



2017 Performing Arts Music Summer School



Launceston College celebrated its 11th annual Performing Arts Music Summer School from the 16th - 20th January 2017. This year the Summer School attracted 130+ enrolments from all regions of the state enrolling for “Junior Concert Band” “Concert Bands 1 and 2”, “Symphonic Band” and “Voice for the Stage”. Due to the 2017 Australian National Band Championships it was decided not to offer the Brass Band Day this year in order that Brass bands could focus on the contest repertoire. The regional brass band nights with Mark Eager (UK) are still planned for later in the year.



A highlight of this year’s Summer School was the wide range of participating musicians whose ages ranged from 6 to 75+. It was terrific to see so many members of the Launceston City Band participate in the concert band section. As per last year the blend of age groups provided a lovely supportive musical environment which resulted in some very fulfilling musical outcomes at the finale celebratory concert. It was encouraging to see so many TBL players from the North West Coast and the South at this year’s Summer school.

The Launceston College Summer School was once again strongly supported by the Tasmanian Bands League which contributed \$3000.00 towards staffing the program and providing assistance for other brass band evenings planned for later in the year.



YAMAHA Australia partnered with Launceston College for the second time this year. Yamaha supported Summer School by flying in Fletcher Mitchell (a Yamaha featured Artist) and Matt Taylor, Yamaha National Product Manager to tutor the brass players and conduct the concert bands for a total of five days. It was an amazing musical opportunity our summer school participants to be coached by two terrific and competent musical leaders. Their commitment, friendly disposition, enthusiasm and ability to communicate with participants was excellent.

Our other summer school musical leaders included:

- Major Peter Grant (returning for the 8th or 9th summer school) who conducted the symphonic band with works such as Sailors and Whales (2nd Movt.), Symphony No 6 Persichetti (4th Movement), "The Prince of Egypt", "Frozen" and the "Polar Express". Peter's work continues to be a special highlight of our summer school and the outcomes he manages to achieve are truly amazing.
- Peter Quigley who conducted the Concert Bands with works such as "Apollo" and "Into the Raging River", "Lyric Suite", "Creed" and many others.
- Derek Grice who worked on "Dr Who" and expertly coached most of the clarinet and other reed players. An exceptional musician who is willing to share his skills to all.
- Matthew Dudfield who worked his music magic with the Junior Concert Band on pieces such as "Surfin' USA", "Ten Masters in Two Minutes", "Extreme" and "Ayre and Dance".
- Joy Spaulding who coached instrumentalist in the Junior Concert Band.
- Kate Hudson (who recently graduated from the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music with first Class honours) tutored all the flute players.
- Zac Papworth who tutored and organised all the percussion students.
- Renee Badcock for working with with the Junior Concert band and tutoring wind players and performing in many of the bands.
- Brett Budgeon for expertly running the "Voice for the Stage Program". The musical outcome was exceptional.
- Judy Bordin for accompanying the "Voice for the Stage" Singers.
- James Hastings who assisted the saxophone players
- Alex Quigley and Jessica Walsh who assisted with brass players.



A big thank you is once again extended to Alida Quigley who did countless hours of administration and acted as "summer school mum" for the five days.



Thanks too are extended to Keith Wenn (Principal of Launceston College) for making all the LC facilities available (Main Hall, Drama Room, Band Room, Music Rooms, Flight Deck, Undercroft and quadrangle) including providing two cleaning staff for five days, Robin Thorne administration assistance and publicity including the final concert programme and the college office staff for receiving and organising receipts, receiving enquiries.

Thanks too to parent helpers for preparing the BBQ and cooking the food for the free BBQ on Friday lunchtime.

The summer school continues to gain momentum and is one of the most significant annual Community Music Education events in this state.



The following email (extract) was received by visiting Yamaha artist Fletcher Mitchell who summed up his experience as follows:

"Hi Peter,

Hopefully the dust has settled after the summer school and you are now into school for the year and Nationals preparations!

I just wanted to email you and thank you again for the opportunity to work at the Summer School. I've worked at a lot of similar youth camps/summer schools around the country and overseas and I found the Launceston SS to be the most enjoyable.

This was down the fact that the staff and participants were all so friendly, focused and enthusiastic. It was such a great way to start the year for me personally and I have taken the energy I got from the participants and put into my own playing as I get ready for the first 6 months of the year which includes solo tours to the US/Canada in April and Japan in June.

Thank you again and if you're interested in having me again, I'd love to be involved in next year's summer school as well!

Cheers and best of luck at the Nationals."

Fletcher

FLETCHER MITCHELL B.Mus (Hons); B.Mus; A.Mus.A: Yamaha Performing Artist & Clinician, Euphonium - Royal Australian Navy Band, Low Brass Teacher - Monash University

Peter Quigley

AST Launceston College (Launceston College Performing Arts Music Summer School Musical Director)

