

## INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS 8 - 12 (2025)

Dear Parents and Carers

The Burwood High School Ensemble Program (BEP), is one of the larger school based music performance programs in NSW. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of their previous experience. We extend an invitation to your child to become part of an innovative, enjoyable and educationally valuable musical experience. The ensemble program offers students the chance to:

- learn to play and develop their musical skills,
- grow their social skills and personal organisation,
- enjoy teamwork and gain a hobby (or career) for life.

The physical, cognitive brain development and emotional benefits of learning to make music are well documented, so the time and effort invested in this co-curricular activity **at any age**, is rewarded many times over.

[School Music Program, Brain Development and Australian Chamber Orchestra](#)

[Playing Music Benefits your brain](#)

[Dr Anita Collins - Music Education aids the ability to learn](#)

The program runs in much the same way as a conservatory; students can learn to play an instrument, to play in an ensemble and to develop their musical skills, taking these life-long skills into the classroom, home and community.

**For many school students, the COVID pandemic reduced or prevented their opportunity to join a music ensemble program and enjoy the benefits of it. Now is a perfect time to do the catch-up and gain those benefits. The accelerated training groups see students in performing ensembles by the end of term 3.**

**A *Welcome to the BEP* day is being run on Wednesday February 5 from 12pm to 2pm in the BGHS Hall. Here you can get further details, ask questions, meet some of the tutors and complete registration/enrolling if needs be. Following this, there will be some time for interested students to do some tryouts of instruments up in room 23 - the main music room.**

**Ensembles:** The BEP runs streams of large and chamber ensembles.

<b>Band</b>	<b>Strings</b>	<b>Chamber Music**</b>
Junior (training) Band	Binyang (training) Strings	Fluteloops***
Concert Band*	Vivaldi Strings*	Brass Ensemble***
Senior Concert Band	Margaret Sutherland Chamber Orchestra	Rock Band
Big Band***		Musettes (choir)
		Clarinet Ensemble
		Percussion Ensemble / Drum Line***
* Initial placement for Yr7 students who already play	** Additional ensembles can be created based on interest ***to join these ensembles, students must be in a band or strings large ensemble	Cello Choir***

In Year 7 students are eligible to join Concert Band, Vivaldi Strings or a training ensemble. New students in other years will be placed according to the experience. Small ensembles are tailored to more advanced playing, and open to membership by audition or invitation. Students who wish to start to learn or pick up a new instrument as a beginner are well catered for with accelerated training groups that operate in terms 1-3: Junior Band and Binyang Strings. Rehearsals for all ensembles are held before/after school or at lunch.

**Private Instrumental Lessons:** We have a team of highly experienced teachers for all woodwind, brass, string, percussion instruments, plus piano, voice, musicianship and composition. Lessons are conducted at school during school time on a rotating basis. All BEP participants must have private lessons as a condition of membership. This can be with an existing tutor, or one of the tutors who teach at school. We do encourage students to have lessons with our tutors, as this will enhance their experience and allow their lessons to better meet their needs.

**Fees:** There are 3 separate fees:

- **Program membership.** (necessary to cover the cost of conductors, music, equipment, maintenance and administrative personnel).
- **Instrument Hire,** if required. (some 'rare' instruments needed in an ensemble may be offered a discounted rate)
- **Instrumental Lessons.** (these charges are based on the rates recommended each year by the NSW Music Teachers' Association and are billed by and payable directly to the individual teacher.)

## Instrument Choices

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Percussion**	Other
Violin	Flute (piccolo)	Trumpet	Drum kit	Piano
Viola*	Oboe*	French horn*	Timpani	Voice
Cello	Clarinet	Trombone*	Keyboard percussion	Guitar
Double Bass*	Bassoon*	Euphonium*	Hand percussion	Bass Guitar
	Saxophone	Tuba*		Theory / Musicianship
*Rare instrument - special hire deals may apply!			** Percussion students learn ALL of the above	Composition

For the bigger instruments, every effort is made to make it easier with an instrument for home and one at school. Some instruments in short supply may have 'scholarships' attached, such as free or extended rental.

Students will have the opportunity to see/try various instruments following orientation. At this meet the music session you will be able to hear music and talk to our staff about groups, instrumental lessons and instruments.

Links to more information, including fees, uniform, proposed dates for 2024, and contact details etc.

[BEP homepage on the school website](#)

[BEP Handbook](#)

[Enrolment Form](#)

Full details on the ensembles, fees and program conditions are on the school website in the Co-curricular section. All enquiries and questions should be directed to the Program Director, Andy Del Riccio by phone through the school or email: [Andrew.delriccio@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.delriccio@det.nsw.edu.au) .