

BURWOOD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE PROGRAM 2021



Address

Burwood Girls High School
Queen Street
Croydon NSW 2132
Phone: (02) 9747 3355
Fax: (02) 9744 2797

Contact

Andy Del Riccio
Director of Program
Andrew.delriccio@det.nsw.edu.au
Mary Bonaddio
Administration
mary.bonaddio@det.nsw.edu.au

Patrons

Larissa Treskin
Natalie Brookton
Mia Kumar, Principal BGHS
Patricia Amphlett, OA

Sponsors

Ashfield RSL Club
Ashfield RSL Sub Branch
Burwood Girls High School
Burwood RSL Sub Branch
BGHS P&C

Burwood Rotary
Club Burwood RSL
Croydon Park RSL Sub Branch

Dear Parents and BGHS musicians,

Welcome to the Burwood Ensemble Program. I know that as a part of our music family at BGHS, your time here will be musically fulfilling as well as a lot of fun!

Music is multi-disciplined activity which benefits the whole person. The links between learning instrumental music and high achievement in other disciplines has been well-documented by academics and is subject to ongoing research. It is known that learning to play music and participating in ensemble activities benefits physical brain development, cognitive growth, physical dexterity, strength and coordination, social skills, emotional understanding and empathy. This transfers across to other disciplines and is reflected in heightened academic outcomes. Other activities and sports also have many positive benefits as well: in the BEP we look both at music but also at the whole student to support them during the journey through high school and beyond. This is an activity that is also thoroughly enjoyable both socially and personally.

With these benefits comes a certain level of responsibility. BEP members need to make a commitment to the full year, attend all rehearsals and performances, undertake private lessons on their instrument and ensure they plan other activities so they avoid clashing with our published rehearsals and performances. When clashes occur, (it is bound to happen occasionally) it is critical to communicate with the BEP office, so a solution is negotiated. This is an easy undertaking that will result in happy students!

The following information covers the operation and organisation of the BEP. If you have any questions, please contact the BEP office via email or on 9747 3355. As the BEP office is not staffed full time, it may be necessary to leave a message. We will respond as quickly as we can!

To join the BEP, follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Janfeb-enrolment> and complete the BEP enrolment form as soon as possible. Re-enrolling members click here: <https://tinyurl.com/BEP-Re-enrolment-2021>. Activities get underway from week 2 of term 1.

We communicate via email and Google Classroom. From time to time, documentation is sent out: usually permission notes. Please ensure they are returned promptly. These notes are always put up on the School's website on the BEP page.

I look forward to meeting new students and parents plus welcoming our returning musicians and families soon.

Yours

Andy Del Riccio

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2021 Staff:

Andy Del Riccio, Program Director (four days per week) andrew.delriccio@det.nsw.edu.au

Mary Bonaddio, Administrator (three days per week) mary.bonaddio@det.nsw.edu.au

Core Ensembles and Directors:

Junior Concert Band: Emma Hosogoe
Concert Band: Catherine Lukin
Senior Concert Band: Andy Del Riccio
Stage Band: Andy Del Riccio
Bach Strings: Nan Heo
Vivaldi Strings: Andy Del Riccio
Beethoven Strings: TBA

Chamber Ensembles and Directors:

Musettes: Catherine Lukin
Fluteloops: Catherine Kinsella
Brass Ensemble: Andy Del Riccio
Drumline/Percussion Ensemble: Jeff Doukakis
Clarinet Ensemble: Jeff Fisher
Rock Band(s): Andrew Troy

Core Ensembles

These Ensembles play at important school ceremonies such as formal Assemblies and graduations, community events, such as ANZAC Day or local community ceremonies and memorial services, official Department of Education events and our own concerts. We also have a strong connection with local primary schools through workshops and reciprocal visits. Core Ensembles also do a three-day regional tour each year. All wind, brass, string, bass guitar and percussion players will be placed in one of the following Core Ensembles.

Junior Concert Band (JCB) Tuesdays 3:00-4:00pm

This is dedicated to beginning players, mostly year 7s or older girls who wish to start learning or take up an additional instrument. It also welcomes those players who have some experience but don't feel confident enough to take on the challenges of Concert Band.

Concert Band (CB) Wednesday 3:30-5:00pm

The Concert Band is for more established players and performs popular as well as symphonic wind ensemble repertoire. The focus is to enjoy playing in a concert band, develop the skills and concepts necessary for mature ensemble playing and marching. During Term 1 some rehearsals are dedicated to marching. This very important skill is compulsory for CB members and has enormous benefits for musical development. Marching is fun and when taking part in ANZAC events a very rewarding and moving experience.

