

# ENCORE



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

2 March 2026

## Performances, compositions and musicology by HSC Music students

Excellence from the 2025 Higher School Certificate



Image: Tengis Meiklejohn from ENCORE 2025

## Master of Ceremonies



### Alexander Billet

No stranger to the ENCORE stage, HSC Showcase alumnus Alex Billet was selected to perform in both ENCORE and drama showcase, OnSTAGE in 2025 and returns this year as special guest MC.

A proud graduate of Riverstone High School, Alex was a featured artist in the NSW Schools Spectacular from 2021 to 2024, and in Southern Stars Arena Spectacular in 2023.

Alex is currently studying Musical Theatre at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and recently starred in Dural Musical Society's *Little Women*, playing Professor Bhaer. Other performance credits include 'Scuttle' in Pan Academies of the Performing Arts (PACA) *The Little Mermaid*, Ensemble in Willoughby Theatre Company's *The Sound of Music*, 'Tin Man' in the Jess T production *Straight Out of Oz*, and 'Butler' in the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) production of *Lights in the Park*.

Later this year Alex will be starring in the Australian Amateur Premiere of the PACA production of Disney's *Frozen the Musical*.



Image: Kanon Alice Thorald from ENCORE 2024

# Program

## Part 1



**Luke Young** Maclean High School (Yaegl Country)  
**YYZ**

Composer: **Rush**

Instrument: **Drums**

Associate artists: **Kaylan Ferguson (electric guitar),  
Ethan Moore (bass guitar)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Rock Music** ■ Performance

Rush's *YYZ* is a rhythmically driven work that highlights tight ensemble coordination and rhythmic precision. It features contrasting sectional interplay between drums, electric guitar and bass.



**Emma Zhang** Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney  
(Wangal Country)

***Hommage D.S.C.H***

Composer: **Albert Landa**

Instrument: **Cello**

Associate artist: **Andrew Basile (piano)**

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music of the Last 25 Years (Australian focus)**

■ Performance

Drawing inspiration from Shostakovich's musical signature D–E $\flat$ –C–B (D.S.C.H.), Landa reimagines this motif within a contemporary chamber context. The work uses the motif as a unifying device from which the musical material evolves.



**Jed Pearce** The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond  
River High Campus (Bundjalung Country)

***Komorebi***

Composer: **Jed Pearce**

Instrument: **Piano**

Associate artists: **Benjamin Adler (violin), Bronwyn Kirkpatrick  
(shakuhachi), Jed Pearce (piano), Eleanor Streatfeild (cello)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Instrument and its Repertoire** ■ Composition

*Komorebi*, a Japanese term describing sunlight filtering through leaves, informs the work's atmospheric sound world. The composition synthesises idiomatic elements of shakuhachi music with contemporary chamber textures.



**Freya Nylund** Riverside Girls High School  
(Wallumedegal Country)

***Take Me Home***

Composer: **Pentatonix**

Instrument: **Voice**

Associate artists: **Eleanor Donovan (voice), Morgan Nyland (voice)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Music for Small Ensembles** ■ Performance

Performed as an acappella trio, *Take Me Home* explores themes of belonging through close vocal harmony. The arrangement highlights blend, balance and ensemble precision.



**Harry Kane** Newtown High School of Performing Arts  
(Gadigal Country)

***Vocalise***

Composer: **Sergio Rachmaninoff**

Instrument: **Trumpet**

Associate artists: **Bradley Gilchrist (piano)**

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music of 20th and 21st Centuries** ■ Performance

Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise*, arranged for trumpet, transforms the original wordless melody into a lyrical showcase of tone and phrasing. The piece emphasises expressive legato lines and dynamic shaping, demanding both technical control and emotional depth from the performer.



**Noah Yardley** Coffs Harbour Christian Community College  
(Gumbaynggirr Country)

***Sir Duke***

Composer: **Stevie Wonder (arr. Nathan East)**

Instrument: **Bass guitar**

Associate artists: **Eric Blair (piano), Justus Yardley (drums)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Popular Music** ■ Performance

This instrumental arrangement of *Sir Duke* foregrounds the melodic and rhythmic capabilities of the bass guitar, within a funk-influenced popular music style.



**Freda Chen** Ascham School, Edgecliff (Gadigal Country)

### **Snapshots**

Composer: **Catherine Likhuta**

Instrument: **French horn**

Associate artist: **Phillida Green (piano)**

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Australian Music of the Last 25 years (Australian focus)**

■ **Performance**

*Snapshots* showcases virtuosic horn and piano writing characteristic of Catherine Likhuta's compositional style. Structured as a sequence of contrasting musical 'scenes', the work juxtaposes rhythmic energy with more reflective passages, highlighting the composer's distinctive approach to colour, momentum and textural interplay.



