



**Brighton**  
Secondary  
School



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education

# Annual Report 2025

## Special Interest Music Centre



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## SUMMARY

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2025 proved to be another highly successful year with many great outcomes achieved through competitions, performances, workshops, guest artists, student initiatives and tours.

Notable results in external competitions included:

- Jazz Choir 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> place, division 2, Generations in Jazz
- Elinor and Oliver being selected for Superband 1 at Generations in Jazz
- Elinor also receiving the Wayne Bergeron Trumpet Award
- Bel Canto and Brightones – 1<sup>st</sup> place, Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod
- Bel Canto – State Bank of South Australia Shield, Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod
- Treble Choir – 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod
- Brighton Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band – gold awards at the ABODA festival

We were also thrilled by the great student performances at our in-house competitions: Rotary Solo Competition; Senior Solo Competition; and the Jeffrey Kong Piano Accompanying Competition.

Our students played an ever-increasing role in ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services while our orchestral showcase event, Symphony by the Sea, took place in a near-capacity Jeffrey Kong Auditorium. Our casual outdoor concerts, Jazz in the Quad, and Sunset Serenade again proved popular with Brighton Secondary School (BSS) families, and the trial evening performance 10SIM in Concert was positively received by all and is likely to become a regular fixture on the music calendar. In typical fashion, the entire BSS music community threw themselves wholeheartedly into the “Animal Kingdom” theme at Music Spectacular. It was an absolute honour to have Senior Kurna, Narungga, and Ngarrindjeri man, Robert Taylor, deliver the Welcome to Country at both the intermediate and advanced concerts.

A breathtaking array of guest artists in 2025 included Calvert Duffy, Fabian Hevia, Lauren Henderson, Robin Finlay, Jamie Oehlers, Carl Crossin, Elizabeth Layton, Rob Nairn, Brendan O'Donnell, the Australian String Quartet, Emmanuel Despax, Timothy Wayne-Wright, Chris Kiver, Odai Nmai (African Drumming), Mark Bain (Performance Under Pressure), Amanda Grigg, and the Baroque Academy.

Record numbers of students from local primary schools attended the Sensational Strings Workshop and Primary Schools Band Workshop, demonstrating that the future of music is in great shape. We were fortunate to host SA Music Camp in the winter school holidays, highlighting the leadership of Brighton Secondary School in the South Australian musical landscape.

Finally, our students, led by an amazing team of Music Captains, drove the following new initiatives: Spring Rock Night; Write and Song in a Day; and the music program sticker competition.

Please see below for the Tour Reflections and collated student Tour Blog.

*Andrew Barrett – Head of Music*

*Cover photo of the Northern Lights from Rovaniemi, Finland – Elijah K (year 11)*

## **TOUR REFLECTIONS (ANDREW BARRETT)**

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From December 5th-17th, 33 music students from years 8-12 and 4 staff embarked on Brighton's third tour of Finland, building on relationships with 3 Special Interest Music schools from 2017 and 2019.

We arrived in a very wet Helsinki on Saturday night, having endured 3 flights and an 8 hour stopover in Munich Airport (ice skating in the Christmas market between terminals helped to pass the time for some). Sunday was a sightseeing day with visits to the Sibelius Academy, Sibelius Monument, Rock Church and Oodi (Central Library). We were all inspired by the multiple, beautiful rehearsal and performance spaces in the Sibelius Academy and students gained insights into the possibility of studying music here as international students. Oodi really redefines the concept of a library, offering spaces for cooking, recording, sewing and gaming to name a few. We spent an hour here, which was not long enough for many of our students. The day concluded with some shopping and an evening rehearsal in the hotel to prepare for our first school visit.

The week then fell into a pattern of school visits in the morning and bus travel in the afternoon - the exception being Oulu, where we were homestayed for 2 nights. As in previous visits to Finland, the connection between students from opposite ends of the world was almost instantaneous, with music being the common bond. Our performances as a choir and ensemble went from strength to strength with the encouragement of the very appreciative school audiences. Students also explored each school learning about school life from a student's perspective, savoured school lunches, listened to performances, rehearsed and performed together, and experienced Finnish home life.

