Welcome to the 21st edition of Music Matters. As Year 12 students attended their final school day on Thursday 22nd October, we were able to reflect on an enormous range of extra-curricular activities that took place throughout Term 2 and 3 and 4.

We commenced Term 2 with fundraising efforts, including a battery drive, selling Entertainments Books and Cadbury chocolates, to primarily raise funds for the music tour. The Swing Band raised a couple of hundred dollars by busking in Fremantle on 6th June.

School of Instrumental Music festivals took place throughout August. The hard work and effort of whole years’ rehearsals culminated in the following festivals:

Western Australian Schools’ Jazz Festival, Sunday 9th at August at Carey Baptist College. MSHS Swing Band was directed by Mr Brooks-Crew.

WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival at Carine Senior High School Performing Arts Centre, Saturday 22nd August. MSHS Classical Guitar Ensemble was directed by Mr Hines (awarded excellent).

Thank you to every student that represented MSHS so well and to parents and family members for attending the events.

The Music Department hosted a Quiz Night on 27th August. Congratulations to the English team “Richard’s Angels” for beating all other areas from within the school.

WA Government Schools Music Society (WAGSMS) concert series was held throughout September. Melville Vox Ensemble and Intermediate Concert Band opened and closed the concert held on Thursday 10th September at Crown Theatre. Once again, our students were praised for their excellent behaviour during the concert.

Soloist Night Concert was held on Monday 14th September at 6pm in the Carly Smith Studio, during which the Year 11 and 12 ATAR students presented their exam pieces.

Newly appointed Captains for 2016 are:

- Music: Ashley Ure and Morgan Ure
- Swing Band: James Calvert
- Intermediate Concert Band: Alex Pang
- Vocal Ensemble: Sophia Sunthang
- Classical Guitar Ensemble: Cian Butler

Thank you to the outgoing captains for all of their contributions to the Music Department.

Year 12 music students performed at the Year 12 Farewell Assembly and the Valedictory Evening was held on 26th October 6pm at Mount Pleasant Baptist Community College. Molly Snowden sung the national anthem for the final time as a Melville SHS student and Cosmo Batley performed a solo interlude on piano.

It was lovely to see the Year 12 students return to perform at the Music By Night Concert, which was held on 30th November at 6:30pm in the Middle School quadrangle. We were fortunate to have a rain-free evening (albeit a bit windy) and special guests were students from Melville Primary School Beater Band. All of the bands and ensembles performed on the night and there were also a couple of original songs the students composed. Thanks you to Mr Thompson for taking the photos!

Congratulations to Sean Hayes who has been accepted into WAAPA next year. Two other students are eagerly awaiting their results. Congratulations also to Maximillian Wickham for successfully auditioning and being accepted into WAYJO’s Swing Band!

It has been an amazing 2015. Have a safe and happy holiday and see you all in 2016!

News

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Commendations

Students are mentioned for positive contributions towards the Music Program. This may be demonstrated through their work in class, during SIM lessons, at performances or in ensemble rehearsals.

Congratulations to:

- Samantha Watson - Yr 7
- Attreya Guha - Yr 8
- Charmaine Bishop - Yr 9
- Sophia Sunthang - Yr 10
- Cosmo Batley - Yr 11
- Sean Hayes - Yr 12

By Ana Milas
**Arts Week**

The Performing Arts Variety Show, held on 23rd June in the Carly Smith Studio, kicked off the Arts Week. The evening event was a sold out show and the audience was treated to a wide range of contemporary, classical and jazz items. Throughout the week, the Arts Department opened their classes to students and staff at Melville SHS. Bands and ensembles held open rehearsals and different classes put on a range of performances throughout the week, including Certificate II in Music class, Yr 7 Music Appreciation class, Yr 9 Music in Focus class and Yr 11/12 Dance class. A hip hop workshop was put on by the dance students, as well as performances by drama students and a solo dance number featuring Cambell McIlroy. Friday lunch culminated in a staff showcase, during which Mr Stapleton performed one of his signature science rap numbers and Mr Barker played a drum solo.

**Music Tour**

On Thursday 16th July, 33 students and four staff embarked on a 9-day interstate tour to Sydney and Canberra (selected students from the Swing Band, Concert Band, Classical Guitar Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble).

In Sydney, rehearsals were held at famous Studios 301. Many well known musicians rehearsed, recorded, mixed or mastered at the studio, including Justin Bieber, Flume, Matt Corby, Angus and Julia Stone, Kanye West, Lana Del Rey, Lady Gaga, Muse, Jay-Z, U2, David Bowie, Prince, Elton John, Bob Dylan, INXS and Midnight Oil. Social activities included bowling, quiz night, ferry ride, shopping at the famous The Rocks markets, Sydney Historic Rock's Walking Tour, Opera House tour and a visit to Bondi Beach. Students attended a show featuring Australian Youth Orchestra with Mark Elder and 'La Traviata'. For many, this was the first time they have ever seen an opera and what a better place to see it than in the Sydney Opera House!

Performances were held at Advanced Care at Bondi Waters nursing home, where Callum Howman performed a tear-jerking rendition of "The Scientist". In Canberra, students performed in The Great Hall at Parliament House and at Ainslie Primary School, which we found out was Mr. Smith's old primary school. Students went on a tour of Parliament House and took part in educational programs such as Ball Run Program at Questacon. They presented skits at the traditional in-house extravaganza, where the stand out had to be a song dedicated to Mr. Brooks-Crew from the Year 12 students entitled "Dumb Thing’s He's Done". After a visit to the War Memorial and National Electoral Education Centre, it was time to head back to Perth. Students behaved amazingly well. All had a fantastic time and no sooner did we return to Perth, students were already asking, "Where are we going to the next one?"

For more photos, visit Melville SHS Performing Arts facebook page

**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!

**Drumstruck**

We try to encourage our students to attend live performances outside of school as much as possible. Charmaine Bishop, Year 9 Music in Focus student, did just that and here is what she had to say about Drumstruck.

"On 13th of May, African drumming group Drumstruck performed in the Regal Theatre. This interactive production showcases traditional African music and dance, focusing mainly on drums. They have toured the world for many years. One of their most famous appearances was in Shakira’s song “Waka Waka”, for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. When we arrived, there was a small djembe drum on each of the seats. Many different drums were already set up, including a large array of African drums, a drum kit and smoke from a machine, covering much of the stage. The show began with a drum solo, which made the whole theatre silent, followed by a song involving all of the musicians. Much of the show was based on a call and response style, which encouraged the audience to join in, using the drums and voice. Everyone was taught simple rhythms or phrases, which then was incorporated into a song. In one song, body percussion was used along with rain boots. Another one was a lullaby, consisting only of vocals. Audience participation was a big part of the show, with random people being asked up on stage to play the bigger drums and to dance. However, one man who was asked up turned out to be one of the crew, which at first shocked everybody with his outstanding drumming skills. Towards the end of the show, percussion instruments were handed out to the audience, including maracas, finger cymbals and huge normal-sized cymbals! The highlight for me was going on stage and being taught some African dance moves. All of the performers were extremely talented. They had wonderful personalities, bringing humour and laughter to the show. There were many younger children along with older people as well. Overall, the atmosphere was very fun and non judgmental and I loved how they kept the music traditional – it didn’t seem like they had westernised it. If ever the opportunity comes to see this incredible show, I highly recommend you do!”