

# Music
## Handbook 2026

St Hilda's
ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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# MUSIC LESSONS

## KEY CONTACTS

Music administration for both Junior and Senior Schools is based at our Bay View Campus (SS). You can find the Music Reception on Palmerston Street.
**Music Administrator:** Kate MacKinnon - music@sthildas.wa.edu.au
**Head of Music Performance:** Andrea Black – andrea.black@sthildas.wa.edu.au
**Head of Music Curriculum:** Belinda Callaway –belinda.callaway@sthildas.wa.edu.au

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Individual lessons occur every week on a rotational basis. The lessons are at a different time and sometimes on a different day each week, so students do not miss the same academic subject. Students can enrol in more than one instrument; however, lessons for the second instrument must take place out of school hours.

We are aware that many students learn the piano, and we strongly recommend they take up another instrument so they can be part of an ensemble, band or orchestra and enjoy the social benefits of learning music.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL LESSON INFORMATION

Junior School lessons are 30 minutes long except for the Primo Strings and Primo Band Program, which commences with individual 20-minute lessons in Semester One. This will increase to 30-minute lessons for Semester Two. There are some restrictions on when students may come out of class for a music lesson:

- Students in K-2, receiving additional academic support, are not permitted to have Instrumental lessons during Periods 1 or 2.
- Peripatetic lessons should not take place during recess or lunch, unless a parent requests this arrangement, and it is able to be accommodated.
- Students are only permitted to have one lesson per week during academic class time. Music has priority over Speech and Drama, so that the latter must arrange an out-of-class time. Students in the Primo Strings or Primo Band Program who learn a second instrument are required to have this second instrument out of class time.

The availability of out-of-school lesson times is limited, and preference is given to senior school students.

Junior School students are collected and returned to their classroom by the instrumental teacher after the lesson. Students in Years 5 and 6 are encouraged to make their own way to and from lessons in preparation for Senior School. Parents can find the lesson times by looking on SEQTA Engage.

For before-school lessons, it is the parents' responsibility to escort their child to the individual music teacher.

For music lessons directly after school, the individual music teacher must collect the student from the classroom. Parents are then responsible for collecting the student from the music room at the conclusion of the lesson.

## SENIOR SCHOOL LESSON INFORMATION

Senior School students are expected to check SEQTA Learn for details of the day and time of each lesson. Parents are also able to find the lesson times by looking on SEQTA Engage.

It is the students' responsibility to check the school calendar and their assessment calendar and inform their music tutor if there are any clashes with lesson times. At least 7 days' notice is required for the teacher to be able to reschedule a lesson.

To ensure minimum disruption to academic classes, Year 11 and 12 students are given priority for the timeslots before and after school or at lunchtime as they cannot attend lessons during academic class time.

## COMMUNICATION WITH MUSIC TEACHERS

All music teachers have a St Hilda's email address. Please be aware that some of our tutors work across multiple schools and may take longer than normal to respond to your email. If the matter is urgent, please contact Kate MacKinnon (Music Administrator) on 9285 4250 or music@sthildas.wa.edu.au.

## MUSIC LESSONS – CONTINUATION OF LESSONS

It is not necessary for students/parents to complete a new Music Tuition Application and Agreement each year.

## CESSATION OF LESSONS

If a student wishes to cease lessons and withdraw from tuition, parents are required to email music@sthildas.wa.edu.au to confirm the cancellation. From that date, a five-week notice period is in place (not including holiday periods). This means the student has five more lessons available before the lessons cease. Any hired instruments need to be handed in at the last lesson to avoid further hiring costs. For end-of-year withdrawals, notice must be given no later than the end of Week 3, Term 4 to avoid further charges.

## BILLING

At the end of Term One (early April), music fees will be applied to family accounts for the whole of Semester One, which is effectively the lessons you will have already received in Term One plus the advance payment for Term 2 lessons. The same process will occur at the end of Term Three (late September) for Semester Two.

