



2025 Handbook

Congratulations! It is likely that if you are reading this it's because you will be joining us at NBSC Manly Campus in 2025 and are keen to become part of a new team and enjoy all that being in Bands of Manly Campus (BoMC) has to offer. A quarter of the school is involved in Band so you are in good company!

Welcome, we can't wait to meet you.

The program is a co-curricular activity which is school-run, user pays and supported by parents. Being within an academically selective school, we depend on rehearsals outside school hours as well as tightly planned cooperation between academic and band schedules for all our other commitments. The organisation of the program mirrors the school's structure where musicians can access junior, intermediate and senior school ensembles based on their playing ability.

At Manly Campus, our band program is renowned for its excellence and we are extremely proud of it. Our ensembles play at music festivals, eisteddfods, school events and special performance nights. In any one year there are around 350 ensemble rehearsals, in school performance, and events like regional tours, music camps, workshops and master classes.

Should you have any further questions after reading this this booklet, please contact nbscmanlysh.school@det.nsw.edu.au C/O Bands of Manly Campus.

Enrol by 16 December 2024

To take part in the 2025 program

Register your interest and enrol for a placement audition by completing the online enrolment form **before 16 December 2024**:

Find the 2025 EOI form here: [2025 Expression of Interest](#)

There is no financial commitment to the band program until February 2025.

Membership in Core Ensembles is open to all interested students from Years 7 to 12 who play an instrument and have a minimum of one years playing experience, two years for string players.

The above link for enrolment and a digital copy of the full handbook are also available on the NBSC Manly Campus website under the Curriculum Enrichment / Band Programs tab.

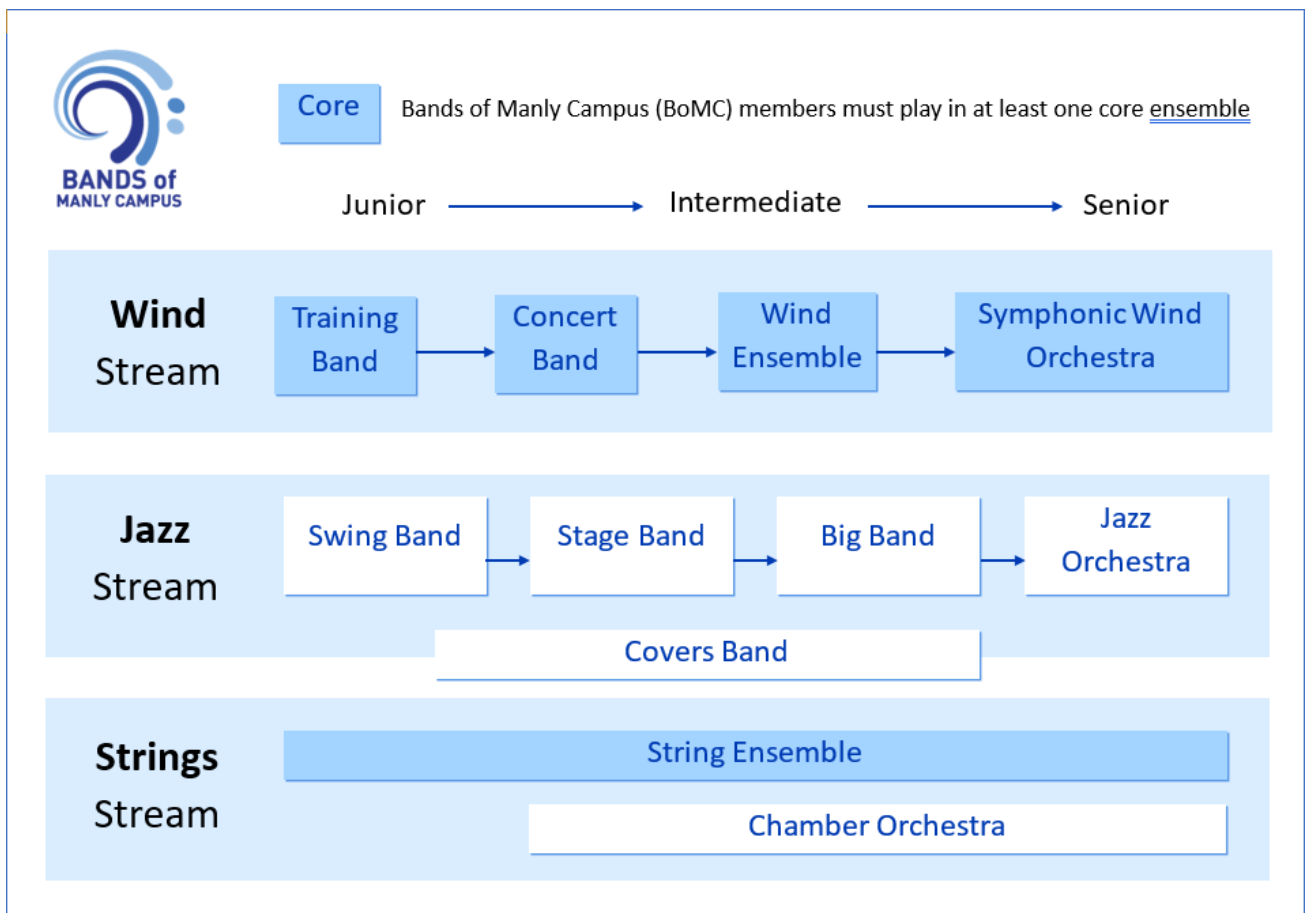
BOMC STRUCTURE

BoMC has two core streams. All members must play in at least one of these streams.

These streams are the Wind Stream and the Strings Stream. If applicable, students may join both.

The optional extension ensembles support additional musical styles. The Strings Stream has a Chamber Orchestra. The Jazz Stream includes three to four jazz big bands and a Covers Band. Students may be invited to join these ensembles on top of membership of their core band. Please note that these ensembles require a minimum number of students to run.

Dedicated musicians who follow the BoMC member guidelines can expect to advance from junior to intermediate and on to senior Ensembles as they progress through the three streams.



ATTENDANCE

To maintain the high standard of our program we expect that students commit to attending all rehearsals. A valid reason with sufficient notice must be given for non-attendance or lateness. It is your responsibility to inform the Band Team of any absence from an ensemble. This includes absences that are due to other school activities or excursions, and lateness. To assist with this process, families must complete the [Attendance Notification Form](#). It is important that you submit your notification of absence as soon as you are aware of the problem. The night before a rehearsal is too late to notify your conductor of any absence other than illness. Please note that

- This form does not inform the school of your absence. If you are going to be absent from school please contact the school directly, via the usual channels.
- Informing the school of absence does not inform the BOMC team. If you have notified the school team, you must also fill in the form.

If you are running late to a performance, please direct all communications to the [school email address](#) with the subject **Band: *Band Name* *event name***. If you need to communicate with your conductor regarding artistic requirements, please direct communication through the ensemble google classroom.

All members are expected to attend events and tours. A calendar with general timing of events will be provided at the start of the year with confirmed dates and details of events communicated to families as soon as they become available. Notice should be given as soon as possible if there are unavoidable clashes.

COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERING

At BoMC we have a wonderful Committee of parents backed up by volunteers in a host of different roles large and small. All families are encouraged to participate in events, fundraising and organisation and we are keen to welcome everyone. We promise families will get a lot out of it – it is the best way to meet other families within the school and be involved with the program.

INSTRUMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Students should be receiving private music lessons to continue their growth and musicality. A private tutor list for local teachers is available by request at the beginning of the calendar year.

ENSEMBLE PLACEMENT

Membership in core Wind and Strings Stream ensembles is open to all interested students from Years 7 to 12 who can read music and have a minimum of one year's playing experience (two years for string players). Those keen to start learning an instrument, please see the Training Band section of this booklet.

