



2025 Festival Information for Schools

Sunday 17 August to Wednesday 20 August 2025
Years 7-12 and World Music Academy

The HICES Music Festival brings together over 400 musicians from across HICES schools in New South Wales. In 2025, we will bring together like-minded musicians for the HICES Music Festival Years 7-12 and World Music Academy.

Students will work with experienced conductors and guest conductors Mr Guy Noble and Mr Mark O'Leary OAM at The Tops Conference Centre in Stanwell Tops. All camp participants will be transported to Sydney Town Hall for final rehearsals, and the event will culminate with the Festival Concert on the evening of Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 7.00pm.

Travel to Stanwell Tops on Sunday, and from Sydney Town Hall after the Festival Concert, will be arranged by individual HICES schools.

The Camp – The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops

The Tops Conference Centre, located in Stanwell Tops is an outstanding venue. The Centre offers excellent accommodation and rehearsal facilities and provides the perfect music camp location. Students will be housed in cabins, grouped by school where possible.

Each full day of the Music Festival will consist of three daytime sessions, and one evening session. Daytime sessions include rehearsal time, tutorials and outdoor activities. Evenings are packed with student concerts, Trivia Night, and a special "Preview Concert".

The Festival Concert – Sydney Town Hall

Final rehearsals and the Festival Concert will take place at Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 20 August 2025. Information about ticket purchases to the Festival Concert will be available from the beginning of Term 3, 2025.

Supervision

The Festival is fully supervised by staff from HICES Schools, and each school represented will have staff in attendance. All staff involved in the Festival meet the requirements for working with children.

Ensembles

There will be seven combined school ensembles at the HICES Music Festival Years 7-12, including the World Music Academy. In addition, all students will be involved in the Festival Finale item.

- Concert Band
- Symphonic Winds
- String Orchestra
- Symphony Orchestra
- Vocal Ensemble
- Chorale
- World Music Academy
- HICES Music Festival Finale

Allocation to ensembles will be made by the HICES Music Festival Organisers, based on application, audition, and school feedback.

The HICES Music Festival World Music Academy will be running concurrently with the Years 7-12 Festival.

The World Music Academy is designed for students who have a specific interest in World Music and/or who play cultural instruments or other instruments not generally or regularly included in a Western Orchestra, Concert Band or Jazz Band. Examples include Sáo (Vietnam), orchestral harp, erhu (China), electric/acoustic guitar, tabla (India), recorder, and uilleann pipes (Ireland). The program includes master classes, ensemble playing and performance, as well as music theory, history and improvisation.

Suitable students for the World Music Academy are open-minded, flexible and willing to “have a go” to enable them to succeed with improvisation and collaboratively creating musical arrangements. It is preferred that students have some skill in reading traditional notation, but it is not mandatory.

Camp Fees and Inclusions

The cost of the 2025 HICES Music Festival will be **\$660 per student**. All accommodation and meals during the Festival, and a special Festival Hoodie are included in this cost. This also includes transport from Stanwell Tops to Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 20 August.



Apply Now! Student Applications are now open.

**Applications will close on Wednesday 2 April 2025.
No late applications will be accepted.**

**Apply for the HICES Music Festival Years 7-12
and World Music Academy
[here](#)**

A recorded audition will also be required. The audition process for the HICES Festival is a placement audition which will be coordinated by your HICES School Music Department. This process will determine which ensemble you will be in for this year's event. It is important all students take the audition seriously through preparation of the correct requirements. Students who do not follow the criteria will not be considered for any ensemble.

Please note, if you make a 2nd choice on the Student Application, a 2nd auditions will also be required for this instrument/voice.

HICES Music Festival Years 7-12 - Instrumentalists

- One prepared piece of your choice, unaccompanied, that displays your ability. Duration 1-2 minutes.
- One unprepared sight-reading excerpt, provided by your teacher from the HICES Festival Committee.

HICES Music Festival Years 7-12 - Vocalists

- Advance Australia Fair or alternative, performed with a supplied counter melody recording, provided by your teacher from the HICES Festival Committee.

HICES Music Festival - World Music Academy

- One prepared piece of your choice, unaccompanied, that displays your ability. Duration 1-2 minutes.

Tips for a Successful Audition

- Be well prepared so you will be less nervous.
- Practice your prepared piece with attention to detail. Dynamics and expression are important.
- Spend as much time practicing sight reading as you can.
- Dress in your uniform to show you care about your performance.
- Be friendly, confident, and speak your name and school clearly looking into the camera.

The audition panel will look at your technical proficiency, tone and overall skills in your video.

Audition recordings are to be collated and submitted to the HICES Festival Committee by each school. Student Auditions are due **Monday 12 May 2025**.

Placements

Acceptance into the HICES Music Festival, and allocation of ensembles will be determined by the HICES Music Festival Organisers. Offers will be made during Term 2, via your HICES School Music Department. In some instances, additional offers may be made late in Term 2, or the beginning of Term 3.

Since 1988, the HICES Music Festival has provided an outstanding opportunity for young musicians in HICES schools to gather and experience musical excellence. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful event in 2024.

For further information, please contact your HICES School Music Department.