

# THE Catholic Weekly

SPOTLIGHT ON

# ARTS *&* MUSIC

MEDIA ARTS MUSIC VISUAL ARTS DRAMA

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT 2021

Welcome to *The Catholic Weekly's Spotlight on Arts & Music* magazine.

We feel it important to give our schools a platform to highlight the talents and creative abilities of our students and this is how the idea for *Spotlight on Arts & Music* was born.

Not only are schools given the opportunity to highlight their best creative talents but also acknowledge the teachers behind the scenes, who nurture and support them.

*Spotlight on Arts & Music* also gives schools the opportunity to showcase what they provide - a great opportunity for parents who are looking for a school that offers a comprehensive creative program.

We hope you enjoy this year's issue and look forward to showcasing the many up and coming talents in our Catholic Schools in the future.

- Enjoy!

## FEATURED SCHOOLS

St Mary's Cathedral College, Sydney  
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[www.smccsydney.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smccsydney.catholic.edu.au) ..... p4-5

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## SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & MUSIC

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St Andrews College, Marayong



St Mary's  
Cathedral  
College



VISUAL ARTS



MUSIC



DRAMA



ENSEMBLES

# Creative Arts at St Mary's Cathedral College

Choir Program ■ Instrumental Tuition ■ Diverse Music Ensembles ■ Visual Arts ■ Drama

Creative Arts plays a central role in the academic and social life of St Mary's Cathedral College. For decades music has been central to the College identity and a source of the positive reputation students and Old Boys enjoy. No less important but perhaps less well known are the hundreds of students who study Visual Arts and Drama and a range of Technology subjects.

## Music

The College's music program is wide-ranging. The Primary classes, composed of students in Years 3–6, are all either members of the Cathedral Choir, one of Australia's elite sacred vocal ensembles, or talented instrumentalists. A number of students are both. Students who begin in the choir as boy sopranos graduate to become tenors and baritones in time and maintain their connection with the Choir through their high schooling and sometimes beyond. The relationship with the Choir extends to the whole school, as each year Mr Thomas Wilson, Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, coaches the whole student body in the Mass Choir item that always marks the climax of the College Concert.

This event, one of the most important in the College year, has traditionally taken place at a packed Sydney Town Hall every June, although public health requirements led to its cancellation in 2020 and its reimagining as a film—*The Odyssey*—in 2021. Whatever its form, the Concert features a diverse array of ensembles and individual



Year 12 item from 'The Odyssey', the 2021 Concert film.

performers, incorporating music, drama, and dance. The ensembles—including a full orchestra, stage bands, jazz groups, and a variety of string and vocal combinations—are composed of students who are among the more

than 200 boys who study an instrument as part of the College's instrumental tuition program.

All students study Music at Stage 4 and a variety of elective classes are offered for students in Stages 5 and 6, including Mu-

sic, Music Extension I, and Music Extension II at HSC level. The College's results in these exams have been very strong, with all students studying Extension II last year scoring in the highest possible band.

## Visual Arts

Visual Arts is a very popular subject at the school and in the last few years a second specialist art room has been built to cater for increased numbers. Students study Visual Arts in Stage 4 and a range of electives are available in Stages 5 and 6. Students in Primary also have access to specialized art instruction. In addition to the standard 2 unit Visual Arts HSC course, where the College has a history of outstanding results with numerous students having their Bodies of Work exhibited as part of the NESA showcase, students can also pursue extension courses after school.



## Drama

Drama is also offered at the College, with a specialist Drama room having been built as part of a larger set of refurbishments in recent years. There are Drama courses offered from Years 9–12. A Drama Club is also offered at the College to foster the talents and ambitions of students outside the classroom. Students involved in these courses have staged a number of plays and have competed in Theatresports and other competitions.



## Technical and Applied Studies

In addition to the encouragement provided to the Creative Arts, the College offers a wide range of other subjects that harness the creativity of young men to productive ends. **Students in Stage 4** study Technology, which introduces students to working with mixed materials (including timber and metal), digital technologies, engineering, and food.

**In Stage 5** students can study elective courses to further their education in these fields, including Food Technology. Senior students can choose from a variety of courses as part of their HSC studies including Industrial Technology (working with timber, multimedia, or graphics), Information Processes Technology (where students learn not only about computers and how they work but the social implications of new technology), Engineering, and Construction.

