

CSC VOCAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK



COORPAROO SECONDARY COLLEGE
Creating Tomorrow Together



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Objective/Purpose

The CSC Vocal Program is elite and unique to Coorparoo Secondary College. It is delivered by an expert team from the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy, CSC's industry partner.

The Program includes 1 group singing lesson, 1 choir rehearsal and 1 choir sectional rehearsal per week during which students not only receive expert vocal tuition as a soloist and ensemble singer, but also develop their theory skills, participate in performances at school and public events and gain industry knowledge and skills.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the details of the program. Students, together with their parents/caregivers, are expected to read this handbook and sign and return the contracts before they can be enrolled.

The Partnership

In 2010, Coorparoo Secondary College were looking for an expert singing teacher to teach small group singing lessons and direct the school choir. The Vocal Manoeuvres Academy were looking for a rehearsal and teaching space and immediately we both saw a unique opportunity. So, in return for using our facilities, the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy delivers the CSC Vocal Program by providing us with a teacher for group singing lessons and a conductor for the CSC Choir.

It is important to note that the staff at VMA are not employed by Education Queensland. We value the partnership we have developed with this company and their director, Alison Rogers and recognise that we would not have a Vocal Program without this Partnership.

The Vocal Manoeuvres Academy

The Vocal Manoeuvres Academy Pty Ltd (VMA) delivers three outstanding programs providing a broad agenda of learning and creative activities throughout Australia and overseas.

1. **Private Tuition Program** delivered via one-on-one lessons, small groups or in a virtual capacity;
2. An **Ensemble Program** delivered onsite at our Coorparoo and Redland City premises via rehearsals;
3. Innovative **Workshop/Consultancy Program** which includes vacation schools with expert guest clinicians invited from around the world;

These programs are accessible for children, youth and adults at both community and professional levels.

Through an extensive performance program managed by the sibling company Event Manoeuvres Pty Ltd, students of the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy are provided the opportunity to develop and apply skills learned in the studio during lessons and rehearsals to the live performance medium. These skills learned and applied are not only relevant to enhance solo performance but also the skills required of backing vocalists and ensemble singers.

The sibling company Event Manoeuvres Pty Ltd provides services to entities such as the Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Music Festival, the Department of Education and Training and the Queensland Performing Arts Complex. Students training in the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy have the opportunity to apply, audition and perform in these world-class events.

Please visit their website for all enrolment enquiries at www.vmacademy.net.au.

Recent Success Stories

Students who have been members of the CSC Vocal Program have participated in nationally televised events, performances with national and internationally renowned artists and been accepted into prestigious performing arts programs around the country. Here are some of the recent success stories.

Bobbie-Jean Henning graduated CSC in 2009 and has since graduated from the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), successfully completing her Bachelor of Arts majoring in Music Theatre. While at CSC she took part in the Vocal Program as well as continuing her study at The Vocal Manoeuvres Academy. Bobbie-Jean has a wide range of performance experience with such companies as Queensland Actors Playhouse, Harvest Rain Theatre Company and The Australian Acting Academy. She recently performed her self-devised cabaret Tales of a Time Traveling Songstress around Australia.

Bronte Pearce graduated CSC in 2010 and was a prominent member of the CSC Vocal Program during her 5 years at CSC. During those 5 years Bronte developed from a beginning vocalist in Year 8 to a mature performer in Year 12 and saw her take out the Overall Musicianship Award at the Music Gala in her final year. Bronte trained as a singer with The Vocal Manoeuvres Academy and this training provided her with the skills necessary to sing as backing vocalist at Creative Generation: State Schools on Stage. Bronte is now a graduate from The Actors Workshop with an Advanced Diploma in theatre, film and television acting, and recently worked as the Picture Double for Kaya Scoledario in Pirates of the Caribbean 5: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

Bretany Amber Walsh graduated CSC in 2012 and has since performed across a multitude of Musical Theatre and Film. Throughout her 8 years of training with the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy, Bretany was able to discover and fine tune her voice, giving her the ability to work professionally as a cast member and understudy in shows like Cats and Chicago. During her time at VMA she worked as a Backing Vocalist for the Channel 9 Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols and participated in over 30 various choral and ensemble performances. Bretany has continued her study at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, specialising in Screen Acting.

