



**FREMANTLE**  
COLLEGE



# Specialist Contemporary Music Program

“Where words fail, music speaks.....”

Hans Christian Andersen



# Our Program

The Approved Specialist Contemporary Music Program at Fremantle College was formed with the philosophy that music is a practical performing arts subject, albeit one built on complex theoretical and technical understanding and skills. Evaluation, exploration and innovation are key aspects of the strong reputation our program has developed amongst current music education theorists and emerging specialists in Western Australia.

Our program maps out progression between sequencing the accumulation of skill development, theoretical understanding and evolution of creativity, alongside the more holistic development of social skills, personal confidence, and ultimately, independent learning. Our practical program design equips our students with a wide range of skills and experiences that will enable them to lead lives enriched by 'making' music.

Our program design uses focus areas to progress students from the early stages of musicianship, in the first years of learning instruments and singing techniques, to graduating from our program with a comprehensive musical foundation.



# Our Curriculum

Our Year 7 to 10 Specialist Contemporary Music students participate in a curriculum that provides extensive musical knowledge and skills, whilst allowing opportunity to extend those students with a greater passion for music. With a focus on both performance and production, students are introduced to a range of opportunities within the music industry.

	Semester 1 Focus Areas	Semester 2 Focus Areas
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First ensemble skills - roles in a band, how to rehearse effectively</li><li>• Basic chords - major and minor triads</li><li>• Simple song writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• African roots - music and culture</li><li>• First Principles of music software</li><li>• Pentatonic scales and basic improvising</li></ul>
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blues - history, 12 bar chord progressions, musical sign posts, 12 bar blues melodies</li><li>• Sibelius</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Samba - history and evolution</li><li>• Contrapuntal music</li><li>• The cycle of 5ths - key centres</li><li>• Sequencing</li></ul>
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rock'n Roll - teen culture, interpretation, reinventing songs</li><li>• 7 chords and perfect cadence</li><li>• Creating and reinterpretation of a song</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jazz - complex chord progressions</li><li>• Functional diatonic harmony</li><li>• Composing rhythm change melodies</li></ul>
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recording 101 - live versus studio</li><li>• Mic choice and placement</li><li>• Modes and advanced harmony</li><li>• Original songs - live recording</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The development of music technology</li><li>• Multi-track recording</li><li>• Signal flow and mastery</li><li>• Exact replication project</li></ul>



## Specialist Contemporary Music Pathways

In Year 11 and 12 our students are able to commence a Certificate III in Music Industry, which enables us to provide a highly flexible program that caters to a wide range of needs. There is a strong emphasis on our students becoming independent learners, establishing their own focus areas within each Unit of Competence and after initial directions and input, using our teaching staff as a resource. Students are able to utilise this flexibility to explore their individual areas of interest.

Our Certificate III students can also access individual lessons, rather than small group tuition.

The unit selection for our Certificate III was designed in consultation with WAAPA and Murdoch University, taking close account of advice from the relevant course leaders.

A second stream to the Certificate III program enables students the opportunity to specialise in Music Production, completing a Certificate III in Music Production.



# Our Enrichment Programs

Our Enrichment Programs are available to all students of Fremantle College who are able to play an instrument. The audition process for the below is not restricted to our Specialist Contemporary Music students.

## Large Ensembles

Our Large Ensemble provides the opportunity for our students to participate in a more traditional musical experience, working from fully arranged scores, reading traditional notation and following direction from a conductor.

## Vocal Group

Our Vocal Group provides students with voice lessons and builds our singers' abilities to sing in harmony and to balance their voices with others.

## Jazz Band / Groove Ensemble

This elite ensemble extends our more advanced horn players, the most advanced rhythm section players, and those with a particular interest in Jazz. The Jazz Band works on a combination of traditional, chart based jazz band repertoire and groove ensembles - collaborative compositions with a focus on improvisation.

## Flute Choir

Our Flute Choir caters for flautists who tend to become slightly lost in the other bands and ensembles due to their quieter sound, providing our flautists with the opportunity to shine.

## Latin Percussion

This elite percussion ensemble explores the complex rhythmic world of Latin music and is designed to extend our more advanced and passionate drummers.

## Jam Session

Just for Fun! This Period 0 session is open to all and takes whatever form suits those who attend. These sessions range from made up groove to focussed work on a song students attending are working on and want to experiment with. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend particularly gifted and/or passionate students.

