

HAPPY MID YEAR NEWSLETTER!



What a busy year it's been already! Can you believe we are nearly at the end of June?! Before we know it I'll be posting the Christmas Newsletter whilst everyone is busy wrapping pressies or contemplating starting their shopping. (I tend to be the latter) I wanted to touch base and say Hi to everyone and congratulate everyone on the stellar work so far. You'll see further on what's been happening! First, a reminder of a few things.....

STUDIO DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR



Term 3

16th July – 29nd September (11 WEEKS)

Term 4

8th October – 15th December (10 WEEKS)

CONCERT DATES FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2018.....



YRS 10-12 CONCERT – 7th September

Oh wow!!! This wasn't stressful at ALL when we found out 3 days before our scheduled concert that the venue had made a HUGE error in their booking!!! So from a June (pre HSC Trials traditionally dated) concert to a September (pre HSC prac exams inaugural date)... this threw, to say the least, a spanner in the works! However, with thanks to the parents who endured many an email from me throwing dates around, we've made it and Friday the 7th it is. The Trybooking event is still in place from the June date but has of course, now become the September date. So, if you have already purchased tickets, these carry across to the new concert date. The link for the booking is; <https://www.trybooking.com/VLYA>

JUNIOR CONCERT – 13TH October

Yes! We have a date! Please pop this in your diaries. This concert is for our Yr 9 and under students. So... our Primary age and early Highschool students... this one is for you! ☺ There will be more information to come but in the meantime... pop it in your diaries please Mum's and Dad's, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Neighbours, Friends !

ADULT CONCERT – 12th December

We had such an awesome night last year at Town Hall Chambers didn't we! So, we're going to do it all again! We are not solid on the venue as, even though the "chambers" was great, there were some drawbacks. We received some great feedback so we are looking for a venue that has a similar vibe but not quite so noisy. But, in the first instance, please pop the date in your diaries and more information will be on it's way! ☺

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

Once again, it's started off as another huge year and I know I don't have to tell you guys this as you've been living it!! Below is a massive list of all the productions you have all been part of. Congratulations to each and every one of you for your Leading Role, Supporting Role and Ensemble Featured Roles. We are so proud of you! You're all stars!

Into the Woods (WHSPA)

(Smiths Hill HS)

Guys & Dolls (Bulli HS)

Beauty & The Beast and Snoopy (Miranda Musical Society)

Rent (Phoenix Theatre)

Jekyll & Hyde (The Arcadians Theatre Group)

The Little Mermaid & A Chorus Line (SoPopera)

Mulan Jnr (Arcadians Childrens Theatre)

Oliver & The Witches of Eastwick (Roo Theatre)

We Will Rock You (Engadine Musical Society)



ABRSM & AMEB SINGING EXAMS

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. This is why we love exam work!

I want to share this little story I read quite some time ago. I think it's such a great reminder about foundation, technique and repetition and how working with all three is imperative.....

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, in fact 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 !!! 😊

Jennifer will be doing some mid-year exams again and for Lisa and I, we will be enrolling students into end of year (October) AMEB exams. More on this VERY soon.

Only last year, I undertook my A.Mus.A. in Music Theatre through the AMEB Syllabus. It was SUCH a challenge but one I loved and one I felt I needed to do for a few reasons. Firstly, for my own, continuing professional development, and secondly, to remind myself that studying my instrument is a lifelong process and commitment. Next year, I'm hoping to do my L.Mus.A. It is a never ending journey. 😊

STUDIO ALUMNI

BRING IT ON

A graduate of VCA (Music Theatre) we shout out a massive Congratulations to the wonderful *Emily Thompson* on landing the role of Kylar. Currently playing in Melbourne to rave reviews, we can't wait to see what comes next Em! Much success and love to you!



LITTLE BIG CLUB

Travelling over to Macau and joining *Jack Paterson*, who has just signed his next contract with the show, is *Anastasia Feneri*. Congratulations Ana for landing the role of Jesse in LBC All Stars. LGB is in similar vein to Hi-5 and currently based in Macau & Singapore. Jack and Anastasia will host the show together, singing and dancing

themselves crazy! We are very proud of you Anastasia & Jack and hope you continue to work hard and enjoy the experience.



CITY OF SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD

A HUGE Congratulations to Jennifer's ensemble "Timeless" who took out 3rd place in the Contemporary Open Vocal Group Section in the COSE! Jennifer started this ensemble 2 ½ years ago and the girls; Ella Perusco, Hayley Bannerman, Grace O'Dea, Kiya Slockee & Katie Pearce, have gone from strength to strength. Jennifer has a passion and talent for vocal ensemble work and my goodness, if anyone feels like just sitting in our waiting room and being blown away by their incredible harmonies and beautiful tone... feel free to pop in on Wednesday evenings around 6pm and listen as you cosy down in one of the chairs and soak it all in. Wonderful work gals!

SOUTHERN STARS & NSW SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR.....