**Austin Ying** Northern Beaches Secondary College, Manly Selective Campus (Gayamaygal Country)

### **Summer Beckons**

Composer: **Sally Greenaway**

Instrument: **Violin**

Associate artists: **Felix Qian (piano)**

Subject: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music of the last 25 years (Australian focus)**

■ **Performance**

*Summer Beckons* features lyrical melodic writing inspired by birdsong and natural soundscapes. The work unfolds through flowing violin lines supported by warm harmonic textures, with subtle rhythmic movement contributing to its sense of lightness and seasonal energy. Greenaway's writing reflects a contemporary Australian lyrical style.



**Ben Hocking** SHORE School, North Sydney (Gamaragal Country)

### **Bui Doi**

Composers: **Claude-Michel Schönberg, Alain Boublil, Richard Maltby Jr.**

Instrument: **Voice**

Associate artists: **Choir: Alexander Beattie, Ollie Bucktin, Toby Cochrane, Katherine Day, Ryan Gilmour, Ed Godfrey, Sam Lanham, William Lee, Liam O'Neill, Jeddy Sam, Will Watson, Archie Watson, Hamish Wenden, Rory Wenden**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Theatre Music** ■ **Performance**

*Bui Doi* is a dramatic ensemble number from *Miss Saigon* in which the character, John, draws attention to the children fathered by American soldiers during the Vietnam War, known as the "bui doi" ("dust of life"). Through its expansive melodic writing and choral textures, the song underscores the work's call for recognition and responsibility.



**Tiko Lay** PLC, Armidale (Anaiwan Country)  
***Lessons from Birds***

Composer: **Tiko Lay**

Instrument: **Flute**

Associate artists: **Choir: Arlie Bragg, Teya Catterall, Ruby Crothers, Mem Lay, Matthew Minter**

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music of the last 25 years (Australian focus)** ■ Composition

*Lessons from Birds* captures the variety of native bird calls in regional Australia, interpreting lyrics by Australian poet Judith Wright. This composition was a joy to create, bringing together friends and family to honour a much-loved teacher who is no longer with us.



**Solange Amanda Hidalgo** Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville (Dharawal Country)  
***Danza del Sicuri***

Composer: **Savia Andina**

Instrument: **Charango**

Associate artists: **Marcelo Luis Hidalgo (quena and zamponas), Sebastian Hidalgo (guitar), Eduardo Rodriguez (bombo and zamponas)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Music For Small Ensembles** ■ Performance

*Danza del Sicuri* is an immersive folkloric piece that celebrates the culture and spirituality of Indigenous Andean people. Featuring the traditional ensemble of charango, quena, zamponas, bombo and guitar, the piece reflects characteristic rhythmic vitality associated with sikuri performance traditions.



**Logan Chan** Conservatorium High School, Sydney (Gadigal Country)  
***Finale from Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25***

Composer: **Johannes Brahms**

Instrument: **Piano**

Associate artists: **Haruki Muramatsu (viola), Maggie Zeng (violin), Roy Zhang (cello)**

Course: **Music Extension** ■ Performance

The finale of Brahms's *Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25* is a virtuosic movement strongly influenced by Hungarian dance idioms. Marked by driving rhythms, syncopated accents and dense ensemble textures, the movement builds momentum toward an energetic and tightly wrought conclusion.

## INTERVAL

## Part 2



**Leo Carvalho Papa** McDonald College, Strathfield  
(Wangal Country)

### ***Night in Tunisia***

Composer: **Dizzy Gillespie** (arr. **Jesús Molina**)

Instrument: **Piano**

Associate artists: **Murray James** (electric bass), **Steve Lamante** (drums)

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Music of the 20th and the 21st centuries** ■ Performance

Jesús Molina's arrangement of *Night in Tunisia* reinterprets the jazz standard through a contemporary fusion approach, combining Latin-jazz rhythmic foundations with extended harmonic language. The arrangement maintains the work's distinctive melodic profile while introducing heightened textural density and rhythmic drive.



**Jerry Du** Sydney Boys High School, Moore Park  
(Gadigal Country)

### ***Sonatina for Flute and Piano Op. 98, Movement 1: Allegro ritmico Movement 3: Allegro vivace (1986 revisions of the 1953 original)***

Composer: **William Mathias**

Instrument: **Flute**

Associate artist: **Hank Hang Xiang** (piano)

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music 1945 to music 25 years ago** ■ Performance

Mathias' *Sonatina for Flute and Piano Op. 98* presents a synthesis of rhythmic vitality and structural clarity, with syncopated momentum and characteristic mid-twentieth-century harmonic language. The selected movements highlight the work's energetic interplay between flute and piano and its clearly articulated formal design.



