

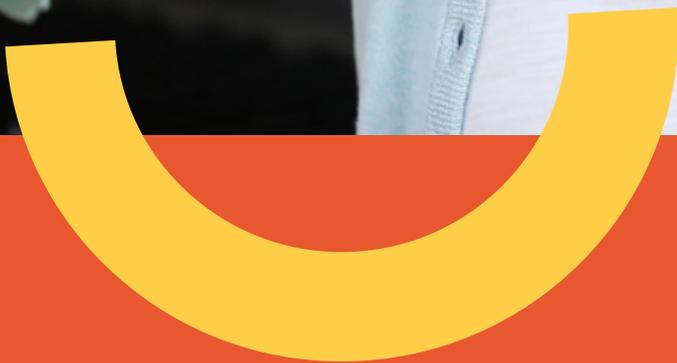


Central Coast
Conservatorium
Of Music

Annual Report
2021









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President's Report



CLAIRE BRAUND

The year of 2021 could well be remembered as the year of a series of 'greats' - the great lockdowns, the great vaccination drive, the great reboot, the great resignation. It was also a year of great challenges, with the suspension of face-to-face tuition for significant periods, constantly changing health mandates and new waves of the virus. Challenges that the management, administration and teaching staff faced with cheerfulness and resolve to keep the show on the road and our students able to continue to learn music. A very big thank you to all our staff for their efforts which are very much appreciated by the board and wider community.

MUSIC TEACHING AND LEARNING REIMAGINED

The experiences of 2020/2021 have altered and reshaped approaches to music teaching. The Conservatorium music teachers adapted to the online environment and trialled various software, tools, and innovative pedagogies to engage students. While online music education lessons were necessitated by the pandemic, most would agree it is impossible to substitute the feeling of being together in a room with other students learning and making music.

However, in many ways our future has been reimagined and online and hybrid teaching models will become part of our teaching environments. Students adapt easily to using technology and although teachers cannot recreate the same experience they do in a classroom, there is much that can be achieved with live social media lessons, recording projects, and digital orchestras.

As blogger Charlie Svensson writes in Indi-Pulse Music, (<https://bit.ly/3x8bE3g>). Music teachers have critical roles to play:

- They must create an avenue for their students to express themselves.
- They must act as community builders.
- They must remain in touch and be accessible in the critical moments that the students need them.

FINANCES

On the financial front, we are in the good shape thanks to the hard work of the finance team led by Financial Controller, Rod Bowman and Treasurer, Tracie Elvidge. The Conservatorium finances will continue to be prudently and sustainably managed as we address new challenges in 2022 and beyond, including grant funding declining in real terms and rising costs.

CHANGES IN THE TEAM

Sadly, we said goodbye to Irena Tasevska, who had been with us in the General Manager role for 12 months. Irena left due to personal circumstances, exacerbated by the difficulty of working from home during the four-month lockdown with small children and not living on the Central Coast. Irena with Artistic Director, Patrick Brennan, led the Conservatorium through a difficult time, for which the board is very grateful.

Fortunately, board member, Bettina Pidcock was available to step in as interim CEO in November 2021, a role she will be acting in until a number of major projects have been completed and we are in a position to recruit a new CEO. Bettina has strong experience in leading teams and organisations.

We also welcomed Tamaryn Hurlly to the marketing team, who led a refresh of the brand and redevelopment of the website, all of which are essential building blocks for our future growth.

Two new members were appointed to our Board, Jennifer Lush and Kate McCallum who alongside the existing board members provided great strength and guidance throughout the year. We continue to strengthen our governing body with the necessary skills and experiences to stand us good stead as we navigate the ever-changing business landscape.



BUILDING OUR NEW CAMPUS

COVID lockdowns and council delays conspired to make 2021 a challenging year for our building project at 45 Mann Street. While we largely completed the interior upgrade and received DA approval to upgrade our facilities at the rear in April, we were only granted a construction certificate in November, meaning work could not really commence until early 2022. With the excessive wet weather, this has pushed the project completion out until October 2022.

In the meantime, interim premises were secured at 35 Mann Street and West Gosford Presbyterian Church, ensuring teaching and ensembles had a COVID safe venue for operation when we came out of lockdown. Thank you to all who assisted with the various moves and for minimising the continuing disruption from the building program

The Conservatorium is extremely fortunate to have secured the services of local builders, Buterin L'Estrange and local architect, Damien Furey, for the building project and thank them for their commitment and work over and above the brief. Board member, Rob Kitchen, has been critical in ensuring every dollar of our \$2million in NSW Department of Education funding has been well spent in his role as pro-bono project manager for the building project. We simply could not have achieved as much without his expert guidance.

A very positive outcome for our future premises was the invitation to the Conservatorium to take part in key talks with the NSW State Government about the development of a TAFE campus in central Gosford, adjacent to 45 Mann Street and encompassing 126 Georgiana Terrace. This will see the Conservatorium become part of a new enriched educational precinct, with meetings progressing in relation to shared purpose-built facilities and the opportunity for a much-needed concert hall realised. Thank you to Adam Crouch MP for his continued lobbying for the Conservatorium.

IN CONCLUSION

The Conservatorium, its board and staff play a critical role in building a sense of music community on the Central Coast. The gift of music is great and one that every child should be able to experience. The Conservatorium aims to connect with and inspire current and future students to create wonderful music, and to impart the hope and joy that playing music brings.



Treasurer's Report



TRACIE ELVIDGE

Operational Profit	\$143,763
Included above Job Saver support	\$152,848
Result less Job Saver Support	(\$9,085)

After a difficult second half of 2020 due to COVID 19 we had set our financial expectations for 2021 to recovery and stabilisation. Although some restrictions to operations were still in place, we had not anticipated the rise of a new variant that again required the staff and families to pivot to a new but familiar paradigm of tighter restrictions. As a result, there were impacts to finances, the building project and the locations we had to operate from. There was an array of amendments that ensued.

Financially we relied on the government support that we had carried forward from 2020 and the Job Saver support provided by the government through the 2nd half of 2021. This also helped cover a number of building project costs for latent conditions from cash reserves. Notwithstanding the challenges of 2021 we did finish the year in a good financial position as a result of the government assistance.