Continuing members submit a placement video and meet conductors at the end of Term 3 in order to advance parts and ensembles at the beginning of Term 4 each year. New members who already play an instrument are invited to submit their placement videos by the beginning of the school year. This will allow conductors time to place new students into ensembles during the first week of Term 1. New Year 7 students can expect to be placed in Concert Band, String Ensemble and/or Stage Band unless they have had limited experience on their instrument.

The placement process gives conductors an idea of the level of students' playing so they can determine suitable starting repertoires and balance the sections within ensembles. It also helps determine an appropriate ensemble if choosing an additional stream.

Nature of Placement Testing

No accompaniment is required. Students should prepare a video in which they play:

- **One short solo piece** that best demonstrates musical and technical ability (not more than 2 minutes)
- **Scales:** Own choice of two scales; one major and one minor scale.

TRAINING BAND

In 2025, the band program will open expressions of interest for a Training Band. This ensemble will be for any student, of any age, that would like to begin playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument or have less than a year experience on their current instrument. No experience is necessary for students to join, only a willingness to try new things, learn, and have fun! Following a period of learning in Training Band, students will complete instrumental placements to move into the core stream.

For those families that don't own an instrument, we can recommend hiring from the NSW Department of Education Arts Unit. The Arts Unit has a wide variety of instruments available at various costs depending on the replacement value of the instrument. More information on hiring instruments from The Arts Unit can be found at the following link <https://artsunit.nsw.edu.au/resources/instrument-hire>

Please note that a fee reduction is available for all families that hire an instrument for Training Band. Fees are reduced to the value of the amount required to hire the instrument in use.

This initiative is in place to encourage all students to take up the valuable skill experience of playing an instrument.

If you have any questions at all about joining the Training Band, please fill in the EOI [here](#) or contact nbscmanlys-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au C/O Bands of Manly Campus re. Training Band.

ENSEMBLE DETAILS

Large Ensembles meet in the mornings at 7.20am – 8.50am. Students arrive at or before 7:20 to have time to set up and begin rehearsing at 7:30am. Punctuality is important to get maximum rehearsal time.

Small bands currently meet at lunch time. Rehearsals are subject to change each year with the new timetable.

Swing Band, Covers Band, Solo Vocal Workshop and Training Band will be added to the schedule if numbers permit.

	Ensemble	Day	Time
Core Wind Stream	Concert Band (CB)	Tuesday	7.20 – 8.50
Core Wind Stream	Wind Ensemble (WE)	Wednesday	7.20 – 8.50
Core Wind Stream	Symphonic Wind Orchestra (SWO)	Friday	7.20 – 8.50
Core Wind Stream	Training Band (based on EOI interest)	Monday	7.20 – 8.50
Core Strings Stream	String Ensemble (SE)	Friday	7.20 – 8.50
Extension Ensemble	Chamber Orchestra (CO)	Monday	7.20 – 8.50
Extension Ensemble	Stage Band (SB)	Wednesday	7.20 – 8.50
Extension Ensemble	Big Band (BB)	Thursday	7.20 – 8.50
Extension Ensemble	Jazz Orchestra (JO)	Tuesday	7.20 – 8.50

BAND UNIFORM

Band polos are uniform for informal performances – for example the Big Band Bash at school and Band Tours.

Winter school uniform with school ties and school blazers are required for formal and external performances – for example attending Instrumental Festivals.

There is an active trade in second hand school blazers through the Band Committee and parent volunteers. Blazers hold their value well if in good condition. They can be purchased for around \$100 and resold for around \$80.

