

...where dreams begin...



Catholic Schools Music Festival



Unearth and marvel with us

Music is an important part of education and celebration in Catholic schools. The Festival gives our students an opportunity to perform in a much larger production than is possible in their individual environments; it is a program that helps promote the value & enjoyment of music by all.

CELEBRATE THE REMARKABLE GIFT OF YOUTH

The Catholic Schools Music Festival means many different things to the many different groups connected with the program; students, parents, teachers, school leaders, whole school communities, parishes, arts partners, and the broader general community.

But the one common element that unites our experiences is the excitement and power of live music.

**OUR STUDENTS REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF MUSIC.
WE ARE PROUD TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN
SHARING IN THIS FUTURE.**

A TRULY UNIQUE EVENT

Each year more than 2,000 students from around 80 Catholic primary and secondary schools spend an 8-month learning journey preparing for their moment on stage.

The Festival is held in a professional setting every September, and each distinct performance features a senior primary massed choir supported by a combined secondary boys vocal ensemble, rhythm section and string ensemble. A variety of support acts comprising instrumental ensembles, vocal groups and solo artists selected by audition are interspersed between the choral program. In 2022 the Festival is celebrating its 34th annual performance.

Founded by Sr Colleen Roberts RSJ, the first performance was held in St Peter's College Memorial Hall on August 16, 1989. On that occasion, 16 schools participated in the festival choir and five support acts performed. The following year it moved to the Adelaide Festival Theatre where it grew and remained for 27 years, and since 2001 has been held over four nights.

Since 2016, no two years have been the same. Weather events, renovations, and coronavirus have put adaptability, agility and flexibility at the core of our working philosophy. We've re-scheduled, re-imagined and reinvented the event. Across the last five years our students have been privileged to take to the stage of the Adelaide Festival Centre, the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, and attend a series of professional film recording sessions.

FEATURING

- 400-VOICE MASED FESTIVAL CHOIRS
- SECONDARY BOYS VOCAL ENSEMBLE
- SECONDARY GIRLS CHOIR
- STUDENT COMPERES
- FESTIVAL CHOIR SOLOISTS
- FESTIVAL RHYTHM SECTION
- FESTIVAL STRING ENSEMBLE
- INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL SUPPORT ACTS

VISION

The Catholic Schools Music Festival supports music arts education in our schools providing an outlet for young people to perform in a professional setting.

MISSION

- Hold an annual musical performance that showcases the gifts of students in Catholic Education SA.
- Provide opportunities and experiences that lead to success where personal effort towards excellence and achievement is encouraged, supported and recognised.
- Celebrate the diversity of students by ensuring inclusive practices are fundamental to its organisational considerations.
- Provide instruction and support to teachers in contemporary practice for teaching songs, musical strategies, and movement relating to the material.
- Create an opportunity for families, parishes and the wider community to experience and discover the uniqueness of Catholic Education South Australia.

For over 20 years, CSMF Music Director Denise Rothall has successfully brought together all the elements to create an awe-inspiring show to entertain audiences of all ages.

It is widely recognised that the foundations for a healthy and well-rounded life are greatly influenced by the experiences we have in childhood. We also understand that positive engagement with the Arts can have particularly powerful and far-reaching benefits for children.

We are committed to provide an inspiring and educational journey for teachers and students alike through participation in our festival program.

ENGAGEMENT IN MUSIC PROVIDES BOTH IMMEDIATE & LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LEARNING JOURNEY

- * Teacher professional learning
- * Student development
- * Quality music education & training
- * Inspiration & interaction
- * Community engagement
- * Inclusion & diversity
- * Inter-school collaboration
- * Catholic identity

Hear from us...



STORIES TO INSPIRE ON & BEYOND THE STAGE

At the Catholic School Music Festival, they are always trying to give kids new opportunities. It is important for us, especially in rural areas, to have these opportunities so that we can experience what it is like to stand in front of an audience and sing. Personally, these experiences have helped me to gain confidence and shown me what it takes to work with groups of new people. I believe that the Catholic School's Music Festival inspires many students to want to perform more in the future and to try new things that they might find challenging. We don't have any chance to be involved in the Performing Arts on Southern Yorke Peninsula, so being part of the choir, gives us an opportunity that we would never have!

Kate Slade, Year 7 Student at St Columba's Memorial School,

Over the many years that Murray Bridge students have been participating I have seen the absolute astonishment on parents faces after they have watched their children perform on stage in the Adelaide Festival Theatre and Adelaide Entertainment Centre. For some of our students and parents this is a first-time experience attending such a venue.