With the appointment of Bishop Collins Audit Pty Ltd to audit the 2021 financials, there was a

recommendation for the adoption of a number of new accounting standards. This resulted in a restatement of our 2020 financials to allow for comparisons of the 2021 returns. The accounting profits shown in the reports and the increased statement of assets are the result of restating the recognition of the building grant funds as revenue and the project as a work in progress asset in accordance with:

AASB 1058, Income of Not-for-profit Entities, grants for reciprocal contributions and the construction of a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by the entity shall be recognised in the profit of loss over the periods in which the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

Under AASB 116, Property Plant and Equipment, a cost of an item of property plant and equipment shall be recognised as an asset if it is probable future economic benefits will flow to the entity. To the extent CCCM is discharging its obligations to construct an asset available to the entity in connection with the grant deed, this is recognised as work in progress.

The accounting profit and the increased assets of the organisation will, over time, be reduced as the assets age and depreciation and amortisation transactions are completed.

Thank you to all members for their efforts through such a protracted period of challenges.





Chief Executive's Report

I joined the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music in 2020 as a member of the Management Board and little did I know that just over a year later, I would have the privilege of stepping into a management role. I am serving in an interim capacity, following the resignation of the General Manager, and it is both eye opening and exhilarating to be a part of the executive team at the Con during a time of such change and opportunity.

Operationally, we have had to continually change and update our procedures to accommodate the changing COVID environment and I want to thank all of our staff for their adaptability and cooperation.

My colleagues have helped me understand the very unique qualities of this place and its important role as a hub not only for students seeking high quality musical education but for the many vibrant community music groups on the Central Coast. At the back of this report, we share some of the personal stories of members from different parts of the Con's community. Importantly, I have seen how esteemed our teachers are and how dedicated they have been in the face of considerable adversity. The quality of the educational outcomes achieved is evident in the high standards of performance I have observed in the concerts that have been held, albeit there were far fewer than in previous years.

We are grateful for the funding received through the Department of Education as well as the donations and



BETTINA PIDCOCK

sponsorships received from patrons, which together with our tuition fees ensure we remain sustainable and able to make a valuable contribution to the cultural life of our region.

Seeing students back at the Con has been the absolute highlight for me and hearing the cacophony of instruments playing in the afternoon as the students attend their lessons is a source of real joy. I've worked closely with my leadership colleagues to identify opportunities to improve our operations and I look forward to an exciting year ahead. I would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, volunteers, donors and the Board for their continued commitment and support of this wonderful place, the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music.

L. *-grotta;*

L. *-sto*

L.

L. brut . ta se

L. pur . ché .

L. quel

Artistic Director's Report

2021 has been another year out of the box! In the face of the ongoing COVID challenges, we have still managed to achieve some great outcomes and I want to thank our artistic, administration and management teams who have worked tirelessly, as well as our enthusiastic students.

This was another year where the Con had to dig deep. Fortunately, our teachers and students had experience with online learning and this stood us in good stead as we worked through periods where our physical facility was shut down. I want to particularly call out Vicki Harris who worked incredibly hard to make the Schools Program a success in the often changing landscape she had to navigate.

Reflecting on the year reminds me how incredibly impressed I was with our students and their families, who must be applauded for continuing to believe in and engage with our programs. The Allen Family concert showcased how strong this commitment is with outstanding performances from all our participating students. Congratulations to Jack Li for his poised and nuanced Marimba performance and to Kaito Deed and Mia Cross who placed second and third in the competitive scholarship results. The ongoing commitment to learning at the Conservatorium of these and all of our students through extreme circumstances, with limited performance opportunities,



PATRICK BRENNAN

exemplifies the incredible spirit that has enabled us to flourish for nearly forty years.

The financial support from the Department of Education, our donors and sponsors was critical and enabled us to continue our program of bursaries and scholarships and I want to thank all who continue to contribute to our programs. Our teachers, the lifeblood of our organisation, maintained an extraordinary resilience and this ensured that our artistic and educational standards were achieved to the highest level.

Looking ahead, I feel we are on a strong and confident path with the refurbishment of our beautiful building at 45 Mann St. I have an excellent and collaborative relationship with our Interim CEO and together with a dedicated artistic, administrative and leadership team, the next year will be an excellent opportunity to build on our well developed strengths.



About CCCM

Our aim is to inspire artistry on the Central Coast, and to contribute to the culture, lifestyle and development of the community.

The Central Coast Conservatorium of Music Inc. (CCCM) is a leader in music education and performance. We deliver quality musical education services that support grassroots learning through to professional practice. Our aim is to inspire artistry on the Central Coast, and to contribute to the culture, lifestyle and development of the community.

CCCM is a community-based organisation and member of The Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums.

Located in the heart of Gosford CBD within the historic former police station and courthouse on Mann Street, our programs are funded by the local community through lesson fees, sponsorship and donations – with additional assistance by the State Government.

The Con was established in 1983 as one of the NSW Conservatorium of Music's Regional Music Centres, teaching classes out of the old Gosford Primary School plumbing workshop. However, over the next 5 years student and teacher numbers grew exponentially, and it was clear that a larger, more permanent building was needed.

In 1987 The Centre found its new home in the old Police Station and Courthouse, and in 1996 its name was registered as Central Coast Conservatorium Incorporated.

CCCM now provides music programs to over 1300 students, has been used for rehearsals and performances by various community groups, is the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Central Coast Examination Centre, and plays an important role in the cultural development of our region.

