Burnside High School
Te Kura o Waimairi-iri

SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAMME AND MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

2027 ENTRY

www.specialistmusicprogramme.co.nz

Applications are invited for the
Burnside High School Specialist Music Programme
and Music Scholarships.

Please note that a Burnside High School Enrolment Application and Performance Music Application must also be completed.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

N.B. APPLICATIONS FOR THOSE WISHING TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SMP SCHOLARSHIPS CLOSE ON THURSDAY 7th MAY 2026 AT 3:00pm.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR SMP SCHOLARSHIPS

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MUSIC PROGRAMMES AT BURNSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

At Burnside High School we are pleased to offer a three-tier system of music tuition at Year 9 level. This is to ensure that students are catered for in the best possible way, according to their musical experience and aptitude.

1 The **Specialist Music Programme** is for students of superior musical ability. It is expected that they will have a commitment to Music as a focus of study throughout their time at Burnside High School. Students are required to audition for this programme and will be placed within an appropriate Performance Music Class (9PMU). Students unsure of their level of achievement or suitability for the programme are encouraged to audition.

2 **Performance Music**. For many years Burnside High School has offered a very successful course for Performance Music students (9PMU). This full-year course runs in each school Division, North, South and West. Entry is by application only, using the form in the Burnside High School enrolment pack. Successful applicants are placed within a form class comprising 9PMU students only. THERE IS ***NO AUDITION*** REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE MUSIC. Each 9PMU class has a music specialist as both their form teacher and Music class teacher for the year. Students seeking entry to the 9PMU course should be already learning an instrument (or voice) and be actively involved in music at their primary/intermediate school. A unique feature of this course is that practical music ensembles i.e Junior Strings, Junior Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band, Junior Performance Choir, Junior Percussion Ensemble and Junior Guitar Ensemble are timetabled into the school day for all Performance Music students. 9PMU students are placed into one of these ensembles based on the information provided on their application form. Academically, it is expected that the Performance Music Classes will be at the same above-average level in each Division. Please note that the school reserves the right to place students where we think the students will function best in their learning. ***ALL SUCCESSFUL SMP STUDENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY PLACED IN THE WEST DIVISION PERFORMANCE MUSIC FORM CLASS (9WPEC).***

3 For students with less musical experience, half year **general music** courses offer a range of activities including practical sessions on tuned percussion, world music, music technology, keyboard and guitar. Such students should select "9MUO" on their subject choices form.

If you are interested in applying for the **Specialist Music Programme**, you must complete the Burnside High School Enrolment Application form ***and*** Performance Music Application form. These forms are available from our Receptionist, or can be downloaded from the enrolment page of the school website: www.burnside.school.nz

A Specialist Music Application form must ***ALSO*** be completed. This form is included in this document and available online at www.specialistmusicprogramme.co.nz

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SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAMME 2027

The **Specialist Music Programme** provides the highest possible standard of education, training and musical opportunities for students of high musical ability. It offers a seamless and co-ordinated progression of learning from primary school through secondary school to university, offering students the opportunity to work with others of similarly high musical calibre. Entry to the SMP is gained solely through musical ability and/or potential. The Ministry of Education has granted a special dispensation, allowing students from outside of the Burnside High School zone to enter the school through the Specialist Music Programme *at any year level*.

Four institutions within Christchurch collaborate to provide this unique opportunity for musically talented students.

- Westburn Primary School
- Burnside High School
- The School of Music of the University of Canterbury
- The UC College of Education, Health and Human Development

The **SMP Council**, comprising representatives for each of the participating institutions, oversees the overall functioning of the Programme. Each individual establishment is responsible for the delivery of the programme within their facility.

Year 9 SMP students admitted to the Programme for 2026 will be enrolled within a Performance Music (PMU) Class in West Division. All students are required to follow a course of study in line with the New Zealand Curriculum, therefore SMP and PMU students will study exactly the same subjects as other Burnside High School students. ***In addition*** to regular curriculum studies and musical activities however, students admitted into the Specialist Music Programme will be required to:

- Receive regular lessons with a private teacher approved by the SMP Council at their own expense
- Attend all SMP workshops, held after school at Burnside, for their specialist instrument
- Take part in the school's Chamber Music programme (compulsory for all SMP instrumentalists)
- Make a regular and committed contribution to at least one large ensemble e.g Orchestra, Big Band, Symphonic Band, Aurora Voices
- Study Music as an academic subject to the end of Year Twelve
- Make every effort to attend additional concerts and masterclasses, both inside and outside of school, as recommended by SMP tutors
- Pay the annual SMP fee, currently $400 for most students. Those families experiencing hardship may apply to the SMP Council for financial assistance if necessary.