## MUSIC LESSON ATTENDANCE

If a student has an exam/assessment/excursion on the day of their music lesson, the student must inform the music tutor at least one week before the lesson. This allows the lesson time to be rescheduled to avoid being charged for the unattended lesson.

If a student is sick, you will still be charged for the lesson. However, as a matter of courtesy, please contact the peripatetic music teacher or music administrator (9285 4250) so they are aware of your daughter's absence. Any ongoing illnesses should be discussed with the peripatetic music teacher or Music Administrator, Kate MacKinnon, on music@sthildas.wa.edu.au.

## LEARNING EXTERNALLY

If a student is having music lessons externally, we do not recommend learning the same instrument with a St Hilda's teacher. Every teacher has different methods and techniques, which may cause confusion for the student. Students learning externally are encouraged to join an ensemble to extend their repertoire and experience by being part of a music group.

## HIRING INSTRUMENTS

Instruments can be hired for $90 per term or part thereof and $70 for the December/January holiday period. We do not hire drum kits or pianos. Flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and full-size string instruments are only available for hire in the first year of tuition.

Students are expected to take reasonable care of hired instruments. Any loss or damage is the responsibility of the parents. For this reason, we recommend you add the instrument to your home and contents insurance policy. Instruments are to be stored on the shelves in the Music Studio or Una Mitchell building during the day of the scheduled lesson and collected after school to be taken home. Instruments should not be left outside of a classroom, as some have gone missing in recent years. All instrument cases must have a name tag, which is available from the Music Department.

Students should take their instruments home for long weekends and holidays to continue practising. This includes the Christmas holidays. It is necessary to notify the Music Department if you are taking an instrument home for the Christmas holidays. Instruments not returned by the end of Term 4 will incur the Holiday Hire fee.



# PRIMO STRING PROGRAM

All students from PP to Year 4 who have never learnt a string instrument are welcome to apply for the Primo String Program. Each student will be provided with one year of individual, one-on-one lessons, plus instrument hire, for a total cost of $400. This represents a saving of approximately 75% off the regular fees. This fee is payable at the start of the year and is nonrefundable if a student withdraws from the program.

The instrument will be supplied free of charge for 12 months. The program is limited to 30 places, and applications will be called for in early Term 4.

Students will be assigned a lesson time on a rotational timetable, so they do not miss the same classroom lesson each week. Students who are already having music lessons at St Hilda's on a non-string instrument (i.e., piano or voice) and who wish to take part in the Primo String Program will be required to take the Primo lesson during school hours. This means that their current instrument will need to be scheduled at an out-of-class time.

Applicants for this program are required to commit to the program for the entire year, have a parent/guardian attend the first few lessons, complete regular practice and participate in a cocurricular string ensemble (once a certain level has been reached).

# PRIMO BAND PROGRAM

Students from Year 4 to Year 6 are invited to apply for the Primo Band Program. This program is designed to enhance the St Hilda's Concert Band program.

Each student will be provided with one year of individual, one-on-one lessons, plus instrument hire, for a total cost of $400. This represents a saving of approximately 75% off the regular fees. This fee is payable at the start of the year and is nonrefundable if a student withdraws from the program. The instrument hire will be provided free of charge for 12 months.

Students will be assigned a lesson time on a rotational timetable so they do not miss the same classroom lesson each week. Students who are already having music lessons at St Hilda's on a non-concert band instrument (i.e., guitar, drums, piano, and voice) who wish to take part in the Primo Band Program will be required to take the Primo lesson during school hours. This means that their current instrument will need to be scheduled at an out-of-class time.

Applicants for this program are required to commit to the program for the entire year, have a parent/guardian attend the first few lessons, complete regular practice and participate in the cocurricular band ensemble (once a certain level has been reached).

To maintain a balanced band program, instruments offered on an annual basis may vary. They would typically include oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, french horn, trumpet, trombone, electric bass and percussion.