684
primary students

24

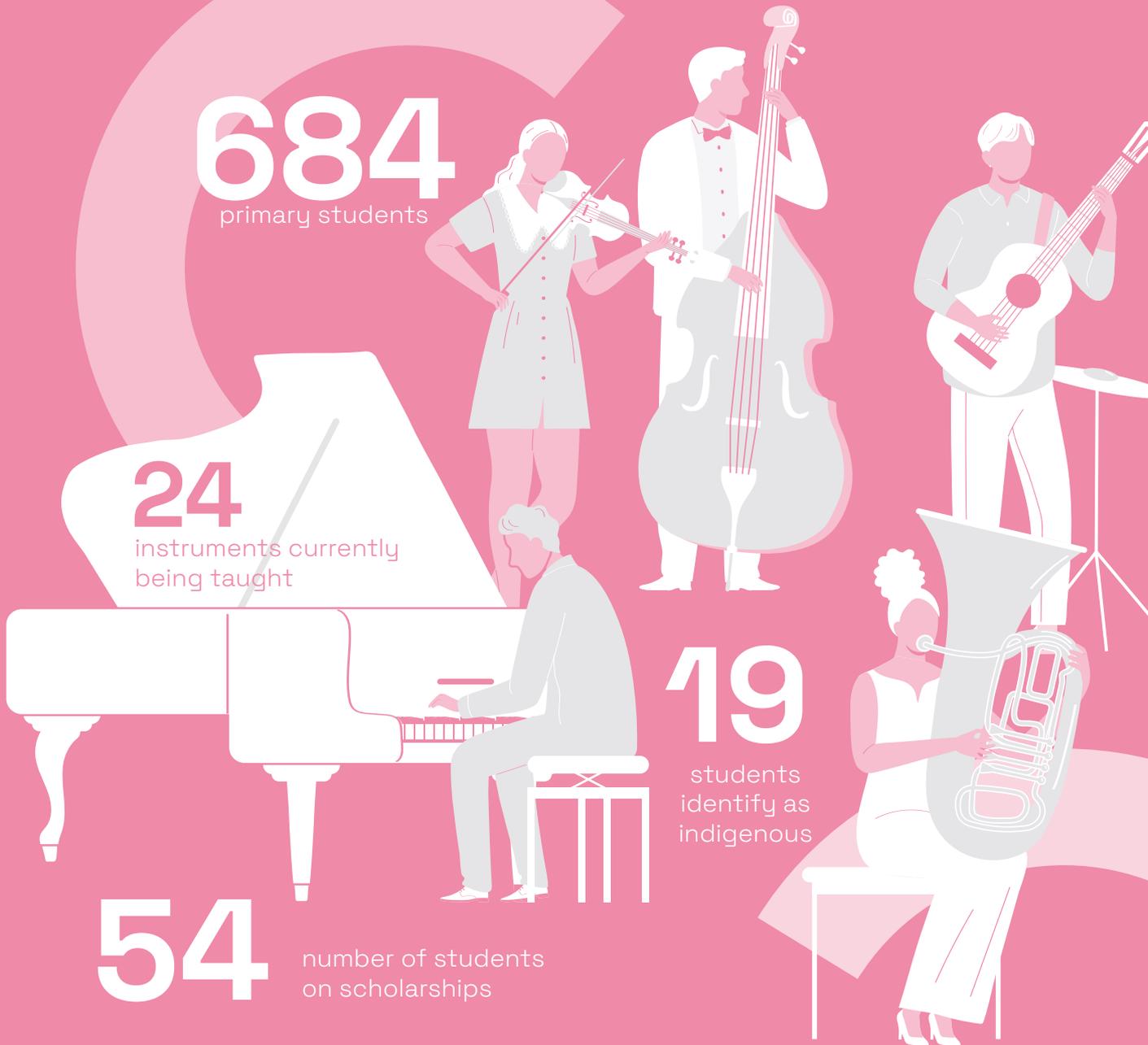
instruments currently
being taught

19

students
identify as
indigenous

54

number of students
on scholarships



SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT
DEMOGRAPHICS

total number of students

1336

164 secondary students

564

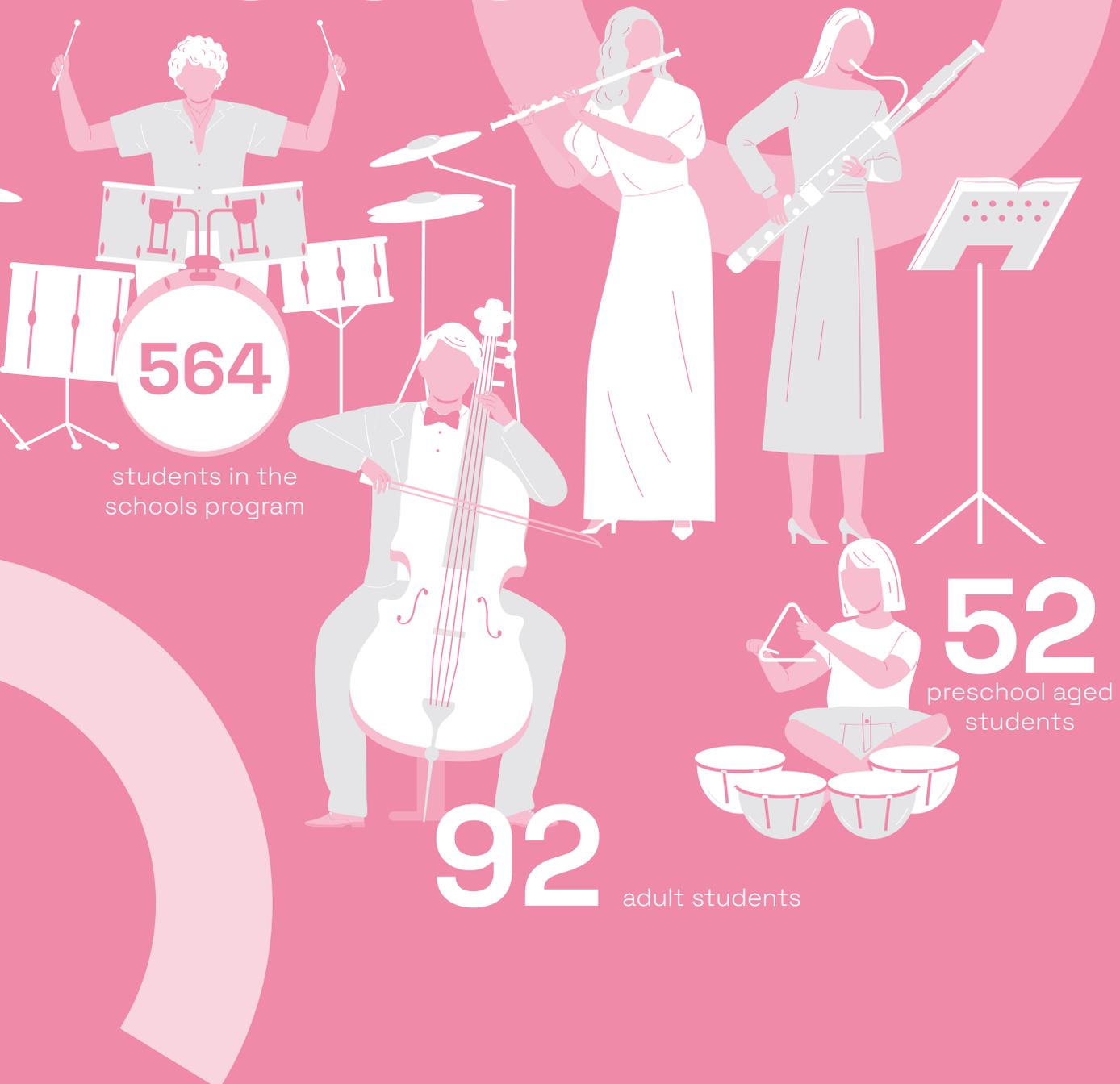
students in the schools program

52

preschool aged students

92

adult students





Schools



- SCHOOLS BAND PROGRAM
- SCHOOLS CONCERTS AND RESOURCES
- HSC SUPPORT
- PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Schools Band Program



The Schools Program is an entry level band program designed to give primary school students the opportunity to learn an instrument of their choice and to participate in their school band.