The CSC Vocal Program - General Information

The Vocal Program has **3 contacts per week**. This consists of:

- 1 x small group singing lesson (35 minutes) – Monday;
- 1 x choir rehearsal (1 hour) – Monday 3:00pm – 4:00pm; and
- 1 x choir sectional rehearsal (40 mins) – Thursday 1:00pm – 1:40pm.

Group Singing Lessons

The group singing lessons occur during the school day and rotate each week. This rotation system means that students do not miss the same part of a subject lesson each Monday. For example, their first lesson may be during the first half of period 1, the following week it will be in the second half, the week after it will be the first half of period 2, and so on. Students are expected to catch up on any work missed by seeing their teachers before or immediately after a lesson. Lessons are conducted in the Music Block in the VMA studio.

Attendance at Group Singing Lessons

Students in the CSC Vocal Program are expected to attend lessons on a weekly basis. Group lessons are kept small which means if 1 or 2 students are absent, a lesson may not be able to occur if only 1 student is present. As lessons are on a rotation system, students are expected to attend each rehearsal and catch up on any work missed in class.

If a student 'forgets' their lesson on the day or is unable to see their singing teacher early to reschedule a lesson, they must see their teacher as soon as possible afterwards. To not offer an explanation or an apology may result in the student being marked 'absent without cause' and may negatively affect the student's enrolment in the program.

Choir Rehearsal & Sectional

The choir rehearsal is held in the Auditorium every Monday afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:00pm and the sectional on Thursdays during 2nd break from 1:00pm – 1:40pm. These are both compulsory for all students in the Vocal Program. A light lunch will be provided for students during the Thursday sectional. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled in the lead up to a performance when necessary. Students will be given notification of these rehearsals via student notices.

Attendance at Choir Rehearsal & Sectionals

Attendance at Choir is compulsory for all students in the Vocal Program. Failure to attend two rehearsals without prior notification may result in the student's enrolment in the Vocal Program being cancelled. Students must be aware that each and every member of the choir is vital and important and anyone's absence can hinder the choir from progressing and preparing effectively for performances.

Repertoire

Students will learn a variety of repertoire in their singing lessons. This may include solo repertoire, part work for the group to sing and learn together and some time may be given to developing choir repertoire if applicable. A component of each lesson may also be exam based repertoire from the Trinity College London syllabus. This does not mean that students will study these exams but the option will be available to them.

Trinity College London & the QCE

Trinity College London offers a range of graded examinations for instruments and voice across nine levels from Initial to Grade 8. These examinations assess performance and technical skills from beginner to accomplished performer. Their extensive syllabuses are developed through consultation with teachers worldwide and offer a wide range of repertoire.

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has recognised some Trinity College London courses as contributing studies for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). For example, a Pass in Singing Grade 4 can contribute 1 credit point towards a student's QCE. *To be awarded a QCE students must complete a minimum of 20 credit points from a combination of courses by the end of Year 12.* Therefore, there are many advantages for students undertaking a Trinity College London exam through the CSC Vocal Program.

These exams are not compulsory for students in the Vocal Program. Students interested in these exams can discuss it further with their VMA Vocal teacher in lessons. Students who wish to take these exams will be given further information about exam fees and dates in the form of a letter sent home to parents/caregivers as payment must be received before they can be enrolled. The cost of

these exams vary depending on the grade. A full list of fees can be found on the Trinity College London website. Students may also need to pay for an accompanist for their exam.

For further information about the Trinity College London, please visit their website at www.trinitycollege.com.au.

For more information about the QCE, please visit the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

Resources

Students will be provided with the necessary materials for their lessons including sheet music, backing tracks and other teaching materials. These will be saved to G Drive and students will be expected to copy them on to a USB so they can practise at home. Students can find all lesson resources in the following location: G:\Curriculum\Common\VOCAL LESSONS RESOURCES.

Performances

Performances allow students to demonstrate the hard work they have achieved in this program and further develop students' vocal and performance skills. Attendance at all performances is compulsory unless extenuating circumstances are explained in writing and given in advance with as much notice as possible. Details of performances are provided in writing to parents/caregivers and distributed to students at rehearsals.

