

2017

VCC MUSIC PROGRAM



VCC Music Program

At Victory Christian College, we want every student to have the opportunity to experience all the benefits that learning a musical instrument brings. Our teachers are skilled musicians and active worshipers in their local churches. We seek to provide quality teaching and a broad range of experiences for our students, from classroom lessons and electives, to individual instrumental tutoring, a variety of ensembles and producing our own original music. It is our desire at Victory to provide the very best in music education.

Martin Luther once said, 'Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.' Why not join with the Victory Music Department in sharing that treasure with the world?

Secondary Music Teacher/Concert Band Director - Ian Oglethorpe Music Coordinator

Ian began learning cornet at the age of four and joined the local brass band when he was eight. He played first cornet with the Victorian State Youth Brass Band in 1991 and 1992. Formerly trained in trumpet and voice, he has won various solo and band competitions and eisteddfods. In 1990 he received the Mildura River City Jazz Club Award and in 1992 was awarded the Wimmera Band Group Caleb Turner Award. Ian completed a Bachelor of Teaching and Bachelor of Education with a major in Music, at La Trobe University. He has 22 years teaching experience and has been teaching Secondary Music at Victory for the past 11 years. In 2017, Ian took on the newly created role of Music Coordinator. He directs the Concert Band and Secondary Chapel Band, and oversees the Instrumental Music Program.

VCE Music: Performance - David Steed

David brings a wealth of experience and qualification to our Music Program. He has a Bachelor of Music from the University of New England as well as certificates in AMEB Piano and the Australian Guild of Music and Speech. He is well versed in piano, violin and viola, and has been teaching piano for ten years. David has been the official accompanist for the Bendigo Youth Choir for two years as well as accompanying numerous VCE music and AMEB exams, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, school and community musical theatre productions. He has received various awards including Royal South Street, Bendigo and Ararat eisteddfod awards for Jazz, Bach and Mozart categories, improvisation and sight-reading. Musical highlights include piano recitals at Ballarat Art Gallery, participating in piano master classes in Melbourne and Ballarat, performing at Bendigo ANZAC day ceremonies and Carols by Candlelight with Bendigo Youth Choir.

VCE Music: Style and Composition - Sally Spark

Sally is an active member of the Bendigo music community, with more than 20 years experience playing brass instruments, and is currently the Principal Cornet player and President of Marist Brass. Together with Marist Brass she has won numerous brass band competitions, including state and national titles. Sally has completed Grade 6 AMEB Theory and Grade 6 Brass Band Practical. She is a bugler for Bendigo RSL, an advocate for brass and instrumental programs in schools and has conducting experience with various junior bands and ensembles.

Primary Music Teacher - Michael Rodgers

Michael was raised in a family that actively valued and encouraged music. He graduated from the University of Ballarat in 2006 with a Bachelor in Fine Art and Grad Dip in Education. Michael has been teaching music classes and guitar at primary and secondary level for the last ten years. He has played drums for over 15 years, both in church and a modern rock band. He loves to create – making something new – and is motivated to see students share the same experience. Michael believes that learning music is often done by doing, and aims for his students to walk away from class having developed a new skill, a new piece of knowledge or a shared experience.

Instrumental Teachers

Secondary Piano Teacher - Timothy Chan

Timothy completed his tertiary studies at The Melbourne University Conservatorium with Honours in Music Performance. He is passionate about the next generation, where learning is at the centre of his teaching. He teaches and practices modern approaches in learning the piano, and offers advanced practical and theoretical knowledge, which includes AMEB and/or Suzuki Method. Timothy has been teaching at Victory Christian College for the past five years. He is currently accompanying, teaching and performing music at a number of schools. He hopes to see a 'worship' culture and community in Bendigo through his teaching, his musicianship and pursuit in his Christian faith.