All lessons and band rehearsals are held at school during school hours with the exception of the band rehearsals which are usually held before school.

Students learn alongside their peers in small groups with experienced specialist teachers and conductors from the Conservatorium, with the opportunity to later move into private lessons and the Conservatorium's premier ensembles as they progress.

All beginner students start in the Training Band where they are taught the fundamentals of how to

play their instrument and how to read music. Regular performance opportunities enable students to also learn performance skills and to showcase what they have learnt.

After a year of training, most students are then ready to move into their school's Concert Band where the students are extended on their instrument and introduced to many different styles of music. The Concert Band regularly performs at school assemblies and other special events and is the senior ensemble group at each school. The Schools Program is an excellent and affordable way for children to start in music.



Concerts & Resources

BIG DAY OUT

The Big Day Out is an annual schools band workshop that sees around 300 students from all CCCM's Training and Concert Bands come together. Students from all participating schools spend a full day learning new music in workshop style tutorials and in large, combined-schools rehearsals. This culminates in a short performance at the end of the day for family and friends.

BANDFEST

Bandfest is an annual band competition style event. All participating schools in our band program are invited to enter their Training and/or Concert bands into Band Fest, to perform in front of family and

friends for independent adjudication and feedback. All Participating bands receive a certificate with feedback from the adjudicator.

REGULAR BAND PERFORMANCES

Most school bands (Training bands and Concert bands) perform once a term in front of their school peers at either regular school assemblies or special school events such as Anzac Day services, Presentation Day assemblies, Grandparents Day, Book week, Education Week displays and Christmas Carols events.

Several school bands also perform for the public outside of their school in venues such as shopping centres, nursing homes and community arts events.



HSC Support

CCCM continued to expand its extensive range of HSC support activities to Year 11 and Year 12 students and teachers during 2021. Across the year, CCCM teaching staff and guest educators work individually and in groups to help them achieve their personal best. CCCM makes a substantial and invaluable contribution to students' HSC music exam achievements through the HSC support program.

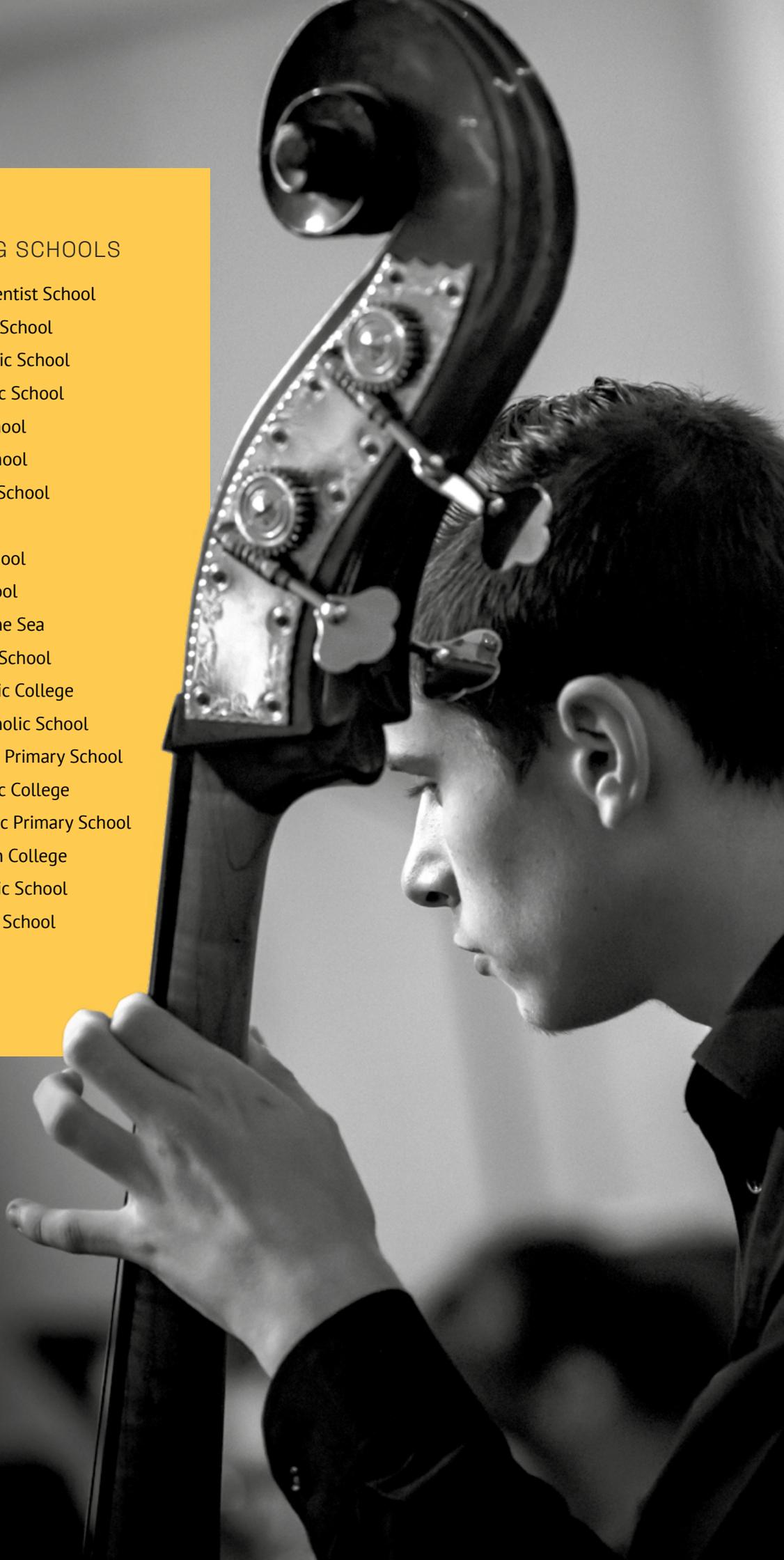
CCCM PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND (UNE)

CCCM has partnered with UNE which allows tertiary students to receive face to face tuition whilst they complete their Bachelor of Music online and remain on the NSW Central Coast.

