Brighton Secondary School Special Interest Music Centre

Brighton Secondary School is a comprehensive secondary school for students from years 8 to 12 located 12km south west of Adelaide. The Special Interest Music Centre was established in 1976, and is one of four Special Interest Music Schools in Adelaide.

The school is acknowledged in South Australia as one with a record of high academic achievement and widely recognised throughout Australia.

For further details regarding Brighton Secondary School please visit our website at www.brightonss.sa.edu.au

Student Commitment

It is expected that all successful students in the Special Music course will:

• Intend to study up to SACE Stage 2 (Year 12)
• Participate in the school’s choir and instrumental ensembles (The choral repertoire may include religious works).
• Give full commitment to the total school curriculum.
• Attend co-curricular rehearsals and performances (lunch hour, after school, weekend) as required.
• Give priority to school activities where a conflict with outside activities occurs.
• Wear correct uniform for all performances. A list of special uniform requirements will be given to all music students at the beginning of each academic year.

Features of the Brighton Special Interest Music Centre

Choral and Instrumental ensembles are an exciting aspect of the work of the Brighton Special Interest Music Centre.

The school provides a wide variety of ensembles including:

- School Orchestras
- Concert Bands
- Big Bands
- Performance Choirs
- Small Ensembles
- Percussion Ensembles

The BSS Orchestra and the Sinfonia are the premier orchestral ensembles at the school. They have achieved an enviable standard of performance and achievement in recent years.

• In 2006 the BSS Symphony Orchestra won the prestigious national Orchestras Australia School Orchestral Award
• The Concert Choir is a multi-award winning choir, which is widely recognised as one of the best school choirs in Australia. In 2004 the choir won the John Lamble Australian Championships for Secondary School Choirs and the John Lamble Australian Open Choral Championships. Tours to Europe (in 1993, 1997, 2000 and 2005) and China (2003 and 2006) have enhanced this reputation.
• The Concert Band and Big Bands are considered amongst the top ensembles of their type in Australia. In 2001 and 2002 both gained national recognition by winning significant awards. In 2008 the Concert Band toured China.
• Student composition is actively encouraged. Brighton students have gained frequent recognition through winning prizes in the annual Young Composer Award of the South Australian Chapter of the Australian Society for Music Education.
• AMEB Theory and Musicianship courses are undertaken at Brighton and student achievement is annually rewarded by prizes in the higher grades. All Year 8, 9 and 10 Special Interest Music students are expected to sit an AMEB Theory exam each year at parents’ expense.
• Brighton students regularly achieve Certificates of Merit for Music in the SACE Stage 2 music subjects.
• Student initiative in popular music ensembles is also a feature at Brighton, with our annual Decibel Day providing the opportunity for student contemporary groups to perform.
• The Brighton SoundHouse provides a first class facility for music technology which supports and extends student creativity in all areas of the music curriculum.
• The Annual Brighton SIM Events Calendar for each year provides students with many opportunities to perform in both a solo and ensemble setting. Many of the smaller ensembles involve highly rewarding community performance opportunities.
Selection Procedures

Parents / students must contact the school in Term 1 to register for the application process to enrol in the special interest program. Special Interest students are selected by two audition processes. In the first stage, applicants will be required to undertake an aural and practical assessment. If successful they will then be required to:

- Undertake a musicianship assessment
- Perform two contrasting pieces on their instrument/s
- Attend an interview with an auditioning panel and with a parent present.

Instrumental or vocal performance should demonstrate a degree of musical achievement and / or potential. No specific grade or level is required.

Only one instrument is required to audition. However, students will need to play two contrasting pieces. If students already study two instruments, they will be required to perform at least one piece on each instrument. Students auditioning on voice, piano, drums and / or guitar will be required to learn a concert band, string or percussion instrument to be able to participate in the school curriculum.

Approximately 40 applicants will be selected for the second stage of the process as described above.

For information regarding the pre-audition and audition dates please refer to the enclosed leaflet or contact the school.

Auditions for Year 7 students for entry to Year 8 at Brighton Secondary School the following year are held in May.

Auditions for entry into Years 9 to 12 the following year are held in September.

Courses and Curriculum

Because of special staffing and resources, the Brighton Special Interest Music Centre is able to offer unique opportunities for the study of music at secondary level.

The Music Centre is designed to cater for approximately 120 Special Interest music students, aged 12 to 18, whose highly developed musical gifts and talents or strong musical potential need more specialist nurturing than can be afforded by the traditional school framework. In addition, a large number of students from the school participate in Elective and other music programs.

Special Interest Music students in Years 8, 9 and 10 study music as a double subject. The following aspects form the basis of these courses:

- Solo performance
- Theoretical studies
- Historical studies
- Music and technology
- Instrumental studies
- Ensemble performance
- Composition
- Aural training
- Choral training
Benefits Available to Successful Applicants

- Right of entry to Brighton Secondary School from out of zone
- Reimbursement of tuition fees up to $360.00 per year for study of one instrument with a private teacher (conditions apply)
- The right to individual tuition with instrumental and vocal teachers from DECS on the principal instrument (subject to negotiation with the Head of Music) and group tuition with instrumental and vocal teachers from DECS on a second instrument
- The opportunity to study music with students who have similar interests and abilities
- The opportunity of working with specially selected and qualified staff
- The experience of performing in one or more of the school’s performance ensembles
- Travel concessions for students who live more than 5kms from the school

Further information can be obtained from:
Jeffrey Kong
Deputy Principal / Head of Music
or
Deb Murray
Music Secretary
Phone 8375 8215

Please also visit the Special Interest Music pages of our website at www.brightonss.sa.edu.au