Current Music Co-curricular activities

At Merici we offer a wide variety of instrumental and vocal opportunities for all students to participate in before, during and after school.

Chamber ensemble- Tuesday lunch time; smaller group aimed at strings, brass and woodwind

Jazz Band- Tuesday morning 8:00-9:00am; need to be confident players

Choir- Wednesday lunch time; all welcome

Beginner String Group- Monday lunch; Year 7 & 8

Year 7 Beginner Band- Tuesday lunch time; woodwind, brass and percussion only

Senior Band- Wednesday afternoon 3:30-4:45pm; aimed for Year 9-12 students

Advanced String Ensemble- Thursday morning; 8:00-8:45am

Junior Band- Thursday afternoon 3:30-4:45pm; aimed at continuing Year 7-9 students

Emma-Shay Gallenti-Guilfoyle

Emma-Shay began her guitar studies in Brisbane. In 2012 she commenced a Bachelor of Music at the University of Queensland. She is currently completing an honours year specialising in performance at the Australian National University under renowned artist Minh Le Hoang. Her passion and patience for detailing and developing correct technique for classical guitar students is reflected in the enjoyment and progress in all of her students.

Rita Woolhouse

Rita attended the NSW Conservatorium of Music High School then enrolled in tertiary study, graduating with a DSCM in performance. Living in Canberra with her family since 2007, she has performed regularly and taught cello privately. Her teaching philosophy is to encourage a love of music in her students at any age while aspiring to the highest musical and technical standards.

Jaki Kane

Jai is a graduate of the ANU School of Music, and has a Bachelor of Music (Honours) majoring in musicology, piano and choral conducting. She teaches piano and accompanies singers and instrumentalists. She is a Music Director of St Christopher’s Cathedral, and enjoys composing and singing sacred choral music. Jaki also accompanies our wonderful College Choir.

Jason Henderson

Jason, better known as Jace, is the Jazz Band conductor at Merici College in 2016. Originally hailing from Melbourne he moved to Canberra in 2012 and has since played with a diverse group of ensembles and musicians. He is primarily a jazz bassist, with most of his playing time being spent with the Army at RMC Band as a reservist. His passion and knowledge to the girls so they have the opportunity to become excellent jazz musicians.
Our wonderful private tutors

At Merici College you have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our amazing tutors, during school hours on campus. Individual tutor rates may vary and lesson times will be rotated to allow for flexibility with school timetabling.

Alison Mountain
Alison has been playing the flute since she was 7 years old, learning with Teresa Rabe. She has also had master classes and private lessons at the ANU school of music. She is passionate about inspiring the love of music in others.

Clara Teniswood
Clara started learning cello at the age of seven in Hobart and gained her AMusA in 2005. In Canberra, Clara has been very lucky to learn from David Pereira since 2011 while studying science. She attained her LMusA in 2013 and was a Young Artist at the Canberra International Music Festival in 2014. Clara has attended the Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute (AISOI) in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Judy Thompson
Judy is a Piano teacher and has been teaching for over 40 years. She is classically trained in Sydney, with Katherine Gardoll, Lyn Morgan and Joy Lalchere. She enjoys teaching classical, jazz, blues, popular music and even improvisation! Her passion is to see students enjoy learning the piano, and to see them reach their potential.

Leonard Weiss BMus (ANU) MTeach (UNE)
Leonard is an award-winning composer, conductor and performer. An ACT Finalist for 2016 Young Australian of the Year, Leonard is the Musical Director/Conductor of the National Capital Orchestra, the Canberra Youth Orchestra, the Canberra Qwire and the ANU Choral Society, amongst other ensembles. Leonard's musical history includes performances with the Canberra Youth Orchestra on both harp and French horn, multiple commissioned compositions and awards, conducting many of Canberra's top music ensembles, and working on award-winning musical productions.

Luke Midena
Inspired by a “Tubby the Tuba” cartoon, Luke wanted to play the tuba, but his mother thought a smaller brass instrument would be more suitable for an 8 year old. Fortunately it was not long before the noble sound of the French Horn captured Luke’s imagination, and he has never looked back. Luke’s love for music led him to complete a Bachelor of Music Performance at ANU in 2005 under Dominic Harvey.

Neille Williams
Neille grew up in a musical family and fell in love with the idea of being a professional musician very early on. She received her Bachelor's Degree with Honours from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1992 and has worked consistently around Sydney and overseas since that time. She looks forward to working with students discovering the joy of music-making and the sense of accomplishment it brings to all who embark on this wonderful adventure.

Helena Popovic
Helena is a trained classical violinist. She is a current student at the Australian National University studying for a combined Bachelor of Music. Helena has extensive experience in solo, chamber and orchestral performance. Helena enjoys teaching music and believes that the skills learnt through instrumental tuition are beneficial both mentally and physically. Helena runs her lessons with an aim to equip students with correct technique.

Aleisha Stevens
Aleisha trained at both the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and Queensland University of Technology. Aleisha teaches all genres of vocal music and has been teaching voice and for over 20 years. As soloist she has performed with QLD Lyrebird Ensemble, The QLD Philharmonic orchestra and Darwin Symphony Orchestra as well as performing professionally throughout Australia.