There are so many of our students who are Featured Artists, Backing Vocalists & Featured Vocal Ensemble in the upcoming "Southern Stars". We are so proud of you. A massive Congratulations goes out to; Jamie Walsh, Hayley Bannerman, Blake Douglas, Molly Parish-Gibbons, Monika Mitrevski, Kiya Slockee, Romey Fanning, Francesa Petr and Mia Fernandez. For the NSW Schools Spectacular another massive Congrats to Kiya Slockee for your Featured Artist position and Hayley Bannerman & Mia Fernandez for your Featured Backing Vocalists position. All these achievements in both "Stars" & "Spec" are so hotly contested and a lot of blood, sweat and tears goes into the auditions and shows. Shine on... ALL OF YOU!!!

Southern Stars Tickets; Through Ticketmaster (31st August & 1st September)

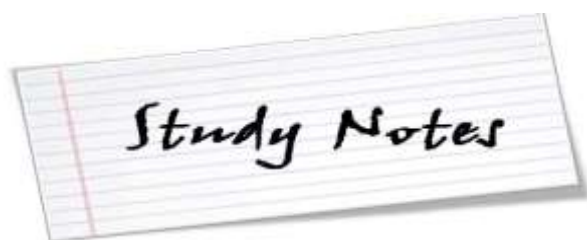
NSW Schools Spectacular; <https://bit.ly/Spec18-Tix> (23rd & 24th November)

SOME HOUSEKEEPING.....

Look, we all hate housekeeping... well, some of us, but it's a necessary evil! There are a few things that need to be discussed and this is the best way to reach you all. In no particular order.... Here goes.....

- Unless you have lesson times, studio rehearsals or concert performances around the following times, please don't contact your teachers, myself included via text, email or phone call after 7pm on a weekday, Midday on Saturday, or on a Sunday. Everyone needs a day off right? Sometimes we've heard the "well you don't have to answer it" but the mere fact that we have to "virtually" walk into our office or studio means we've entered our workspace on our day off or out of hours. We do feel, as a team, that mobile phones have made everyone too accessible and too available. Thank you for your respect and consideration.
- Please be mindful when eating in the waiting area at the studio. If you drop some food, please pick it up and place it in the bin provided.
- Please can you ensure that you have looked over the **Terms and Conditions** and the policies regarding **Payment of Fees, Make-up lessons** and the **Code of Conduct**. When everyone commences at the studio they are sent a link to the website and asked to read through these policies so that we are all on the same page from the outset. We would all be very grateful if you could please reconnect with the policies so there are no misunderstandings. All the information can be found on www.charmainegibbsstudios.com.au

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS !!! (CLEVER THINGS THAT THEY ARE!!)



Jennifer Turnbull in addition to teaching crazy hours here at the studio, thought to herself "Hmmm..... what do I do with my 1.5 mins to spare each week.... I know I'll

do my Masters!!". That's exactly what she's been doing last year and this year and is on the homestretch!!!! Jennifer has been studying a *Masters of Teaching*

(*Primary*) and slaying it!!! In addition to this she has become a Tutor for Public Schools Junior Singers at the NSW Arts Unit, based in Lewisham, Sydney. She has been tutoring at State Music Camps and generally being darn busy.

Congratulations Jennifer on your incredible work whilst through it all being so dedicated to your students in the studio!

Lisa Thrift also in addition to her teaching at the studio is studying a Master of Business (Arts and Cultural Management). She has hit the ground running with this study and is absolutely all over it!!! Also slaying it with incredible results. Lisa also teaches Music/ Drama (and nearly everything else) in Secondary schools in the Illawarra and Sydney area. Needless to say... she is one busy lady!

Jason Turnbull continues to keep the IT of Wollongong Council running in his position as *ICT Solutions Developer* and his 1.5 minutes spare, (I like to keep equality between Jason and Jennifer otherwise Jase gets huffy) he travels nationally working with his colleagues from "*The Ten Tenors*" in a trio called "*Tenori*" singing up an absolute storm. Please feel for him though guys.... Sometimes the gigs are really quite tough... vineyards, festivals.... In QLD & Coffs Harbour. Really and truly... he's the real hero here! ;) We continue to be grateful Jase that you invest in our young men of the studio and share your experience and knowledge.

This leaves me....well, I too have gone back to study.... But something completely different. Oh hang on, I am undertaking my 6th Grade Musicianship exam so that I can stay on top of my theory but in addition to this, I am studying a *Bachelor of Social Science (Criminology)*. Criminal Psychology and Victim support has always been a huge interest for me and earlier this year I felt "Life is too short to not follow the things in life you may end up wondering about". So here I am. I have to say, I am ALOT more dedicated to study now than when I did my Nursing degree too many years ago to mention!!! (Students.... Do as I say not as I DID). Now I'm currently working on the next show "Big Fish" which will be on in October.



Well.... That's all for now. Please remember to always send your fabulous news. We love to celebrate with you!

All the best to our Year 12's coming up to Trial exams! We promise you.... there is life after it!!! Thinking of you guys and sending lots of good vibes!!!

So with that.... I wish you a happy Oh hang on..... that'll be in 181 days!!!!
Merry 181 days to go then!!!!

Charmaine