INSTRUMENTS BY ENSEMBLE

	Strings Stream		Wind Stream			Jazz Stream				
	SE	CO	SWO	WE	CB	Large Bands				Small ensembles
Indicative size (student numbers)	40	30	50	55	80	JO	BB	SB	SW	CVB
Strings										
Violin	✓	✓								
Viola	✓	✓								
Cello	✓	✓								
Double bass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodwind										
Piccolo		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Flute		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Clarinet		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bass Clarinet		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Soprano sax			✓	✓		✓				
Alto sax			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tenor sax			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baritone sax			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oboe		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bassoon		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Brass										
Trumpet		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flugel horn			✓	✓	✓					
French horn		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Trombone		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bass trombone			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mellophone			✓	✓	✓					
Euphonium			✓	✓	✓					
Tuba			✓	✓	✓					
Vocals *						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhythm										
Piano/keyboard *			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guitar *			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electric bass			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Double bass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drum/Percussion*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- * **Percussion** includes drums, xylophone, vibraphone, glockenspiel, chimes, bells
- * **Piano** is occasionally used in the wind bands and string ensembles. Most piano players will be placed in a Wind Band playing percussion unless they play another wind or string instrument. Piano skills are valuable for tuned percussion e.g. xylophone. Advanced players may also audition for the Jazz Stream.
- * **Guitar** players who have a willingness to read sheet music (not TAB) may audition for wind and jazz streams.
- * **Vocalists** must be a member of the Wind or String Stream to engage with the Jazz Stream. Many vocalists play wind or string instruments while some are percussionists in our ensembles. Preference is given to vocalists who play other jazz ensemble instruments so they can maintain engagement with the full repertoire in the Jazz Stream. Other vocal opportunities exist within the school program including Vocal Ensemble, Tides of Sound, and the Musical.

INSTRUMENT HIRE

The BoMC hires out very few instruments and only those that are less commonly played or are more expensive to purchase yet essential to enhancing the quality of our bands e.g. bassoon, bass clarinets, tenor saxophones, baritone saxophones, french horns, flugelhorn, bass trombone, tuba and double bass. Instruments owned by the BoMC are reserved for continuing members of Core Ensembles. Fee reduction is not available on these instruments. In some cases, instruments may need to be shared between players in different ensembles (e.g. baritone saxophone) and you may be required to hire, from the band program, an individual mouthpiece for the instrument.

2025 FEES

BoMC fees reflect the program structure. While members make a commitment to the program for the full calendar year, families are invoiced twice a year by the school for all streams. Fees are payable promptly on invoice at the beginning of Term 1 and again at the beginning of Term 3.

Semester Fees

BoMC overall Membership		
Core Membership	\$350	to cover semester directors' fees for the core ensembles, and other expenses including music scores, shared instruments and equipment and their insurance and repairs (e.g.: amps, timpani, keyboards), truck-hire, food prior to some performances, and competition entry fees.
Second/third core ensemble membership	\$190	to account for semester directors' fees for an additional core ensemble. The fee remains the same if a player is asked to join a second core ensemble (CB/ WE/ SWO/ SE)
Extension ensemble fees		
Jazz Stream Ensembles and Chamber Orchestra	\$190	to cover the semester's additional director fees The fee remains the same if a player is asked to join a second large Jazz ensemble (JO/BB/SB or SwB)
Small Bands (Covers and Improvisation bands)	\$215	to cover the small group's additional director fees
Tours and camps		
Open to all streams	Allow \$550	Charges for tours and music camps are calculated and invoiced prior to each event. Recent costs have been approximately \$500.

If a band member withdraws from the band program **written notification** is required and **members must also advise their conductor personally of their withdrawal**. Notification is best given at the end of the year so that the ensemble place can be filled by others in the program. Members must meet their commitments to the ensemble if their withdrawal from the program is within a month of a major performance.

If notice is not received, full fees are payable for the semester. If a member withdraws from the program during the semester, **fees cannot be refunded**. If a member withdraws before the semester payment is sent by the school and the member has attended rehearsals, the family must pay for sessions up to the time of notification or the time of the major performance (at school discretion).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

High potential and gifted musicians can be present in any household irrespective of their circumstance. To support our musicians and members, families may request to pay their fees in instalments.

The program encourages families who genuinely require financial assistance to apply for support. Families should make their request in writing to the [school email address](#) with the subject Band: *Student initials* Request for Financial Assistance. Applications for assistance are strictly confidential. The email needs to provide details outlining the reason for applying for financial assistance and supporting this with evidence/relevant documentation.

The Principal, Year Group Deputy Principal and/or Head Teacher Enrichment will assess each application. The family will be informed whether the request for financial assistance has been approved.