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TUITION and SMP WORKSHOPS

Students in the SMP are required to have regular (weekly) lessons, at their own expense, on their primary instrument from a teacher approved by the SMP Council. The SMP itself at Burnside High School is delivered through weekly workshops/masterclasses run by specialist professional performers and educators in their field. There are currently SMP workshops in:

- Orchestral Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass)
- Piano
- Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba)
- Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone)
- Jazz (Drums, Percussion, Guitar, Bass Guitar, *Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone**)
- Voice

* - *students playing these instruments with an interest in Jazz will be placed in their instrumental workshop (brass/woodwind) and given the opportunity to attend additional workshops in Jazz performance as appropriate*.

The tutor for each SMP workshop is responsible for the planning and delivery of the programme within their specialist area. Please refer to the SMP website: www.specialistmusicprogramme.co.nz for further details.

COSTS

The annual basic SMP fee is currently $400. Additional costs may be incurred, e.g for co-curricular groups attending national competitions or touring. Limited financial assistance is available to students experiencing financial difficulty by application to the President of the SMP Council.

All SMP Jazz students pay an additional levy of $75 due to the heavy tutor demands involved in delivering that programme and those students taking Jazz as a secondary workshop pay $100 in addition to their $400 basic fee. SMP fees are invoiced by the SMP Treasurer at the beginning of each year, independently of other general school expenses. Arrangements can be made for fees to be paid in instalments if necessary.

N.B These costs are in addition to students' private tuition fees for their instrumental/vocal lessons; it is compulsory that SMP students receive a weekly individual private lesson from a specialist teacher.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

All auditions for entry in 2027 will be by video submission. For scholarship applicants, these video files must be received by Monday 11 May 2026. Selected applicants will be invited to attend for face-to-face interview on Friday 15 May 2026. All prospective Year 9 students *wishing to be considered for SMP scholarships* ***MUST*** audition in this first session; other year levels *may* also audition at this time. A further session of auditions, run in the same manner and open for entry to ***all year levels*** (9-13), will be held in late July 2026. Full instructions and information on how to submit video auditions can be found at the end of this booklet.

To be clear, there are TWO separate audition sessions for students at all age levels seeking admittance into the SMP for 2027 start:

Session 1 – May auditions

- The deadline for SMP application forms for session 1 is Thursday 7th May 2026 at 3.00pm.
- Video audition submissions are due by 1.00pm Monday 11th May.
- Interviews and auditions for *selected applicants only* will be held on Friday 15th May at The Piano, Armagh St., Christchurch CBD.
- All current Year 8 applicants who apply in May are considered for scholarships; no additional scholarship application is necessary.
- Students who are already in Year 9 or above at the time of application may audition, but are not eligible for scholarships

Session 2 – July auditions

- The deadline for SMP applications for session 2 is Thursday 16th July 2026 at 3.00pm.
- Video audition submissions are due by 1.00pm Monday 20th July
- Interviews and auditions for *selected applicants only* will be held on Friday 24th July at The Piano, Armagh St., Christchurch CBD.
- Session 2 applicants *are not eligible* for scholarships

In addition to a high level of proficiency on the primary instrument, applicants' attitude, sense of commitment, together with previous instrumental experience will be taken into account in determining applicants' suitability for admission to the programme. These factors will be assessed through an informal interview.

N.B

Each applicant must also provide one written reference supporting their application. This should be from the music specialist teacher at the school currently attended or anyone who knows the applicant well and is in a position to support their application, e.g. current instrumental teacher.

It is not easy to state a grade that SMP applicants should have reached in their performance instrument as there are many factors to be taken into consideration. Members of the audition panel are highly experienced in recognising those who can best benefit from admission to the programme. However, this is an advanced level programme and most successful applicants are at roughly ABRSM Grade 6 level or above (slightly lower for Woodwind and Brass).

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are at least four Specialist Music Programme Scholarships offered to the best students auditioning for the programme at Year 9 level each year:

- The Burnside High School SMP Scholarship. There are TWO scholarships available in this category to the value of $1000 each. These are awarded to the two most outstanding candidates at audition.

- The Burnside High School Development Scholarships. These are awarded to candidates demonstrating the most potential at audition.

- The Burnside High School Westburn SMP Scholarship, awarded to the *most deserving* applicant continuing through from the SMP at Westburn School.

- The David Sell Scholarship, awarded to the *most outstanding* candidate continuing through from the SMP at Westburn School.

- Discretionary Scholarship(s)

Burnside High School SMP Scholarships are paid in two instalments, at the mid-year point in years nine and ten. Payment is subject to satisfactory progress being made within the programme at each year level.

