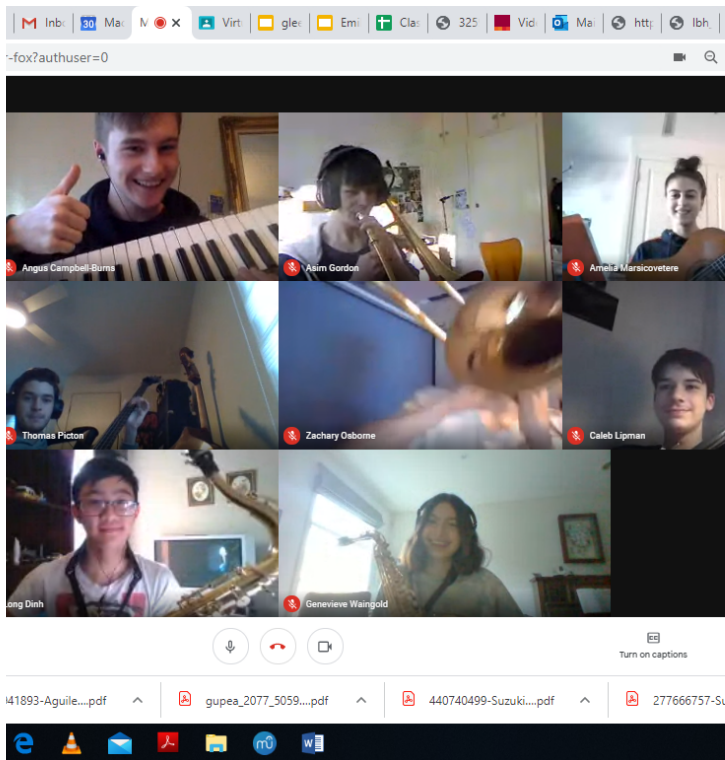


# Macleod College Music Academy

## NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, 2020



"Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway." – Emory Austin



## PRACTICE TIPS

1. Set goals for your practice time
2. Keep a practice journal
3. Break up your practice time into smaller increments
4. Remember that practicing is NOT just about playing through your music
5. Repetition is key
6. Make sure your practice room is set up for effective practicing
7. Warm up mindfully
8. Record yourself
9. Keep your instrument somewhere where you can see it, set up and ready to go
10. Practice something EVERY DAY

## REMOTE LEARNING

BY ANGUS CAMPBELL-BURNS

It would be an understatement to say that we are currently living in an equally unique, yet tough time at the moment. With students, teachers and parents trying to find ways to settle into Stage 4 restrictions, the Macleod College Music Academy has once again found another proactive way to continue to engage its large community of students in doing what we are most passionate about: our music; with the creation of a rehearsal program specifically designed to run online.





Being a member of our own Orchestral Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Bands, I must say it has been a huge success. The conductors for each of our ensembles have been scheduling meetings through the Google Hangouts software, each member from the ensemble joins the group call with our instruments and sheet music ready to go along with us. We then record ourselves performing to a live audio cue, and send our performances to our conductors, who provide excellent and encouraging feedback ensuring that our musical skills stay sharp as ever during lockdown.

Considering we as a Music Academy have near-future plans to studio record for competition purposes, this is easily the best preparation we could be offered by our teachers and conductors.

As a senior student, the way fellow bandmates and musicians from other ensembles both younger and older have taken this on by the reigns has been very impressive. Together, we have been able to transform a potentially grim situation for our academy into a situation of optimism and motivation. Ensemble members and staff still manage to stay connected and check in on one another, we still share the same laughs, conversations and musical feedback we would do regularly. However, the most important factor, is that we provide for one another an escape to a fearful and uncertain time in the world. The family culture our Music Academy is built upon has been more evident than ever before during this lockdown, and I am very proud to be a part of it all.

Angus Campbell-Burns

Macleod College Orchestral Wind Symphony: Auxiliary Percussionist

Macleod College Jazz Big Band: Auxiliary Percussionist & Pianist

## Jim Griffiths - Director of Music

It has been a tough year for our Music students with a lack of performance opportunities, camps and competitions but it is the simple act of sitting in a room together and making music that we are missing the most. There is real joy in playing a small part with others to make a greater whole. A cog however small can be integral to the machine, but it can be isolating playing music on our own without others by our sides.

We encourage all our students to Hold Fast and to look forward to the time where we are making music together again. Also, remember that although we are separated, we are not alone, we have a wonderful community, and we are all here for each other.

We are holding our first ever Online Concert on Thursday 17th of September from 3:30pm. Links will be shared on the day, and we encourage everyone to come along, enjoy some live music and to support our wonderful students.

As we return to face-to-face learning we will be providing as many performance opportunities for our students as possible under the constraints. We will restart our Lunchtime Concert series, and hope to hold an End of Year Concert to replace the Spring Arts Gala. Our Recording Project, where a professional recording engineer will come to Macleod College to record each of our ensembles, will occur later next term. Also, Wind Symphony and Big Band are entering the Victorian School Music Festival, which will be done via video submission. Big Band are also entering into the Senior Jazz Ensemble Section, which includes a visit to Macleod by an expert clinician who will conduct a workshop.

This term we have continued our remote ensemble rehearsals and online instrumental lessons. Our Instrumental Teachers have gone above and beyond to create meaningful learning experiences for our students despite many challenges. We have a group of incredible musicians and expert educators that make up the Music Team, and we are grateful for their passion and their hard work.

Our Music Student Leadership group have continued to meet weekly and have two goals for the Music Academy, to create and maintain our culture (a family like community) and to help us to get better. In the pursuit of these goals they have implemented an online Music Trivia session for our music students and will be holding an online Music Movie night in the first week of Term 4. We also created an online guided practice session (The Practice Pad) which will continue next term. These dedicated and enthusiastic students volunteer their time to make a difference in our community and are integral to the Music Program. If you would like to help make a difference while gaining valuable leadership skills, please get in contact with Mr Griffiths.

Our amazing Music Support Group consists of parents who are passionate about the importance of Music education. In the past they have fundraised to purchase; Timpani, a Vibraphone, and some much-needed music stands, and they are pivotal parts of organising and running our wonderful music events. We are also currently organising an Instrument Drive. If you have a once loved instrument that is gathering dust in we would be grateful to give it a new loving home!

We are currently looking for new members, please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Take care and keep making music.

Kind regards,

Jim Griffiths  
Director of Music



# DONATE YOUR INSTRUMENTS!

Old instruments cluttering up your cupboards? Collecting dust in the corner? Let us find them a loving home!

We are seeking good quality instrument donations to support our Yr 7 Music Program.

Our wish list includes:

- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Flutes
- Clarinets
- Saxophones
- Violins
- Violas

To donate any of these or any other instruments, please email Jim Griffiths to organise - [gri@macleod.vic.edu.au](mailto:gri@macleod.vic.edu.au)

