Music Newsletter
Term 4, 2016

TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES:

- Mon 17th Oct-Mon 7th Nov - 21 Day Practice Challenge (Years 7 only)
- Week beginning Mon 7th Nov - Learning Task 2 - Performance 2
- Tues 8th Nov - Junior Band Workshop with guest
- Thurs 17th Nov - VSMF Junior Band (Deakin Edge - Federation Square)
- Tues 22nd Nov — Transition Evening 1 - Mainstream (ensemble to be announced)
- Thurs 24th Nov - Transition Evening 2 - Seal (String Ensemble)
- Thurs 1st Dec - Junior Music Evening 7.30pm
- Wed 14th Dec - Presentation Night (NewHope Baptist Church)

Photo taken by Travis Easton
School Production of “The Wiz”
This year’s school production of “The Wiz” was a huge success and included students ranging from Year 7-12. Preparation for the show commenced back in Term One with rehearsals commencing in Term Two after school. The Production featured a 16-piece band which was made up completely of students from our Music Department. It is almost unheard of to have a full-student band for a show of this scale but we had a group of talented musicians who made it happen. The Production Band rehearsed on a weekly basis after school and gave up a week of their holidays to ensure the music was perfect for the show. The show included over 30 pieces of music so these musicians were hard at work for most of the semester.

Production week was a very busy time for these students with long rehearsal days and nights, but the hard work paid off when we presented five fantastic shows, each one better than the last. The students had such a positive experience during Production season and learnt skills that they will take with them beyond their high school years. Box Hill High School puts on a Musical every two years and we look forward to putting on another great show in 2018!

Band Members:
Rebecca Matthews (bari sax, clarinet), Hayley Eom (flute), Kevin Woodhouse (alto sax), Jared Turnley (trumpet), Henry Evans (alto sax), Liam Broeksteeg (clarinet), Jordan Esh (tenor sax), Miles Koumouris (trumpet), Xander Britz (trombone), Nathan Lam (drums/percussion), Madusha Karunasagara (drums/percussion), Lachlan Gill (bass), Spencer Harvey (guitar), Nick Miceli (violin), Ming Yuan (Cello), Ango Zhu (piano)
The staff received very positive feedback about the show—below is what one of our audience members (visiting from the local primary school) had to say after experiencing “The Wiz”...

“The show is just superb. The huge amount of work put in by cast, crew, orchestra (and teachers!) really shows— the energy is extraordinary. The kids just loved it...thank you so much for inviting them. The kids were absolutely abuzz walking back to school. Some were singing “Brand New Day” which I'm sure the cast could well be sick of, but ohh to end the show on such a wonderfully high note! For some kids this was their first experience of musical theatre (or any theatre)-one grade 5 boys’ eyes were absolutely shining. He had never seen anything like it (his words). He is so looking forward to going to High School and having a chance at being a part of it. The orchestra is phenomenal and makes the show. So much nicer than singing to a piano or a backing tape. Are you sure you haven't hired a professional orchestra??”

Photos taken by James Taylor
Vocal Night
Vocal night took place in August this term and featured vocalists from all year levels. This concert provides vocalists a platform to share their talents and gain performance experience. The evening included songs spanning across a variety of contrasting styles and genres and students spent the weeks leading up to the evening rehearsing and refining their performance. This evening was a fantastic opportunity for students to perform in front of an audience and for many of these students this was their first time performing outside their voice lessons. We encourage students to take up all opportunities to perform within the school and as our voice program is developing a night just for the Vocalist’s was a must and we hope to make this an annual concert tradition!

Photos taken by Travis Easton
Senior Concert
Senior Concert took place in the final week of Term 3 and is a very important concert for the music department as it celebrates the fantastic efforts of our Senior Ensemble students. The night showcased music from our Wind Symphony which is run by Mr Adam Watson; our String Symphony run by Ms Tanya Balka and our Stage Band led by Mr Martin Corcoran. The night also featured an item from our Barbershop group, the “Babettes”, which is a branch of our Choir and is run by Mr Han Lim. The evening also featured our VCE Music Performance students who performed a piece from their program which they will be assessed on in October. The concert was a success and our students, as always, played beautifully. Our Year 12 students were also presented with a small token of our appreciation to thank them for their contribution to the music department. We wish them all the best as they prepare for their exams commencing next month, and we thank them for all their hard work and efforts over the last six years of their education here at Box Hill High School.

Jazz Night
Jazz Night 2016 also took place in the last week of term and was a highlight for our Stage Band. The evening took place at Fountains Restaurant at Box Hill Institute and we filled the house! Jazz night was hosted by our Music Captains Lachlan Gill, Vivienne Au, and Neve Fulton. This event was an opportunity for our students to perform in a more natural and realistic environment which we associate with a Jazz venue, giving our musicians a feel for what it’s like to work in a real music industry environment. It is important that our students are able to experience different types of performance spaces and this venue provided them with a fantastic setting. The night featured our Stage Band who performed several sets of music throughout the evening and small ensembles made up of our VCE music students. The evening was enjoyed by all and we look forward to doing it again in 2017!
Each year Box Hill High School participates in the Victorian School Music Festival which offers an opportunity for students among all ages and abilities to perform and receive feedback from guest adjudicators.

The Festivals provide the following opportunities for students and teachers:

- A performance goal for ensembles.
- The opportunity to hear a performance by a number of groups of similar standard
- The chance for students to work with leading educators from Australia and overseas
- Professional development opportunities for ensemble directors
- An Award plaque for each ensemble of Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Performance
- Comments from a panel of experienced professional adjudicators
- A stereo recording of their performance including adjudication comments
- Important feedback for directors as to the overall performance and direction of their ensemble

Many of Box Hill High School’s Ensembles participated in the festival and received the following awards:

**Concert Band** : Silver Award  
**String Ensemble** : Gold Award  
**Choir** : Bronze Award  
**Wind Symphony** : Silver Award  
**Stage Band** : Gold Award

Thank You

A big thank you to all of the instrumental music staff who did a wonderful job in the music department while I was on leave in term 3. Thanks Ms Arena for helping co-ordinate the program and for her great work as Music Director of “The Wiz”. A thank you to Mr Watson for taking the Concert Band and assisting in the co-ordination, Ms Tate for taking the Junior Band on Wednesday mornings and Mr Corcoran for organising a wonderful Jazz night. I would also like to thank Mr Jackson for taking my classes throughout Term 3 and assisting with many other parts of the program. It was an action packed Term 3 with the addition of an amazing Musical Production. Congratulations to all the students who took part in the many performances throughout the term.

Troy Rogers