



ENSEMBLE PROGRAMME AND COLLEGE ENSEMBLES

Participation in an instrumental or vocal ensemble brings purpose and pleasure to playing and singing. Playing or singing music with others is widely accepted as an essential component of a good music education. It is often one of the most rewarding musical experiences for beginners and experts alike. Enjoyment and achievement depend upon commitment and preparation.

Ideally, students should have opportunities to work together in small and large groups. A wide range of large ensembles, meeting the needs of students at all levels of ability, rehearse on a regular basis. Some smaller ensembles (i.e. chamber music, rock and pop) rehearse regularly and others play together according to needs and opportunities. Students may also have small ensemble opportunities as part of their classroom music programme.

Playing in an ensemble has significant impact on motivation through peer support and it provides unique outcomes for musical development:

- **blending and balancing individual parts within an ensemble;**
- **playing in tune;**
- **developing sight-reading skills;**
- **following a conductor;**
- **unique performance opportunities (i.e. concerts, festivals and tours);**
- **learning performance etiquettes and conventions;**
- **developing leadership skills (i.e. of sections/ensembles);**
- **developing musical autonomy and creativity (i.e. in small ensembles);**
- **exposure to repertoire only available through ensembles (i.e. orchestral, band and choral repertoire);**
- **exposure to diverse music genres (e.g. symphony, chamber music, jazz); and**
- **peer support, motivation, group identity and teamwork.**

Methodist Ladies' College has several choirs, two symphony orchestras, concert bands, jazz bands and numerous chamber groups, all at different performance levels. Entry to most ensembles is by audition.

The College strongly encourages all students to participate in the Ensemble Programme as soon as they have the skills to do so.

Many students take instrumental or vocal lessons outside the College; all College ensembles are open to all students regardless. If your daughter is learning an instrument or having vocal tuition outside the College, please contact the Music Department so that she can be placed in an ensemble.

With the exception of Choral Ensembles, a student participating in music ensembles at the College is required to take instrumental lessons, either at the College or with an external tutor, for as long as they are participating in that ensemble. Students in Year 12 are exempt from this requirement.

Music ensemble rehearsals normally take place out of College teaching hours (see Ensemble Rehearsal Times).

CHOIRS AND VOCAL ENSEMBLES

YEAR 3 AND 4 CHOIRS (CLASSROOM CURRICULUM)

Year 3 and 4 Choirs present all girls with their first formal choral training at the College. As part of the compulsory classroom music curriculum, the Year 3 choir rehearses weekly in the Semester Two each year and the Year 4 choir rehearses weekly throughout the year. The choirs perform at College concerts, assemblies and local Eisteddfods.

Rehearsal times | Class music lessons times TBC.

Director | Mrs Helen Beaton

YEAR 5/6 CHOIR (CO-CURRICULAR | NON-AUDITIONED)

The Year 5/6 Choir develops foundational vocal and choral skills at weekly co-curricular rehearsals. The choir performs at College concerts, assemblies and local Eisteddfods throughout the year. It is open to all students in Years 5 and 6 subject to parent and student acceptance of commitments as outlined in the current Year 5-6 Choir Participation Letter.

Rehearsal times | Thursday 7–8.15am

Director | Ms Carole Macintyre

CANTABILE (CO-CURRICULAR - NON-AUDITIONED)

Cantabile is a non-auditioned choir primarily made up girls in Years 7 and 8, but open to all girls in Middle and Senior years. Most girls sing in Cantabile for at least one or two years (i.e. Year 7/8), before progressing to Chorale. The choir sings a range of accompanied and a cappella repertoire, performs at College concerts, College Sunday and at local Eisteddfods where it has been a regular prize winner. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in the current Cantabile Participation Letter.

Rehearsal times | Tuesday 7–8.15am

Director | Ms Carole Macintyre

CHORALE (CO-CURRICULAR - AUDITIONED)

Chorale is open to girls in Middle and Senior Years by audition only. Membership of about 60 girls is usually drawn from upper Middle and Senior Years who will normally have sung for one to two years in Cantabile. This international award-winning choir boasts a large and diverse repertoire, both sacred and secular, most of which is sung a cappella. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in the current Chorale Participation Letter.

Rehearsal times | Tuesday and Thursday 7–8.15 am

Director | Dr Robert Faulkner

BARBERSHOP (CO-CURRICULAR - AUDITIONED)

Barbershop consists of up to 20 auditioned girls between the ages of 14-17, who must also be members of Chorale. Like Chorale, Barbershop are World Choir Games medalists. Singing a mixture of contemporary tunes, jazz, classics and old favourites, the choir has received numerous awards and accolades and is often in demand to perform at local festivals and community events. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in the current Barbershop Participation Letter.

Rehearsal times | Tuesday 3.45–5.30pm

Director | Ms Carole Macintyre

COMBINED CHOIR (CO-CURRICULAR - AUDITIONED)

This mixed voice (SATB) choir is made up of girls from Methodist Ladies' College and boys from neighbouring Christ Church Grammar School.

Apart from singing a wide range of a cappella repertoire, the choir has recently performed Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and another English Baroque opera, John Blow's Venus and Adonis. Both performances were collaborations with the Australian Research Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, based at the University of Western Australia. The authentic Baroque practice production of Dido included a Collegian in the lead role of Dido and instrumentalists from the College.

The Combined Choir is open to girls from Year 8-12 by audition. Girls will normally be members of Chorale, except for girls in Year 12 who may elect to be members of this choir exclusively. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in the current Combined Choir Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Friday 7– 8.15 am

Directors | Dr Robert Faulkner & Ms Rhiannon Taylor (CCGS).

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

SWING BAND

Swing Band is the College's foundational jazz ensemble, catering for girls at the beginning of their instrumental jazz journey. An auditioned ensemble, Swing Band is normally made up of girls from the Middle Years. It performs at College concerts and other College and community events throughout the year. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in the current Swing Band Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Monday 7–8:15 am

Director | Ms Sarah Stopher

BIG BAND

Big Band is an intermediate jazz ensemble founded in 2015 to bridge the gap between Swing Band and Jazz Orchestra. It presents more challenging repertoire to girls in preparation for their joining the College's premier jazz ensemble. Typically, this auditioned ensemble is made up of girls in Middle Years. Like other Jazz ensembles, Big Band will perform at College concerts and other College and community events throughout the year. Girls in Big Band must be available to play in the College Philharmonic or Symphony Orchestra if/as required. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Big Band Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Monday 7–8.15 am

Director | Ms Kate Pass/Mrs Katie Hodson

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Jazz Orchestra (formerly Jazz Band) is the College's premier jazz ensemble. It has performed at leading international venues including the Montreux Jazz Festival, one of the world's leading jazz festivals. It appears at College concerts and is in demand at local Community events. It has won awards at state music festivals.

Jazz Orchestra is open to girls in Senior Years and upper Middle Years by audition. Girls in Jazz Orchestra must also be available to play in the College Symphony if/as required. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Jazz Orchestra Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Monday 7–8.15 am

Director | Mr Brett Smith

ORCHESTRAL ENSEMBLES

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Philharmonic Orchestra provides girls at the College with foundational full orchestra experience as a stepping-stone to Symphony Orchestra. This full orchestra is open to girls by audition. The majority of its membership is drawn from girls in the Middle Years, but it is not unusual for girls in Senior Years to play in this ensemble and even girls from Junior Years may be admitted. It performs at College and community events throughout the year. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Philharmonic Orchestra Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Monday 3.45–5pm and Friday 7–8.15am

Directors | Mr Brendon Pearn (Associate) | Mr Ronald Thomas

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Symphony Orchestra is the College's premier classical instrumental ensemble. One of very few Premier Division Full Orchestra ensembles in Western Australian schools, it has appeared at leading international venues and has received accolades at local, state and national levels. Symphony Orchestra is open to girls by audition, normally from Middle and Senior Years. It performs at College and community events throughout the year, including the prestigious Concerto Night.