All of these courses involve students designing and completing projects that combine creativity and knowledge. The College's results over a long period of time demonstrate the expertise of the teaching staff in these courses: in 2020 the school recorded more Band 6 results in Industrial Technology than any other school in NSW. The entire Technology area of the College has been completely refurbished in the last two years, giving students an even better platform to use for their explorations of technology.



Southern  
Cross Catholic  
College

MR LUKE COLLINS  
HEAD OF THE  
PERFORMING ARTS  
AND CREATIVE  
INDUSTRIES



Established 2019

PERFORMING ARTS AUDITIONS NOW OPEN

# Innovative & excellent

## A Catholic Performing Arts High School

Students keen to leap into the spotlight can now tap into their passions at Sydney's first comprehensive Catholic performing arts high school. We work with each student to strive for excellence in their chosen stream. We offer full-time courses for students in Years 9 to 12 seeking a specialised education in the performing arts.

Courses are in:

- Dance (Classical or Contemporary),
- Drama
- Music – Instrumental (Classical or Contemporary)
- Music – Voice (Classical or Contemporary)
- Music Theatre – Singing, Dancing and Acting.

These courses are in addition to the popular part-time ViVA! and CaSPA performing arts programs that are offered to all SCS secondary students at the college, located in Inner Western Sydney.

Industry experts and performing arts professionals deliver a progressive curriculum to meet industry and NESA requirements within state of the art facilities.

Eva Spata, specialist in the creative and performing arts said Southern Cross is the perfect place for students looking to be taught by dynamic, energetic and experienced teachers – and mentored by the on-site Sydney Archdiocesan Arts Team.

“We have two highly sought-after technical operations specialists on staff, who are able to support productions, recording and live streaming, and our students are fortunate to have professional connections, from whom they can learn and develop their skills.”



Virginia Gardiner, from Domremy College Five Dock, studied HSC Drama through the Viva program at Southern Cross Catholic College, alongside students from across the Archdiocese.

For more info go to  
[www.sccvc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sccvc.catholic.edu.au)



Zoe Stragalinos

“I couldn’t be more excited at the prospect of nurturing and training the young performers of tomorrow”

- Tony Patton Principal

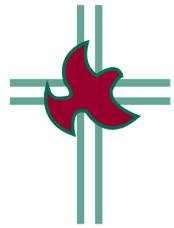
Zoe Stragalinos was nominated for Encore for her outstanding Music 1 performance program.



Adam Adov

Sungho Kim

Adam Adov (Piano) and Sungho Kim (Violin), both Music Extension students who followed their passion at Southern Cross. Adam was accepted into the Boston Conservatory of Music for Piano Performance.



# Holy Spirit Lakemba

## Gifts of The Holy Spirit shared for all

MUSIC | DRAMA | DANCE | ORCHESTRA

As a faith community the staff and students at Holy Spirit Catholic College frequently speak about using the gifts they have received for the benefit of the entire community. Whilst this can be seen across the life of the College it is exemplified in The Arts. Principal, Phillip Scollard, says “The students at Holy Spirit are truly extraordinary, they are incredibly talented and so generous in sharing their gifts to bring a sense of joy to the whole community”.

*These gifts are showcased each year at the College’s annual performing arts showcase evening and 2021 was no exception with the event taking place on the eve of lockdown in Term 2.*



Lailah Baba as 'The Muse in Triskelion Dance Wars - Choose Your Own Dance Adventure

## Dance

### Lailah Baba

Lailah Baba is a talented dancer who has performed in Holy Spirit’s Dance Troupe since 2018. This year she performed in the Jazz, Contemporary and Hip Hop Troupes. In addition Lailah helped to choreograph and develop the Judge’s Choice performance. Lailah is also a part of the Sydney Catholic Schools Dance Team and performed in the innovative dance project ‘Triskelion Dance Wars - Choose Your Own Dance Adventure’ where she played the role of ‘The Muse’. Lailah will be studying HSC Dance in 2022.

## Music



### Fadi Moubayed

Fadi is one of our extraordinarily talented students. He sings beautifully, featuring in the Sydney Catholic Schools Ensemble of the musical celebration of 200 years of Catholic Education. In addition he plays piano and the Oued , a Middle Eastern Lute. As College Cap-train for 2022 Fadi is an outstanding role model to his peers sharing his many gifts and talents frequently.



### Luka Bilandzic

Luka commences Year 11 in 2022 and as expected will be studying Music II. A very talented pianist and violinist, Luka left the audience speechless at Showcase 2021 with his outstanding performance of Beethoven's Sonata Pathetique which he is preparing for his upcoming AMus Piano Examination.

## Drama

### Georgina Nader, Rachael Conway, Loris El-Agha

Year 10 Drama students Georgina Nader, Rachael Conway, and Loris El-Agha not only played the lead roles in the Holy Spirit Theatrical Ensemble's Term 1 production of 'Charlie Pilgrim (or a beginner's guide to time travel)', but they have lead the ensemble in a variety of College events including Holy Week presentations, and Showcase 2021 where they presented some of their outstanding Drama assessment work and helped backstage. They are excited to continue their Drama studies next year in HSC Drama.



## Amadeus Music Education Program

As a Pilot in the Sydney Catholic Schools Amadeus Music Education Program Holy Spirit was delighted to be able to offer every student in Years 7 and 8 access to an orchestral instrument and weekly tuition. In our first year the students' enthusiasm for music, their instrument and their desire to work together to bring the sound of music and joy to our community has been tremendous. Even during the extended lockdown and remote learning they worked with the CAPA team at the College to continue their lessons and practice. Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator, Ms Emma Hughes, says

"Amadeus represents an important step for us as a College in providing access to artistic opportunities. Music education can be expensive, but that shouldn't mean that some people get to explore the gifts God gave them and others don't. It has been so exciting for students to discover the joy which learning an instrument can bring as well as some hidden talents which they didn't know they had."



# St Andrews College, Marayong

## Performing Arts leaders

*'Creativity takes courage'*

- Henri Matisse

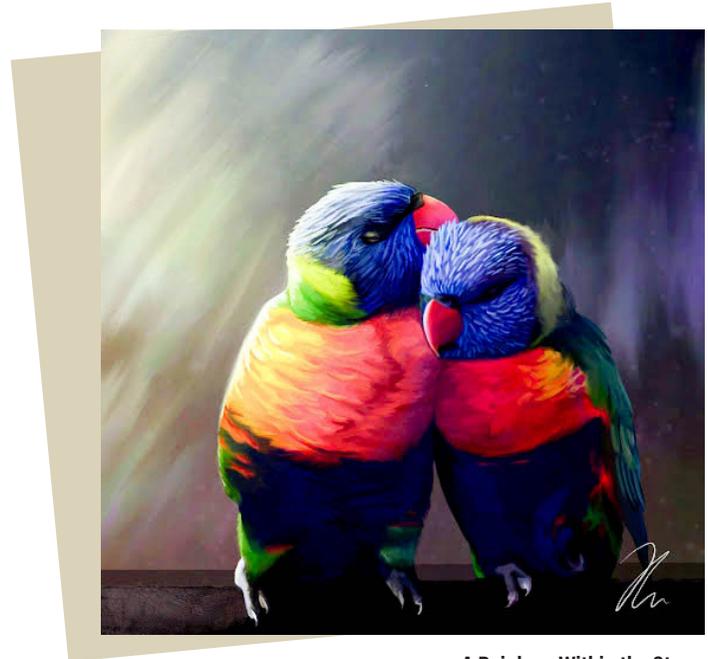
St Andrews College is a co-educational school in Western Sydney that has established a thriving culture of creative and performing arts. Our school motto of *'Doing More and Going Beyond'* applies to our method of education, with students not only doing exceptionally well academically, but also receiving industry level skills and experience in their chosen path. We are constantly striving to give our students every opportunity to succeed.

One of our Industry level events is our annual CAN (Creative Arts Night), presented by ARIA award winning Leader of Learning Music and Performance, Antonio Chiappetta. Due to Covid restrictions, CAN 2020/21 was shot over a two-day period and professionally edited into a three-hour talent extravaganza. The production featured red carpet walks, live multi-tracked performances, staff acts and interviews with past students sharing their current creative successes with the community.

