

# June 2016- September 2017 report

**Tutor: Tammy Clark**

## **Studio: Musical Performance and Private Vocal Tutor**

### **My return to work**

After being on leave, I returned to the conservatorium in mid Term1. I returned earlier than originally planned at the request of the director, Rebecca Ryan. Unfortunately we lost students during my absence and I agreed to return in the hope to rebuild the Musical Performance groups. It has been a productive year so far. The primary group has grown again with some original students returning for another year. Others moved up from the infants group and many new students joined the group. The infants group is only small with between 2 and 3 students regularly attending and the director, Rebecca and I are working on strategies to promote this group and attract more students such as an increase in advertisement of the group and lowering the age to join.

### **Performance Opportunities**

Giving students performance opportunities and experience plays a large role in musical performance groups. As part of their performance opportunities both groups successfully competed in the 2017 Gunnedah eisteddfod. Every item that was entered was awarded a place. We entered the musical entertainment, musical theatre and interpretive sections. The primary groups came away with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the minimum number of performers requirement the infants group competed in the primary sections as we needed some of the primary students to participate in their item. The Infants received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place against many schools and older, more experienced performers. We also entered duet sections with different combinations of infants students. Two infants girls received a Highly commended which was a huge achievement as they were competing in a primary age section. There isn't an infants duet section offered in Gunnedah eisteddfod.

Both Musical Performance groups also performed in the mid-year Conservatorium Showcase and I was happy to hear reports from audience members about the high quality of each group and duet.

We are currently working on new items for a mini-concert which will include both my individual students and groups. This performance will be in late term 4.

The involvement for both musical performance groups has been requested for the show which Sandra Clark is directing. As part of their musical performance classes I have set aside some time to work on this.

We will also be including the Musical performance Groups in the End of Year Conservatorium Showcase.

### **Musical Performance Groups include**

Apart from performance skills and etiquette, musical performance group classes also include

- Musicianship/theory
- Vocal technique
- Rhythmic movement
- Drama
- Percussion
- Group, duet and solo work

## **Private/ Individual vocal tuition**

This year I have lost some of my students which I had before my leave due to changes to my work timetable on my return. I have however gained many new students and I am now at capacity in the afternoons and evenings, with the only spaces available being before school Tuesdays.

### **Lessons include**

In private lessons I continue to try and expose my students to a number of different genres of music. These include, pop, musical theatre, classical, folk and Australian art songs. I believe it is important to involve each student when choosing songs and I accommodate this by giving them a choice of different songs to choose from. In lessons I also allocate time for musicianship/ theory, aural skills, sight reading, scales, vocal technique, expression and performance skills.

I encourage home practice by setting goals for the week with each student every lesson. For example, this week I am going to memorise my scales. To do this I will practice my scales once every day.

### **Eisteddfod**

This year all my students entered in multiple sections at the Gunnedah Eisteddfod. All students received multiple places in the eisteddfod. They all performed at a standard that was either the same or higher than other competitors. My student Lucy Lawrence was invited back to compete in the most promising vocalist section and was awarded runner up. This was a huge achievement as Lucy was once of the younger students to be invited back.

### **AMEB Examinations**

When I believe students are at exam level I encourage them to perform in AMEB Examinations. This year both Kaitlyn McAuley and Lucy Lawrence completed AMEB exams. This was Kaitlyn's second time doing a Musical theatre exam and she received an A/Distinction in Grade 2. Even though Lucy Lawrence was 2 years younger than the recommended age to complete the Preliminary Musical theatre exam I believed that Lucy had the maturity and skill to complete this exam. Lucy not only passed her exam but she received an A+/ High Distinction (the highest mark available).

All my school aged students are now currently working on exam work for next year. I have decided to take the approach that if we specifically target exam work early more students will have confidence to undertake their exams next year.

It is also very exciting to have an adult vocal student commence vocal lessons with me. I am working with this man to further develop his voice. I feel that it is encouraging for our younger students to see an adult participating in vocal tuition. I also feel it is an excellent reflection on the Conservatorium to know we are attracting not only children to our service.

### **Performance opportunities**

I strive to give my students plenty of performance opportunities. All my individual students will also have the opportunity to perform with my musical performance groups in a concert in term 4. Work on this has already commenced. I am also working with each student to develop a large and diverse repertoire so that each student is prepared to take on other performance opportunities that unexpectedly arise.

## **Conclusion**

Overall, I feel this year has been very successful for both the musical performance groups and my private individual studio students. All students are developing musically and growing in confidence and maturity. I look forward to the rest of the year and the year ahead.

Mrs. Tammy Clark

Musical Performance Tutor

Vocal Tutor