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AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAMME

Applications and video submissions are assessed by a panel, comprising a minimum of two people representing the SMP. Following this process, selected applicants will be invited to attend a face-to-face audition and interview; these applicants will be notified by email on the day (Thursday) before the scheduled face-to-face interviews, as will those who are unsuccessful. There are four aspects to the application process:

1. **Performance (by online video submission - instructions on following pages)**

Please prepare up to *five minutes* of music on your first instrument, demonstrating your current level of musicianship and technical ability. You are welcome to demonstrate a second instrument if you wish, again of up to five minutes' duration. An accompanist will not be provided although you may provide your own if you wish.

N.B
Applicants playing *Drums, Guitar or Bass Guitar* are required to prepare a more specific video audition, comprising several elements. Please contact the Arts Co-ordinator at Burnside High School if you have not received the instructions for these within 3 days of lodging your application.

2. **Aural Tests (conducted during face-to-face interviews for selected applicants only)**

- You will be asked to clap back the rhythm of a phrase not exceeding 4 bars.
- You will be asked to sing back the melody of a phrase not exceeding 4 bars.

3. **Quick Learning (conducted during face-to-face interviews for selected applicants only)**

- You will be asked to prepare an unaccompanied short piece of music/song on your first instrument if selected for interview. The level of difficulty will be within your performance capability and the music will be sent by email on the day (Thursday) before face-to-face interviews take place.

4. **Interview (conducted during face-to-face interviews for selected applicants only)**

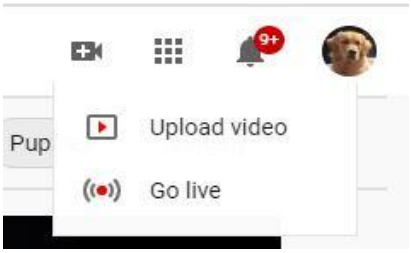
A brief discussion between the panel, the candidate and their parents/caregivers. There will also be an opportunity for questions at the conclusion of the interview.

Please ensure that your private music teacher is aware of these requirements.

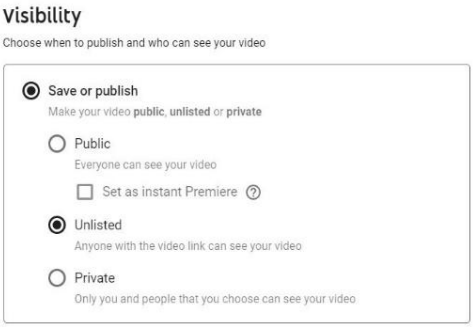
INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

Thank you for your application for the Specialist Music Programme at Burnside High School. The first stage of the audition process, once you have submitted your application form, involves making a video recording of yourself playing your chosen piece(s) and submitting via YouTube ***by 3.00pm on Monday 11th May 2026 (Monday 20th July if applying for the second session).***

To do this you will need to:



1. Create your own YouTube channel (if you don't have one already). This is a very straightforward process. On YouTube's home page look to the top right of screen. Click on the 9 dot grid and select "Go live" – this will guide you through the process
2. Upload your audition video to your channel, making sure you categorise it as **"unlisted"** in the settings – this means it is only viewable by someone who has the link to it.
3. Finally, email the link to your video to: krg@burnside.school.nz



In preparing your video, please follow the guidelines outlined below:

1. The video must be submitted as one file
2. Make sure you name the video clearly as follows: "(applicant's name) SMP audition 2026"
3. Start your video by speaking to introduce yourself and your pieces. Make sure you are close enough to the microphone, speak clearly and include all the following information:

    - Your full name
    - Your current school
    - Your main instrument (ie the one you are auditioning for SMP on) and any other instruments that you play
    - The name and composer of your piece(s) in performance order (you can do this in between pieces if you have more than one or all at the beginning as you prefer)
    - *If you are also playing a piece on your second instrument in your audition (this is not compulsory) please introduce that piece in the same way but as part of the same video file.*
    - Then go straight into your performance. Please limit your performance to 5 minutes playing time on your main instrument plus a short piece on your second instrument if appropriate (again, it is not a requirement to play a second instrument). Choose music that fully demonstrates your strengths as a performer; if you need to perform two pieces in order to do this that is fine but please keep the total performance time as close to 5 minutes as possible.
    - Contemporary instrument applicants (guitar, bass, drums) please perform the exercises/rudiments that you will have received from us, introducing each aspect before you play it e.g *"This is my flam"* – play the flam; *"This is my pressed roll"* = play the pressed roll etc.

