



**BELLINGEN
YOUTH
ORCHESTRA**

TERM 1 NEWS 2026

PRESIDENT UPDATE - DAVID NEVILLE

What a wonderful start to 2026! Each time I look, the orchestra seems to be reaching new heights and it is always wonderful to share the amazing successes of our young players with our ever-growing family of supporters!

I was fortunate enough to watch our junior ensembles at their recent Harmony Workshop. What a pleasure to see the hard work and dedication on display, but even more exciting is the possibility of what can happen when all of that individual effort is harnessed in an orchestra! They produced an incredible sound, proving the old adage that something can be greater than the sum of its parts! Of course that is true of an orchestra, but it is also true of our organisation, and I am reminded that we can do what we do because of you! We are what we are because of all the volunteers, musicians, families, mentors and supporters whose individual efforts continue to achieve extraordinary things, THANK YOU!

Sometimes, as we all navigate increasingly busy lives, some simple truths can keep us focused ... making great music, building lasting friendships and celebrating with community are just part of our DNA. I am looking forward to another very exciting term and catching up with you all at our next rehearsal or performance.

IMPORTANT DATES!

BYOSS play at the show

9 May

COMPASS Festival (BYO)

24 – 26 MAY

SINFONIA

13 June

BYO Winter Concert

27 June

Term 2 is a 10-week playing term.

BYO/BYOSS/BYOWS Rehearsals

start Thursday 23 April. Sinfonia

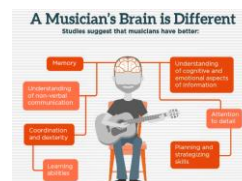
start Tuesday 28 April.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR UPDATE: ANNIE PHELAN

As the members of the BYO Flagship orchestra take a well-earned break, they should reflect on the amazing sounds they made in 'Waltz Me to the Moon and Back'. My reflections fill me with immense pride and admiration for all the individual players and their ability to play at an amazing standard. Supported, of course, with a committee that goes to no end of trouble to make them look good, sound good and have an audience to play to.

During the concert I stood a group of students up who have enrolled in the Scholarship Program, which will take place in May. I'm wishing all of you the best in your preparation and know everyone who attends will be blown away by your playing.

A big thank you to everyone involved for your efforts. I am looking forward to an exciting Term 2.



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**THE
LANSDOWNE**
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NEW STICKERS COMING SOON.....

CONTACT US

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BYOSS UPDATE- DIRECTOR: JACQUIE GILL and LIZZIE SCOTT

Term 1 has been an exciting and rewarding time for our students, tutors, and conductors as we've welcomed new players and settled into our ensembles. Playing together continues to fast-track music reading skills, allowing us to introduce more challenging and engaging repertoire as confidence grows.

A standout highlight this term was our workshop with the BYO Wind School, where we joined forces to form the Cynet Orchestra. Opportunities like this are incredibly valuable for our young musicians—bringing them together to rehearse, perform, and enjoy making music as a community. Alongside developing strong musicianship, these experiences foster friendships and a genuine sense of belonging.

We're now looking ahead with excitement to our upcoming performance at the Bellinggen Agricultural Show on May 9.



BYOWS UPDATE - DIRECTOR: HAZEL BUCHANAN

BYOWS Term 1 Update Wind School made a fantastic start to the year in Term 1. We welcomed six new players throughout the term: Eadie and Iris on flute, Abby on bassoon, Harriet on clarinet, Ewan on percussion and, in the last week, Avalon on trumpet. We started with a couple of straightforward pieces, Gravity Falls and Seconds Out, to help the newcomers settle in, and quickly moved on to an arrangement of Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5. This fast, challenging piece inspired our young musicians to practice their chromatic scales and develop exciting sforzandos - piano dynamics.

The overall standard of both the Wind School and String School this year enabled us to tackle two very different pieces at our Harmony Day themed Workshop on 21st March. Mozart's Abduction from the Seraglio required the Cygnet Orchestra to count in cut common time, which took some getting used to. While Cumberland Cross by Carl Strommen provided a great opportunity to work on multiple changing tempos and time signatures.

The Workshop day proved a delight for all involved. Elizabeth Scott did a wonderful job of exercising bodies and brains outside of the dedicated rehearsal time and made the day much more entertaining. There was a feast for morning tea. And the audience at our work-in-progress concert at the end could not have failed to be impressed by the students' remarkable showcase of their talents. Roll on Term 2!

SINFONIA UPDATE- AMBER DAVIS

Sinfonia has enjoyed a truly action-packed start to the year, and we're excited to share some highlights with both our families and wider BYO subscriber community.

The term began at Camp Creative in January, where Flynn and Anya delivered wonderful Vivaldi solo moments that were warmly received—an inspiring way to kick things off. From there, the ensemble presented a small chamber concert at The Grange aged care facility in Coffs Harbour, offering residents a special preview of the repertoire that would later feature in our BYO concert in Week 9.

Having that early performance opportunity proved incredibly valuable. It gave the group time to refine their work and build confidence, culminating in a polished and engaging performance at the final BYO concert of the term.

This term has been an important learning period for our musicians—developing skills in preparation, working to timelines, and balancing consistent practice with the demands of performance goals. These experiences are invaluable, not only musically but in building discipline and teamwork.

We're proud of the growth shown by every member of Sinfonia and grateful to share that journey with our broader BYO community. We look forward to many more learning moments, continued musical development, and the strong, supportive group dynamic that makes Sinfonia so special as we head into Term 2.



INSTRUMENT OFFICER UPDATE- KATHARINE SUTHERLAND

It has been wonderful to see the continued commitment and enthusiasm across the orchestra and its ensembles, and we look forward to another term of musical growth and collaboration. The commitment and enthusiasm has also come from our community in the form of donations of quality instruments. It is thrilling to see these instruments already in the hands of players. Thank you to those community members.

As we move into the new term, we would like to remind families that instrument hire invoices will be issued shortly. We appreciate your prompt attention to these, as they support the ongoing maintenance and availability of quality instruments for all our players. If you have any questions regarding instrument hire or payments, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



OPERATIONS MANAGER- RAINEE HERRON

Welcome to Term 1! We're thrilled to kick off another exciting year with our BYO community, and we'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new subscribers and sponsors. Your support helps make everything we do possible.

We're proud to share that our Facebook page is approaching 1.2K followers—if you haven't already, it's always worth a follow to stay up to date with everything happening at BYO. You can also subscribe to the calendar on our website to stay ahead of all upcoming performance dates and events.

As many of you may know, securing arts funding continues to be increasingly competitive and challenging. While we are always pursuing grant opportunities, community support plays a vital role in sustaining our programs. If you or someone you know may be interested in coming on board as an annual sponsor, we would love to hear from you—please reach out for more information.

We're also excited to introduce our brand-new BYO stickers, now available as part of our merchandise—keep an eye out and grab yours!

A heartfelt thank you goes to our incredible BYO volunteers. Your time, energy, and dedication are truly the backbone of our organisation, and we couldn't do this without you. If you are interested in joining our BYO volunteer community, do not hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to a fantastic term ahead filled with music, growth, and community connection.