**Annabelle Desmond** Meriden School, Strathfield  
(Wangal Country)

### ***Transcendence***

Composer: **Annabelle Desmond**

Instrument: **Viola**

Associate artists: **Yolanda Dolenac** (double bass), **Kiara Nguy** (cello), **Selina Wang** (violin), **Alina Yuan** (violin)

Course: **Music 2**

Topic: **Music of the last 25 years (Australian focus)** ■ Composition

*Transcendence* explores the journey from introspection to clarity, moving between free, unmetered rhythms and grounded, percussive pizzicato textures. The opening and closing sections invite performers to explore temporal freedom, creating a sense of suspended time and personal expression. As the music shifts into a more rhythmic, tactile space, the piece embodies the contrast between the intangible and the immediate.



**Allan Adov** Parramatta High School (Darug Country)  
***Rhapsodie espagnole***

Composer: Franz Liszt

Instrument: Piano

Course: Music Extension ■ Performance

*Rhapsodie espagnole (Spanish Rhapsody)*, 1858, is a virtuosic solo piano work based on Spanish dance themes the composer encountered during his 1845 tour of Spain and Portugal. The work has become a staple of the virtuoso repertoire, noted for its brilliant passagework and fiery character.



**Lillie Hobden** Wollongong High School of the  
Performing Arts (Dharawal Country)  
***Seven Nation Army***

Composer: Jack White and The White Stripes

Instrument: Voice

Associate artists: Ilija Gjorgjevski (drums), Nick Hains (trumpet),  
Thomas Hains (saxophone), Jayden Holt (drums), Valentina  
Infante (piano)

Course: Music 1

Topic: Music of the 20th and 21st Centuries ■ Performance

This arrangement of *Seven Nation Army* recontextualises the original rock work through jazz-influenced harmonic language and swing inflections while retaining its recognisable motivic material.



**Charlotte Wall** The Illawarra Grammar School,  
Wollongong (Dharawal Country)

***I Know Where I've Been (from Hairspray)***

Composer: Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Instrument: Voice

Associate artists: Joseph Morris (bass guitar), Brody Toombs  
(drums), Matthew Unwin (electric guitar), Karen Weir (piano)

Course: Music 1

Topic: An Instrument and its Repertoire ■ Performance

*I Know Where I've Been* is a gospel-influenced soul song from the musical *Hairspray*. Sung by Motormouth Maybelle, the number reflects on historical inequality and conveys themes of perseverance and hope.



**Joseph Whittaker** Barker College, Hornsby (Darug Country)

***The Altars of Glass***

Composer: **Joseph Whittaker**

Associate artists: **Mirabelle Chen (piano), Veronica Feng (tin whistle), Isabel Li (tenor drum), Leonard Tang (violin)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Music of a Culture** ■ Composition

*The Altars of Glass* is an Irish Folk-music inspired composition scored for tin whistle, fiddle, piano, and tenor drum. Inspired by the performer's Irish heritage, the work is structured with energetic and vibrant melodic lines.



**Bonnie Kirgan** Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (Gadigal Country)

***Vanilla Ice Cream (from She Loves Me)***

Composer: **Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick**

Instrument: **Voice**

Associate artist: **Nathaniel Kong (piano)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Music of the 20th and 21st Centuries** ■ Performance

This piece, from the 1963 musical *She Loves Me*, follows a shift from frustration to delight as the protagonist discovers a newfound affection, allowing the performer to showcase expressive storytelling and bright vocal agility.



**Raymond Wang** Sydney Grammar School, Darlinghurst (Gadigal Country)

***Klezmer Dances No. 3 "Let's be Happy"***

Composer: **Giora Feidman (arr. Göran Fröst)**

Instrument: **Clarinet**

Associate artist: **Anthony Chen (piano)**

Course: **Music Extension** ■ Performance

*Klezmer Dances No.3* arranged by Swedish violist Göran Fröst for his brother Martin Fröst, draws on traditional Jewish klezmer and folk influences. The work opens with a free, cadenza-like passage before moving into a lively dance section characterised by flexible phrasing, ornamentation and rhythmic vitality.



