

Performing Arts News

2026 Music Ensembles

The following students have been selected as leaders for our music ensembles for this year. We look forward to seeing the girls flourish with their leadership responsibilities in their respective music groups. It is wonderful to see so many leadership opportunities available for the students.

Symphony Orchestra – Alicia Tang and Hannah Wong

Sinfonia – Emily Seto

Chamber Strings 1 – Ruby Lin

Chamber Strings 2 – Sophie Lau

Intermediate Chamber Strings – Claire Xu

Wind Symphony – Emily Ng

Concert Band - Elena Hu

Madrigals – Asiminia Lee

Senior Singers – Chloe Poulos and Amy Yuan

Intermediate Singers – Grace Earngey

Choir – Sophie Green

Brass Ensemble – Elisya Arfianto

Flute Ensemble – Amelia Whitfield

Clarinet Ensemble – Alyssa Wahhab

Percussion Ensemble – Nicole Cen

Big Band – Sylvia Zhao

Rock Bands – Sophia Chan

Chapel Bands – Bella Nguyen

Club 88 – Symphony Shi

AMEB Diploma Ceremony

Earlier this month, 11 Meriden girls attended the 2026 Diploma Awards Ceremony for the Australian Music Examinations Board at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium at the University of New South Wales. It was wonderful to see so many girls representing Meriden and receiving their AMusA and LMusA diploma certificates from the examinations held in 2025.



Meriden girls at the 2026 Diploma Awards Ceremony

- Kayla Chiu, Year 10 - AMusA
- Alice Deng, Year 9 – AMusA
- Yolanda Dolenac, Year 11 – AMusA
- Constance Gus, Year 6 – AMusA
- Emma Rose Koeswandy, Year 10 – LMusA
- Sarah Lin, Year 10 – LMusA
- Alina Lin, Year 12 – LMusA
- Connie Liu – Year 12 – LMusA (Unable to attend ceremony)
- PeiQing Ling, Year 10 – AMusA
- Catherine Meng, Year 8 – AMusA
- Kaitlyn Xi, Year 8 – AMusA
- Julie Zhu, Year 9 – AMusA

ENCORE Concert

Years 11 and 12 Music students thoroughly enjoyed this year's ENCORE Concert, which showcasing exemplary performances and compositions from the HSC students from 2025.



Selina Wang, Alina Lin, Annabelle Desmond and Kiara Nguy (all from Year 12, 2025) and Year 11 student, Yolanda Dolenca, performed Annabelle's composition for string quintet, *Transcendence*, at the Sydney Opera House. Music staff and students were very proud of the Meriden girls for being selected for the program and for performing at such an exceptional level.



Yolanda Dolenac (Year 11), Selina Wang, Annabelle Desmond, Alina Yuan and Kiara Nguy



A night at the Opera

This term, Year 10 music students have been studying a unit on Opera which culminated in an exciting performance of Opera Australia's *Madame Butterfly*. The girls enjoyed dressing up for the occasion and seeing the creative set design and costumes.

The lead role of Cio-Cio-San played by soprano Olivia Cranwell, was beautifully interpreted and her vocal projection over the orchestra allowed the girls to appreciate the vocal technical control. In the orchestra were our very own Old Girls, Amanda Chen, Class of 2014, and Rena Moore (nee Tang), Class of 2023. It is wonderful for our students to see former Meriden girls succeeding with their careers in the music community.



Amadeus news

Year 11 student Cynthia Bui was selected from organists across Australia to perform with renowned organist Anna Lapwood, who is currently in Sydney making her Australian debut at the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Cynthia was invited to perform with two other organists on the Opera House organ in a masterclass with Anna. She performed the Fugue from Duruflé's *Prelude and Fugue sur le nom d'Alain Op. 7*. She was the youngest organist selected and performed with maturity and graciousness as Anna gave her specific and detailed feedback.



The NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition

The NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition is a prestigious classical music competition for secondary school students in NSW and the ACT. The KPO also recognises the importance of enabling talented young musicians to perform with an orchestra. These opportunities are becoming increasingly rare for young Australian musicians.



Nerissa Du, Year 12

Connie Liu and Nerissa Du have successfully made it to the semifinals, as part of the 20 young musicians who were selected. Connie will be performing the 1st movement from Sibelius' *Violin Concerto*, and Nerissa will be performing two movements from Walton's *Viola Concerto*. It is very exciting having two Meriden students competing in the next round.



Connie Liu, Year 12

Sydney Youth Orchestra – Firebird

On Saturday 14 March, Tina and Yolanda along with Meriden Old Girls, Molly Grogan, Class of 2025, and Elaine Huang, Class of 2024, performed in a spectacular concert of Stravinsky's *Firebird*. The girls in the Sydney Youth Orchestra performed alongside Berlin Philharmonic's violinist Harry Ward in Bacewicz's 3rd *Violin Concerto*. The concert also featured Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis*.

Ms Jodi Spooner-Ryan
Dean of Music P-12



Yolanda Dolenac and Tina Dong with Harry Ward from the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra