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Introduction

Welcome to the Vocal Ensemble Program at State High. The vocal ensembles form part of a vibrant community of performing arts excellence at the school.

We are confident in the knowledge that no matter their skill level, students will be able to explore their musical potential, and find a rich and rewarding musical experience in the Brisbane State High Vocal Ensemble Program.

Please read this document carefully as it contains all the information you need to get the most out of this diverse and stimulating program.

Staff

The Vocal Ensemble Program is staffed by teachers from within the school. This includes specialist classroom music teachers, as well as teachers from other faculties who possess vocal expertise. Staff participation in directing the ensembles is voluntary, and these amazing people give up their personal time to engage in vocal rehearsals, workshops, and performances.

All extra-curricular activities have a Master in Charge of the specific activity. The Master in Charge is responsible for overseeing the management of the program. Individual ensemble directors manage their ensembles and participate in discussions regarding event scheduling, repertoire selection, and management of ensemble attendance.

In 2018 the vocal ensemble staff are:

Master in Charge of Vocal Ensembles            Mrs Bronwyn Postlethwaite
Conductor of Senior Girls Vocal Ensemble       Mrs Bronwyn Postlethwaite
Conductor of Belle Voci                       Mr Malcolm Hume
Conductors of Ragazzi Ensemble                Ms Betty Nicholson and Mr Malcolm Hume
Conductor of Junior Girls Vocal Ensemble      Ms Karen Hadfield

In addition to the ensemble conductors, we have staff and parent volunteers who also assist with administration of individual groups from time to time.
Program Entrance

Students seeking to participate in vocal ensembles must participate in an audition. Audition requirements are published via student notices at the start of the year. Re-entry to ensembles each year is not automatic. Students who wish to participate must complete an application form each year that they seek to enrol and have fulfilled the minimum behavioural and commitment expectations in the previous year. Re-audition may be required.

Some ensembles have year level prerequisites:

- Junior Girls Vocal – Years 7 to 9
- Senior Girls Vocal – Years 10 to 12
- Ragazzi (Boys Vocal) – Years 7 to 12 (the ensemble may be split into junior and senior year levels)
- Belle Voci – Years 10 to 12

Students who are successful at obtaining a place in Belle Voci are also expected to maintain full membership of either a Girls or Boys Vocal Ensemble

For further details please contact the MIC Vocal Ensembles – Mrs Bronwyn Postlethwaite bpost19@eq.edu.au or the Director of Cultural Activities – Ms Karen Hadfield khad7@eq.edu.au.

Vocal Lessons

Students who are interested in extending their overall musical knowledge and skills (including voice) are encouraged to enrol in the classroom music course as well as participate in extra-curricular vocal ensembles.

Private and small group vocal tuition is also available as a user pay service outside class hours at the school.

For further information please email culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au.

Ensembles

Brisbane State High School offers four vocal ensembles. From time to time there are also small group and solo opportunities that students can engage in. All ensemble rehearsals occur outside of school time, generally before or after school.

The vocal ensembles are:

- Belle Voci – Mixed Vocal Ensemble
- Ragazzi Ensemble – Boys Vocal Ensemble
- Junior Girls Vocal Ensemble
- Senior Girls Vocal Ensemble
Ensemble Rehearsal Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15am–8:30am Senior Girls Vocal</td>
<td>7:15am–8:30am Belle Voci</td>
<td>7:15am–8:30am Junior Girls Vocal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC Auditorium</td>
<td>P111</td>
<td>PAC Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:15pm–4:30pm Ragazzi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance at rehearsals is compulsory and it is a year-long commitment. Students should check their rehearsal times at the beginning of the year to avoid clashes with other activities when planning their participation in various school activities. If a clash arises during the year, students must contact both MICs to try and negotiate a compromise that suits all parties and maximises opportunities for participation. If a compromise cannot be negotiated, then the relevant Director of Sport and Director of Cultural Activities will work together to resolve the issue.

Repertoire Selection

The repertoire for the vocal ensembles will be chosen by the relevant conductor. At times the ensembles are invited to perform specific works outside of the school. These events are negotiated with the Vocal Ensembles MIC and Director of Cultural Activities.

Fees

All students participating in the Vocal Ensemble Program are expected to pay the annual Vocal Ensemble Participation Fee. This fee is used to subsidise some excursions and competitions, as well as provide access to resources and equipment for use in and ensembles. Levies are calculated according to the Management of Levies policy: [https://brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/Ourschool/management-of-levies.pdf](https://brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/Ourschool/management-of-levies.pdf)

Fees for each ensemble are:
Junior vocal students (Years 7 to 9) - $55 per student
Senior vocal students (Years 10 to 12) - $47 per student

Attendance Policy

All vocal ensemble staff maintain attendance rolls for ensembles. Students enrolled in vocal ensembles are expected to attend rehearsals on a weekly basis, unless advised.
The process for absence from a vocal ensemble rehearsal is as follows:

Illness – students who are absent from school due to illness should contact their relevant vocal ensemble conductor via email on the day of absence.

