



Bellinggen Youth Orchestra 2025 Term 3 Newsletter

PRESIDENT UPDATE - DAVID NEVILLE

How could we respond to such a tumultuous start to the year, floods, missed rehearsals and cancelled shows! It turns out somethings are not so difficult to work out! Just mix together the efforts of our incredible tutors and the wonderful support of our community, the dedicated commitment of families and volunteers, and the exceptional hard work of the young people in our orchestra and we can deliver what was Term 3 ... exceptional performances, young people building community and audiences calling for more!!! An outstanding series of concerts with our senior and junior players hitting new heights! As we share our successes more broadly, a small team are reviewing our website which is often our face to the world. If you have any suggestions, things you like, things that are challenging, things that you wish were there, please reach out to Rainee, admin@bellingenyouthorchestra.com.au and share your thoughts. See you all on December 14th for our annual Proms Concert! Another moment to shine!

IMPORTANT DATES

THE PROMS

December 14

Stockton Hall.

SINFONIA @ Camp

Creative

January 13

Term 4 is a 9 week rehearsal term.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR UPDATE: ANNIE PHELAN

Recently I was at a Birthday party chatting to a man. I had no idea who he was but he must have known me. He said, "Bellinggen Youth Orchestra is the best thing that ever happened to this town." It made me think of the treasure that we have and all the wonderful people that make it so. BYO can only be as good as it is because of these contributors. The parents, committee, the conductors, tutors and teachers, instrument repairers, supporters, audience and of course the players, even the alumni!

Last concert was amazing and congratulations must go to all of those contributors. With the diverse program we seemed to hit a soft spot with everyone. So many said, 'that was the best BYO concert ever'. Well, whether it was or not doesn't really matter. What matters is everyone involved was striving for the very best performance that we could possibly achieve, and everyone seemed to be pleased with the result.

So, let's do it again in December and see if can excite another audience! But will we fit them all in?





We still have our wonderful BYO T-shirts for sale. T-shirts are 100% cotton and come in a range of sizes, (and white) please email or jump on the website if you would like to order one. Discounted to \$30.00!!

CONTACT US

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BYOSS UPDATE- DIRECTOR: JACQUIE GILL

What an immensely successful Term 3 for our String School players! The highlight was without a doubt the Cygnet Orchestra Serenade concert in September. The players were excited, energised and boosted by the experience of performing in a formal setting. When Lizzy and Jacquie asked what their favourite part was, the answers ranged from "the hot chips" (!!); "playing Conquistador"; "playing as a full orchestra", and of course "Xanthe's amazing solo". This concert was the culmination of a year's focus on ensemble skills—listening and responding to the conductor, keeping tempo together, and expressing dynamics with confidence. What a brilliant celebration of all their hard work! A huge well done to all BYOSS players, and a heartfelt thank you to our teachers, parents, and the BYO Committee for creating such a beautiful event.

Looking ahead, Term 4 will see BYOSS sharing music with the wider community. We will perform at Bellorana Nursing Home on the morning of Sunday 16th November and are preparing some new pieces for this, as well as welcoming solos and duets from keen players. We will also join the stage for the December Proms Concert 3pm Sunday 14th December with two exciting new Cygnet Orchestra items. Families—please pop these dates in your diary now, as we know the silly season gets busy! Performance opportunities like these are such important stepping-stones for our young musicians.

We wish our Year 6 players the very best as they prepare applications for the \$1000 Bill Lockley Scholarship, supported by Camp Creative and due in October!. Please speak with Jacquie and Lizzy if you'd like more information.

Finally: here are the listening links for some of our new pieces!!