The final leg of our journey took us to Rovaniemi, situated on the Arctic Circle, for a reindeer encounter, a late night Northern Lights picnic in the forest and a visit to Santa's Village. Luck was on our side in the forest with freezing temperatures (approx. -23) and clear skies allowing us to marvel at the strange green streaks and swirls emanating from the horizon as we sipped hot chocolate and sang by the fire. Our visit to Santa's Village marked the end of the tour and the start of the long journey home. We spent all day on a Finnish train, travelling from Rovaniemi back to Helsinki. This was an adventure in itself, from playing Tetris with instruments and suitcases, to lunch in the dining car as the train reached speeds in excess of 170km/h.

Overall, the tour has been an unforgettable trip-of-a-lifetime complete with unique experiences and exposure to new cultural perspectives. We have gained insights into musical traditions and music education that will continue to inspire us in the future. Students have developed greater personal responsibility, resilience and the confidence to think through unfamiliar challenges, while forming friendships with likeminded people from across the globe.

I am extremely grateful for the tireless efforts of touring staff Mark Cameron-Smith, Annette Greenshields and Madeleine Stewart, in ensuring that the wellbeing of every student was their top priority while inspiring the touring ensemble to perform at their best.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Music Parent Support Group, Adelaide Cemeteries and Brighton RSL, whose generous donations made this tour possible.

## STUDENT TOUR BLOGS

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### Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December

After many, many hours we finally arrived in Germany where we could stretch. On the day in Germany, we explored the airport for 8 hours. We all divided into groups and got pretzels, MacDonalds and exported German food. Many of us tried the different versions of food back home like German Fanta or sprite. Then after some exploring, we found a large Christmas market and a large number of us ice-skated for ages. After laughs, conga line and a few minor injuries we hopped on the final plane to Finland.

### Sunday 7 December

The day after a long night's rest in hope to catch up on all the missed hours due to travel, consisted of no less excitement! All students set off at the crack of dawn to the Jean Sibelius Academy. The very friendly worker, guided us around the place, showing and explaining the purpose of each amazing facility provided in the academy. The facilities included many different performance and practice areas of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the Jean Sibelius Academy Orchestra. We were mesmerised by the beauty of the organ in the main concert hall. The fascinating organ was certainly not something anyone had seen prior to the trip. We were fortunate to be given the opportunity to even rehearse choir in the Conference Room. The acoustics were magical and I'm certain every student experienced a spark of magic during that rehearsal. Followed by the Jean Sibelius Academy, we all went to the Sibelius monument, an intricate and beautiful piece of artwork. Of course, we had to pose and take a picture with the sculpture, replicating the tour photos we had seen on the TV in the music centre. I was wondering why the monument looked so familiar! After leaving the Sibelius monument we continued to travel via bus, Heidi our wonderful tour guide sharing her extensive knowledge on Finnish facts and history. We arrived at the Helsinki Christmas market with great excitement for the festive fun. Places to buy food, jewellery, souvenirs, handmade goods and many other items filled the market, spreading the Christmas fun. Many students bought gifts for either themselves or others but even if nothing was bought it was still an amazing experience and we are all lucky to have the privilege to share this. Loads of stalls were filled with knitted products, perfect for the winter weather. Remembering back there was a stall that sold Moomin souvenirs which was quite interesting seeing that they are a huge cultural icon in Finland.

After a short amount of time to buy lunch, we made a brief stop at the TempPELLIAUKIO Church (Rock church) to see the gorgeous architecture and design. After, we made our way to the Helsinki Central library, accompanied by some wonderful tour guides, we were shown all three levels of the library. The library had meeting rooms, gaming rooms, practice rooms which could be hired through booking, sewing machines, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, and wood cutters. There were spaces to study everywhere as well as many books to borrow!

The library was fully designed with people in mind. Before building they asked people what they wanted in the library. I think it is safe to say everyone was in shock at this library. After the exhausting day, the teachers decided to take us to a shopping mall to prevent us from going to our rooms and sleeping. After the finishing the day with a choir rehearsal at the hotel, everyone rested with a well needed long night's sleep to conquer the next day.