# CHORAL PROGRAM

Junior School: Singing is incorporated into all music classes in Junior School with Year group choirs in Years 3 to 6 during class time. In addition to class singing, students in Years 5 to 6 are invited to join the Coro Angelico Choir. This is a cocurricular choir that participates in numerous performances throughout the year.

Senior School: There are four cocurricular choirs for Senior School students:

- The Whitby Chorale for Years 7 and 8. This choir rehearses once a week before school.
- The St Hilda's Chorale for Years 9 to 12. This choir rehearses before school once a week.
- Show Choir is an extension group open to students in Years 8 to 10. Students are required to audition for entry and music and be a member of Whitby or St Hilda's.
- Barbershop is an auditioned acapella vocal ensemble for students in Year 11 and 12 who also sing with senior chorale.

# MUSIC INCENTIVE PRIZES

St Hilda's offers Musical Incentive Prizes to encourage students to play instruments that are required to create balanced ensembles. The prizes cover all or a portion of the cost of music tuition and instrument hire. The list of required instruments changes from year to year and is posted on the music app closer to auditions.

All girls receiving a prize are expected to attend lessons regularly, make satisfactory progress and participate in two large School ensembles, which are selected by the Head of Music Performance.

# REPORTS

Parents will be given written feedback at the end of each term via SEQTA Engage. Please contact the instrumental teacher if you would like feedback at any time.

# PRACTICE ROOMS

Students can book a room for their practice time or rehearsals during school hours and possibly after school hours. Boarders can practice their instruments in the Boarding House in the specifically designed soundproof music room. Boarders are also welcome to contact the Music Administrator at music@sthildas.wa.edu.au and book a room in the Music Department.

# CLASSROOM/COCURRICULAR MUSIC

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Junior School Music program uses the dynamic Kodaly and Orff Principles of Music teaching. This offers a music education that nurtures creativity, fosters a deep understanding of musical elements, and cultivates a lifelong love of Music in young learners.

## SENIOR SCHOOL

The Senior School Classroom Music program follows on from the musical foundations established in the Junior School. The content explored in the Classroom Music program complements students' instrumental music lessons. By enabling students to develop a comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of Music, the Classroom Music program equips students with the skills and knowledge to potentially continue their study of Music at an ATAR level. All Music courses in the Senior School are year-long.

## THE COCURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM

There are numerous choirs, orchestras, bands, and ensembles that rehearse weekly. Each group performs both within St Hilda's, as well as the wider community. All students who have a voice or instrumental lesson at St Hilda's are expected to join one of these groups. Girls who are learning outside of school are also encouraged to join an ensemble and should contact the Head of Music Performance andrea.black@sthildas.wa.edu.au.

Most Senior ensembles require an audition to ensure that their level of performance is suitable. Once placed in an ensemble, members are expected to commit to all rehearsals and performances. Senior School students who achieve at least 80% attendance for their ensemble will receive an ensemble award, will have this listed on their academic statement and receive honour board points. If students are absent from school, then this absence will not count towards the 80% attendance.

Specialist appointments, teacher appointments, transport issues, sport trials, etc. will happen from time to time but will still be counted as absences. Students with long-term injuries/illness or transport issues will need to discuss this with their ensemble director for special allowances.

