Department of Education

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Learning changes lives

WA Massed Choir Festival

Saturday 19 September 2026

Concert 4 • 7 concert series

From the Minister for Education

Welcome to the 2026 Massed Choir Festival, an incredible celebration of music and the talent of our Western Australian public school students.

As a former teacher, I know the important role music can play in building confidence, creativity and connection. There is something quite magical about seeing thousands of students come together – after months of practice – to perform for their families, friends and loved ones. For every student taking part, stepping onto the stage is the result of their commitment and hard work. I know that the students participating tonight will make memories that will last a lifetime. The Massed Choir Festival is also a wonderful reminder of how music can bring school communities together. Congratulations to every student performing, and thank you to the school leaders, teachers, conductors, accompanists, families and everyone behind the scenes who has helped make this festival possible.

Hon Sabine Winton MLA
Minister for Education

From the Director General

The Department of Education is proud to support the Massed Choir Festival again in 2026.

The festival, a series of fantastic, and quite moving concerts, features the voices of thousands of students from all over Western Australia. Every student taking part should be proud of the commitment, teamwork and many hours of practice that have brought them to the stage at Perth HPC. I extend my thanks to the teachers, conductors, accompanists, families and organisers whose dedication and support make this experience possible for so many students. The Massed Choir Festival is a great example of the value of music education and the opportunities it provides for young people to come together, build confidence and share the joy of performing. We are pleased to support an event that gives so many students the opportunity to be part of something special.

Jay Peckitt
Director General

Committee acknowledgements

Marsha Almeida
Stephanie Bojanich
Alison Conroy
Anni Crowe
Mary-Anne Goyder
Kate Graham
Amy Hall
Mandy Herriman
Mirelle Hopwood
Kate Humphreys
Graham Jamison
Jenny Lourens
Kirstin MacLean
Kailee Marshall
Tim Marshall
Lynda Pateman
Dixee Poh
Emily Ruddock
Lana Winfield

Songs

1. Let Me Entertain You
Music and lyrics by
Robbie Williams and Guy Chambers

2. Help!
Music and lyrics by
John Lennon and Paul McCartney

3. Every Day My Mother's Voice
Music and lyrics by
Paul Kelly and Dan Sultan

4. Away From The Screen
Music and lyrics by Paul Jarman

5. Wars Of The West
Music and lyrics by Mark Puddy

6. Something Just Like This
Music and lyrics by
A. Taggart, G. Berryman, J. Buckland,
W. Champion and C. Martin,

7. Message Of Hope
Music and lyrics by Glyn Lehmann

8. Chosen Family
Music and lyrics by R. Sawayama,
D. Harle and J. Lattimer

9. Keep The Beat
Music and lyrics by
Lin-Manuel Miranda

10. Revolting Children
Music and lyrics by Tim Minchin

11. Can't Stop The Feeling
Music and lyrics by
J. Timberlake, M. Martin and Shellback

Instrumentalists

Piano
Andrew Angel

Percussion
Pete Evans and Marcus Perrozzi

Bass guitar
Karl Florisson

String quartet
Churchlands Senior High School

Guest choir

The Baden Street Singers
Nick Schurmann

Comperes

Keesha O Kwor
West Leeming Primary School

Lily Hayman
Newborough Primary School

Schools

Alkimos Primary School
Yoann Degioanni

Beechboro Primary School
Kelly Raynsford

Beverley District High School
Melissa Blechynden / Gemma Ugle

Canning Vale Primary School
Megan Ward / Katrina Nesser

Clifton Hills Primary School
Jody Taylor

Eden Hill Primary School
Kristin Miell

Forest Crescent Primary School
Rebekah Britten

Harrisdale Primary School
Hannah Beltrama / Shantelle Bryce

Honeywood Primary School
Lynda Pateman

Kardinya Primary School
Ruth Sutton

Newborough Primary School
Dee Ritchie

North Perth Primary School
Amanda Haines

Somerly Primary School
Monyka Beeson

West Leeming Primary School
Amy Hall

Yangebup Primary School
Annemarie Harris

Soloists

Evie Atiya
Harrisdale Primary School

Angelina Browning
Beechboro Primary School

Ivy Burry
West Leeming Primary School

Penny Mahady
North Perth Primary School

Drake Minshull
Yangebup Primary School

Karin Visser
Clifton Hills Primary School

Conductors

Mary-Anne Goyder

Mary-Anne Goyder has been a secondary music teacher, instrumental teacher and primary music teacher over her teaching career.

Mary-Anne adjudicates at choral festivals and provides Professional Learning to teachers. In 2007 she was awarded the inaugural 'National Award for Excellence in School Music Education-Excellence By A Teacher'. On International Women's Day 2019, Mary-Anne was awarded the 'Women of Achievement Award' by the Director General of Education.

Mary-Anne has been the President and Music Director for the Massed Choir Festival since 2000. She has also been a conductor of the MCF since 2009.

Mirelle Hopwood

Mirelle Hopwood has been conducting the Massed Choir Festival since 2012.

Mirelle has had a keen interest in choral music and conducting since graduating from WAAPA with a Bachelor of Music (Perf) and a Grad Dip Ed from ECU.

Since 2001, Mirelle has been a secondary music teacher in the GATE Music Program at Churchlands Senior High School, where she teaches classroom music, and directs various ensembles. Mirelle is a passionate advocate for choral singing, not only as a central part of any musical education, but also for the profound expressive, social, emotional and physiological benefits it provides and the communities that it creates. Mirelle is currently the Musical Director for the Perth Pride Choir, a community choir celebrating the LGBTIQA+ community and their allies.

Why sing in a choir?

The neuroscience of singing is proven to make us happier, healthier, smarter and more creative. Around the world, research demonstrates the benefits of community singing. This includes improved mood and general alertness, cognitive benefits, as well as social and psychosocial benefits. The benefits of singing in a choir are across a person's life and can improve participants' sense of belonging and engenders a positive sense of community while giving a strong sense of identity.

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PHOTO BOOTH

Dr PAUL TUNZI AM
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For photos of the event:
prophotoboothwa.com.au
Password: mc26

For videos of the event:
Rogerson Audio Visual
www.massedchoirfestival.video

Cover artwork

Eshal Sayooj from Bull Creek Primary School