

Youth Brass of Richmond

Inaugural Concert

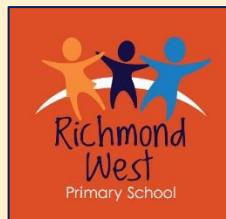
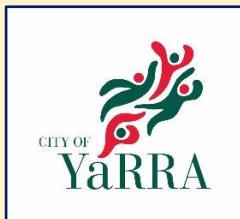
At Collingwood Town Hall



*A concert of the Richmond Youth Brass Band and the
Brass Bands of Richmond West Public School*

Thursday 26 October 2023

6.30 – 8.30 pm



Principal's Welcome



I am very happy to welcome everyone to the concert this evening. I am also very happy that we are gathered at Collingwood Town Hall, one of Melbourne's most beautiful old town halls, which provides a perfect setting for the music you will hear this evening.

The band programme at Richmond West Primary School has grown in leaps and bounds over the past five years. The programme and culture that has flourished around it has added wonderful strength and vitality to our community. The concert this evening is the culmination of the aspiration, dedication and plain old hard work of those years.

I am very proud of the students and thank their parents and families for the support they give and take my hat off to Adam Arnold for the impact he has had on the school's music education programme.

The four bands on the programme have worked extremely hard to prepare for this evening. I know that the RWPS Rookie, Intermediate and Brass Bands are extremely excited about playing in front of their families and friends and I wish them all the best for a wonderful performance.

Peter James
Principal, Richmond West Public School

Music Director's Message

*Adam Arnold
Music Director.*



This all started in 2018 when, as the parent of a prep student, I heard from a parents' forum that there was a desire for an instrumental music programme. My regular job is at a private school teaching instrumental music, so I approached the principal at the time, Tip Kennedy, with a hare-brained scheme to start up a school band, and now here we are, with around 100 students on stage tonight. This is a testament to the fact that there is a big demand for instrumental music in state schools.

Music in schools is so much more than learning to make sound on an instrument. Students learn how to listen, how to work together and most importantly, that what we can accomplish together is so much more impressive than what we can do by ourselves. The magnificent sounds you hear tonight are proof of that.

Brass bands in particular must blend and balance – becoming one sound. If I may paraphrase the RWPS motto – 'many instruments, one voice'.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped make tonight happen. The RWPS FACE team, the RYBB Committee and all the parent volunteers.

A big thank you to the amazing George Melitsis, giving up his time to show our kids just how amazing a cornet can sound.

A big thank you to the City of Yarra for their support in providing tonight's concert venue.

A big thank you to the staff at RWPS who support what I do. A particular shoutout to Naomi Dickers for her work with the Intermediate Band, Jessica Foeken in the office for keeping the books, Peter and Amanda for their regular support, and Tip Kennedy for allowing me to start this in the first place.

A big thank you to the parents for all their support of the students – someone has to get the kids to their early morning rehearsals!

And lastly, a big thank you to the students for being brave, persistent and an absolute pleasure to work with.

Have a great night!

Guest Soloist – George Melitsis



George joined the “A Grade” Darebin City Brass at 14 years of age on 3rd Cornet. A year later, he was encouraged to try Soprano Cornet by then Musical Director, Mr. Tom Millar (and a former cornet player with Grimethorpe Band). George played Soprano for 8 years, before becoming Principal Cornet in 2010.

George has been Principal Cornet in 9 Victorian “A Grade” State Championships victories, and has won all the sections of competition at the “A” Grade National Championships. He was 2022 and 2023 Open Victorian Cornet Champion, as well as the Victorian “Champion of Champions” Soloist.

Additionally George has performed with the National Australia Brass Band under Professor David King and plays Principal Cornet with Victoria Brass.

RWPS Rookie Band

The Rookie Band is made up of students who started learning this year. They are from grades 2-5, learn in weekly lessons, and have a band rehearsal before school on Tuesdays.

The band has performed twice already, once at a school assembly and once at the Rookie Band soiree, an annual event where every student gets up and plays a solo (to rapturous applause).

The band members are:

Cornets: Leen Ali, Alison Arnold, Ava Cross, Tom Gearing,

Chloe Maton, Oscar McKelvie, Sarah O'Connor, Asha Renzi, Warren Tang, Aiden Wong-Kajendran, Xavier Wong.

Tenor horns: Xi Chen, Zac Liu, Stephanie Thurgood.

Trombones: Peter Gearing, Teddy Sewell, Harry Sword.

Baritone: Cara Choy, Clemence Greenwood, Owen Lam-Doyle, Nina Tangey.

Euphonium: Gerard Johnston, Sofia Richardson, Dylan Walcutt.

Tuba: Lucas Zhou.

Percussion: Beth McCluskey, Tom Noble.

The Rookie Band will perform...

Also Sprach Zarathustra (Richard Strauss)

Ready to Launch (Adam Arnold)

Pirates' Revenge (Adam Arnold)

The Lone Knight (Adam Arnold)

Power Rock (Peter Blair)

RWPS Intermediate Band

The Intermediate Band is made up of students who were in Rookie Band in 2022, so this is their 2nd year of playing. They have a weekly group lesson and lunchtime band rehearsal. The goal of this band is to build confidence in music reading and sound production by playing a wide range of music, and progressing through new repertoire quickly.

