Welcome to the first Music Matters edition of 2016. Sean Hayes, Oliver Toole and Maximillian Wickham were the three students who successfully auditioned in 2015 and are currently studying at WAAPA.

Here are some words from Max: “I think it’s testament to the strength of the Music in Focus program that three out of a class of five 2015 ATAR music students at Melville gained entry into music courses at the WA Academy of the Performing Arts, which are some of the most competitive and prestigious in the country. All three of us who auditioned got in, which is certainly not a given as very few people succeed in their first attempt to gain entry into WAAPA after leaving high school.

I’ve noticed that most of my classmates in the Jazz Bachelor of Music course and my bandmates in the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra went to private schools, so to be someone from a relatively small public school music program in that environment certainly makes me realise how strong music at Melville is. Melville is the only public school south of the river to offer jazz as its primary theoretical and historical context of study in upper school music, and having that, coupled with the Swing Band, has helped me to take jazz really seriously and I think will result in Melville producing more WAAPA jazz students and WAJO members in future.

While I feel like Sean, Oliver and I have worked hard to get where we are, I think having an environment in which music is both enjoyable and serious has been really important, and I think we would have struggled if we hadn’t had a program with such passionate and dedicated staff. I do think, however, that if the Music in Focus program at Melville SHS is going to continue to grow - which it will - then we need to invest in new facilities, like a new performing arts centre and auditorium.”

Sean is studying saxophone (classical), Oliver is studying electric guitar (contemporary) and Max is studying saxophone (jazz). Max was also accepted into Monday Night Orchestra (formerly known as WAJO Swing Band). Congratulations Sean, Oliver and Max!

Music Information Evening was held on 8 February in the Carly Smith Studio. It was well attended and parents were provided with an events calendar and information such as music courses on offer at Melville, band and ensemble attendance, Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS, formerly SIM) lessons and teachers, resources required and performance uniform. Thank you to the parents who completed the survey after the event. If you have missed out on receiving information, please contact us.

A gentle reminder that all students receiving IMSS lessons are required to attend and participate in a band/ensemble (exceptions electric guitar/bass and piano). All piano students should be receiving lessons privately and are encouraged to complete A.M.E.B examinations or equivalent. All voice students should be receiving private lessons also. All Year 7 music students are required to attend the Junior Vocal Ensemble, which rehearses every Thursday morning from 7:40am.

The Sawing Band had their first performance at the first whole school assembly early in the year. The band has once again been visiting local feeder primary schools in order to promote the IMSS program and encourage students to take up an instrument.

Another way we are fundraising this year is with Entertainment Books. The Books are selling for $65, and we keep $13 for every one we sell. The Entertainment™ Book gives you access to thousands of offers for Perth’s restaurants, cafés and attractions. Plus it offers market prices for thousands of hotels, resorts, car rentals, theme parks, groceries, petrol and shopping that you can use whenever you like until 1 June 2017. NEW this year, when you purchase a Perth membership, you will also have offers to more than 30 restaurants, attractions and accommodation in Bali. The Books are available as a physical book (with a gold card and vouchers) or as a Digital Membership that puts all the offers on your smartphone to redeem at the touch of a button. Memberships will be available in May, however, you can pre-order today to receive up to $200 in Early Bird Offers that you can use straight away! ORDER ONLINE AT www.entbook.com.au/89p325

The Music Department regularly communicates with students and parents via Connect. Please advise the school of change of email so that you can continue to receive information regarding your child’s progress, assessments, grades, reminders and events.

Well done to all for a great start to the year!

By Ana Milas
Teacher Bio

Ana has been performing from an early age. She began by singing in numerous Eisteddfods and playing the tamburica with Croatian Dawn; an orchestra whose repertoire includes Croatian Folkloric dances. After moving to Perth, she became a member of Sounds of Dalmatia where she played the mandolin. Ana was also a member of numerous bands where she played keyboard and sang vocals, as well as singing with various choral ensembles, such as Summa Musica Chamber Choir. She began her voice training in the classical genre in 1999 and in 2001 continued her development under the guidance of Janice Taylor-Warne at WAAPA. After completing the Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts (Classical), she continued her studies at ECU where she completed the Bachelor of Music Education (Secondary) in 2008. Ana has been teaching voice and piano to students of all ages. As well as being the conductor of West Australian Mandolin Orchestra, she is the Teacher in Charge of Music at Melville Senior High School where she teaches classroom music.

Music Brunch

The Music Brunch, that took place on 3rd of April, was a showcase of the school's music talent and ability. “It was a nice, sunny day” recounts Ana Milas “All of the bands and ensembles performed, which consisted of students from Year 7 to 12”. The event began with the Classical Guitar Ensemble (director: Paul Hines) and was checkered with performances by established ensembles such as the Intermediate Concert Band (director: Chris Booth), Senior Concert Band and Swing Band (director: Lachlin Brooks-Crew). There was even an original composition composed by Henry, Santiago, Liam and Jack. The brunch was largely staffed by students, taking the roles of Sound Operator (Ashley Hurley), Master of Ceremony (Elissa Grubelich), Stage Runner (Sophia Sunthang) and Photographer (myself). It was a well organised day and the event finished 15 minutes ahead of schedule. Catering was provided by the MSG and was popular among the attendees. “We were selling muffins, but eventually ran out, so we had to get Krispy Kremes to meet the demand”. The event was a success, raising nearly $2,000 for the music program. I thoroughly enjoyed the day”.

By Cian Butler, Yr 11, Classical Guitar Ensemble captain

For more photos, visit: Melville SHS Performing Arts facebook page

Music Matters

Upcoming Events in Term 2

20th Performing Arts Perspectives concert - 26 April
MSG meeting - 14 June
Term 2 commences - 27 April
Arts Week - 20-24 June
Perf. Arts Variety Show - 21-22 June

For Sale

The Music Department has an electric drum kit for sale. The frame is warped, but all of the components are in working condition. If you are interested, make us an offer!

Band & Ensemble Rehearsal Times

Swing Band - Monday 3-4pm in G20
Intermediate Concert Band - Tuesday 3-4pm in Carly Smith Studio
Melville Vox Ensemble - Wednesday 7:40-8:40am in G20
Senior Concert Band - Wednesday 3-4pm in G20
Junior Vocal Ensemble - Thursday 7:40-8:40am in Carly Smith Studio
Classical Guitar Ensemble - Thursday 3-4pm in G20