

Performing Arts update

It has been a wonderful start to the new year with record number of students wanting to be part of our music ensembles. There is a place in an ensemble for every Meriden girl and we are excited to begin learning new repertoire.

The Senior School musical is in full swing with the cast rehearsing over the summer holidays, learning lines, memorising lyrics and practising their choreography. The show – *Seussical* – will be a colourful, vibrant and joyous experience and we look forward to providing more details regarding ticket purchases in the upcoming weeks.

The European Music Tour preparations are underway, and we have had an overwhelming level of interest in the tour. It will be a valuable experience with performances, masterclasses and workshop opportunities in Budapest, Salzburg, Vienna and Prague.

Music Academy lessons have now commenced, and Mrs Carolyn Mirabito and Mrs Susan Tripolone have done an amazing job timetabling and scheduling all the lessons. Please contact us at musicacademy@meriden.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions regarding your enrolment.

Meriden musicians hone skills over the holidays

Over the holidays, there were several Meriden musicians who participated in several prestigious camps, concerts and competitions. It is wonderful to see so many girls involving themselves in the wider music community.

The Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp features the very best musicians aged 22 and younger from around Australia and New Zealand to participate in a two-week long extensive summer school of rehearsals and concerts in Adelaide. This year, nine Meriden students were selected along with three alumnae, an outstanding representation of Meriden as only 200 musicians are selected nationwide.

Annabelle Desmond, Tina Dong, Nerissa Du, Molly Grogan, Eva Gao, Connie Liu, Gabriella Wu, Sharon Zhao, along with past students Chanelle Tiranatvitayakul, Gahyun Lee and Amayah Ryan participated in rehearsals and performances of orchestral masterpieces and chamber works.

Led by internationally acclaimed conductors Alexander Briger, Natalia Luis-Bassa, and Andrew Haveron, and creatively directed by the brilliant Monica Curro, the festival was broadcast on ABC Classic FM featuring performances of Strauss, Dvořák, Sibelius and Janáček along with contemporary works by Mexican composers Gabriela Ortiz and Arturo Márquez. The composer-in-residence was Australia's own Jessica Wells, giving the girls an opportunity to work on world premieres with the composer.

Competitions and Performances

Connie Liu has been selected as one of the three finalists out of eight semi-finalists for the 23rd Kendall National Violin Competition. She will compete against two other talented young musicians on 1 – 2 March at the Kendall School of Arts. Many past finalists and winners of the Kendall National Violin Competition have all embarked on impressive professional careers, so this is one step further in Connie's dream to become a professional violinist.



Meriden musicians at the Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp



Connie Liu

After being selected at the end of last year as the Gold Award recipient in the Piano Youth Competition of the Singapore International Music Competition, Emma Rose Koeswandy was invited to, and performed at, the prestigious Esplanade in Singapore on 26 December 2024 as part of the Winners Gala Concert and Award Ceremony, performing *Waldesrauschen* by Liszt.

Isabella Koo has just returned from the UK after being invited to perform in the live round performances of the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition held at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Newcastle.

She performed the *Prelude* and *Sarabande* from Bach's *Cello Suite No.4* and the commission piece, *DUA-LING* ("Cecil in Africa") by Kathleen Tagg, and in the second round she performed all four movements of the Brahms *Viola Sonata*. Isabella was then selected to be part of a luthier exhibition and was able to showcase a William John viola. In the final concert, she performed as part of a combined ensemble of both Cecil Aronowitz and Lionel Tertis Competitors consisting of 54 viola players!

Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan

Dean of Music (P-12)



Emma Rose Koeswandy at the Singapore International Music Competition Winners Gala