Reporting

Students involved in the Vocal Program will receive a Report in line with the College reporting system at usual reporting times. These will be separate reports to the Oneschool reports as VMA teachers are not EQ staff members and do not have access to the school's reporting system. The Vocal Program reports will be emailed to Parents/Caregivers.

Lesson Policy & Procedure

Students are placed into appropriate groups at the start of each year/term based on year level and/or ability. Students will receive a copy of their timetable which must be kept in their diary. These timetables are shown to their class teachers at the start of a lesson to indicate they have a singing lesson. When it is time for the student's lesson, they must excuse themselves politely from their class and walk directly to the Music Block.

It is the responsibility of the student to:

1. Catch up on any missed class work by discussing this with their teacher before or immediately after class; and
2. Organise a more suitable lesson time if they know an exam or vital pre-assessment lesson (such as a drafting lesson) is scheduled and therefore are unable to attend their scheduled singing lesson. *No student should miss an exam or assessment because of a singing lesson.*

Fees

The CSC Vocal Program fee is \$100 per year. This fee will appear on accounts once the enrolment form and contract have been completed and returned to the College office. This fee *contributes* to photocopying of scores, purchasing of sheet music, purchasing of backing tracks, and other miscellaneous costs involved in the program. *This does not include exam fees or accompanist fees if students decide to study a Trinity College London exam.*

Enrolment in the CSC Vocal Program

Parents/Caregivers wishing to enroll their student in the CSC Vocal Program need to complete an Enrolment and Contract form, found at the back of this Handbook, and return it to the College Office with payment. Once processed, the form is forwarded to the Head of Department to add the student's name to the Vocal Timetable.

Cancellation of Enrolment

Students cannot withdraw from lessons during a term. This is because students in group lessons and in choir will be working towards performances and rely on each member of the ensemble. To withdraw during a term would be unfair to other students in the ensemble and could be detrimental to their performances. To discontinue lessons in the following term, the student's Parent/Caregiver should contact the Head of Department.

Enquiries

Please direct **all communication** regarding the Vocal Program to:

Mrs Amelia Hamilton-Smith, Head of Department- The Arts

Email: ahami105@eq.edu.au

Phone: 3394 8888

Miss Amanda Korn, Head of Department-The Arts

Email: akorn13@eq.edu.au

Phone: 3394 8888

CSC VOCAL PROGRAM

ENROLMENT FORM & CONTRACT

Return this form/contract to the College Office together with payment.

STUDENT'S DETAILS

Name: _____ Year Level & Form: _____

PARENT/CARER'S DETAILS

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email address: _____

I (Parent/Caregiver) _____, would like my student to participate in the CSC Vocal Program. In signing this form, I understand (*tick each box then sign*):

- € the fee is \$100 for the year and contributes to the costs associated with singing lessons,
- € the level of commitment involved and the expectations associated with this program as outlined in the handbook,
- € my student is required at every rehearsal and performance associated with the choir and will provide in writing any explanation required for planned absences,
- € my student is not able to cancel enrolment during a term as it will jeopardise other members of the group/ensemble,
- € the VMA staff are not employed by Education Queensland and all communication must go through the Heads of Department,
- € will support my student in this program at home by encouraging him/her to practise repertoire and be prepared for lessons, rehearsals and performances.

Parent/Carer signature: _____ Date: _____

I (student) _____, would like to participate in the CSC Vocal Program. In signing this form, I understand (*tick each box then sign*):

- € the level of commitment involved and the expectations associated with this program as outlined in the handbook,
- € I need to be prepared for lessons and rehearsals with my music and a pencil,
- € I need to be on time for lessons and rehearsals and behave appropriately at all times,
- € I need to practise in between lessons and rehearsals in order for the group and myself to progress,
- € I am unable to cancel my enrolment during a term as it will be unfair to my fellow students,
- € it is my responsibility to catch up on work missed in class by attending singing lessons,
- € it is my responsibility to see my singing teacher to arrange a more suitable lesson time if I cannot leave class due to assessment,
- € I will treat all members of the VMA staff with respect at all times,
- € I will follow the school rules; I am Safe, I am Responsible, I am Respectful.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____