

QUEENSLAND CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Music Festival

Some History...

The festival began in 1991 with 43 entries from 15 schools. Since then growth has occurred each and every year to over 350 performances by over 10,000 students from 85 schools in 2010. Last year this equated to nearly 100 hours of music performance. To cater for the ongoing growth of the festival we have expanded our venues to include Goold Hall and the Augustine Centre at Villanova, and both the church and hall at St James Church (one block South of Villanova).

The festival has become a major event in the calendar of many Catholic schools and colleges throughout the State. Because of the outstanding service it provides to Catholic education, both the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Brisbane Catholic Education sponsor the festival. Also, in 2006 Ellaways Music became our Major Sponsor and has shown great support by pledging to remain a long-term sponsor of the festival.

As QCMF is a non-profit organisation, this and other sponsorship from the business community is crucial to covering the annual operating budget of approximately \$45,000. Each year performance entry fees and audience admission prices are set to cover the balance of operating costs in staging the festival.



Major Sponsor



Important things for parents and visitors to

Get there early: To avoid missing a performance, ensure that you are at the **correct venue**, and that you're there early. With respect to the performers, adjudicators and audience, **once a performance begins the doors will close until the end of each performance**. Some parents have been quite upset in the past when they have arrived late have been denied entry, so ensure you're there early!

Parking: Street parking is available around the College and St James Church, but it will be very busy, so plan for this wisely (arrive early, carpool, use public transport or prepare to have a good hike) so you don't miss a performance.

Festival Entry Fees: As with all festivals, there is an entry fee to pay at the door, whether you plan to attend one performance or the entire weekend. **The single-day fee is \$5 for unlimited performances across 4 venues, or \$10 for the entire four days.**

Food: Hot food, snacks, cold drinks and coffee are available to purchase on campus from a variety of vendors. Food is not permitted inside performance venues, in keeping with the lessons we all teach our students about concert hall etiquette.

Child Supervision - please do not leave your children unsupervised at the festival on the weekend.

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2011

www.qcmf.com.au



***An information sheet
for directors, parents and
festival guests***

QUEENSLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & COLLEGES Music Festival

Who participates in QCMF?

Junior, Middle and Senior Catholic schools and colleges from Brisbane and South-East Queensland, as well as many other schools from Cairns, Mackay, Emerald, Gladstone, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Bundaberg, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, and further. Colleges from New South Wales and even New Zealand have also attended.



Our Adjudicators

The festival committee takes great care in selecting respected local and inter-state professional music educators who share the supportive and non-competitive philosophy of the festival.

When is QCMF?

The festival always occurs during the last weekend of the Brisbane Exhibition in August. Both Villanova College and St James School have a student-free day on the Friday of this week to allow the Festival to run.

How does the Villanova Community support QCMF?

The Villanova College community is proud to have been organizing and presenting this festival for 19 years. This festival itself is a non-profit organization with its own committee, financial control and sponsorship which is completely separate from Villanova College. The committee is made up of Villanova teachers, parents, old boys, and local community members who have an enthusiasm for providing such a great service to Catholic school music programs.

The College administration and staff are very supportive in preparing the entire college for over 10,000 visitors. Friday becomes a student-free day, and Villanova takes the Ekka Holiday on Thursday, when the classrooms are transformed to warm-up areas, the tuckshop gets reconfigured, and many other important changes are made to facilitate this great event.

Each year there are more than 400 shifts requiring volunteers during the festival weekend. These priceless people take care of all of the backstage organization, escorting student ensembles to and from warm-up rooms, catering, manning the front-of-house, information booth, bus marshalling, and the list goes on.

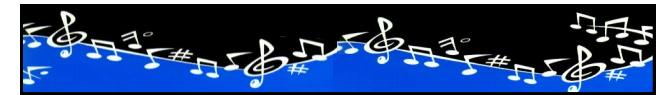
Please feel free to ask any volunteer any question you might have while you're at the festival, and if the opportunity arises, give them a pat on the back - - it will be very appreciated!



www.vnc.qld.edu.au/music

The Performance Process

Performing ensembles go through a series of stages as a part of their festival performance. First, the ensemble meets and checks in at the Warm-Up area either at Villanova College or at St James Church. At the allocated time, the ensemble is led to a warm-up room to unpack instruments, organise music, and do some warming up. They will be collected by a volunteer to take them to a staging area near their performance space to await going on stage—this must be done in silence! They are then directed to the performance stage, and after finishing are returned to their warm-up room to pack up. At this point, the very best thing for them to do is return to the audience to enjoy other performances and to listen to the adjudication at the end of the section.



The QCMF Philosophy

Festival... not Competition!

Probably the most frequent comment we receive about the festival is that the atmosphere or vibe of the entire weekend is very positive. We like to think of the event as a celebration of all of the great things associated with performing music, and therefore do not award ranked winners.

Our Awards: In keeping with the non-competitive atmosphere, our awards system is very different than that of a competitive event. In order to take a positive and supportive approach to rewarding excellence in performance, we have a Gold, Silver and Bronze award system where every ensemble that successfully participates in any section will receive an award. A Certificate of Encouragement also exists for the very rare occurrence of an ensemble not successfully finishing their performance, hence not meeting the criteria of a bronze award. Therefore we will have student representatives of every ensemble on stage during the adjudication for that section.