The students are taught by Ms Naomi Dickens, who will be co-conducting the band this evening.

The band members are:

Cornets: Elena Cheam, Inez Dirckze, Mica Fekitoa, Morgan Holmes, Anna Lew, Hildegard Venning, Lachlan Wong.

Tenor horns: Finch Abdul-Samad, Naomi Millar, Isla Paul.

Trombones: Bowie Dekok, Max King, Leo Renzi.

Baritone: Blake Abdul-Samad, Lev Clark, Freya Whelan, Hanlin Chen.

Euphonium: Ean Cheam, Lachie Bowman.

Tuba: Maxim Cosmo, Adam Eshaffar, Elroy Andreassen.

Percussion: Riley Birkett-Willis, Lillian Ross.

The Intermediate Band will perform...

March of the Diggers (Adam Arnold)

Aruba Tuba (Timothy Loest)

Deimos (Timothy Loest)

The Haunted House (Adam Arnold)

Cornet Hero (Paul Lavender)

RWPS Brass Band

Brass Band is the flagship ensemble of Richmond West Primary School. Students in this band have been learning for up to 5 years, including a couple of students who have been with the brass band programme since its inception in 2019.

The RWPS Brass Band have performed on the main stage at Federation Square, won prizes at the Boroondara Eisteddfod, busked at Gleadell St Market to raise money for the Salvation Army, and performed at various school events and concerts.

The band members are:

Cornets: William Bowman, Emilie Cheam, Linton Clarke, James Sammartino, Audrey Taylor, Ginger Taylor-Moore, Stephen Zhang.

Flugelhorn: Ada Greenwood.

Tenor horns: Chloe McGilton, Grace O'Connor, Alexandra Stewart, Isla Tang, Ned Taylor.

Trombones: Jarvis Anstee-Brown, Maya Pennay, Tessa Teh, Amelie Tyler, Maggie Van Lieshout.

Baritone: Matilda Wong, Orlando D'Angelo, Rory Stewart, Sam Fry.

Euphonium: Juniper Anstee-Brown.

Tuba: Sophie Arnold, Thomas Aspell, Lachlan Stewart.

Percussion: Oliver Elsom, Teddy Havers, Eamon King, Jess Middleton.

Featuring: George Melitsis.

The Brass Band will perform...

Floral Dance (Katie Moss)

Benediction (John Stevens)

Carnival of Venice (Jean Baptiste Arban)

Theme from “Jurassic Park” (John Williams)

Eye of the Tiger (Frankie Sullivan/Jim Peterik)

How to Train your Dragon (John Powell)

Richmond Youth Brass Band

Richmond Youth Brass Band was established in 2022, primarily as a next step in the pathway for RWPS musicians once they leave the school. It has since attracted students from other schools as a great opportunity to pursue brass band playing for young musicians.

It started with just 8 musicians and is rapidly growing. Soon, this year's RWPS grade 6 students will be invited to attend their first rehearsal. There are a few current RWPS students already involved in RYBB. These students have been invited to join in order to extend their playing.

Richmond Youth Brass Band has had a wonderful year so far, putting in some fine performances at the Bendigo Eisteddfod and the State Band Championships in Ballarat. There are a few more commitments for this year, including performances at the Victorian Youth Band festival, Gleadell St Market's 150th Anniversary, and the City of Yarra Carols.

The band members are:

Soprano cornet: Audrey Taylor.

Cornet 1: Jamie Howarth-Carpenter, James Szetey.

Cornet 2: Willow Hersbach, Harry Howarth-Carpenter.

Cornet 3: Blazey Clark, Toby Wallace.

Flugelhorn: Tristan Szetey.

Tenor horn 1: Hugh Furlong.

Tenor horn 2: Yinfei Turnour, David Zhang.

Trombone 1: Milun Kapadia, Jinx Taylor-Moore.

Trombone 2: Beth Cvjeticanin.

Bass trombone: Marcus Wakim.

Baritone 1: Angus Miller.

Baritone 2: Selwyn Greenwood.

Euphonium: Caitlin Furlong.

Tuba: Sophie Arnold, Ben Cumming, Sean Hofmann.

Percussion: Teddy Havers, Jack Licence, Hui Hui Sammartino.

Featuring: George Melitsis.

The Richmond Youth Brass Band will perform...

Starlight (Alan Fernie)

The Chieftain (John Jubb)

Share my Yoke (Joy Webb)

Cloud March (Tristain Szetey)

Mission Impossible (Lalo Schifrin)

Hey Jude (John Lennon/Paul McCartney)

Supporting great bands

These bands exist through a combination of support from occasional government grants, hand-me-down gear from some generous private schools, and wonderful private benefactors. We are extremely grateful for their help and encouragement!

If you'd like to donate money to help support either band programme please contact us:

- Richmond Youth Brass Band – rybbmd@gmail.com
- Richmond West Public School bands – rwpssband@gmail.com

We especially want to thank our supporters this evening:

Fine Music, Hawthorn

Dan Murphy's, Richmond