### Monday 8 December

Today we had our first performance of the trip. We left Helsinki at 7:45 to drive to the Tapiola Upper Secondary School in Espoo. We performed in band, West Side Story, Pixar and Music for a Darkened Theatre and in choir we sang Bonse Aba, Kalkadunga Yurdu, You're the Voice and When I'm 64. The audience reacted well to our performance with encouraging applause. After we performed it was time for the Finnish music students to perform, their female choir, male choir,

combined choir and big band all performed. A personal highlight was when the combined choir sang Sibelius' 'Finlandia' which we had also been learning. This song represents freedom for Finland and is significant because today is Jean Sibelius' birthday and also Finnish music day. We were encouraged to join in and sing along from memory, and let's just say... they definitely can sing in Finnish better than us.

After performing to each other, we were taken on a tour of the school. We walked around and looked into various classrooms. Each classroom was different depending on the subject, similar to our school. The classroom layout was not much different, with a teacher desk at front and rows of student desks. There were also many study areas throughout the school, as well as games such as table tennis.

We obviously visited their auditorium where we performed, which had a raised stage and rows of seating. We also ate at their cafeteria, which provided lunch for everyone. Finally, we were taken for a walk outside around the school. However, not many people went outside due to the temperature and weather.

We also learnt a lot about how their school and education system works in general. Firstly, they start school at 8:15 and end at 2:30. They also take a short break after every class plus a lunch break. For music ensembles, they rehearse during class time, unlike us who have our rehearsals outside of school time.

Following our performance and tour at Tapiola Upper Secondary School, we boarded the bus for our 6-hour trip to Kuopio. We stopped about halfway through at a Finnish roadhouse which was almost like a supermarket mixed with a mini restaurant. This bus ride was also our first opportunity to see snow, however I think by the end of the day we might've all been sick of the snow. When we arrived in Kuopio we had dinner in the hotel's restaurant. We then went outside for a walk through Kuopio which was more of a mobile group snowball fight in which, depending on what your goal was, everybody lost.

### **Tuesday 9 December**

Today 9/12 we went to the Kuopio Senior High School of Music and Dance. We performed for them in both choir and ensemble, and they LOVED it. After this performance, a few students picked a group of 6 - 7 students to tour the school. I loved the school so much because of many things such as the students — they were all independent and expressed themselves without any judgment or fear. I also loved the school itself — it was built for music and arts and you can see just with a few peeks at classrooms that the school was very dedicated to letting the students express their love and talent for music in the best ways possible. I made many friends and are still in touch with them! Today was amazing! It was packed with amazing music rooms and really inspired me. After we performed to some of the students a group of 6 people were doing tours, and my group leader was Viivi. Viivi was so sweet and welcoming and made the tour so much fun. I will definitely remember today for a long time, and I will miss Viivi and her friends a lot.

### **Wednesday 10 December**

Along our journey to the amazing country of Finland, the 10th of December, or the 6th day was one of the most eventful days during our tour. It included our arrival at the city of Oulu and our acquaintance to Madetojan high school. At the school we joined them for a choir rehearsal for a massive concert taking place that evening at Oulu Cathedral. We sang a wide repertoire of five pieces in collaboration with them including in chronological order 'Donkey Carol', 'Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind', 'Mary Did You Know', 'Merry Xmas, War Is Over' and 'Toirvetikella'. We were accompanied by their brilliant orchestra and had a very successful performance. During the hour interval between the concert and the rehearsals we explored the city of Oulu, thus getting familiar with the local culture and infrastructure.

Another prominent event that happened, and that we all looked forward to was meeting our homestay families. They were the families of the Madetojan students who we were ecstatic to meet. The host families were inviting and welcoming as they put in the effort to take care of us for

the next two nights. They had introduced us to a very Finnish experience consisting of the sauna culture, language and cuisine. In terms of food and accommodation, most of us were able to experience traditional Finnish cuisine involving foods like Reindeer Stew, Finnish Cheesecake, and berries like Cloud Berries. Most of us also enjoyed the hints of a vivid Aurora occurring in the night sky which was said to be one of the best Auroras the locals had seen near city areas.

