

# MUSIC



*Mrs Fiona Gardner*  
Director of Music

## Annual Music Evening

The highlight of the Christian College Music year is the Annual Music held at Costa Hall, Deakin University. On Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>, over 400 students from Years Prep to 12 performed in this event. The music featured young Junior School students developing their skills in string orchestras and choirs. The stylistic diversity of the Middle and Senior groups showed great depth in talent across the entire College Ensemble program.

A highlight for many was the Bellarine Concert Bands rendition of 'Silent Movie' accompanying the acting talents of some prominent music staff on the big screen in a black and white suspenseful screen enactment of the damsel in distress (Mrs Zampatti) being caught and eventually saved by some very 'suspect' characters (Mr Dunlop, Mr Loughran and Mr Zampatti).

The 21 items were presented to a sell-out audience, the event DVD is available on sale at Reception at each campus.



## Instrumental Music Tuition

Over 600 students have had regular instrumental tuition across the College campuses this year. 50 Instrumental Music staff have tutored students on

a wide variety of contemporary popular and orchestral instruments. The instrumental performance program has seen students taking part in weekly lessons, campus performance evenings for family and friends, workshops and master classes with inspirational visiting expert performers, performance competitions and examinations with ANZCA and the AMEB. This year we were delighted with the external examination results in practical grade exams and written theory exams with many students achieving honours. We congratulate two senior school students who were successful in achieving their AmusA Associate of Music Australia Performance Diplomas. David Bowden, Year 12 with Distinction and Clare Duck, Year 11.

## Classroom Music

The classroom music program has again seen students from Prep. to Year 8 studying music as a part of their regular timetable. This program is designed to educate the students as musical 'consumers' in our community and also encourage an enjoyment of creating.



The extensive classroom Music elective program commences at Year 8 and flows through to VCE students at the Senior Campus. This elective

program has aimed at supporting and encouraging instrumental music students by allowing them to hone their skills in theory, aural, composition and performance. VCE Music Studies are flourishing at the Senior Campus with students studying Year 12 Music in Year 11 and 2 classes of Year 10's completing Units 1 & 2 in VCE. Two performance nights for the VCE Solo and Group Performance classes were held in the Chapel at Highton Middle School for family and friends. The VCE performers are to be congratulated for their finesse, technical security and stylistic flare.

There has been an introduction of new digital media to these specialist subjects. These technologies have interactive whiteboards, the



'Musician' and 'Auralia' Software packages and an extension of the IMac as a learning tool in both Middles Schools and the Senior Music House. In 2011 the new VCE Music studies will be introduced with Christian College leading the way. A number of our VCE music staff have been involved at the VCAA with the development and implementation of the new music study design and are excited by the new course designs and the musical opportunities these will provide for our students.

### Competitions and Achievements in Music

Many of our College soloists, small ensembles, choirs, string orchestras and bands have performed at numerous events throughout 2010. The major events have been The Geelong Eisteddfod, The Melbourne School Bands and Strings Festival, the Royal South Street Competitions, the Geelong Schools Music and Movement Festival, Highton Rotary Star Search, Geelong Advertiser Regional Scholarship and The Geelong Music Teachers Association

Scholarships. As well as these regular festival events, many of our student performers and ensembles have been invited to perform at significant community events such as the Senior Choir at the Geelong Schools ANZAC Memorial Service.

The year has been full of musical growth through fantastic opportunities to enjoy performance and to serve and bless others with our music.

A small selection of highlights and achievements:

**Highton Concert Band** – awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**Highton Intermediate Stage Band** – awarded Gold Shield at Melbourne Schools Bands Festival and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**Bellarine Middle School Strings** – awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**Bellarine & Highton Combined Middle School Choirs** – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at Geelong Eisteddfod

**Bellarine Junior School Choir** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (against much older choirs!) Geelong Eisteddfod

**Belmont Junior School Strings & Choirs** – performance at the Geelong Schools Movement & Music Festival

**The Highton Novice & Bellarine Stage Bands** – enthusiastic performances at Royal South Street Competitions

**Highton Middle School Strings** – a Silver award at the Melbourne Schools Strings Festival and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**The Bellarine Ceilidh Band** – invited to perform at the Portarlington Celtic Festival

**Bellarine Junior School Strings** – perform with flare at the Drysdale Kindergarten and the College Music Evening

**En Masse** – gospel singing group performed at and played a significant role at the College worship services through the year

**Bellarine Concert Band** – received a Gold Award at the Melbourne Schools Band Festival and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**The Senior Choir** – featured at significant community events by invitations, received 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Geelong Eisteddfod and a Silver Award at the Pacific Basin Music Festival, Hawaii

**The Senior Stage Band** – received a Gold Award at the Melbourne Schools Band Festival and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**The Senior Strings** – Gold Award at the Melbourne Schools Band Festival and the Pacific Basin Music Festival, Hawaii and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions

**The Senior Wind Symphony** – Gold Award at the Melbourne Schools Band Festival and the Pacific Basin Music Festival, Hawaii, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize at the Royal South Street Competitions



### Music Camps & Tours

Music Camps and tours are significant activities in the lives of the students in the music program. Next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year of music camps and tours at Christian College. This year has seen the Senior ensembles attend an intensive rehearsal and tutorial camp at Rutherford Park near Daylesford in June. The weather (freezing) is an extra motivation for these committed and enthusiastic muso's to stay indoors and practise for up to seven hours a day. The students are challenged by extremely complex music but are inspired by the specialist expert tutors who attend to help them master the works.

Anglesea was a 'buzz' with 170 Middle School musicians from the Highton and Bellarine

campuses for the annual Middle School Music Camp in September. This camp was again a great opportunity for these budding 'musos' to develop their playing skills, learn a few new notes and make some great friends. The camps annual sand sculpture competitions, night bush walk and dance night are a big hit with the students.



Hawaii was the destination for 89 students and staff for the Senior Music Tour in March this year. The students performed at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Basin Music Festival with students from Japan, Singapore, California, Alaska, Oregon and the Police Band from the Kingdom of Tonga. The students had a fantastic musical and cultural experience. As well as performing at an outstanding level the students took part in cultural exchange activities and visited significant tourist sites on the main island including a moving visit to Pearl Harbour.

The Christian College Middle Schools musician's tour to the Mornington Peninsula will see 100 students plus staff ascend on the Mornington Twilight Market for an evening performance on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> as well as visiting local Primary Schools on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> and a lunchtime performance at the Melbourne Zoo on Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

These tours are a wonderful experience for the students and a real highlight of the musical calendar.

Fiona Gardner  
Director of Music