The Instrumental and Vocal Studies program offers a sequence of advanced performance training units over the course of the 3-year Bachelor of Music degree. Utilising the experience and expertise of CCCM's teachers, each unit incorporates weekly one to one instrumental and vocal lessons alongside a host of activities provided through the CCCM.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Central Coast Adventist School
- Empire Bay Public School
- Erina Heights Public School
- Gosford East Public School
- Gosford Public School
- Holgate Public School
- Kincumber Public School
- Lakes Grammar
- Lisarow Public School
- Narara Public School
- Our Lady Star of the Sea
- Point Clare Public School
- St Edwards Catholic College
- St John Fisher Catholic School
- St John the Baptist Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic College
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
- St Philip's Christian College
- Umina Beach Public School
- Valley View Public School





Lessons



- INSTRUMENT AND VOCAL LESSONS
- STRINGS PROGRAM
- ENSEMBLES
- KEYBOARD CLUB
- MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
- CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM
- MUSIC THERAPY
- MUSICIANSHIP
- SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND SUPPORT

Instrumental & Vocal Lessons

CCCM's core program of individual instrumental lessons enrolled over 426 students from beginner children to advanced school students, adults and tertiary students this year. A highlight was record enrolments in the new keyboard club program aimed at entry level school aged children with a focus on affordability.

The COVID-19 lockdown saw the transformation of our individual lesson programs continue as our staff of instrumental and vocal teachers shifted from traditional face-to-face lessons to the online teaching environment.

The commitment and dedication of the teaching staff was remarkable in this unprecedented and tiring challenge, particularly as technical knowledge and setups were extremely variable. The commitment by students and their families to continue their music lessons online for an extended period was exemplary, enabling CCCM to sustain enrolments during this time.

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

- violin, viola, cello, double bass
- flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone
- trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba
- piano, keyboard
- percussion
- voice

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

- individual lessons on campus or at schools
- keyboard club
- ensembles
- student concerts, open rehearsals, showcases

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN/ADULTS

- individual lessons on campus or in schools
- ensembles
- student concerts, soiree concerts, showcases
- masterclasses and workshops with guest musicians
- AMEB exam prep

UNE ADVANCED PERFORMANCE UNIT IN BMUS

- instrumental lessons
- ensembles
- concerts, showcases
- masterclasses and workshops with guest musicians



Strings Program

Saturday Strings is a graded ensemble program that runs for 9-weeks of a term for students of violin, viola, cello and double bass. The program is open to students from Preliminary to AMus A and includes classes in Chamber Music for intermediate and advanced students.

BEGINNER STRING CLASSES (BEGINNER)

Beginner String Classes are for beginner students who would like to explore playing string instruments in a fun group environment.

STRING ENSEMBLES (BEGINNER TO ADVANCED)

In these fun ensembles students will learn the fundamentals of playing together in an ensemble and explore exciting new repertoires, more complex scores and developing their group performance skills.

CHAMBER MUSIC GROUPS (INTERMEDIATE)

Chamber Music Groups are the most important aspect of the Strings Program, where students learn leadership, independence and musicianship in a group of 3 – 5 players. Each receives individual parts and the guidance of a chamber music coach.

TECHNIQUE CLASS (ADVANCED)

Technique classes are for students playing in the String Ensemble and Central Coast Chamber Orchestra. This class is an invaluable tool in learning and consolidating all aspects of string technique and is designed to supplement students' learning in their one-to-one lessons.

CENTRAL COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (ADVANCED)

The Central Coast Chamber Orchestra is the Conservatorium's premier string ensemble and regularly performs in the Premier Ensembles Concert, Opera in the Arboretum and other high profile community events.





Ensembles

Ensemble playing is a crucial component in the development of the complete musician. Ensemble performance improves listening, pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and musicianship in a sociable non-competitive environment that emphasises music making with friends as a shared goal. CCCM's ensemble programs, for both youth and adults, provide a sequential training framework to nurture these essential skills from the very first instrument lessons for beginners.

PRIMARY WIND ENSEMBLE (CCPWE)

The Central Coast Primary Wind Ensemble, also known as Super Band, is a musical extension program for primary school aged student musicians who play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments on the NSW Central Coast.

Super Band is one of the Conservatorium's Premier Ensembles and aims to complement and enhance the learning and performance experiences gained in school band program by challenging students who have already gained a high degree of musical proficiency at a young age.

SYMPHONIC WIND ORCHESTRA (CCSWO)

CCSWO is a high calibre Symphonic Wind Ensemble program for high school student musicians who play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments and have gained a high degree of musical proficiency on their instrument.

This ensemble rehearses and performs challenging repertoire that compliments and enhances the learning and performance experiences gained in one-to-one lessons and school band programs.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA (CCYO)

CCYO is the Conservatorium's flagship ensemble, renowned in the community for its exceptional level of musicianship and captivating performances.

CCYO is made up of the Central Coast's top string, woodwind, brass and percussion students, many of whom represent our region at a state level as members of the Regional Youth Orchestra NSW.

The CCYO rehearses weekly and performs professional level repertoire.



ADULT STRINGS ENSEMBLE

The Adult Strings Ensemble is an opportunity for string players over 18 years old to work together and develop their ensemble skills in an informal yet professional setting. String players (over 18) of 2 years' experience or AMEB Grade 2-5 are invited to join.

CLASSICAL GUITAR ENSEMBLE

The Classical Guitar Ensemble is an exciting opportunity for players over 14 years old to experience the beauty of repertoire of 4 and 5 guitar arrangements. The pieces range from intermediate to advanced levels and range from classical to contemporary music suited to the classical and flamenco type guitars.

JAZZ GUITAR ENSEMBLE

The Jazz Guitar Ensemble plays easy to upper intermediate guitar repertoire providing ample opportunity to practice improvisation within a group environment.

STEVE SMILLIE GUITAR ENSEMBLE

This Guitar Ensemble comprises guitarists on acoustic, electric and bass guitars who enjoy exploring music from a range of genres. The ensemble provides students with the opportunity to further develop sight-reading, improvisation, ensemble and rhythm section skills.



Keyboard Club

Keyboard Club is CCCM's newest program, which was devised in 2021, ready to be launched at the start of Term 1, 2022

Led by our expert music teachers, this exciting new program provides students with the opportunity to build a fantastic knowledge base of musical techniques that will assist them not only with keyboard playing, but any other instruments they choose in the future.