Senior Concert Band (SCB) Thursdays 3.30 – 5 pm

The Senior Concert Band is a flagship ensemble whose members are the most senior students and experienced musicians in the school. Girls join through audition or invitation. The SCB focuses on the classic symphonic wind ensemble repertoire as well as entertainment and ceremonial music. It marches for the Sydney ANZAC Day parade each year.

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Stage Band (SB) Tuesday SRC time & recess

As a major ensemble, Stage Band is a jazz ensemble in the form of a traditional big band. It provides an excellent forum for advanced players to develop jazz style playing: both written and improvised. Membership of this flagship ensemble is for senior ensemble players or by invitation.

Bach Strings (OB) Thursday Lunchtime

All string players will be assessed early in Term 1 in order to be placed into an Ensemble. String Orchestra caters for developing players up to about 3rd Grade AMEB.

Vivaldi Strings (VS) Thursday 7:40-8:40am

Created in 2020, Vivaldi Strings is a dynamic ensemble intermediate of more advanced players. It performs both popular and traditional repertoire.

Beethoven Strings (BS) Wednesday 7:40-8:40am

The flagship Senior Strings is for advanced performers, exploring challenging repertoire and technique. This ensemble will also expand to become a chamber orchestra with the addition of senior wind players.

Musettes TBA Lunch time

Musettes is a small, but diverse choir which sings a range of music: from Art songs, to show and popular music.

Small Ensembles

Woodwind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble/Drum Line, Rock Band and Fluteloops

In addition to our core ensembles, small groups are formed to play at school functions, local council and community functions and ceremonies and Education Department events. These groups rehearse regularly and form a critical part of advancing musicians' development. Invitations to join the Small Ensembles will be announced early in Term 1, so keep an eye out for roll-call notices and the BEP noticeboard. To be a member of a chamber ensemble, girls MUST play in a core ensemble with the exception of piano and guitar players. Bass guitar players must join one of the core bands.

Additional chamber groups may be formed on an "as needed" basis and students are encouraged to form their own small groups for performance opportunities at school. Please see the BEP director if you have an idea for any small group and you will get the support to make it happen!

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Major Concerts of the year

There are three major events during the year that require all BEP performers to attend. When you get the BEP calendar of dates, please ensure they are noted and kept clear so there are no clashes. There are also usually two tours: at the end of Term 1 and week 2 of Term 4.

Inner West Schools Music Festival:

This is held on the Sunday of week 8 in Term 2. It is a huge day with ensembles from schools all over the inner west. All BEP members both perform and assist with running the day as ushers, guides, stage assistants etc.

The Big Night Out: This is our main fund-raiser – a showcase of the talents of all the girls in the program in Term 3. BEP tutors donate their time to perform for you and then join the girls to present a night with all our ensembles and soloists. Cabaret-style seating and BYO nibbles and drinks make this a fun night out for all.

A Little (Christmas) Night Music: Our end-of-year concert brings together all the ensembles to present the very best of what we have achieved through the year. With a sprinkling of Christmas cheer and some caroling, this is a relaxed and enjoyable way to round off the year of music-making.

Parent involvement and support is very welcome at all BEP events. There is a list of 'parent helpers' who need your support. Please let the BEP office know if you have any particular skills or contacts you could donate to assist with logistics or fund-raising. As an extra-curricular program this support is critical in maintaining the high standards the BEP is known for. Support as the audience at concerts is also crucial, please make every effort to support all the BGHS daughters!

Burwood Girls High School Ensemble Program Performance Permission Notes

As part of the Burwood Ensemble Program, ensembles do perform out of regular school hours. Under these circumstances the girls are under the supervision of the ensemble's conductor. During performances away from school, BEP office staff or the Director of the BEP may also be present. DET Teachers from BGHS are not always present. Unless otherwise stated on the permission note, girls need to make their own arrangements for travel to and from the activities. In the interests of safety, it is important that parents supervise their daughter's transport arrangements.

For each performance or event, a permission note outlining the details of times and venues is emailed to parents/guardians and linked on the school website. It is the student's responsibility to ensure these notes are returned. Parents also can keep up to date by checking the BEP page on the BGHS website and through emails from the Program.

No girl is permitted to attend or participate in any performance unless the relevant permission note is returned by the due date to the BEP office signed by a parent/guardian. No exceptions can be made.

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Burwood Ensemble Program: Conditions of Ensemble Membership

Please read and consider these conditions carefully and discuss with your daughter. Ensembles can only thrive with the commitment of every member.

Commitment

It is BEP policy to commit for the year to both ensembles and lessons. Progress is always incremental and sometimes in plateaus: while it can be frustrating, all musicians face this and have to persevere to succeed.

Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances

1. Attendance at **ALL** rehearsals and performances is compulsory. Choosing repertoire, developing ensembles' musical skills and committing to performance invitations is impossible unless there is regular attendance.
2. Please do not make other commitments on these occasions. The BEP gives as much notice as possible of upcoming performances and tour dates. For unavoidable clashes, the Director of Program **MUST** be contacted to negotiate a reasonable outcome. As regular rehearsal times are known well in advance please avoid making appointments or undertaking other activities during these times. Communication between BEP conductors and staff, girls and parents/guardians, is via email, Google Classroom and information published on our webpage.
3. Rolls are marked at rehearsals as a legal document, just as at school. A written note/email from a parent/guardian is required for all absences. In most cases, disruptions by exams, excursions and other school commitments will be known well in advance. It is important that members inform their conductors early. **Important:** We are legally responsible for your child's safety and supervision during rehearsal times.
4. A member's position in the program may be re-examined if attendance is not satisfactory.

Punctuality

1. All girls are expected to be at rehearsals 15 minutes before they start in order to assist with setting up the ensemble. Similarly, all members must assist in packing away before leaving.
2. If a girl is late to a rehearsal, she must have a note from her parent/guardian. If no note is produced, she will be marked late on the roll.
3. In the event a girl must leave a rehearsal early, a note/email from their parent/guardian is required in advance.

Music Folders and Pigeon-holes

Each ensemble also has a set of pigeon-holes where performance folders are stored. These folders are for rehearsals and performances only. They never go home. In compliance with copyright law, the BEP owns or hires original copies of all music performed.

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Practice parts are available through Google Classroom. Each ensemble will have its own 'classroom', where practice parts, links to recordings and videos and other useful information will be stored. It is the ensemble member's responsibility to stay up to date with their parts!

Uniform

When performing at school during school hours, normal school uniform is worn. For all other performances (outside of school hours or off-site) the Black BEP uniform is worn. It is black tailored trousers, black socks, polished school shoes and the BEP black dress shirt. The BEP hat (available through the BEP office) is worn when marching. The black BEP polo shirt is worn when traveling on tour.

All members are required to own the official Black BEP uniform. The branded polo shirt and dress sleeved shirt is available at Lowes. There is also a black BEP jacket for cold days on tour or outdoor/winter performances. Please note that jeans, leggings, tights, etc. or not acceptable.

The uniform is an important part of our performance presentation. As representatives of the school it is important to wear the correct uniform with pride. For some informal occasions or on very hot day's girls may wear black skirts – but only when advised. We have a small 2nd hand uniform shop in the BEP office with good quality clean uniforms that have simply been outgrown too quickly!

Fees*

The Ensemble Program relies upon parent fees, support from the P&C and community donations to cover its expenses. These include employing conductors, BEP Office staff, maintenance of teaching/practice rooms, purchasing of instruments, music and equipment, repair and maintenance of instruments (including pianos, amps and percussion) as well as ongoing extras such as music stands, folders, stationery, printing etc.

Full Membership. All girls who play a Band or String instrument are required to commit to one of the core ensembles (bands or string ensembles). They can *then* also be part of any of the other small ensembles. Full Membership covers participation in any of the ensembles you wish.

Part Program Membership is only available to pianists, singers or guitarists who are ONLY involved in one small group (Musettes or chamber groups).

1. Membership fees are due by the end of Term 1 and billed on your school account. As fees cover budgeted annual costs, they are non-refundable.
2. Students will not be able to participate in tours/camps/public performances if fees are outstanding.
3. Membership of the BEP is an annual fee.
4. Separate fees apply if you require instrument hire. Hiring fees are billed to your school account.
5. Parents should notify the BEP if their contact or payment details change.

All fees are to be paid to the BGHS Front Office, in person or online.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Ensemble membership | \$475 p/a |
| Younger sister discount | \$330 p/a |
| Part Program Membership | \$220 p/a |

Instrument Hire

(Hire form section must be completed)

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Annual fee | \$220 p/a |
|------------|-----------|

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Instrumental Lessons

Private instrumental/vocal weekly lessons are normally 30 minutes in length, on a rotating time basis and paid directly to the tutor. The cost is nominally \$45 per lesson (+GST, if required) Tutors set their own fees, but follow industry guidelines, such as the Music Teacher Association of NSW. Please consult with the individual tutor as to their rates and conditions.

Occasional Fees (subject to change – this is only an estimate for your information)

Ensembles Tour (3 days over 2 nights) \$320 approx

*In cases of hardship, parents/guardians may apply confidentially to the Principal and Program Director in writing for a payment plan or other consideration.

Private Instrumental Lessons Information

As part of being a productive member of the program, and a developing musician, all members of the program are required to have weekly private lessons. While this can be at BGHS or from an outside teacher: it is strongly recommended to take lessons at school where the BEP team can provide a comprehensive support for each girls' needs.

