader Your Students Need*. These sessions were among many that challenged and expanded my thinking about what's possible in the Australian school music context, particularly in small or emerging programs.

I was also fortunate to witness outstanding performances by the United States Coast Guard Band, University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band, Naulu Winds of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu, and many others. The quality of performance, programming, and conducting across all ensembles was deeply inspiring and reaffirmed my passion for music education.

Perhaps most significantly, the Midwest Clinic fostered global professional connections and sparked ideas for new approaches in my own practice — from conducting technique and rehearsal planning to student leadership and mentoring strategies.

Attending the Midwest Clinic was a rare and invaluable opportunity. I return to Australia with renewed energy, a refreshed toolkit, and a deeper commitment to advocating for equitable, high-quality music education in schools. I'm sincerely grateful to ASBOF for making this professional development experience possible.

Maddy

The Midwest Clinic, akin to Wonka's Chocolate Factory for musicians and music educators, a smorgasbord of information and inspiration! It fast became evident why it draws 18,000 attendees from across the US and 40 countries, with many prodigal devotees returning for an annual dose of PD, collegiate connection, and celebration. My greatest takeaway was ultimately somewhat intangible, and perfectly simply - a reinvigoration and reminder of the point of all this - and, if you're here at ASBOF, you already get it to - that music, itself, is good.



Pat Devery, Maddy Shearer, Megan Lipworth and Don Shearman

In practical terms, ensemble music brings students together and demands the highest levels of cooperation - a potent and effective training ground for success in any other context and endeavour. Music's demands are sophisticated and complex, and paired with the implicit opportunities for artistry and expression, music, uniquely, taps deepest into our shared humanity. The atmosphere at Midwest was electric with this humanity, with music as our glue.

In many of the demonstration schools and programs featured at Midwest, band is not extra-curricular. It's a class, with credit, specialist teachers, and dedicated spaces and facilities, that - even in the lowest socio-economic contexts - reflect the expectation that making music is core to school life, as important (if not more so!) as the 'Three Rs', and every child's right. Being at Midwest proved to me that this spirit is real, important, and has music at its heart.

On a global scale, music is the truest universal language, and therefore has the power and potential to connect us all. I'm personally and professionally grateful for ASBOF's dedication to supporting Aussie delegates to the Midwest Clinic, embedding us in the dynamic instrumental music education culture that is so strong there.

I encourage local music directors, educators, and composers to experience the Midwest Clinic at least once in their careers, to connect with a global music community, to learn from others' successes and innovations, and in turn proudly share our Aussie artistry, wisdom, universal musicality, and spirit.

Megan

BONDI BRASS

Megan Lipworth *Music Director*

Bondi Brass was established in 1958 by Cliff Goodchild OAM. Supported by the Waverley Council, the band has performed at many of Sydney's famous events and landmarks including the Sydney Opera House, Observatory Hill, the opening of the Sydney Film Festival, the opening of the Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Historic Houses Trust venues, religious processions and other community events. The band performs at Bondi Beach for the annual Festival of the Winds and Carols by the Sea, as well as fulfilling council Australia Day and Anzac Day obligations. Each year the Band travels to picturesque Dangar Island on the Hawkesbury River for a carols festival with the local community.

Bondi Brass boasts a proud history of nurturing the careers of many of Australia's leading brass players. Paul Goodchild (Associate Principal Trumpet, Sydney Symphony/Director, Sydney Brass) and Tom Burge (Charlotte Symphony) are two players with distinguished professional careers both in Australia and overseas who spent their younger days playing in the band.

Bondi Brass also supports Australian composers having commissioned the Concerto for Trumpet and Brass Band by Barry McKimm in 1995. In 2001 the Band commissioned a work by David Stanhope, which was premiered at the 40th Annual School Band Festival.

Bondi Brass draws its repertoire from the broad range of music available for brass bands, from the Renaissance dances of Tilman Susato to the music of modern Australian composers such as George Dreyfus, David Stanhope and Barry McKimm. In between there are selections from movies and musical comedies, folk songs, classical and romantic symphonies, pop tunes and of course traditional brass band marches.

There are currently over thirty members of Bondi Brass of various ages from a variety of professions, and with one of Australia's largest music libraries we can certainly find the repertoire to suit every occasion.

Players Wanted!

New to Sydney? Looking to return to playing music after a taking a break due to other commitments? Bondi Brass is the place to come. We are looking for players of all ability levels. We don't worry about auditions, just come along and enjoy making music!

Booking the Band...

Bondi Brass adds atmosphere and class to any occasion. Consider booking the band for your next birthday, community event or corporate function. We have one of the largest music libraries in Australia and can provide ensembles of all sizes. Contact the secretary for rates.



BAND ENQUIRIES

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bondibrasssydney>

Email: bondibrass@gmail.com

Phone: 0447 554 093



Members of Bondi Brass have supported the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival (formerly NSW School Band Festival) as volunteers since the event was first held in 1962.



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