Additionally, research has found that the skills required to play the keyboard:

- sharpen fine motor skills,
- improve hand-eye coordination,
- boost cognitive and intellectual abilities,
- improve memory,
- increase spatial-temporal ability (which figures heavily in math and science), and
- can even make structural changes to the brain that stay with you for the rest of your life, making your brain more efficient both while playing and in extra-musical endeavours.

Masterclasses & Workshops

CCCM provides a substantial number of masterclasses and workshops throughout the year, giving students invaluable opportunities to meet and work with some of Australia's finest musicians from professional ensembles, orchestra and universities. The program has been scaled back over the past two years due to COVID-19, with a transition to online masterclasses and workshops where possible.



MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

In a typical year CCCM aims to provide several opportunities for students, and at times the general public, to participate in masterclasses and workshops led by CCCM internal staff or visiting guest artists. Music Week sees CCCM organise 119+ of these events across a 7-day period.

Regular workshops and masterclasses include:

- Vocal Workshop
- Vocal Masterclass including
- Choir workshop and masterclass
- Brass Workshop
- Brass Masterclass
- Woodwind Workshop
- Woodwind Masterclass
- Guitar Workshop
- Guitar Masterclass
- Piano workshop
- Piano Masterclass
- Percussion workshop
- Percussion Masterclass

Children's Music Program



CCCM's Children's Music Program (CMP) is a sequential program for children aged 0 – 10 years, developed by a team of highly specialised music teachers.

Due to the impact of covid-19, these classes transitioned online for a period with teachers and families working together to deliver dynamic and stimulating lessons via online platforms.

We encourage children to participate individually and as part of a group, nurturing their creativity and imagination and most importantly instilling a love of music.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC

The teaching philosophy underpinning our Creative Music Play classes embraces learning and social development through participation in engaging musical activities. This philosophy also encourages continued learning and engagement at home.

THE LEVELS PROGRAM

Our Children's Music Program offers a tailored music education for school aged children aged 5 to 10 years. This program embraces musical development and teaches music performance and theory at advancing levels as children progress through each level.

There are 3 levels in the Children's Music Program, with each level spanning one year (four terms) to complete. Students participating in this program will study both choral work and learn to play several musical instruments.



The Con's music therapy program provides tailored Music Therapy for individuals and groups. This service is open to people of all ages and abilities, providing client-centred goals and objectives.

Music Therapy differs from music education as its main goal is not to develop musical skills or learn a new instrument, but rather to aim to improve a person's health, functioning and well-being in a therapeutic setting that uses music interventions as the primary tool.

Our highly-skilled therapists work to set goals such as increasing social skills, providing ways to interact and communicate verbally and non-verbally, developing cognitive awareness, gaining sensory motor skills and promoting relaxation – all of which can be addressed through CCCM's Music Therapy Program.

Music Therapy

Musicianship



CCCM's musicianship classes help students develop all aspects of musical understanding and application, with musicianship students often accelerating practical progress on their instrument.

Group classes are held on a weekly basis and have been developed by Dr Phillip Rutherford, who has a PhD in Music (Composition) from the Sydney Conservatorium.

Classes are groups based on experience levels and cover the following topics:

- Reading music accurately
- The structure of music
- Aural abilities ('ear training')
- Sight reading skills
- Sight singing skills
- Music history
- Music appreciation of all styles of music, from classical to popular

As lifelong learners, musicians continue to study and practice even after they have built solid skills, to deepen their understanding and keep their skills as sharp as possible.

Scholarships, Bursaries & Support

Our Scholarships and Bursaries Program enables talented students to undertake music lessons, experience performance opportunities and gain recognition for their achievements.

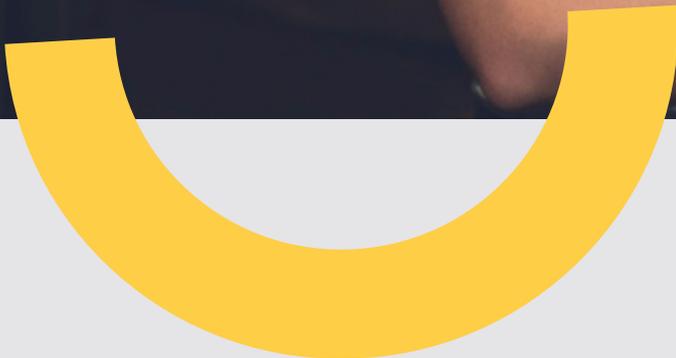
Our scholarships include merit-based awards, encouragement awards, schools-based scholarships

and equity bursaries for students and families in financial hardship.

Our goal is to expand our Scholarships Program to provide as many students as we can with the benefits of music education.

CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES AVAILABLE

NAME	VALUE	FUNDING	TYPE
CCCM Senior Instrumental Winner (2022)	\$1,000.00	CCCM	Competitive
Richard Newton Senior Vocal Scholarship (2022)	\$1,000.00	Donor	Competitive
Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarship	\$1,000.00	Donor	Competitive
Irvine Family Senior Piano Scholarship (2022)	\$1,000.00	Donor	Competitive
CCCM Senior Instrumental Finalist (2022)	\$750.00	CCCM	Competitive
John L. Drummond Bassoon Scholarship	\$2,000	Donor	Merit
Frances Grove Memorial People's Choice Award	\$500	Donor	Competitive
Pearl Beach Association People's Choice 2nd place	\$250	Donor	Competitive
Indigenous Scholarship	\$2,500	Donor	Merit
Allen Family Senior 1st place (2021)	\$2,000.00	Donor	Competitive
Allen Family Senior 2nd (2021)	\$1,000.00	Donor	Competitive
Allen Family Senior 3rd (2021)	\$500.00	Donor	Competitive
CCCM Junior Instrumental Winner (2021)	\$750.00	CCCM	Competitive
CCCM Junior Instrumental Finalist (2021)	\$500.00	CCCM	Competitive
CCCM Junior Instrumental Finalist (2021)	\$500.00	CCCM	Competitive
Murray Khouri Woodwind Scholarship #1	\$1,000	Donor	Merit
Murray Khouri Woodwind Scholarship #2	\$1,000	Donor	Merit
Allen Family Junior Encouragement Awards (2021)	\$500.00	Donor	Competitive
Allen Family Junior Encouragement Awards (2021)	\$500.00	Donor	Competitive
Allen Family Junior Encouragement Awards (2021)	\$500.00	Donor	Competitive





Concerts & Events

- STUDENT CONCERTS
- SCHOLARSHIP SHOWCASES
- TEACHER CONCERTS
- COMMUNITY MUSICIANS
- GUEST ARTISTS
- PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLES

CCCM offers students and our broader community a wide range of free and ticketed concerts throughout the year that attract audiences from across the Central Coast and Sydney. A strength of CCCM's concert program is the wide variety of concert formats it presents that feature students, teaching staff musicians, community musicians, guest artists and professional ensembles. These performances are accessible to the whole community as many are free and in public venues such as churches, community centres and parks.



