

Music Fest 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone register for Music Fest?

All musicians must be students currently attending the school that their ensemble represents and registered with that school's administration as a student of that school. Combined school ensembles can also enter if the ensemble is one that consistently operates as an autonomous ensemble. Community Ensembles are the only exception to that rule, whereby the ensemble would be a registered community entity.

How long does each ensemble have to perform?

The timing of performances will be from the first until the final note. This includes any on stage tuning. Tuning may be done on stage but will be included in allocated performance time. Any group going over time may be allocated a lesser rating.

Can my ensemble play or sing anything?

You can select a maximum of **three** pieces to perform as part of your program. All Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, and Choir programs must include one set piece and be relative to the grade entered. Programming will be considered in the grading. A typical program may include, but not limited to this order:

- The main set music piece
- A music piece from the standard repertoire for your ensemble
- A piece which provides contrast and balance to the other works selected in your program.

How do we find what set pieces are available to choose from?

The full list of set pieces can be found via the Brass Music Specialists website,

<https://www.brassmusic.com.au/musicfest/set-pieces/>

Can we perform with a soloist?

Works that principally feature soloists are not to be performed. This is a showcase only compromising of ensembles at this stage.

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What/if any percussion instruments will be provided?

The percussion list provided can be found via the Brass Music Specialists website here,
<https://www.brassmusic.com.au/musicfest/>

Percussion players must bring their own small accessories, including mallets. No tambourines, triangles, woodblocks etc. will be supplied.

How long will each ensemble have for changeover on stage?

Changeover time for stage set ups varies from 5 to 7 minutes. Your fully completed entry form will ensure and streamline this procedure.

Who is in charge of the students during the event?

The supervision of every student and ensemble is the sole responsibility of the conductor or their designate. Your conductor or designated supervisor from your school is responsible for the students in the warmup area, on stage, and ensuring quietness in the final waiting room.

Who is our point of contact for the Music Fest during the event?

There will be a clearly marked, easy to find 'Arrival Registrar' at every venue. On your arrival you must present one copy of all your music scores (Including your set piece) to the Arrival Registrar in a clearly marked stable folder. This is for the use of the adjudicators.

Can students play in more than one Grade?

Yes and no. To play in another grade of the same section students must play a different instrument from a different family of instruments. This includes percussionists who are deemed to play 'all' percussion instruments.

What is expected of 'A' Grades?

Secondary Concert Band 'A' Grade and Secondary Orchestra are expected to utilise the instrumentation nominated in the full score or as accurately as your individual program permits.

What is expected of Conductors?

Conductors are urged to not select repertoire that is beyond the capacity of the ensemble either technically or musically. Doing so may adversely affect the award given to the ensemble. The Brass Music Specialist's personnel and Music Fest Consultants can advise on matters in respect of repertoire.

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Can teachers perform with their ensembles?

Teachers are not to perform with their ensemble in any manner except as an accompanist in choirs or string ensembles.

What if we want to contest the adjudicator or offer feedback?

The professional standing of all adjudicators implies their judgments are of the highest calibre and such judgements will not be drawn into question in any written or verbal manner.

How much does it cost to register our Primary School student's ensemble?

Primary Concert Band	\$220.00 + GST
Primary String Ensemble	\$220.00 + GST
Primary Jazz Ensemble	\$220.00 + GST
Primary Choir	\$200.00 + GST

How much does it cost to register our Middle School student's ensemble?

Middle Concert Band	\$220.00 + GST
Middle String Ensemble	\$220.00 + GST
Middle School Choir	\$220.00 + GST

How much does it cost to register our Secondary School student's ensemble?

Secondary Concert Band	\$275.00 + GST
Secondary Orchestra	\$275.00 + GST
Secondary Jazz Ensemble	\$250.00 + GST
Secondary String Ensemble	\$250.00 + GST
Secondary Choir	\$220.00 + GST

Can I tune my ensemble on stage?

You can, however this will come out of your stage time and your grading may be affected if you go over time.

What equipment is provided by Music Fest?

We have a vast list of quality percussion instruments that will be available. This list can be found on the provided 'Equipment Supplied Checklist' in your registration package. Ensembles are expected to use the detailed percussion set up by Music Fest on the registration form. Percussionists must bring their own small accessories, including mallets. Again, no tambourines, triangles, woodblocks etc. will be supplied.

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Is there a time limit on the length of each ensemble performance?

Yes, see our 'Music Fest Ensemble Guidelines' below.

How are the awards distinguished between the ensembles/choirs?

Music Fest is uniquely positioned by having an award system which endeavours to reflect educational based outcomes located in a quality performance environment. The basic principles of rating are:

- Musicianship – which is a responsiveness to style, expressiveness, the artistic rendering of the composers' intention and a sense of ensemble.
- Technique – that is, the addressing of all technical demands in the score including intonation, production, accuracy and the evident skill level of the ensemble members.
- Presentation – which includes, the appropriate selection of repertoire, the ensembles professional demeanour and an adherence to the Music Fest guidelines.

By no means is the above criteria an equal distribution of marks to be awarded. The sections cannot be added and averaged to achieve a mark, because Fine musicianship will always outweigh superior technical skill and stage presence. That said, it is usual to find fine musicianship and the other components well represented by the most capable ensembles.

What are the levels and awards my Ensemble/Choir can achieve?

Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Performance Certificate

Are the criteria for each award the same from section to section, across the several event days?

There will be no sectional Awards presented, however, individual awards will be at the discretion of the adjudicator, this means that the finest Novice Concert Band may receive a Platinum Award as might the finest Secondary String Ensemble, and so on. It also means that there may well be multiple awards across a section over a series of days such that A Grade Secondary Concert Band may have multiple Gold Award winners.

Are there any heats or finals? Is this a competition?

The concept is to reward musicianship and performance and to ensure that such a reward is not restricted to First, Second or Third places. Therefore, there will be no heats or finals.

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Are there any points given to the students from the Adjudicator?

Though no points will be indicated on your adjudication sheet the award defines a range of points.

Platinum	Highest Mark 100%
Gold	Highest Mark 90%
Silver	Highest Mark 75%
Bronze	Highest Mark 55%

Performance Certificates

When will the awards be presented?

Awards will be presented on stage at the end of each session.

Who will accept the awards on behalf of Ensembles?

Conductors are to nominate two students to be seated in the front of the Auditorium at the end of the section to collect awards, scores and adjudication sheets immediately after the event.

How much does it cost for family and guests to attend the event days?

There will be a small fee of \$5.00 for audience members attending. Tickets can be purchased via TryBooking (Links will be sent to the music faculty when allocations are released), or on the day.