[Skye Boat Song](#) (Violin 1's playing Violin 2 part for this piece)

[The Second Storm](#) (with the Cygnet Orchestra)

[Swan Lake](#) (with the Cygnet Orchestra)



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BYOWS UPDATE - DIRECTOR: HAZEL BUCHANAN

The highlight of Term 3 was our Cygnet Serenade Concert on 6 September. BYOWS did an outstanding job of rising to the challenges presented by the three very varied pieces we have been working on throughout the year. The wistful, lyrical melodies of *Nostalgia* by Rossano Galante demanded careful intonation, attention to dynamic detail and elegant phrasing. In five short movements, themes from *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, composed by Howard Shore and arranged by Douglas E. Wagner, required a narrative approach and frequent key signature changes. By contrast, *Rumba de la Tumba* by JaRod Hall kept us on our toes rhythmically, with syncopated patterns and time signature changes every few bars. After some beautiful BYOSS performances and a wonderful solo from Xanthe, the Cygnet Orchestra concluded the concert with passionate performances of a theme from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and *Dauntless Heroes* by Michael Kamuf.

In the last couple of rehearsals, we have been excited to start some new music. *How to Train Your Dragon* is proving a very popular stand-alone piece for BYOWS, and Tom and I have been impressed with the standard of sight reading on display. As well as learning BYOWS pieces, many of our players have been working hard this year to develop their solo instrument repertoire, particularly for the CH&D Eisteddfod and AMEB exams.

It is always rewarding to witness those efforts paying off in terms of improvements in reading and musicianship skills. The success of this term's concert has inspired the Directors to feature the Cygnet Orchestra again in the BYO Proms Concert in December, so we are also now working on *The Second Storm* and *Swan Lake*, to perform with BYOSS. It would be very useful for all BYOWS members to follow the above links and listen to those specific arrangements while studying their parts.

SINFONIA UPDATE- AMBER DAVIS

Term Three for Sinfonia has been a wonderful whirlwind of musical performance opportunities and learning. We had the immense pleasure of experiencing what it's like to be the string section of a jazz band in the fantastic *Joni Mitchell* concert with Rosie Stephens and her incredible group of musicians. This was a brilliant opportunity to expose Sinfonia players to the jazz/folk style, and accompanying a singer and band was an entirely new experience for them to tuck away for the future.

We were then challenged with preparing the first and third movements of the Borodin String Quartet—a momentous feat during an especially busy time of year as players juggled school commitments. As always, their performance rose far above expectations, and I was absolutely thrilled with their ability to manage rapid preparation and deliver such a strong concert performance.

Bravo, Sinfonia! I am so looking forward to seeing what unfolds in Term Four!



INSTRUMENT OFFICER UPDATE- KATHARINE SUTHERLAND

As the Instrument Officer for our orchestra, I am delighted to share some exciting updates and insights that keep our music-making running smoothly behind the scenes.

Our instruments are a vital part of our orchestra, each one carrying the unique voice of our talented musicians. Ensuring that every violin, flute, trumpet, and drum is in top condition is a small piece of the puzzle that makes BYO what it is. From regular maintenance to organising repairs and managing inventory, my role is to make sure every player feels confident and inspired when they pick up their instrument.

Remember, the care you show your instrument reflects in your music. Regular cleaning, proper storage, and gentle handling go a long way to preserving these valuable tools of expression.

Thank you all for your cooperation and enthusiasm. Together, we will continue to create beautiful music and unforgettable experiences.



ADMIN UPDATE- RAINEE HERRON

As we move through Term 3, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our BYO supporters who continue to champion every music pathway we offer. Your ongoing commitment is vital to our success.

We are excited to share that we have successfully submitted two grant applications—one aimed at supporting the 2026 camp and another to assist our BYOSS and BYOWS schools by funding their directors. We are eagerly awaiting the outcomes and remain hopeful for positive news.

A big thank you to all families for your timely fee payments. To help us plan ahead, we kindly ask that all 2025 fees be finalised by the end of Term 4.

A huge shout-out goes to our incredible volunteers and to our new coordinators, Toke and Bri, for stepping up to lead and coordinate our events canteen with enthusiasm and dedication. If you have skills or time to offer and would like to volunteer, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd love to have you involved!