**Other opportunities for our students to showcase their abilities include:**

- The biannual musical /dramatic production, Major Works Night, Jazz Evening, Mass choir and band, Captivate and Stations of the Cross
- 'Write a book in a day' Competition to write, illustrate and publish
- Students have been nominated for selection in ArtExpress and ONSTAGE (Drama)
- Regular participation in internal and external art competition opportunities such as The Young Archies at AGNSW, Blacktown City Youth Prize, Blacktown City Library Draw it! Competition
- Extension art classes, artist mentoring program for year 12 and year 8 with Johnny Romeo an international Australian artist and ex teacher of St Andrews College
- Prop making, stage management, directing, sound mixing, photography and video production

St Andrews has contemporary performing art spaces with lighting, sound and special effects and well-equipped and refurbished music and art studios plus drama spaces.



A Rainbow Within the Storm  
by Kathryn Baginski, Year 7 2021





MUSIC

# Lockdown Arts Festival



## Performing Arts leaders

The great artistic talents of students and staff across 150 Sydney Catholic Schools has been celebrated through an innovative Lockdown Arts Festival, showcasing 900 creative works, highlighting their incredible creative talent.

By Michael Kenny

Entries were open to students and staff across five categories: Dance, Visual Arts, Drama, Literature and Music.

Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools, Mr Tony Farley said the festival was a great opportunity to celebrate and nurture the artistic talents of school communities during the challenging circumstances of lockdown.

“It’s through the arts that we can explore, discover and understand the human condition, who we are and who we can be as part of a broader community”, he explained.

“Rights across our wide network of schools, there’s a real creative buzz about our place in the creative landscape of our city and a growing feeling and realisation that no matter which of our schools you are part of, you’re in a place where your artistic skills will be valued and nurtured”.

Amongst the stand-out schools in the competition was Holy Spirit Primary School in Carnes Hill which received a remarkable eight awards across Literature, Dance, Music, Drama and Visual Arts.

Principal, Br Nicholas Harsas fsp said the school community was

overwhelmed by its success.

“We’re fortunate here to have a specialist visual arts teacher, a music teacher and another teacher who specialises in dance and the performing arts, which has certainly helped. The parents were so excited to learn about their childrens’ success and it certainly helped to really brighten some of the darker moments in lockdown”.

Many of the Holy Spirit students used their work to reflect upon the challenges of the lockdown, with Stephanie Scicula winning the Literature-Short Story competition in the Upper Primary category for her work, *Escape Route: Beyond Lockdown*, while Darcy Lynch won a Highly Commended in the Music- Original Composition section for his work, *Walking out of Lockdown*. Olivia Fedrigo also won 1st Prize in the Monologue/ Duologue section for *Evil’s Queen’s side of the story*.

The 10 member Holy Spirit Dance Crew won a Highly Commended in the Primary Class for “We’re Back!”

Another stand out school in the festival was McAuley Primary in Rose Bay, which won six awards across contemporary and classical dance, visual arts and music performance.

Multi-talented Year 3 student, Walter Burke, won first place in Classical Dance for his ballet

waltz show and also a Highly Commended award for his memorable drawing, *Lockdown?? Thoughts about lockdown*.

Year 1 student, Vivi Lawless also won a first prize in the Contemporary Dance category for her performance of the Justin Timberlake song, ‘Can’t Stop the Feeling’.

McAuley Primary Principal, Ms Nicole James said she started a special Friday Fun-Day in lockdown in which the students could showcase their work to the whole school community online.

“We would set a task for the children to do at home and we used the last few of the Friday fun-days to encourage the children to bring in their families, have fun and show their artistic talents”, she said.

“The festival has been so well received and it helped everyone feel connected to the broader Sydney Catholic Schools community. We can’t wait now to draw upon the students talents to enter the Sydney Catholic Schools Eisteddfod next year”.

Our Lady of Mercy College Burraneer also performed extremely well, winning six awards across dance, literature and drama.

Scarlet Davies won first prize in lower secondary contemporary dance, while Ashleigh Webster

won a Highly Commended in the same category.

Mrs Joanne Fumari (CAPA Coordinator), OLMC Burraneer students Amber Govindrulu, Lara Best, Ashleigh Webster, Gabrielle Kent, Scarlett Davies, Tamyrn Schmidt and Mrs Leonie Pearce (Principal).