Saxophone Teacher - John Duffield

John has over 50 years experience with saxophone, having been taught in Geelong at the local Sutton Brashes company. His original instrument was piano accordion, which he continues to play. John has performed with various school bands, old-time dance bands and church bands. He is very happy to be passing on his knowledge to a new generation of budding saxophonists, and enjoys using his instruments to worship God.

Guitar Teacher - Rhys Hardy

Rhys is a recent graduate of Victory Christian College and is currently undertaking an internship with Victory Church and completing Certificate IV in Ministry. He studied classical guitar from an early age and excelled in AMEB guitar exams. Rhys leads the VYBE worship team, and has played lead guitar at Apostolic national conferences and the Hope Tour in 2016 and 2017. He has taught and mentored numerous young guitarists over the last few years. Rhys has a heart for worship and raising up young talent.

Drum Teacher - Ethan Hunter

Ethan has nine years of drumming experience, having learnt drums at school and through local Music Schools. He has played drums in local churches and interstate conferences over the last six years. Ethan also has experience with piano and guitar. He has previously taught privately as well as at Creek Street Christian College and Muso's Stuff. Interests outside music include playing soccer. He particularly enjoys drumming at church and other worship events.

Singing and Guitar Teacher - Jesse Lovell

Jesse is a former student of Victory Christian College and returns to the school having completed a Bachelor of Contemporary Performance at the Australian Institute of Music in Melbourne, majoring in vocals and songwriting. He has over 15 years experience playing guitar and sang backing vocals on Hillsong's No Other Name album, having studied at Hillsong Leadership College in 2014.

Flute Teacher - Olivia Parkinson

Olivia is also a former student of Victory Christian College. She has been playing the flute since age five, starting on the fife, then curved flute before moving onto a full-size flute. She has completed Grade 7 AMEB flute exams, placed second in Musician of the Year at Bendigo Senior Secondary College and received an Ostinato Music Scholarship in 2010. A musical highlight for Olivia has been playing first flute with Orchestra Victoria in their mOVe program for three years, and performing alongside James Morrison. She has recently completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Speech Pathology.

Singing Teacher/Secondary Choir Director - Ashlea Rokesky

Ashlea trained in singing at a Creative Arts College in Sydney, and has been teaching singing both privately and in schools throughout Victoria for the last seven years. She has a passion for singing, performance and dance, and loves seeing students not only grow in their vocal ability but also in self-confidence. She believes that singing can be an incredibly vulnerable activity, but gives students a real opportunity to unlock gifts inside themselves that may have never been discovered, allowing them to also flourish in other areas of their life.

Primary Piano Teacher - Ben Tatt

Ben has been playing piano for more than 13 years. He completed a semester of a Bachelor of Music, majoring in composition. He then transferred to an Education degree, which he is currently undertaking. Ben's other musical abilities include cello, guitar, bass, drums and vocals. He has played in various church worship bands over the past 12 years. Ben has been teaching piano since 2014.

Ensembles

Concert Band

Established in 2012, the VCC Concert Band consists of strings, brass, flute, saxophone, percussion, piano and guitar. The Concert Band performs regularly at functions and events throughout the school year. Repertoire ranges from The Beatles to Adele, Wagner to John Williams. Membership is by application and rehearsals are held after school on Mondays between 3:30-4:30pm.

Secondary Choir

Newly established in 2017, and under the Directorship of Ashlea Rokesky, the Secondary Choir will be trained to competition standard. The choir will perform at school functions and compete at local eisteddfods, performing a range of contemporary and traditional songs. Membership is by application and audition. Rehearsals are held at lunchtimes.

Secondary Chapel Band

The Secondary Chapel Band consists of talented students who have a heart for leading others in worship. The band is made up of singers, pianists, guitarists and drummers, but welcomes other instrumentalists from time to time. The Chapel Band plays at weekly Chapel services, as well as College Church Services, Awards Ceremonies and the Music Recital. Members are encouraged to write their own worship songs, and the Band has appeared on the last two Kool Skools CDs recorded by the Victory Music Department.