During my tenure as a choir trainer, I have had the privilege of seeing some of my choir students win an audition to sing a solo as part of the Festival's choral program; and some of them have taken up careers in music performance, theatre, and music teaching.

I recall a student who tried out as a primary school soloist but did not win the part that year, then later returned to perform as a secondary school support act soloist. I was so proud that her persistence gave her the opportunity to shine; "she was one of ours".

The rich experiences that students have acquired through being involved in this extraordinary Festival are immeasurable.

As a choir trainer I have met some very remarkable colleagues who are willing to share their experiences and their wealth of knowledge.

It is also amazing that the founder of the Festival; Sister Colleen Roberts was the music teacher at St. Joseph's Murray Bridge all those years ago, inspiring both the Festival's current Music Director of over 20 years and I with music.

Thanks to all involved in the Festival. It has been and still is amazing.

Lynne Liebich, Choir Trainer at St Joseph's School, Murray Bridge

We've developed a program of music education, inspiration and life-long learning.

The Catholic Schools Music Festival is the premier Arts Event for Catholic Education in South Australia.

Since 1989 our annual Music Festival brings together thousands of students, parents, school staff, parishes & the general public, to witness & celebrate the extraordinary talents of young people within Catholic schools across South Australia.

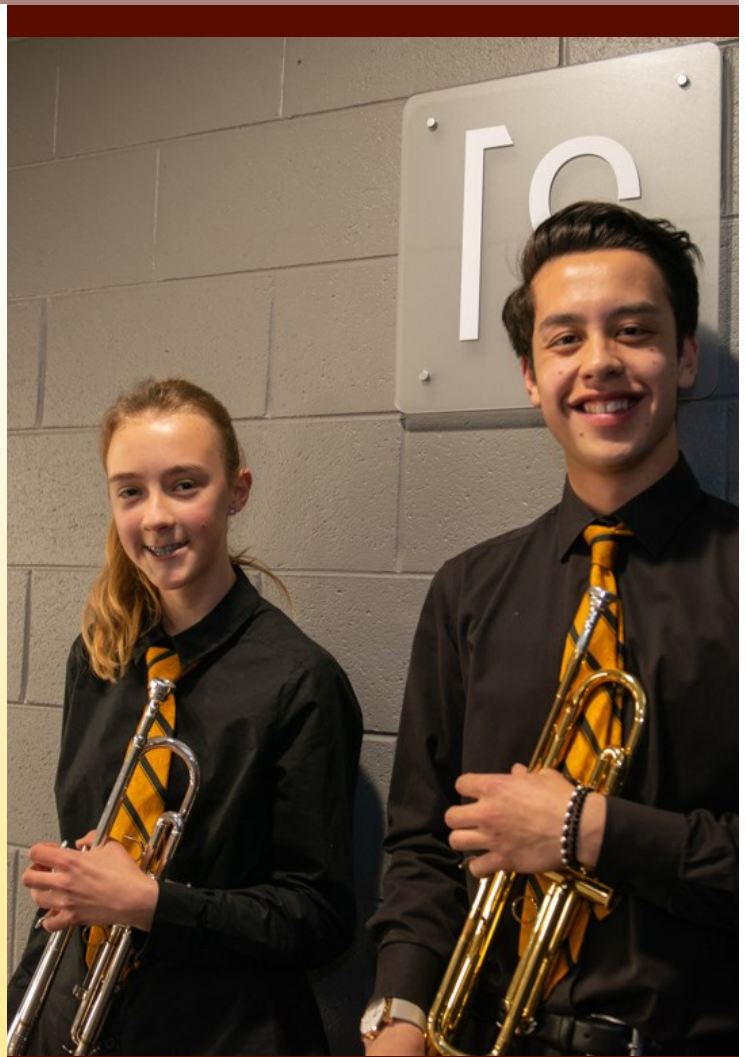
MORE THAN 8,400 STAFF ARE
RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS
OF MORE THAN 50,000 STUDENTS
IN 103 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

FROM THE MUSIC FESTIVAL TEAM

Each cohort of students amazes and astounds us each and every year and we encourage you to contribute to, and ultimately experience our highly successful performances.

We know without a doubt that this is a truly unique event.

For more information and to take a look at previous Festivals, we invite you to visit our website at musicfestival.cesa.catholic.edu.au



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"The spiritual value of the art of music, in a special way, is called to infuse hope into the human soul, marked and sometimes injured by its earthly condition. There is a profound and mysterious relationship between music and hope, between song and eternal life"

Pope Benedict XVI