

# Middle School Electives - Performing Arts

The following elective subjects are available in the Performing Arts *stream*:

Students will examine a range of stimulus materials and use ideas drawn from personal knowledge, research and observation to improvise and develop their own drama work. They will learn about formal dramatic structures and research historical styles, forms and conventions. Students will rehearse and refine their work for particular audiences. They will attend a performance to inspire and extend their ideas about theatre making and reflect on the qualities of drama produced by themselves and others. Students will be required to complete research and analytical exercises as well as scriptwriting and theatre design tasks.

Students will be assessed on a range of theoretical and practical work.

## **Semester 1**

### Performance Skills

This Music elective is suitable for students who like music performance with strong links to VCE music study designs. Students will polish their skills in performance and present a solo, group and technical program for assessment. This will include explicit teaching of improvisation and sight reading skills. This elective will also have a strong emphasis on theory and musicianship. Students will learn melodic and rhythmic transcription skills, aural scale, chord and interval theory. Students will gain skills identifying meter and swing when listening to music excerpts. Student will undertake an aural in-class exam.

### Music for Film

This Music elective is suitable for students with little or no music theory skills and has a large performance and music technology component. Students will learn to compose music for the moving image using digital audio workstations (DAW's) such as Audacity and ACID and the music notation software 'Sibelius'. Students will be introduced to the 'Modes' or 'moods' of the major scale and will learn how to create them and harness them for dramatic effect in their work. Students will also develop their music listening skills, undertake a listening exam and learn music theory which they will demonstrate in a written theory exam.

## **Semester 2**

### Music Performance Skills 2

This music elective can be taken alone or as a follow on from music performance skills semester 1. It is designed to prepare students for a VCE music study closely mirroring a VCE study. Students will polish their skills in performance and present a solo performance, group composition and technical program for assessment. This will further demonstrate improvisation skills. Students will also learn about the circle of 5ths, writing of major and minor scales, major and minor chords and intervals that are major, minor or perfect. They will further develop their melodic and rhythmic transcription skills.

### Composition and Arranging

The core focus of Composing and Arranging is to develop students' composition and arranging skills through critical listening, analysis, and developing an understanding of ways music is organised, created and performed in a range of styles and traditions. The unit works as a standalone subject, with many of the tasks offering differentiation for varying levels of musicianship.

Students will learn how to notate music for popular instruments and arrange a music sheet. They will listen to and analyse diverse versions of the same songs. Students will create a cover to any song they wish in a creative and interesting manner. The students will also learn about harmony and chord progressions. Finally they will draw on everything learned throughout the semester to compose their own song or piece of music.

These units focus on performance in solo and group contexts, studying approaches to performance and performing, and developing skills in aural comprehension. Students present a solo and a group performance, demonstrate prepared technical work and perform previously unseen music.

Students will be assessed in each unit in the following areas:

- Performance Skill Development
- Participation in an ensemble
- Musicianship/ Theory /Aural
- Technical work on their instrument and sight-reading
- Performance Recital

Middle School Production is a semester long elective that will work on developing collaborative ensemble skills. Students will be asked to choose a stagecraft and an acting role and devise ideas through a range of assignments, workshops and group tasks. Production class will perform their play to an outside audience and will be their main assessment task for the subject. This elective requires students to be available for an after school rehearsal.