Affiliates, Donors & Sponsors

SUPPORTERS & DONORS

Support provided by individuals, corporations and businesses allow for the development and implementation of programs, projects and resources. These partnerships make it possible for our students, teachers and the community to access world-class music education, resources and performances here on the Central Coast.

AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS

One of the greatest benefits of our community affiliations is the opportunity it provides our students and teachers to share, engage and develop with peers and colleagues who share similar challenges and opportunities within the Arts on the Central Coast.

CENTRAL COAST PHILHARMONIA CHOIR

Each year the Philharmonia sponsors a student through the Central Coast Philharmonia (Richard Newton) Classical Vocal Scholarship. Central Coast Conservatorium and the Philharmonia Choir collaborate on a number of events throughout the year, and we also assist them through ticket selling and marketing activities.

SYMPHONY CENTRAL COAST

Symphony Central Coast is a full-size symphony orchestra presenting outstanding musical programs of orchestral and choral masterworks to the Central Coast community. The flagship activities of the SCC are the annual subscription series, comprising four concerts and featuring the best orchestral works by leading composers and performers.

CENTRAL COAST CONCERT BAND

The Central Coast Concert Band, formed in 1989 is a community based band that meets weekly and accepts musicians of all ages and skill levels who can read music and play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments. The band is a traditional concert wind band. Instrumentation includes Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, String Bass and Percussion.

CONCERTANTE ENSEMBLE

Concertante Ensemble is the Central Coast's Chamber Orchestra, which started as a trio and expanded in 1994 to become a full string chamber orchestra with a core of 11 players, bound together by a common vision to bring exceptional quality chamber music with local, Australian and International performers to local audiences.



BOARD MEMBERS

Claire Braund	President	Elected in 2016
Peter Brandon	Board Member	Elected in 2006
Tracie Elvidge	Treasurer	Elected in 2019
Kate McCallum	Board Member	Elected in 2021
Jennifer Lush	Board Member	Elected in 2021
Hilary Day	Chair of Teaching and Music Committee	Elected in 2010
Rob Kitchen	Board Member	Elected in 2019
Penny Lee	Chair, Governance & Legal Committee	Elected in 2019
Bettina Pidcock	Board Member	Elected in 2020





STAFF MEMBERS

Bettina Pidcock	Interim CEO
Patrick Brennan	Artistic Director
Rod Bowman	Financial Controller
Sharon Fergusson	Accounts/Payroll
Tamaryn Hurly	Marketing Manager
Nicky Castle	Events Coordinator
Caroline Casey	Senior Customer Service Officer
Carl Schmidt	Head of Department (Piano)
Melissa Lark	Musicianship, Vocal, Children's Music Program teacher
Elisabeth Jacobs	Piano Teacher
Liisa Mannukka	Piano Teacher
Lilli Naulu	Piano Teacher
Svetlana Vokurka	Piano Teacher
Sharon Hatton	Keyboard Teacher
Guy Strazz	Head of Department (Guitar)
Mark Johns	Guitar Teacher
Steve Smillie	Guitar Teacher
Aaron Flower	Guitar Teacher
Ashley Turner	Bass Teacher
Fiona Lugg	Bass Teacher
Michaele Archer	Co-Head of Department (Voice)
Yvette Masters	Co-Head of Department (Voice)
Tim Page	Vocal Teacher
Karina Moss-Hollands	Head of Department (Strings)
Andrew Wilson	Cello Teacher
Heather Hinrichs	Cello Teacher, Adult Strings Ensemble
Charlotte Marie Brown	Violin Teacher



Julie Blakemore	Violin, Viola Teacher
Philippa Collins	Violin Teacher
Annastasia Milwain	Violin Teacher
Emma Townsend	Violin Teacher, Music Therapist
Amanda Elkington	Strings Teacher
Trish O'Hearn	Head of Department (Brass), Trumpet Teacher
Phillip Rutherford	Head of Department (Musicianship), Brass Teacher, Conductor
E-Yang Liu	Brass Teacher
David Markham	Brass Teacher
Mitchell Lowe	Trombone, Trumpet Teacher
Radu Boros	Horn Teacher
Brendan Berlach	Saxophone Teacher, Conductor
Derek Galloway	Flute Teacher
Rosalie Bourne	Flute Teacher
Nicole Wyatt	Flute Teacher
Jennifer Knight	Flute Teacher, Conductor
Diane Gardiner	Clarinet Teacher
Kevin Smith	Clarinet, Saxophone Teacher, Conductor
Joanne Arnott	Recorder Teacher
Karl Laskowski	Percussion Teacher
Michael Sparks	Percussion Teacher
Sean Steele	Percussion Teacher
Joanne McMahon	Children's Music Program Teacher
Mandy Yule	Children's Music Program Teacher
Vicki Harris	Schools Program Administrator, Saxophone, Clarinet Teacher, Conductor

CCCM Community Personal Stories



KATY TSAI

Piano Teacher

Acclaimed pianist Katy Tsai has taught extensively at many top Sydney schools, as well as recording several albums especially designed for yoga, meditation and healing.

Katy's music training began at the age of five on piano and since her debut performance at the age of ten, she has been familiar to the stage, both locally and internationally.

But she says moving to the Coast and taking up a teaching position at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music - which has coincided with the long-awaited launch of the Keyboard Club - is a "dream come true".

"The past two-years have been very stressful on both adults and children alike. What is really exciting for me is being able to share the joy, mindful and uplifting benefits that come with music," said Katy.

"Music has been my voice of expression, my deepest connection with others, and my creative playground since I was young. I hope that it will become that for my students too," she continued.

Katy said a high-quality teaching institution like the Central Coast Conservatorium is an attractive proposition for teachers like herself considering living and working on the Coast, and having a purpose-built performance/rehearsal space will only attract more talent to the region.

From a wellbeing standpoint, being able to share her passion, knowledge and skills with students through the entry-level Keyboard Club is a career highlight for Katy.

