

San Sisto Ensembles

San Sisto College offers students the opportunity to become involved in a variety of music ensembles, both instrumental and vocal. Ensemble rehearsal and performance involves the development of skills specific to the ensemble situation and incorporates knowledge and understanding of the music.

Being a member of an ensemble is a very rewarding pursuit. It provides the opportunity for forming relationships with students outside the peer group, allows for older students to mentor and support younger students and gives students a sense of satisfaction in knowing they've contributed to a group's success.

ENSEMBLES IN 2025

There are 8 ensembles at San Sisto College. They are broken down as follows-

- 3 Core Ensembles
- 2 Small Ensembles
- 5 Auditioned Ensembles

CORE ENSEMBLES

Our 3 Core Ensembles are our largest groups, covering most instruments played. They consist of students from Yr 7 – 12 and are not auditioned. If you can play an instrument and/or sing – you're in!

Mother Mary Molloy Concert Band works with traditional and contemporary concert band repertoire. Instruments include – Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones (Alto, Tenor, Baritone), Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar, Orchestral Percussion and Drumkit.

Siena Strings is a string orchestra for students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass.

Veritas Voices is our college choir, working with a range of contemporary vocal repertoire in 3-part vocal harmony.



SMALLER ENSEMBLES

Our 2 Smaller Ensembles are dedicated to singular instruments. They are also not auditioned and students from Yr 7 – 12 are in the ensembles.

Woodwind Ensemble – flute, clarinet, and bass clarinet are welcome to join this woodwind ensemble, who explore a range of fun modern repertoire in a smaller setting.

Mother Lilia Percussion Ensemble includes orchestral percussion, drumkit and many other students who play another instrument (particularly piano as there are many transferable skills!) or those who want to learn a new instrument in an accessible ensemble setting.

AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

Our 5 Auditioned Ensembles are ensembles which students can aspire to be in after a few years' experience in our program. Students are auditioned or selected to join. To audition for these ensembles, students must be in at least one of the core ensembles.

Seignadou – Our ensemble that provides the liturgical music for our College.

The Oranges – Our Contemporary/Rock Band.

Vox Angelicus – Our small Vocal Ensemble.

Jazz Combo – Our small jazz band with a rhythm section and front line of winds/brass.

String Quartet – for a combination of four string players to play small ensemble repertoire.

INCLUSIVITY

At San Sisto it is not compulsory for students to have private music lessons to be in an ensemble. This is unique. We feel that students should be able to access the benefits found in being part of an ensemble, no matter their situation.

However, please note: **Although it is not a requirement that a student have lessons on their instrument to be eligible for the ensemble, it is highly recommended that they do so. This is to attend to the development of skills and musicianship which allows students the opportunity to develop further in an ensemble situation. The repertoire used in the ensembles must cater for a wide range of abilities, and at times, students who don't have lessons may be challenged by the demands of the music.** We highly encourage all students who do get private music lessons to participate in an ensemble to work on their musicianship and technical skills in group settings and apply their learnings from lessons to rehearsals and performances.



ENSEMBLE FEES

Ensemble fees contribute to the payment of conductors and the provision of sheet music and folders. This is a yearly fee.

Ensemble fees for 2025 are as follows:

1x Ensemble – Veritas Voices only	\$60
1x Ensemble – Instrumental only	\$150
2 Ensembles	\$175
3 or more Ensembles	\$200

SECTION TUTORIALS

We have sectional tutorials that are held during break times. They prove to be a very worthwhile endeavour and contribute to accelerated performance levels of our string ensemble and concert band.

These compulsory tutorials ensure that the ensemble repertoire is looked at more than once a week. The tutorials are scheduled in break time and

students receive a permission card that allows for the student to leave class 5 minutes early and arrive 5 minutes late to the periods either side of the break enabling the girls to avoid congestion at the lockers.

HIRE INSTRUMENTS

San Sisto College has a variety of instruments that can be hired. If you would like to do so, please contact Rachael Jory (rachael.jory@bne.catholic.edu.au) for more information and tick the hire instrument box on the enrolment form.

PERFORMANCE UNIFORM

Students in our ensembles are required to wear a music performance uniform when they perform at Open Day, QCMF, Music Performance Evening and Assembly performances. The CMP formal photos are also taken in the performance uniform.

The performance uniform (shirt and pants) is purchased through the Rose Retail Centre. Students can try on sizes before purchase. The first time the uniform is worn is in May.

Students provide their own enclosed black shoe and a white camisole for under the shirt. The College provides the red sash and bow for the performances.

ENSEMBLE ENROLMENT

To enrol your daughter in an ensemble/s, parents/guardians need to complete and sign an Ensemble Enrolment form. Multiple ensembles can be enrolled in on the one form. This can be returned to the College via EdSmart Parent Slips (if digital) or addressed to the CMP Coordinator via email or to Reception (if paper). Once it is returned, more logistical information will be emailed to you and the student can join the ensemble/s at the next rehearsal. **The enrolment form enrolls the student for the entire year.** If a student wishes to leave an ensemble an email from a parent providing notice and reason is required. No refund of fees can be provided.

ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries can be directed to:

Mrs Rachael Jory – Co-curricular Music Program Coordinator rachael.jory@bne.catholic.edu.au