School approved excursion – notification of an absence due to a school excursion must be sent via email to the relevant ensemble conductor at least one week prior to the scheduled rehearsal or vocal ensemble commitment.

Performance Policy

Performances for all groups are planned through the Vocal Ensemble MIC. These include contest and concert performances, and a variety of other performances within and outside the school community. As ensemble performances are a group presentation, each member of the ensemble is integral to presenting the best possible performance. If a student is unable to attend a performance, the conductor must be notified in writing by parents prior to the performance. Unexplained absence from performances may be grounds for withdrawal from the program. If unforeseen circumstances prevent attendance at a performance and the conductor is not notified beforehand, the conductor must be informed at the earliest opportunity.

A calendar of performances is published at the beginning of each year, and is available on the school’s website and on Team App.

Uniform Requirements

Students perform in their formal school uniform.

Exit Policy

Students seeking to withdraw during the year must contact the relevant ensemble director. Written advice from a parent regarding the reason for withdrawal is required.

Consumables

Students are required to have access to the Good Reader App, Team App, and have a folder to keep any sheet music that is provided.

Parent and Community Engagement

Parents and community members are very welcome to contact the Vocal Ensembles MIC or Director of Cultural Activities, if you would like to assist with the running of particular events for the ensembles. Assistance is usually called upon in the following ways:

- Ticket collection and management of the door at school events
- Assistance with promotion of school events
- Assistance with catering at interval during performances at school
- Assistance with acquisition of donations for raffles and fundraising at events
- Supervision at performances at school and off campus
A valid working with children blue card may be required for those volunteers that do not have children participating in the activity.

An email to parents will be published if assistance for above activities is sought.

Pockets

Students may be eligible to receive a pocket (a line describing participation which is embroidered on a blazer) for participation in school ensembles. In order to receive a pocket, students must attend 75% of rehearsals throughout the year. Attendance is not the only criterion and students must demonstrate appropriate levels of preparation, cooperation, and application throughout the year. Students must have paid their vocal ensemble levy to receive a pocket. Pockets are awarded according to the school’s Pocket Policy. Specific details are available through the following link: https://brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/Ourschool/pockets-policy.pdf

Communication

The best method to make initial contact with vocal ensemble staff is via email. Relevant documents, along with details of performances and events, are sent to relevant students via email, and are published via Team App. Information regarding the program is also available on the Vocal Ensembles page within the Extra-Curricular section of the school website: https://brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au/Extracurricular/Activities/Pages/default.aspx

Team App

Letters, notices, and information will be posted by conductors, teachers and the MIC on the BSHS Vocal Ensembles Team App.

Please ensure that you have provided the school with your correct email address.

Please note that Facebook is not an appropriate form of communication between members of vocal ensembles, and the school has approved use of Team App and email to maintain communication for all extra-curricular activities.

Contacts and Dealing with Concerns

Parents may communicate directly with the Extra-Curricular Support Officers or the Vocal Ensembles MIC if clarification about the program is needed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extra-Curricular Support Officers</th>
<th>Mr Alexander Kucharski (Mon Tues Wed) and Mrs Jo Cannon (Thurs Fri) – <a href="mailto:culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au">culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIC Dance Troupes</td>
<td>Mrs Bronwyn Postlethwaite – <a href="mailto:bpost19@eq.edu.au">bpost19@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where issues may be of a more sensitive or serious nature, the following staff members can be contacted where relevant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director of Cultural Activities</td>
<td>Ms Karen Hadfield – <a href="mailto:khadfl@eq.edu.au">khadfl@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Department – Extra-curricular</td>
<td>Ms Jo Duffy – <a href="mailto:jduff19@eq.edu.au">jduff19@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Officer (Junior School)</td>
<td>Mr Michael Graves – <a href="mailto:mgrav1@eq.edu.au">mgrav1@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Officer (Senior School)</td>
<td>Ms Karla Shaw – <a href="mailto:kshaw59@eq.edu.au">kshaw59@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Junior School</td>
<td>Mrs Kim Dorr – <a href="mailto:kdorr2@eq.edu.au">kdorr2@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Senior School</td>
<td>Mr Matthew McCarthy – <a href="mailto:mmcca47@eq.edu.au">mmcca47@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We look forward to having your child participate in the 2018 Vocal Ensemble Program.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Hadfield
Director of Cultural Activities

Jo Duffy
Head of Department – Extra-Curricular

Wade Haynes
Executive Principal