## Schedule of Cocurricular Ensembles in 2026

| | Ensemble | Year | Campus | Room | Time | Director |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mon | Chaminade Flute Choir | 5 – 6 | Chidley | Music Room 1 | 1.10-8.15 | TBA |
| | Soul Band* | 9 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 1 | 7.00-8.15 | M. Kidd |
| | Chamber Strings Ensemble | 6 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 7.00-8.15 | R. Carr-White |
| | Show Choir* | 8 – 10 | Bay View | Music Studio | 3.45-5.00 | E. Gangemi Smith |
| Tue | Coro Angelico | 5 – 6 | Chidley | Music Classroom | 7.30-8.15 | A. Black |
| | Rock Bands* | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 1 | 7.00-8.15 | C. Pinkney |
| | St Hilda's Concert Band | 7 - 9 | Bay View | Music Classroom | 7.00-8.15 | M. Kidd |
| | Symphony Orchestra | 6 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 7.00-8.15 | R. Carr-White |
| | Clarinet Ensemble | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 3 | 1.10-1.40 | M. Kidd |
| | Barbershop* | 11 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 1 | 3.45-5.00 | E. Gangemi Smith |
| Wed | Camerata Strings | 3 – 10 | Chidley | Music Classroom | 7.00-8.15 | R. Carr-White |
| | Symphonic Wind Ensemble | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 7.00-8.15 | M. Kidd |
| | Guitar Ensemble | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 1 | 7.00-8.15 | H. Emery |
| | Fauré Flute Choir | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 1.10-1.40 | TBA |
| Thur | Maestros Concert Band | 4 – 6 | Chidley | Music Classroom | 7.15-8.15 | A. Angel |
| | Whitby Chorale | 7 – 8 | Bay View | Music Classroom | 7.00-8.15 | A. Black |
| | St Hilda's Chorale | 9 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 7.00-8.15 | A. Black |
| | Rock Bands* | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 1 | 7.00-8.15 | C. Pinkney |
| | Jazz Combo* | 8 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 2 | 7.00-8.15 | A. Dodos |
| | Brass Ensemble | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 1.10-1.40 | A. Dodos |
| | Saxophone Ensemble | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Room 3 | 1.10-1.40 | M. Kidd |
| | Hanabi Taiko | 6 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio 1 | 3.45-5.00 | S. Vanyai |
| Fri | String Stars Ensemble | PP – 5 | Chidley | The Cortile | 7.30-8.15 | R. Carr-White |
| | Chidley Taiko | 4 – 6 | Chidley | Music Classroom | 7.00-8.15 | S. Vanyai |
| | Saintly Jazz | 7 – 12 | Bay View | Music Studio | 7.00-8.15 | M. Kidd |
| | The Jazz Messengers | 7 – 9 | Bay View | Music Classroom | 7.00-8.15 | A. Dodos |

*Conditional Entry

- Barbershop: required to be a member of St Hilda's Chorale
- Chamber String Orchestra: required to be a member of the Symphony Orchestra
- Jazz Combo: required to be a member of Jazz Messengers or Saintly Jazz
- Rock Bands: students will be placed into groups at the start of the year based on ability and group balance.
- Soul Band: wind, brass and vocalists are required to be in a related large ensemble
- Show Choir: required to be a member of Whitby Chorale or St Hilda's Chorale.
- Where there are too many of one instrument, preference will be given to students who are having lessons.

## TUITION AVAILABLE

Violin
Cello
Harp
Electric Guitar (contemporary or jazz)
Flute
Clarinet
Saxophone
French Horn*
Trumpet
Trombone
Jazz Piano
Orchestral Percussion
Individual Theory/Aural Tuition
Viola
Double Bass
Classical Guitar
Bass Guitar
Pipe Organ
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Oboe
Euphonium and Tuba
Piano
Drum Kit
Voice (Musical Theatre, Contemporary or Classical)

*By arrangement (lessons may not be offered onsite)

# SENIOR SCHOOL ENSEMBLE AWARDS

Senior School students who participate in cocurricular music are eligible to receive an award, provided they attend at least 80% of the rehearsals and all performances.

For students from Years 7 to 10, there are two possibilities for an award.

- To achieve the lowest award, a student needs to attend at least 80% of the rehearsals, be punctual and wear the correct uniform. A student is also expected to be able to perform their parts accurately.
- To achieve the top award, a student is required to be an outstanding performer or show outstanding leadership skills. This is typically a student who has mastered all aspects of their pieces.