**Nicholas Kolmac** Marist Catholic College, Penshurst  
(Bidjigal Country)

### ***Wonderful Slippery Thing***

Composer: **Guthrie Govan**

Instrument: **Guitar**

Associate artists: **Jack Robert (drums), Mike Armaos (rhythm electric guitar), Kieran Smith (bass guitar)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **Rock Music** ■ Performance

*Wonderful Slippery Thing* is a popular electric guitar instrumental composed by the musician Guthrie Govan. The piece blends elements of jazz, funk, and rock, showcasing complex harmonies and incredible technical skill which makes it a favourite amongst modern guitarists and audiences.



**Orsen Bailey** St Edward's Christian Brothers' College,  
East Gosford (Darkinjung Country)

### ***Beat It***

Composer: **Michael Jackson**

Instrument: **Electric guitar**

Associate artists: **Adrian Biankin (drums), Paul Toole (bass guitar)**

Course: **Music 1**

Topic: **An Instrument and its Repertoire** ■ Performance

This electric guitar rendition of *Beat It* brings a fresh, high-energy twist to Michael Jackson's iconic track. It spotlights the driving riffs and legendary solo into a powerful instrumental showcase.

## Musicology

Musicology is the study of music, presented either in essay form (for Music 2 and Music Extension) or as a viva voce presentation (for Music 1). In the essay format, candidates explore one or more aspects of music in depth, demonstrating a deep understanding of the topic studied. The Musicology viva voce, on the other hand, is an interactive discussion between the examiner and candidate, where the candidate must showcase their understanding of the concepts and stylistic features of the music they have studied.

The following students presented exemplary musicology projects in the 2025 HSC.

**Lachlan Ashenden** The Hills Grammar School, Kenthurst  
(Darug Country)

**James Black** SHORE School, North Sydney (Gamaragal Country)

**Noah Bowen** St John's College, Dubbo (Bundjalung Country)

**Lawrence Briscoe-Hough** Marist Catholic College, Penshurst  
(Bidjigal Country)

**Lavinia Cacouratos** St Ursula's College, Kingsgrove (Bidjigal  
Country)

**Jordan Cooley** James Sheahan Catholic High School, Orange  
(Wiradjuri Country)

**Jules Cross** Lucas Heights Community School, Barden Ridge  
(Dharawal Country)

**Arque Dang** Northern Beaches Christian School, Frenchs Forest  
(Gamaragal Country)

**Hannah Day** Frensham, Mittagong (Gundungurra Country)

**Victoria Di Martino** The Illawarra Grammar School, Wollongong  
(Dharawal Country)

**Talitha Ellis** Inaburra School, Bangor (Dharawal Country)

**Ivana Gik** North Sydney Girls High School, Crows Nest  
(Gamaragal Country)

**Dahlia Issa** Bonnyrigg High School (Darug Country)

**Johanns Jied** Bonnyrigg High School (Darug Country)

**Oscar Kaiser** Macarthur Anglican School, Cobbitty  
(Dharawal Country)

**Sachin Kanagasundaram** Parramatta Marist High School  
(Darug Country)

**Rafael Kariippanon** Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts  
(Dharawal Country)

**Patrick Kilkelly** Asquith Boys High School (Darug Country)

**Prashant Kumar** William Clarke College, Kellyville (Darug Country)

**Eloise Lo** Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga (Darug Country)

**Poppy McIntyre** St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie  
(Birpai Country)

**Tomas Mimmocchi** International Grammar School, Sydney  
(Gadigal Country)

**Hamish Moore** Coffs Harbour Senior College  
(Gumbaynggirr Country)

**Sidney Murray** Muswellbrook High School (Wonnarua and Gamilaraay Countries)

**Shea Oh** Santa Sabina College, Strathfield (Wangal Country)

**Summer Pan** Hornsby Girls High School (Darug Country)

**James Peate** Waverley College, Waverley (Gadigal Country)

**Jakob Permann** Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus, Oatley (Gadigal and Darug Countries)

**Mitchell Rudman** Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (Gadigal Country)

**John Oghostin Sangar** Clancy Catholic College, West Hoxton (Darug Country)

**Emily Simmonds** Model Farms High School, Baulkham Hills (Darug Country)

**Zubaida Soliman** St Mary's Catholic College, Sydney (Gadigal Country)

**Austin Song** Sydney Grammar School, Darlinghurst (Gadigal Country)

**Kade Stamford** Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga (Gadigal Country)

**Claire Thompson** Hunter Valley Grammar School, Maitland (Wonnarua Country)

**Finley Thompson** Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (Dharawal Country)

**Chenyu Yan** Macquarie College, Newcastle (Awabakal Country)

**Sophia Youssef** Meriden School, Strathfield (Wangal Country)

**Brendan Yung** Marist Catholic College, Penshurst (Bidjigal Country)

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