## Training Orchestra

The orchestra consists of local Year 5 and 6 students, primarily from the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) program, but open to all students to audition. With the knowledge that students who play in an ensemble are far more likely to continue playing their instrument and progress faster, our Year 5 and 6 Training Orchestra provides an opportunity for students to develop their instrumental skills and experience of working in an orchestra environment.

## Opportunities for Students

Music students at Fremantle College come from a range of diverse backgrounds and may require additional support, both academically and socially/emotionally, in order to flourish and reach their full potential. To complement the formal music curriculum students in the Specialist Contemporary Music Program will have access to opportunities that include:

- Weekly IMSS lesson on their 'First Study' instrument, with the most experienced and highly regarded IMSS teachers in Western Australia. Fremantle College currently offer Guitar, Drums, Bass, Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Horn and Voice.
- Opportunities to perform at events such as Music Showcases, Assemblies, Autumn Concert, Year 12 Showcases.
- Learning from visiting artists, industry professionals masters classes, clinics and workshops.
- Attending excursions and incursions.
- Guidance and opportunity to perform at public festivals and competitions.
- Intensive Camps and Tours each year, building on musical development, new experiences and cultural awareness, and aid in developing social bonds.
- Mentoring opportunities for our senior students, with our junior students benefiting from the mentoring process, receiving regular, focused support tailored to their needs.
- Holistic support - our Calvert Music Centre is staffed throughout the day, including before and after school. We operate an 'open office' where students know they can come to seek support or guidance. One to one support, enrichment and extension is available to all Specialist Contemporary Music students.
- Partnerships with external organisations.



# Our Facilities

Our Specialist Contemporary Music Program is one of the best resourced school music programs in Western Australia.

## Calvert Music Centre

This facility consists of:

- Auditorium - with full PA system catering for a wide range of specialist equipment, with basic stage lighting that can seat up to 150 people.
- Music Lab - fully networked iMac Lab with Sibelius, Garage Band, Logic - Apple Remote, connected 'Live Room' with independent network storage.
- Bio Box - our recording student control room with live sound and lighting control, networked to all other rooms for direct audio feed/recording.
- Classroom - with full class sets of keyboards, acoustic guitars and band rehearsal equipment.
- Five Rehearsal/Instrument Teaching Studios including PA, drum kits, amplifiers, pianos, microphones and dedicated percussion studio - all networked to allow access to our music server and resources.
- Library - we have an extensive traditional score library and digital library.

## Solar Stage Touring Rig

Our Solar Stage is a portable stage enabling quick set up and pack down for student tours to local primary schools and other pre-organised locations. Fully solar powered, the Solar Stage provides us with flexibility and an innovative difference to other music programs, with opportunities to collaborate with other programs across the college.

## General Music Classroom

In addition to the Calvert Music Centre, we have 3 Music Classrooms located near our College Hall, set up for band rehearsals.

## Performing Arts Centre

Our PAC is used for smaller scale performance and musical theatre, with seating for approximately 200.

## College Hall

Our Hall is used for large scale performances, with seating for approximately 600.





## Fremantle College Staff

Staff teaching students in the Specialist Contemporary Music Program are excellent classroom practitioners who have demonstrated a high level of content skill within the musical realm and form positive and respectful relationships with their students.

- Our Director of Music oversees the delivery of the program and monitors the academic progress and social/emotional wellbeing of our students.
- Our IMSS teachers are the most experienced and highly regarded IMSS teachers in Western Australia.
- Fremantle College offers on-going professional learning for all staff in Specialist Music, differentiation and Positive Education.
- Collaboration, moderation and cross-curricular planning is a focus for teaching staff to enrich the learning experiences for students.
- Teaching staff create a culture of excellence within their classes, built on shared and agreed goals, and embed the Fremantle College Excellence in Teaching and Learning Framework to enhance the learning environment.



# Applying for Specialist Contemporary Music

Selection into the Specialist Contemporary Music Program is highly sought after and competitive. Places are offered on the basis of each applicant's performance in the interview and audition process. Applicants are assessed on their suitability for the program during interview, then asked to perform two contrasting pieces, with or without an accompaniment/backing track. Vocal applicants are asked to perform at least one song with accompaniment in order to establish their ability to sing 'in tune' with external sources.

For further information on our Specialist Contemporary Music Program please contact Fremantle College on (08) 9338 8900 or via email: [fremantle.college@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:fremantle.college@education.wa.edu.au)





Gifted and Talented Academic  
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