

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



Well, it has taken a long time, but finally, a Studio Newsletter!

What a year it has been for you all and for us too! We're all pooped, as I'm sure you are also! While I still have the energy...let's talk....

## STUDIO DATES FOR NEXT YEAR!!!!



### Term 1

30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April

### Term 2

18<sup>th</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Term 3

10<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> September

### Term 4

3<sup>rd</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> December



## **JUNIOR CONCERT 2017**

**27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**Thirroul Community Centre**

**Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul.**

For all of you involved in the Junior Concert ( you know who you are) ☺ please keep watch of your emails. I will be sending things through over the weeks between now and then with VERY important info. If you have any questions at any stage, please don't hesitate to contact me. The first email that will be sent, within the next few days, will have the music that needs to be learnt for the Ensemble piece that each student is involved in. It is expected that this will be learnt PRIOR to the workshop day of the 27<sup>th</sup> January. It is vital that this occur as we want to work on the performance and polish of each ensemble piece. Thank you in advance for your cooperation students and for your support parents.

## **SO.....WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS YEAR???**

Well it would be quicker to tell you what HASN'T been happening...but then we'd miss all the awesome news. One could never say that our students aren't doing great stuff!!! Let's celebrate all their wonderful achievements together.

In no particular order (because I have "end of year brain" ...which IS a thing!!...I'm sure it is!)

Congratulations to ALL of you who played Leading roles (and there were A LOT of you, in just about ALL the shows listed below) and Ensemble roles (and a lot of you guys too!). To those of you who placed and entered the Wollongong Eisteddfod, hats off to you guys and a massive Congratualtions also! Eisteddfods used to scare me senseless so I have much admiration for you all! (I think Lisa, Jen and Jason loved them...but then...they're a bit strange ;)



**Legally Blonde** (WHSPA) & (AMTC)

**Seussical, The Musical** (The Arcadians Theatre Group)

**The Producers** (SoPopera)

**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** (The Arcadians Theatre Group)

**Beauty & The Beast Jnr** (Arcadians Childrens Theatre)

**Cindy** (Arcadians Childrens Theatre)

**Hair** (The Arcadians Theatre Group)

**Miss Saigon** (Roo Theatre)

**Beauty & The Beast** (TIGS)

**Southern Stars** (Featured Artists, Backing Vocalists & Ensembles)

**The NSW Schools Spectacular** (Featured Artists)

**Performing Ensemble** (previously Illawarra South East Regional Touring Ensemble)

**Shrek Jnr** (Roo Theatre)

**Shrek Jnr** (Activ Elite Performers., Hurstville)

**Wollongong Eisteddfod**

**"13 The Musical"** (IYAP) \*On in 2017

**Wicked** (Miranda Musical Society)

## **2016 HSC MUSIC PERFORMANCE**

This year seemed particularly crazy with the amount of students doing HSC Music 1 and Music 2! All up, between the Wollongong and Kirrawee Studio, we had **32** students. All performing 3-4 pieces each.....so as we all do the math....yep, that's over **100** pieces!!! This no mean feat! Congratulations to each and everyone of you! To say it was a stressful time...is a gross understatement! Especially as most of you were also doing HSC Drama and/or HSC Dance. Insanity! This was a challenging time for you all and we are all so proud of you in all that you achieved. A special mention to Anastasia Feneri for your Encore Nomination. I would also like to acknowledge Jennifer, Lisa and Jason. It's not easy coming up with that amount of pieces and adapting to the varied styles required, along with the last minute (well not quite last minute, but what felt like close enough to!!) changes that sometimes had to be made for various reasons. Thank you for your tireless work.

## ABRSM SINGING EXAMS



Congratulations to all of you who did exams in the middle of the year and those who did them just a few weeks ago. Your results are fabulous!! And aren't you all pleased that Jen was adamant with you about that sight reading??!!!! It pays off! It's not pretty, it's not fun (except to Jen who we have decided is a little strange) ☺, but it IS necessary. As singers we have to fight constantly to be seen equally, as musicians. We must want for more and thirst for knowledge. It pays dividends in the end.

It once was the case that figure skaters were marked on their foundation work...they would skate a Figure 8, and have to do it many times over. The assessors would then come onto the ice and see if they had executed it each time on the same groove. If they hadn't, they would not pass their work. They didn't like it, infact it was a bore and frustrating to many, however, they knew it was the key to succeeding. If you only practice the stuff you like, the stuff you don't like will never get better and will pull you back. No one likes that. Congratulations to you all, for being Vocal Figure Skaters who went over your Figure 8's !!! ☺

Again, I must acknowledge the work of Jennifer. Exam preparation is a nerve wracking and tireless task for a teacher. I'm sure I can say, on behalf of all your students and parents, that your work is so valued and we are all Thankful for it.

## AMEB Music Theatre Exams

I am really looking forward to introducing these to the studio this coming year! We will all talk with you about these if you are interested and if we think they can benefit you. (to be honest...exams benefit everyone). As I have always said, we are in great favour of exam work. There are so many wonderful things that you gain out of undertaking these. Infact, I will be undertaking some myself again next year. So we can all throw ourselves into it together!!!

## **STUDIO ALUMNI**

### **NIDA**

Congratulations to Zoe Ioannou who graduated from the Diploma of Music Theatre course this year and Congratulations to Aaron Gobby for gaining entry into the course for 2017! Super proud of you guys!

### **VCA (Victorian College of the Arts) Music Theatre**

Congratulations to Emily Thompson who is about to graduate this week from the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre). Congratulations also to Jay Gomez who has just completed 1<sup>st</sup> year and is gearing up for a big 2<sup>nd</sup> year there. And last but not least, Congratulations to Aaron Gobby for graduating from the Foundation Course. So thrilled for you and extremely proud of you three!

### **WAAPA (Western Australia Academy of the Performing Arts)**

Congratulations to Tom Gustard who has just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> Year in Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre). Have a great final year Tom! And to Nicole Mealey who has just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Bachelor of Music (Classical Voice Performance). We are super proud of you both!!

### **Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

Congratulations to Olivia Boyd-Skinner on completing her 1<sup>st</sup> Year in Bachelor of Education (Music). So proud of you Liv. Not bad getting to do some of those recitals at the Sydney Opera House! 😊

### **CQU - Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music**

Congratulations to Kyle Nozza for having just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Bachelor of Music Theatre. So proud of you and all that you are doing up there!

### **AIM (Australian Institute of Music)**

Congratulations to Dylan Wright who has just completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a Bachelor of Contemporary Music. So proud of you and all that you are achieving with your writing also.



And so there you have it! I no doubt have forgotten many things but as we are heading into a new year....my N.Y. resolution is to get more of these newsletters done. Please keep us abreast of news incase we have missed something!

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2017!

Thank you for all your support this year parents and families. Without you, we don't get to do what we do. And to all you older guys, Thank you for remembering your lessons!!! (You all know who you are !! ) ;)

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Be sure to check things on the website. All policies and studio info is on there! I will actually knuckle down on that a little more too.....with the help of Jason Turnbull!!! (So handy having an IT expert & singing teacher at the studio!!!) ☺



[www.charmainegibbsstudios.com.au](http://www.charmainegibbsstudios.com.au)

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