

ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

CONCERT BAND

A Concert Band is a balanced ensemble, consisting of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion instruments as follows: Piccolo*, Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet*, Bassoon*, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone*, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn*, Euphonium*, Tuba*, Double Bass*, Percussion (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Timpani*, Glockenspiel, Xylophone and other instruments required by the given work). The option of a Keyboard Bass (using a string bass tone setting) for any level where a tuba or string bass is not available would be an advantage. *Optional for younger groups.

Section 1: Novice Concert Band

The Novice Concert Band should consist of students who have been learning their instrument for two (2) years or less. It is open to students of any age.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The band must aspire to provide an appropriate balance of instruments and have a minimum membership of fifteen (15) including percussion
- Performance time not to exceed eight (8) minutes
- Each band must play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the Novice/Junior Concert Band test piece list
*Please note that instrument substitution is encouraged in this section in order to achieve a balanced sound
Eg: Bassoon or Bass Clarinet may be played by Trombone, Tuba played by Electric Bass or Keyboard set to an appropriate sound. Percussion parts can be split between Drum Kit and/or Aux Percussion*
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 2: Junior Concert Band

The Junior Concert Band should consist of students who have been learning their instrument for only a couple of years. It is restricted to Primary School aged students. A Primary School Band may elect to enter the Novice Band section if they are particularly inexperienced and/or their instrumentation is not complete. A balanced Primary School Band is encouraged to enter the Junior Concert Band Division. Ensembles with a proven history of success at a particularly high level or students who have been learning for 4 or more years are encouraged to attempt the next section applicable to them.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The band must have an appropriate balance of instruments and have a minimum membership of fifteen (15) including percussion
- Performance time not to exceed eight (8) minutes
- Each band must play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the Junior Concert Band test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 3A & 3B: Intermediate Concert Band & Intermediate Concert Band PLUS

Intermediate Concert Band (Section 3A) is for ensembles with students aged Year 10 and younger

Intermediate Concert Band PLUS (Section 3B) is an open age section, and for ensembles which have demonstrated an ability to perform to a higher standard or have won past Festivals in the intermediate level

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The band must have an appropriate balance of instruments and have a minimum membership of twenty (20) including percussion
- Performance time not to exceed twelve (12) minutes
- Each band must play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the relevant Intermediate Concert Band or Intermediate Concert Band PLUS test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 4: Advanced Concert Band

Advanced Concert Band is an open age section

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The band must have an appropriate balance of instruments and have a minimum membership of twenty (20) including percussion
- Performance time not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes
- Each band must play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the Advanced Concert Band test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

BIG BAND

A Big Band is a balanced group, consisting of Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones and Rhythm Section. The usual instrumentation is: 2x Alto Saxophones, 2x Tenor Saxophones, 1x Baritone Saxophone, 4x Trumpet, 4x Trombone, Rhythm Section: Piano, Electric/Acoustic/Double Bass, Guitar (optional), Drums, and Auxiliary Percussion, e.g. vibraphone (optional). For best results, ensembles entering the Advanced Big Band section should closely follow the above instrumentation.

Please note, in all Big Band sections there are a maximum number of performers permitted on stage. 20 performers in total, within the following section limits. Bands presenting with excess personnel will be adjudicated but ineligible for any awards:

- Saxophones – maximum 7
- Trumpets - maximum 6
- Trombones – maximum 5
- Rhythm Section – maximum 6

Section 5: Novice Big Band

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- There is no minimum number of performers (maximum 20 performers on stage)
- Ensemble directors should strive for a balanced ensemble
- Performance time not to exceed ten (10) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform the selection from the Novice Big Band test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 6: Intermediate Big Band

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The minimum number of performers is twelve (12) including percussion (maximum 20 performers on stage)
- Performance time not to exceed twelve (12) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform the selection from the Intermediate Big Band test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 7: Advanced Big Band

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The minimum number of performers is twelve (12) including percussion (maximum 20 performers on stage)
- Performance time not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform the selection from the Advanced Big Band test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All bands are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

STRING ENSEMBLE/ORCHESTRA

A String Ensemble is a group consisting of Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola/Violin 3, Cello and Double Bass.

An Orchestra is a balanced group consisting of string section with additional woodwind, brass and percussion.

Section 8: Junior String Ensemble

The Junior String Ensemble section is restricted to Primary School aged students. Ensembles with a proven history of success at a particularly high level or students who have been learning for 4 or more years are encouraged to attempt the next section applicable to them.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The minimum number of performers is eight (8)
- Performance time not to exceed ten (10) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the Junior String Ensemble test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All ensembles are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 9: Intermediate String Ensemble

The Intermediate String Ensemble section is an open age section

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- The minimum number of performers is eight (8)
- Performance time not to exceed twelve (12) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Each ensemble must perform at least one selection from the Intermediate String Ensemble test piece list
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All ensembles are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

Section 10A & 10B: Advanced String Ensemble & Open Orchestra

The Advanced String Ensemble & Open Orchestra sections are open age sections

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Section 10A is for Advanced String Ensembles
- Section 10B is for Orchestras only – any age levels and abilities.
- The minimum number of performers is eight (8) for Advanced String Ensemble and twenty (20) for Orchestra
- Performance time not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Advanced String Ensembles must perform at least one selection from the Advanced String Ensemble test piece list
- Orchestras may select their own repertoire but are strongly encouraged to perform repertoire that challenges the ensemble both technically and musically
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All ensembles are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

A percussion ensemble is a group consisting of various percussion instruments, both tuned and/or untuned

Section 11A & 11B: Open Percussion Ensemble (tuned) & Open Percussion Ensemble (untuned/drumline)

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Section 11A is for Open Percussion Ensembles with tuned percussion
- Section 11B is for Open Percussion Ensembles with untuned percussion, or drumlines
- Performance time not to exceed ten (10) minutes
- Play at least two (2) contrasting, published pieces of music. Ensembles may play as many works as the time permits, however a total of two (2) pieces is recommended given the time constraints
- Ensembles may select their own repertoire but are strongly encouraged to perform repertoire that displays the highest levels of musical expression and technical mastery
- Please see **Registration Criteria** regarding the use of adults (music tutors/teachers) in ensembles
- All ensembles are eligible for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit award. An overall benchmark ensemble will be recognised