Lara Best won first prize in lower secondary classical dance, while Tamyrn Schmidt won first prize in upper secondary drama and Gabrielle Kent won a highly commended awarded in lower secondary poetry.

Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator, Joanne Fumari said it was wonderful to see students enthusiastically entering the competition across a wide range of categories.

“We have a very strong tradition in the arts at our school and we continued this as best we could during lockdown, including our dance troupe and it was wonderful to see that three of the girls who performed well in the dance section of the competition were all members of the troupe”.

First prize winners will receive a trophy and a gift voucher while highly commended winners will all receive a certificate.

*A full list of the winners can be found on the Sydney Catholic Schools website.*



HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY  
SCHOOL, CARNES HILL

“The festival has been so well received and it helped everyone feel connected to the broader Sydney Catholic Schools community.”

- Br Nicholas Harsas,  
Principal Holy Spirit Carnes Hill



FIRST PRIZE - AMY ALEGRE  
Bethlehem College, Ashfield  
Title: Friends Reunion



St Clare's  
College  
Waverley



Verity Cash  
Head of  
Performing Arts



Lisa Shipley  
Performing Arts  
Teacher



Maree-Louise Smith  
Head of  
Creative Arts

# Shining a light on talent

## Valuing Integrity, Inspiring Excellence



St Clare's College is officially one of the most innovative schools in Australia. The College shines a light on the gifts of each young woman, challenging her to action and celebrating her impact on the world. We aim to empower resilient, respectful and responsible young women to reach their potential.

As a Community we are in awe of the student talent that is on display at various events and activities. The College strives to provide an atmosphere of enrichment for students displaying an interest and ability in all facets of the Arts; Visual Arts and Performing Arts, including Music & Drama.

The Creative team is made up of exceptionally talented teachers who encourage and inspire the students on a daily basis. It is through their expertise that the students learn and acquire

the skills to create exceptionally mature and often socially motivated Bodies of Work.

The College also collaborates and engages with industry experts across these fields, hosting dedicated masterclass sessions throughout the year. These professionals provide students with additional knowledge, techniques and processes to then apply to their current and future projects.

Every student benefits from personalised learning in an environment that is future-focused and centred on growth, development and belonging.

# Arts

*"I had no real sense of what my final piece was going to look like, but I knew from the very beginning that I loved painting".*

Year 12 Visual Arts student, **Stephanie Cannes** began her Body of Work with the idea of exploring her Russian heritage. Her finished artwork titled *'Going, Going Gone!'* is a triumph. Over the course of the HSC year the work matured beyond a direct reference that imitated a family friend's opulent collection of fine decorative porcelain, into a conceptually layered and technically sophisticated series of paintings.

The resolved work *'Going, Going Gone!'* is not only a play on the auctioneer's term, but conceptually elaborates as a metaphor on how the value of fine art is progressively fading through the desire for experimental artforms in the contemporary world.



*Going, Going Gone!* by Stephanie Cannes

# Drama

Performing Arts at St Clare's College encompasses the Drama department, which sees students from Years 9 to 12 hone the craft of improvisation and comedic techniques. As well as, the study of world renowned plays. They learn about acting and the different approaches practitioners implement while playing a role or character.

Students are passionate and excited about the study of Drama and this culminates in the Year 12 Performance Evening, where students perform their HSC monologues for an audience within the College's dedicated Drama space.

Students also have an opportunity to participate in the collaborative musical performance with Waverley College, held at the Parade Theatre - NIDA. Drama students have continually achieved outstanding results in the HSC with multiple nominations for OnStage and the NESAs presentation of exemplary HSC Drama performances, held annually at the Seymour Centre.



# Seussical Kids JR MUSICAL PRODUCTION

A highlight of 2021 was the junior production of Seussical Kids. This was a colourful display of talent with a stellar cast and crew. After several months of rehearsal, our talented students gave a polished and entertaining performance of the production, held at the Waverley College Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday, 22 June.

The student cast were supported by an enthusiastic Year 8 crew who took on the various roles of management, sound and lighting, prop making, hair and make-up and front of house.

The College community commends the girls on their ability to perform, throughout this extraordinary year. Students regularly perform at Open Days, Assemblies, and special College events, which requires hard work, extra dedication and practice sessions.



**ARTS**  
*E***MUSIC**  
**2021**