Born in Taiwan, Katy herself was introduced to music from an early age when her parents enrolled her in piano lessons "in the hope I would find a creative outlet".

"I still vividly remember my first piano lesson. My mum asked me in front of the teacher whether I'd like to learn the piano - little did I know that my "YES" would take me on the journey of a lifetime!" Now - through the CCCM - she hopes to inspire other children on their journey of a lifetime.



XAVIER CARDOZO

Central Coast Youth Orchestra member
and bassoonist

It was a speech by late conductor Richard Gill about the value of music education, which he gave on a 2011 visit to the Central Coast, which cemented Xavier Cardozo's parents' decision to invest in their son's extra-curricular music education from an early age.

Starting with the Central Coast Conservatorium's Children's Music Program, aged four, Xavier went on to learn clarinet with Luke Gallen (who described Xavier as a very enthusiastic learner) before winning a CCCM Endangered Instrument scholarship and taking private bassoon lessons with Patrick Brennan from age 11.

During that time, Xavier also performed with CCCM's Primary Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Wind Ensemble and is currently principal bassoon with the Central Coast Youth Orchestra and part of the Conducting and Music Teaching class. Now in Year 11 at Narara Valley High School, Xavier is studying for his HSC Music 2 and also attends Musicianship classes and an HSC Support Class with Phillip Rutherford.

While Xavier has always displayed a keen interest in music (even from an early age) his passion for the Bassoon and genuine love for classical music has been nurtured by the teachers, experiences and performance opportunities offered to him at the Conservatorium. This has included being able to learn alongside visiting Opera Australia and Navy Band musicians, as well as performing with CCYO and Central Coast Philharmonia for the Australian premiere of Dan Forrest's Jubila Deo.

"Being able to attend the Conservatorium here on the Central Coast, while attending a public school, has

meant I don't have to spend time travelling to specialist schools in Sydney or further for my music lessons or to perform with an orchestra," said Xavier. "This means I have more time to practice, take part in local concerts and do things I enjoy"

It is Xavier's hope to study Bachelor of Music at Sydney Conservatorium and become a professional musician. "I don't think any of this would have been possible if I hadn't joined the Con and had such good teachers and opportunities," he said.

He said rehearsing and performing in a range of different venues around Gosford has had its challenges (especially for his parents who do all the driving) but it hasn't dampened his enthusiasm. "We currently don't have designated performance or rehearsal space with any reasonable seating, acoustics or space for musicians. I am really looking forward to having a new dedicated space in Gosford, that I can use now and in the future. It will showcase the amazing musicians we have here. Maybe we will be able to perform one of my own compositions there one day!"



HILARY DAY

Symphony Central Coast member
and cellist

Cellist, physiotherapist and Central Coast Conservatorium of Music Board member Hilary Day has been heavily involved with music on the Central Coast for over 30 years.

From studying cello with CCCM and playing with Symphony Central Coast since its inception to teaching cello at Central Coast Grammar School and now as Chair of CCCM Teaching and Music Committee, Hilary is proud of the wealth of musical talent and educational opportunities on the Central Coast.

“I have watched the Conservatorium grow from what was the Music Centre in the mid-80s to an enviable music institution drawing in talented teachers, visiting musicians and audiences from all over,” she said.

“Having a new purpose-built performance/rehearsal space for the Conservatorium is vital in cementing Gosford as a cultural hub and in attracting more talented musicians and teachers to the Coast - which will in turn secure the future of our fantastic Symphony Central Coast.”

A former president of Symphony Central Coast for 10 years, Hilary said the orchestra has been closely

entwined with CCCM since it was formed in 1999 with support from the Conservatorium. It has since grown to a full size symphony orchestra, presenting outstanding programs of orchestra and choral masterworks to the Central Coast community.

One of the Coast’s most prized cultural assets, the orchestra is a reflection of the pride in cultural awareness and support by the Central Coast community.

“There is a close link between SSC and the Con’s students, teachers and Central Coast Youth Orchestra (CCYO), with many students going on to play in the orchestra,” said Hilary.

As well as staging regular symphony concerts at venues around the Coast, SSC also holds a concerto competition every two years, giving an important opportunity to young local soloists to perform.

“The new dedicated rehearsal/performance space at the Conservatorium’s Gosford site, would also provide a stunning performance space for chamber music groups and visiting music programs.”

Having rehearsed with SCC for 34 years, Hilary said she is also acutely aware of the difficulties in storing, and transporting large musical instruments such as timpani drums.

“There is often a lot of sharing resources between SCC and the CCYO and other ensembles - especially with us all playing and rehearsing in different locations. From a logistical point of view I know it would be hugely beneficial for CCYO to have a dedicated space where they can store stands, instruments and the like.”

Australian conductor, keyboard maestro and Artistic Director of acclaimed early music company Pinchgut Opera, Erin Helyard has performed around the world and is one of the country's leading musicologists.

And it all started in Gosford, at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music when he was in primary school. "I remember it as the 'Music Centre' and it was here that I came under the mentorship of a series of exceptional female teachers on violin and piano - although piano won out," said Erin, who now specialises in early music and baroque opera.

"These teachers were resilient and hard-working musicians, and it is to them that I owe my first engagement with the art and craft of music-making. They were supporting and nourishing but also disciplined and strong, and they made me realise just how deeply fulfilling classical music could be. It became a vocation."

And so was at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music that Erin's love of music first blossomed. Little did he know then that it would lead to an international career and a role as Artistic Director of the Pinchgut Opera.

"Having access to a high-quality musical education meant that in my earliest and most formative years, I could develop my talent and passion for music in a venue close to my home on the Central Coast. This early development enabled further study at the highest levels in Sydney, North America, and Europe," said Erin.

It is because of this, Erin is throwing his support behind the Conservatorium's plans to build a dedicated rehearsal/performance space in Gosford.



ERIN HELYARD

Pinchgut Opera Artistic Director, and Central Coast Conservatorium alumni

"High quality rehearsal spaces are essential to the production of high quality musical performances and these in turn are very important to groups like Pinchgut Opera, enabling them to consider regional tours. We value the opportunity to travel and bring high quality performances to regional NSW and we know that our audiences revel in seeing performances in their local area."

Erin said he cherishes his association with CCCM "which was an integral part of my development as a professional artist".

"Now as the Artistic Director of a major performing arts company, I also seek to bring back

to the place and community that first nourished me the fruits of my performance experience. I look forward to engaging with the CCCM in the future."







Central Coast
Conservatorium
Of Music



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