

TURRAMURRA

HIGH SCHOOL

turramurra-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Turramurra High School Band Program



The Turramurra High School Band Program is an extra-curricular program of excellence, operated by the P&C parent body through the Band Support Group sub-committee and encouraged and supported by the school.

In 2020, the band program offered three concert bands and two stage bands, all performing interesting, fun and challenging new repertoires at various competitions, festivals, community events and prestigious concerts. Since 2016, Jazz Improvisation classes on a Friday afternoon have also been offered for interested band members. As the program continues, the opportunities will evolve, to ensure that all students in the band program have the opportunity to mature within their level of ability.

Bands meet weekly after school for rehearsals of either one hour or one and a half hours in length depending upon the grade of band. The concert bands meet on Tuesday afternoons and the stage bands on Fridays.

The annual band camp, and additional workshops with specialist professional tutors, provide the icing on the cake and guarantee all students have access to a program of excellence. External professional tutors in the past have included John Morrison, Murray Parker and Jess Ciampa (percussion), Graham Jesse (saxophone and flute), Ray Cassar (trumpet) and David Panichi (trombone). The band program also runs a Masterclass Series, drawing on the talents of local professional musicians, in the past including Chris Tingay (clarinet), David Elton (trumpet), Jay Byrne (saxophone), and Jude Huxtable (flute) hosting events. All band members also have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in the annual Solo Night competition.

Band Descriptions

The Turrumurra High School Band Program has a variety of bands suited to most musical levels and needs. Membership and placement in bands is based on welcome interviews conducted by the Band Director during the first week of Term 1.

- **Concert Band 1** is the premium concert band, performing classical and contemporary pieces, committed and dedicated to competitions and achieving the highest possible standards with a number of school and community performances each year.
- **Concert Bands 2 and 3** also perform classical and contemporary pieces, in competitions at an appropriate level, and at school performances during the year
- **Stage Bands 1 and 2** are smaller groups of musicians from the brass, woodwind and percussion families that play pieces of a jazz orientation in the traditional big band setting (2 alto saxes, 2 tenor saxes, 1 baritone sax, 4-5 trumpets, 4-5 trombones, guitar, bass and drums/percussion, occasionally with additional vocals). Stage Band 1 is our senior jazz group.

Band Standards for 2021

As a guide, audition standards fall around the following ranges, but please note that there could be a variation to the band structure depending upon numbers and ability.

<i>Concert Band (CB1):</i>	Approximately AMEB Grade 5 and higher
<i>Concert Band (CB2):</i>	Approximately AMEB Grades 3 to 5
<i>Concert Band (CB3):</i>	Approximately up to AMEB Grades 3 or 4
<i>Stage Band (SB1):</i>	Approximately AMEB Grade 5 and higher
<i>Stage Band (SB2):</i>	Approximately AMEB Grades 3 to 5

Our Band Directors

In 2009 the program welcomed Band Director, **Mark Barnsley**. Mark is a highly experienced and motivated instrumental music program conductor and director with excellent credentials as both a professional musician and music educator. He is a skilled arranger and composer of Stage and Concert Band repertoire for a wide variety of grades and genres, and as a highly regarded jazz trombonist he performs professionally with top class artistes. In addition to trombone, Mark plays euphonium, bass trombone and bass guitar all at a professional level. His ability to inspire and educate has ensured the continued success of the Turrumurra High School Band Program. Currently Mark is taking extended leave.

Jeff Barnsley (Mark's brother) is currently relieving Mark as Band Director. Jeff is also a highly experienced and exceptional musician who as a student was an Australian Champion soloist (Soprano Cornet). As a professional player, Jeff has played both trumpet and guitar working across pop, rock, jazz, Latin and big band styles. As an educator, Jeff continues to conduct and teach privately. The purpose with which Jeff leads is *"to provide the students with a musical experience that brings them joy, development as musicians, personal development, professional development and growth as a team, school and community."* His goal is for the students to have the lifelong benefits that accompany a love of playing music.

Rose Foster directs the Jazz Improvisation classes on Friday afternoons. Rose is a professional trombone player who is a member of several big bands including Sirens Big Band and Queen Porter Stomp, as well as being experienced in conducting and teaching.

Rehearsals

- **Concert Band 1 (CB1)** Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm
- **Concert Band 2 (CB2)** Tuesday 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm
- **Concert Band 3 (CB3)** Tuesday 2.25 pm to 4.00 pm
- **Stage Band 1 (SB1)** Friday 4.15 pm to 5.45 pm
- **Jazz Improv 1** Friday 3:15 pm to 4:15pm
- **Stage Band 2 (SB2)** Friday 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm
- **Jazz Improv 2** Friday 4.15pm to 5.15pm

Parents and Supporters

Parental involvement is encouraged and indeed is crucial to the ongoing success of the Band Program. The success of the Turramurra High School Band program relies upon the enthusiastic and dedicated parent committee (the Band Support Group (BSG), which meets for a short time on the second Tuesday of each month, to ensure the smooth running of the program. Communication is otherwise by email. A regular weekly bulletin is emailed to all students and parents (“the Weekly Notes”) (please provide your applicable email addresses to bsgnotes@ths.community to receive this) and band students are encouraged to take responsibility for communicating directly with their band managers. Our Band Support Group always welcomes new parent and community members in any capacity, and we look forward to meeting you in 2021.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with your enquiries. Contact details as well as more information about the Band Program can be found on the school website:

<https://turramurra-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/band.html>

Previous Band Activities

Over the years, Turramurra High School bands have successfully competed in numerous competitions and festivals at state and international level, including the Australian Schools Band and Orchestra Festival (ASBOF), the NSW State Band Festival, the Sydney Eisteddfod, and the North Shore Schools Spectacular.

Performances over the years have included the Schools Spectacular, Manly International Jazz Festival, Sydney Opera House, Royal North Shore Hospital, Royal Easter Show, Wahroonga Food & Wine Festival, Lazy Bones Lounge Bar, Darling Harbour, and St Ives Heritage Craft Fair.

In 2008 our senior bands were privileged to provide the entertainment at the 150th anniversary of the Sydney Observatory, and we were honored to have been asked to play at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival Opening Ceremony in January 2013.

Each year specially formed international and regional tour bands have toured the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe, West Coast USA, Melbourne, Tasmania, Adelaide, Perth, and South Western and North Western New South Wales.

In addition to these high-profile events, all bands regularly perform at school and community functions.

How to join

The easiest way to join the band program as a new member is to complete and submit a Registration Form and complete our online new intake form via this link,

<https://www.bandforte.com.au/bin/bf.dll?portal&pkey=HNKE-DIEL-NECM-IGCM>

You are also required to complete the Invoice for Fees, and Student Band Contract. You will receive these in your Year 7 student pack, but they are also available from the school website. In order to organize welcome interview schedules, forms should be completed and returned asap, but absolutely no later than 23rd January, 2021. Forms can be returned by email to bsgnotes@ths.community

We look forward to welcoming Year 7 2021 to the Turramurra High School Band Program!

Key contacts

For more information or if you have any questions please contact one of the Band Support Group executive team:

Co-Presidents: bsgpresident@ths.community

Vice –President: bsgvp@ths.community

Treasurer: bsgtreasurer@ths.community

Secretary: bsgsecretary@ths.community

Contact details for the full Band Support Group Committee can be found in the “Supporting our Students - Band” section of the school website under. Download the document called “Weekly Notices”. This is the weekly newsletter and lists contact details for Band Support Group committee members.

<https://turramurra-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/band.html>