Rehearsal time | Monday 3.45–5pm and Wednesday 7–8.15am

Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Symphony Orchestra Participation Letter.

Director | Dr Robert Faulkner (Associate | Mr Brendon Pearn)

OTHER INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

ARCHETTI STRING ENSEMBLE

As part of the College's commitment to instrumental music learning opportunities for all, students in Year 3 enjoy free lessons on a string instrument. Full details of this programme are available in the Wyvern publication Year 3 String Programme. Girls who continue to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass) at the conclusion of this programme join the co-curricular ensemble Archetti, developing their skills until they graduate to Sinfonietta in Year 5. Archetti is a non-auditioned ensemble. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Archetti String Ensemble Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Wednesday 7.30–8.20am

Directors | Mr Brendon Pearn and Mrs Helen Beaton.

SINFONIETTA STRING ORCHESTRA

Sinfonietta is a full string orchestra open to all students learning a stringed instrument in the Junior Years. This is a non-auditioned ensemble, normally made up of students in Years 5 & 6. Younger girls may be invited to join the ensemble according to ability. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Sinfonietta Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Tuesday 7–8.15am

Directors | Mr Brendon Pearn and Mrs Helen Beaton.

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band provides students learning a wind instrument in the upper Junior and Middle Years with an opportunity to play in a large ensemble. The Concert Band performs at College Concerts and takes part in local band festivals and community events. Students in this ensemble typically go on to play in the Philharmonic Orchestra and/or one of the College Jazz ensembles. Parents and students must confirm their agreement to commitments outlined in current Concert Band Participation Letter.

Rehearsal time | Wednesday 7–8.15am

Directors | Ms Sarah Stopher and Ms Anne Philips

CHAMBER MUSIC AND MASTERCLASSES

MLC boast several string quartets who rehearse at the College and regularly perform at College, Corporate and private functions in the Perth area.

- Students are also provided with other coaching and masterclass opportunities. In 2015, these included:
- A string masterclass and coaching session with the world famous violinist Alexandre da Costa in collaboration with The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts;
- A quartet masterclass with Janis Laurs - co-founder of the Australian String Quartet, former Principal Cellist of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and permanent staff member of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide;
- Young Women in Jazz Workshops in collaboration with WA Youth Jazz Orchestra and Sydney Improvised Music Association;

- Baroque workshops and coaching from Dr Georg Coral, Early Music Specialist, in conjunction with the production of Dido and Aeneas; and,
- The founding of the MLC Harp Consort.

Other College small ensembles include:

- Rock band
- Clarinet ensemble
- Guitar ensemble
- Drumline

Parents whose daughters play an instrument are encouraged to contact their daughters' Music Tutor or Music Administration (music@mlc.wa.edu.au) to discuss available ensemble opportunities.

OTHER IMPORTANT ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

CHOIR, ORCHESTRA AND BAND COLOURS

Choir colours are awarded to students who fulfil expectations regarding attendance (80%), performance, reliability, behaviour, attitude and contribution.

CLASHES WITH OTHER COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

There is a general expectation that girls attend all ensemble rehearsals and fulfil commitments as outlined in respective commitment letters.

Where girls have clashes with other College commitments, it is normally acceptable to negotiate a 50/50 split between the two "clashing" rehearsal/practice times (i.e. 45 mins in each). Students and/or parents should approach respective staff members (directors/coaches), requesting special consideration. Concerts and fixtures should take priority over rehearsals and practices.

ABSENCES FROM REHEARSALS

Where girls are unable to attend scheduled rehearsals or performances for any reason (i.e. illness), an e-mail must be sent to the respective ensemble directors, on, or before the day of the rehearsal. In the case of Symphony, Chorale and Combined Choirs, e-mails should be sent to the Music Administrator, (music@mlc.wa.edu.au) Appropriate notification is essential for the College to fulfil its duty of care around co-curricular activities. Notice of absence to Student Services will not automatically be forwarded to Music unless specifically requested by parents .