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BEP Tutors for 2021:

| | |
|---|---|
| Violin/Viola: Nan Heo, | Saxophone: Jeff Fisher |
| Eda Talu (Kathryn Crossing - maternity leave) | Trumpet: Pierre Scala |
| Cello: Kirsty Vickers | Horn: Robert Stonestreet |
| Flute: Catherine Kinsella | Low Brass: Simon Bartlett |
| Oboe: Jonathan Ryan | Guitar/Bass guitar: Andrew Troy |
| Clarinet: Emma Hosoge (Georgina Oakes – maternity leave) | Piano/double Bass: Marie-Louise Bethune |
| Bassoon: Jordy Meulenbroeks | Voice: Catherine Lukin |
| | Percussion/Drums: Jeff Doukakis |

All our tutors are professional musicians and educators. While they are committed to the School Ensemble Program and their teaching supports the girls' involvement in the ensembles, they are not employed by the school, but invoice directly to parents/guardians. The BEP oversees the private lessons, so if there are any concerns at any stage a girl's tuition contact the BEP director.

Diary & Timetables

1. Every tutor publishes the term's lesson timetable online and shares this with parents and students. Changes to the timetable (which is a live document) require regular checking by the student. Changes may also be communicated phone or email before the day of the lesson. Lesson times cannot be changed on the day, unless the student sees the tutor in person and the change is possible.
2. Instrumental lessons run between 8:00am and 5.30 pm apart from Roll Call which is 8.45 – 9 am and sport on Tuesdays. Times are based primarily on the tutor's availability. Lessons will rotate fortnightly so that no student misses the same school class regularly. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the tutor is aware if they are in danger of missing the same school class too often. There is no guarantee of a fixed lunch/ recess or out of school lesson time, however parents/guardians may ask a tutor to see if it is possible. Priority in this case goes to senior students, starting with year 12.
3. The student's 'passport' out of class is their electronic timetable. They must show this on their device to their class teacher. If they cannot, the classroom teacher may not let the student out of class. There is also a lesson register which is maintained by the tutor and kept at school in the BEP office. This serves as the official, legal roll of attendance.

Daily Practice

Much has been written about practice and how much is enough. There is no fixed rule, nor formula to know what is enough. It is best to think of doing **daily** practice. The amount varies with each student and tutors will guide each girl as to what is suitable for them. Practice should be a mix of production and technical work, solo pieces and ensemble music as directed by the tutor. Even just a small amount of daily practice is better than one big chunk the night before a lesson!

Attendance at lessons

1. **Lessons are a commitment for the year.** Tutors aim for at least 8 lessons each term to ensure your daughter's successful progress. Most terms will include 10 lessons.
2. **If a tutor cannot attend a lesson,** parents/guardians will be notified by change to the timetable and phone or email with as much notice as possible. The lesson will either be made up at a later date in that term, the fee credited to your account or refunded.

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3. **If a student cannot attend a lesson.** Sick illness, Parents/guardians must notify their tutor by phone or email giving at least 24 hours notice. Notification with less than 24 hours or no notification (for any reason, including illness, forgetfulness or school event) results in that lesson being forfeited and charged for. Proper notification (more than 24 hours in advance) will result in the lesson being made up at a later convenient date or credited to the next term.
4. **Please note that SMS communication may not be received once the school day has begun.**
5. **Any whole-school events or exams/assessment tasks that are on the school calendar should be discussed with your tutor in advance.** Students are excused from Assembly to attend lessons and it is always the student's responsibility to show their classroom teacher their timetable and ask to go to their music lesson. All classroom teachers are supportive of your daughter's attendance at music lessons and they will always release a student to attend a scheduled lesson.

Payment for lessons

1. Parents will be invoiced by the instrumental tutor directly for a Term's worth of weekly thirty-minute lessons per term. There is usually one lesson per week of every term, which are usually 10 weeks long. With mutual agreement between parents and tutors, two lessons may be given in a week, if necessary, in order to catch up on missed tuition.
2. Payment can be on a weekly basis *or* for the whole term, in advance, as agreed to be the tutor. Please respect our tutors' professional status by paying invoices promptly and ensuring your daughter understands her responsibilities in terms of attendance at lessons and commitment to her tutor's teaching program.
3. It is only possible to discontinue lessons in extenuating circumstances **after** discussion between parents, the BEP director and the tutor. Tutors work on the basis of committing to a full school year and expect students to commit likewise. The commitment to lessons and working with the tutor to develop as a musician helps maintain the student's continuing enjoyment and progress.

Links:

BEP home page on BGHS site:

<https://tinyurl.com/BEP-home-page>

Enrolment form for new BEP members:

<https://tinyurl.com/Janfeb-enrolment>

Re-enrolment form for existing BEP members:

<https://tinyurl.com/BEP-Re-enrolment-2021>