From Years 11 to 12, there are three possibilities for an award:

- To achieve the lowest level award, a student needs to attend at least 80% of the rehearsals, be punctual and wear the correct uniform. A student is also expected to be able to perform their parts accurately.
- To achieve the middle-level award, a student is required to be an outstanding performer and show positive leadership skills. This is a student who has mastered all aspects of their pieces and attended all the required rehearsals and performances for this ensemble.
- To achieve the highest award, a student is required to be exceptional. This would be a student who has not only mastered their parts but is showing some aspects that one associates with a professional standard for that particular style of music. Students must demonstrate exceptional performance ability, leadership skills and commitment to the program.

# MUSIC HONOUR BOARD

## FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION

The Music Honour Board is designed to recognise Year 12 students who have made an exceptional contribution to the Cocurricular Music Program over a number of years. To qualify, students need to accumulate 14 points (if they start an ensemble in Year 7) or 12 points (If they start an ensemble after Year 7). Students are unable to begin accumulating points before Year 7 and are required to participate in at least two large ensembles in both Years 11 and 12.

The point allocation for each activity may vary from year to year based on the level of commitment and time required. Students are required to attend 80% of the ensemble's rehearsals to receive a point for this ensemble.

| **Cocurricular Ensemble** | **Points** |
|---|---|
| Barbershop | 1 |
| Brass Ensemble | 0.5 |
| Camerata String Orchestra | 1 |
| Clarinet Ensemble | 0.5 |
| Chamber String Ensemble | 1 |
| Concert Band | 1 |
| Faure Flute Choir | 0.5 |
| Guitar Ensemble | 1 |
| Jazz Combo | 1 |
| Jazz Messengers | 1 |
| Maestros Concert Band | 1 |
| Musical Production Orchestra | 1 |
| Percussion Ensemble | 0.5 |
| Rock Band | 1 |
| Saintly Jazz | 1 |
| Saxophone Ensemble | 0.5 |
| Soul Band | 1 |
| St Hilda's Chorale | 1 |
| Show Choir | 1 |
| Symphony Orchestra | 1 |
| Symphonic Wind | 1 |
| Taiko Drumming | 1 |
| Whitby Chorale | 1 |

# COCURRICULAR TIMETABLES

Timetables can be found on the St Hilda's App under Music.

# MAJOR PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

## CONCERTO NIGHT

Concerto Night is one of the most prestigious nights on the St Hilda's calendar. It showcases the work of the ATAR music students in an orchestral setting. Non-ATAR students who demonstrate excellence and have contributed to a large ensemble for several years are invited to audition for a limited number of places.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CONCERTS

Students at our Chidley Campus have many opportunities to showcase their musical talents, including the Ensembles Concert, Concert on the Green, Assemblies, the Early Learning Years Christmas Concert and Grandparents Day.

## COMBINED CONCERT

Students at St Hilda's combine with the musicians at Christ Church Grammar School to provide a wonderful evening of exciting music ensembles.

## CHORAL CONCERT

Our Choirs from Years 5 to 12 are showcased in the spectacular setting of our school Chapel.

## CHIDLEY PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

All Junior School students having instrumental lessons, either within St Hilda's or externally, are encouraged to perform. Students will be placed in year group sections with parents, friends, and their classmates all in the audience to cheer them on. Each student will receive a performance certificate and written feedback from a prominent Perth musician. Students will also receive house points for their performance. The house with the most points at the end of the festival will be awarded the Chidley Performance Festival House Trophy.

## ST HILDA'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

The St Hilda's Music Festival provides an opportunity for all Senior students who are having instrumental lessons to perform for an expert adjudicator and receive written feedback. Where appropriate, students will also gain the experience of performing with an accompanist. Awards are presented to the winners in each category.

## ROCK CONCERTS

Our Rock Nights are an exciting showcase of the St Hilda's Rock Band program. Each group will present a short set of songs with full sound and lighting production at venues such as The Rosemount Hotel and Clancy's. Parents and friends are encouraged to come and support these performances.

## CAMPS/TOURS

In 2026, there will be a rehearsal camp for the Senior Ensembles involved in the Combined Concert in Term 1.

2026 and 2027 include proposed regional and interstate tours.







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