### **Thursday 11 December**

On Thursday the 11th of December, we had our second day with homestay and our last performance of tour! Students made their way to school by walking, car, bus or other forms of transport after having breakfast with their homestay. When we got to school, we rehearsed for our concert and the Madetoja school big band did a soundcheck for their part of the concert. The concert was a lot of fun, being our last performance for the tour. It was an amazing experience performing for music students all the way across the world, as well as being able to see them perform, and their music classes. It was especially enjoyable because a lot of our homestay students and friends we met were in the audience, so it was amazing to be able to play for them.

After a quick break, we went back into their performance hall to teach the students Kalkadunga Yurdu, one of the pieces we performed which was written by William Barton a composer from the Kalkadunga nation in Queensland. We broke off into sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, and Brighton students took charge and led the rehearsals. Then we had lunch, potatoes with chicken curry sauce or a vegetarian option. It was Vinayika's birthday, and the students told us about a tradition where whenever it's someone's birthday the entire cafeteria sings together, so we all sang her happy birthday multiple times in both English and Finnish!

After the break we were eventually able to sing Kalkadunga together with all the students and parts. With the choirs combined, it sounded incredible, and the students at Madetoja are very fast learners! This was one of our favourite parts of the day, as it was really enjoyable teaching other students our piece. Following this, they surprised us with a Christmas performance told from the perspective of the 3 wise men, acting out the tale of the king who wanted to kill Jesus because he was afraid of his power. Afterwards, the Principal gave us a gift of some reflectors for Rovaniemi to keep us safe in the snow by making us more visible.

In the afternoon we were given free time to walk to a shopping centre and come back to one last surprise before our homestay family had to pick us up at 4. When we came back, we sat down and watched another performance, this time a Swedish tradition, and we all sat in awe with how beautiful their voices were. The group was preparing for their performances for Lucia Day, which is on the 13th of December, so they had 5 performances on Friday and 3 on Saturday.

In the evening, we met up with our homestay families and the students participated in many different activities, with many students keeping warm at a campfire where we cooked sausages and marshmallows. A lot of students tried the sauna in their host families house, and some lucky students were even able to see the northern lights! There were also a lot of other fun activities with homestay families such as playing in the snow, sledding, baking and board games. It was an amazing day!

### **Friday 12 December**

7am in Oulu, -12 degrees with a chill that seeped through to the tips of your fingers and toes. Our students were saying their last goodbyes to their host families, our biggest immersion into Finnish culture before rejoining together at Madetojan Music School as tourists once more. We left bound for Lapland at 8am, and for the first time on the tour, the skies were clear, and the sun was out. On the three-hour drive to Lapland, we spotted wild reindeer in the snow, log cabins, and frozen lakes stretching far and wide. The further we went into Lapland the more the temperature plummeted into the negative twenties. The short walk from the bus into the shops was enough to make your nose a thumb. The views of Lapland were the best of the tour we had seen so far, and a great start to our day of snow activities. Continuing on with our day in Lapland, we arrived at Safartica, a reindeer farm surrounded by snow and pine trees. We were shown around the farm and learned a

little about how the reindeer are cared for, before being split into pairs and climbing into small wooden sleighs. Each sleigh was pulled by a reindeer, and we slowly made our way through the snowy paths, taking in the quiet and the landscape around us.

After the ride, we gathered together to warm up with cups of hot glögg, which was very welcome in the freezing temperatures. We listened to some interesting facts about reindeer and their role in Lapland, before heading back to the bus. With cold hands and red noses, we returned to our accommodation, having experienced something completely new and unforgettable.

After dinner, we headed into the Finnish forest with our Safartica guide to experience aurora borealis. When we arrived at the viewing location after a short 20 min bus ride, we were greeted by a campfire and warm drink. The aurora was breathtaking! It was so amazing to see it in person despite the extreme cold and dangerous frozen over swamp. Following this, our guide wanted to hear some songs, so we sang around the campfire under the northern lights. When everyone was very cold, we headed back to the bus to go back to the hotel at about 10.00. Everyone was very tired, so we all headed to bed.