- It is fine to pause the recording, or make separate recordings, if you need to switch instruments/warm up/tune etc. but remember you must only send one final video file in total, containing all your performances.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE…

- Position the camera carefully so that the performer is clearly seen in full shot; ideally use a tripod or similar to maintain a steady image. For pianists please angle the camera so that the face and fingers can be seen if possible; for wind, brass, drums, guitar and strings players we need to see the performer's face and hands so please position music stands carefully or play from memory if possible.
- Please aim to capture the best sound quality possible. If you have access to an external microphone that can be connected to your device please use it as they produce superior results to the built-in microphone. When your recording is complete, please check that the sound is clear and at a strong audible level without any distortion. This check is best done through headphones.
- Piano accompanists are not absolutely required for SMP auditions, although if you are able to organise one that is always appreciated. No applicant will be penalised for not having a live accompanist; feel free to use a backing track or just play unaccompanied.

What Happens Next?

The audition panel will view your video on Thursday 14th May (23rd July for the second session). Your video will also be shared with the relevant SMP tutor in advance (Wind, Brass, Piano, Jazz, Strings) and they will give their feedback and opinion as to the applicant's suitability for SMP to the panel.

Those applicants that, in the opinion of the panel and tutors, demonstrate an appropriate level of performance on their specialist instrument will be contacted by email by 5.00pm on Thursday 14th May (23rd July for the second session) and invited to a face-to-face interview the following day.

Interviews will take place at The Piano, Armagh Street, during school hours and both the child and their parent(s) must be present. During that interview applicants will complete the other audition elements ie:

- Quick Learning – instrumentalists will receive a piece by email which they should prepare and play in their interview.
- Aural tests – sing back a phrase; clap back a phrase (these will be played to you by a member of the audition panel)
- Short discussion, including parents. In this discussion we want to ascertain the applicant's reasons for choosing to apply for our programme, their approach to personal practice, musical goals and level of focus, other interests outside of music etc. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

All applicants, including those not selected for interview, will receive a letter by email and hard copy as soon as possible following the auditions advising them of the result of their audition, providing feedback as appropriate and next steps for those offered a place.

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BURNSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAMME APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT SURNAME: _____ **FIRST NAME:**_____

DOB: _____

HOME ADDRESS:

_____

CURRENT SCHOOL: _____

PARENT/CAREGIVER NAME:

_____

PARENT CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT CONTACT E MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please tick relevant boxes below

☐ I have New Zealand Citizenship
☐ I have Permanent Residency

1st Instrument (N.B Not Voice) _____

Level Achieved:_____ Current Teacher: _____

2nd Instrument(s): _____

Level Achieved: _____ Current Teacher: _____

Music group/activities (current and past):

Other Information to support your application (optional). You may attach additional pages.

REFERENCE

Please provide a written reference supporting the students' application. Either attach this to the application or forward by email to Gabby Kerr (Burnside High School Arts Coordinator): krg@burnside.school.nz ; references must be received before the face-to-face interview date of the relevant session.

References should include the writer's email and telephone contact details, position/relationship to the applicant, and comment specifically on the applicant's:

Suitability for membership of an advanced music programme

Academic ability

Behaviour, attitude and personal attributes

Anything else relevant to the application

SMP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application by the published deadlines, please check that you have:

☐ Completed the Burnside High School Enrolment Application Form and attached any required documents (please refer to the Enrolment Information Book which is available from the school reception). The form can also be downloaded from our website www.burnside.school.nz

☐ Completed the Performance Music Application Form (located in the Burnside High School Enrolment Book)

☐ Completed the Specialist Music Programme Application Form (contained in this document) or completed the online application form on the SMP website: www.specialistmusicprogramme.co.nz

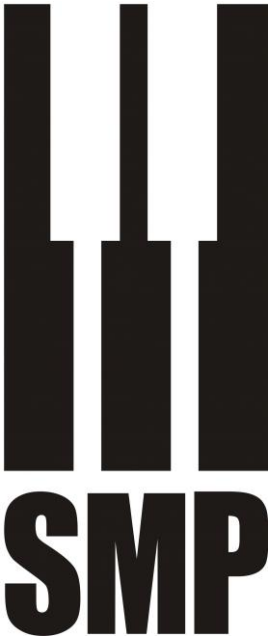
Please post or return your completed application to:

The Receptionist, Burnside High School, Greers Rd, PO Box 29 677 Christchurch 8540

All questions relating to the SMP to be directed to Chris Petch, HOD Music by email: pe@burnside.school.nz

See the SMP website for further information about our unique programme:

www.specialistmusicprogramme.co.nz



SMP INFORMATION EVENING

An SMP information meeting for prospective students and parents will be held on Wednesday 29th April at 6.30pm in the staffroom at Burnside High School (access from the main school car park on Greers Road). The general Burnside High School Open Evening is on Tuesday 12th May; this will provide an opportunity to look around the Music Department and meet staff and students.

Thank you for your interest in the Specialist Music Programme at Burnside High School.

Chris Petch
HOD Music, Director of Specialist Music Programme