### **Saturday 13 December**

On the 13th on December, we enjoyed a freezing day at Santa's Village with temperatures dropping to -20°C! Even though the cold was intense, it somehow created even more excitement of being in the arctic circle. There was even a livestream that our parents could watch to see us in the circle, and Mr. CS seemed to be the most excited about it out of everyone.

Even though it was freezing, the weather was bearable as we could camp in shops to warm up again. We bought loads of souvenirs and were fascinated by how reindeer antlers are used in Finnish crafts as we saw it being used in candle holders, knives, cheese knives and tiny keychains. One of the highlights was meeting the big man himself, Santa, where we performed Bonse aba to lift the mood up even more and spread the joy. After spending a bit more money (as always), we enjoyed lunch before heading back to the hotel to conclude our final night of activities together, soaking in the last moments of an unforgettable Finnish adventure before starting our journey back home.

### **Sunday 14 December**

On the 14th of December we began long travel back to Helsinki from Rovaniemi by train. We began our day at 7am with an early continental breakfast at the hotel and then took the bus to the Rovaniemi train station. We then boarded the train and packed the luggage tight before we started our 9-hour trip. This included many scenic views as we observed the gorgeous fields and forests covered in snow for one of the last times. We managed to pass the time with card games and some well-earned sleep. At around 6pm we arrived at Helsinki train station and moved to the bus which would take us back to Hotel Arthur, the very same hotel where we stayed at the start of our trip. We checked in and had dinner at the hotel. We then went to our dorms and went to sleep in Finland for the final time.

### **Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 December**

After this busy morning, we were given ample time to explore Helsinki airport and to buy any Finnish delights before leaving. Lufthansa took us to Frankfurt, Germany, another large airport which we could wander around and enjoy winter views for the last time, as our next flight-a tiresome 12-hour commute-would lead us to Singapore. This bustling airport was filled with shops, entertainment, and many intriguing novelties such as a butterfly garden and the famous 'Jewel,' housing the world's largest indoor waterfall in a tropical paradise. The last plane ride took us to Adelaide, and with red eyes we waved our goodbyes and headed home after what many would claim to be the best travelling experience they have ever had.

## **MUSIC CENTRE STAFF**

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### **Head of Music**

Andrew Barrett

### **Coordinator of Music**

Craig Bentley

### **Classroom Teachers**

Billy Anthony-James

Mark Cameron-Smith

Hilary Kleinig

Hannah Lewis

Sue Rodger

Georgia Simmons

Paige York

### **Music SSOs**

Alevia Evci

### **Department for Education Instrumental Music**

Sarah Barrett (horn/euphonium)

Cheryl Bentley (clarinet/saxophone)

Rob Chenoweth (trumpet)

Kirsty Friebe (double bass)

Michael Gillard (percussion)

Sandy Hosking (cello)

Amelia Monaghan (recorder)

Bianca Raponi (voice)

Madeleine Stewart (flute)

Jenny Symonds (violin/viola)

David Winnall (trombone)

### **School-Based Private Instrumental Music Instructors**

Rosanne Hammer (piano)

Naomi Hede (voice)

Leticia Lee (voice)

Jackson Mack (drum kit)

Sam Morris (guitar)

Samantha Penny (bassoon)

Emma Perkins (violin)

Emma Richardson (violin)

Renae Stavely (oboe)

Tasha Stevens (jazz bass)

Luke Thompson (voice)

Angeline Thoo (piano)

Cathy Travaglione (violin/viola)

Cameron Waters (cello)

Shannon Whitehead (piano)

Rhys Williams (Sonic Arts Club, piano)

Jenny Hu (flute)

## CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

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<b>Beachfront Hub Concert Bands</b>	Cheryl Bentley, Rob Chenoweth, Annette Greenshields, Madeleine Stewart, Brett Williams (conductors)
<b>Bel Canto</b>	Georgia Simmons (conductor) Sue Rodger (accompanist)
<b>Big Band 1</b>	Craig Bentley (director)
<b>Big Band 2</b>	Mark Cameron-Smith (director)
<b>Big Band 3</b>	Rhys Williams (director)
<b>Brass Ensemble</b>	Andrew Barrett (conductor)
<b>Brighton Chamber Orchestra</b>	Hilary Kleinig (director)
<b>Brightones</b>	Luke Thompson (conductor) Rhys Williams (accompanist)
<b>Concert Band</b>	Hannah Lewis (conductor)
<b>Concert Choir</b>	Georgia Simmons (conductor) Sue Rodger (accompanist)
<b>Dixieland Band</b>	Andrew Barrett (director)
<b>Flute Ensemble</b>	Madeleine Stewart (director)
<b>Fusion</b>	Sam Morris (director)
<b>Guitar Ensemble</b>	Mark Cameron-Smith (director)
<b>Jazz Choir 1</b>	Luke Thompson (director) Rhys Williams (accompanist)
<b>Jazz Choir 2</b>	Sue Rodger (director)
<b>Jazz Combo</b>	Jackson Mack (director)
<b>Percussion Ensemble 1</b>	Billy James, Jackson Mack (conductors)
<b>Percussion Ensemble 2</b>	Michael Gillard (conductor)
<b>Percussion Ensemble 3</b>	Billy James, Jackson Mack (conductors)
<b>Recorder Ensemble</b>	Amelia Monaghan (director)
<b>Sinfonia</b>	Jenny Symonds, Cathy Travaglione (directors) Andrew Barrett (accompanist)
<b>Stimson Wind Quintet</b>	Renae Stavely (director)
<b>Symphony Orchestra</b>	Andrew Barrett (conductor)
<b>Tour Choir</b>	Andrew Barrett (conductor)
<b>Tour Ensemble</b>	Mark Cameron-Smith, Annette Greenshields, Madeleine Stewart
<b>Treble Choir</b>	Paige York (conductor) Joshua Tretheway (accompanist)

## MUSIC CAPTAINS

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<b>Senior Music Captains</b>	Charli D, Marley F, Maria MA, An S
<b>Middle School Music Captains</b>	Ben D, Finn G, Ebony P, Evie S

## OUTSTANDING SACE RESULTS

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### Students Achieving an A<sup>+</sup>

Marcus C	Music Performance – Ensemble
Vinayika C	Music Performance – Ensemble
Charli D	Music Performance - Ensemble
Schyler D	Music Explorations
Marley F	Music Performance – Solo
Elinor H	Music Performance – Ensemble
Bowen J	Music Performance – Ensemble
Rushvi K	Music Performance - Ensemble
Jade O	Music Performance – Solo
Finn S	Music Performance - Ensemble
Michelle V	Music Performance - Solo

### Students Achieving an A

Matthew A	Music Performance – Ensemble
Alex C	Music Performance – Ensemble
Charli D	Music Performance – Solo
	Music Studies
Marley F	Music Studies
Zen G	Music Performance – Solo
	Music Performance – Ensemble
Blake H	Music Performance – Ensemble
Sidney JM	Music Performance – Ensemble
Lia K	Music Performance – Ensemble
Maria MA	Music Performance – Solo
Eden P	Music Performance – Ensemble
An S	Music Performance – Ensemble
Sebastian T	Music Performance – Solo
Marisen T	Music Performance – Ensemble

### Students Achieving an A<sup>-</sup>

Jonah B	Music Performance – Ensemble
Raffaella C	Music Explorations
Isla G	Music Performance – Ensemble
Zen G	Music Explorations
Kaden Mc	Music Performance – Ensemble
Annabel R	Music Performance – Solo
An S	Music Performance – Solo
	Music Studies
Sebastian T	Music Performance – Ensemble
David T	Music Performance – Ensemble
Carla V	Music Performance – Solo

## **SCHOOL-BASED COMPETITIONS**

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### **Senior Solo Competition (adjudicator Emma Perkins)**

1st place – Elinor H  
2nd place – Vinayika C  
3rd place – Felix H

### **Jeffrey Kong Piano Accompanying Competition (adjudicator Jeffrey Kong)**

1st place – Oliver S, Levi R  
2nd place – Ebony P, Evie S; Felix H, Mahdir M  
3rd place – Isla Mc, Grace P

### **Rotary Solo Competition (adjudicator Mitch Brunsden OAM)**

7SIM

1st place – Ethan H  
2nd place – Frankie C  
3rd place – Nima M

8SIM

1st place – Daivik C, Rowan T  
3rd place – Francine M

9SIM

1st place – Ebony P  
2nd place – Elyza S  
3rd place – Dakota Q

10SIM

1st place – Ethan B, Sidney H, Oliver S

## **HEAD OF MUSIC AWARD**

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This award recognises achievement of academic excellence in the SACE music subjects, a very high level of participation in the music program over a number of years and an outstanding contribution to the culture of the school and music program.

The 2025 Head of Music Award recipients were:

Charli D  
Marley F

## **SERVICE TO MUSIC AWARDS**

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Sam A  
Oscar BN  
Daniel C  
Raffie C  
Imogen D  
Charli D  
Thomas D  
Schyler D  
Marley F  
Zen G  
Ethan H  
Bowen J  
Yan L  
Kirsty M  
Maria MA  
Jade O  
Annabel R  
Nejla S  
An S  
Chelsea T  
Sebastian T  
David T  
Michelle V  
Carla V  
Michelle W  
Sophie W  
Lily Z

## MUSIC CAPTAINS' REPORT

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2025 was a highly successful year across many different facets in the music centre. As music captains, we implemented numerous new initiatives which the school-wide leadership forum at the beginning of the school year helped with, allowing us to plan these events collaboratively.

The year kickstarted with the annual Generations in Jazz festival, taking place in Mount Gambier, where several of our jazz ensembles competed. Brighton saw success this year, with Jazz Choir 1 placing 1st in their division. Furthermore, two students were selected for Division 1 Superband, with one of them not also winning the *Wayne Bergeron Most Outstanding Trumpeter Player Award* but was also nominated as a *Future Finalist*. These results highlight our promising young talents and the bright years ahead for Brighton Secondary School.

One of our earliest implemented initiatives was the music centre sticker competition. This was an opportunity for students to put forward their original designs to represent the music centre. Naturally, the competition brought an element of fun to the start of the year, with the winning sticker design giving music students a means of proudly representing the music centre's identity.

Write a Song in a Day was another original initiative brought to life in 2025. The day brought a supportive atmosphere, where participants were able to spend the day in groups creating their own original songs that fit within the theme's music, animals or school. The day concluded with students having the opportunity to perform their songs in the Brighton Concert Hall to a live audience, where families and friends voted on their favorite performances. Overall, this was a fun filled day for students to create music, and we look forward to seeing how the event will improve in the coming years.

The Piano Concert, a concert series that began in 2023, took place again this year, with a growing list of participants. This concert allowed pianists, students, staff and scholars alike, to showcase their skills in a relaxed and casual setting without pressure. Additionally, the Senior Solo Competition also took place again this year and saw an increased number of participants across years 11 and 12.

The first official Special Interest Music Centre (SIMC) Music Captain Meeting occurred this year, a collaborative effort between the four SIMC schools at the Education Development Centre. This allowed the SIMC schools to strengthen our relationship and begin to plan for events involving each other for future years. The meeting consisted of brainstorming for collaboration ideas between the schools including concerts, discussion of the SACE and how each school's music program operates.

Our largest performance, Music Spectacular, had the theme of "Animal Kingdom", and featured a petting zoo. This petting zoo was opened during the concert break, allowing guests to have up close interactions with native Australian animals. To close off Music Spectacular, all music students joined together for a final choir performance, with appearing for the choruses with animal puppets.

At end the year, Brighton Secondary School embarked on a tour to Finland, where students were able to perform in various locations including schools and explore the country, visiting Santa's Village and more. Students also experienced an immersive one-week experience of Finnish life, undertaking homestays with families of Finnish music students.

2025 was an exciting year for the Brighton Secondary School Music Program, filled with performance opportunities, success in competitions, and the first appearance of a petting zoo. The added sticker competition helped foster connection within the music program and Write a Song in a Day helped students explore other avenues of music in a low-pressure environment. The Brighton Music program is extremely bright, and this year's success indicated that it will only become brighter.