

Updated: January 2017

Below is a full list of the Secondary and Primary school event criteria for this year's NSW School Band Festival.

Music Directors are free to choose the event level they believe most suits their ensemble. The SBF Board of Directors are aware that school ensembles vary in their ability levels from year to year and MDs are free to alter the event level to reflect these changes.

As the SBF is a non-competitive and educational event, MDs are encouraged to select an event level which will challenge their ensemble and the individual musicians to continue developing their musical ability. It runs counter to the philosophy of the Festival for MDs to select an event level below the ability level of their ensemble in order to ensure a Gold award.

While we understand that parental and school executive pressure to achieve a Gold award is a real issue, we believe it is far better for all those concerned with the Festival if these parties were educated as to the true purpose of this musical experience.

As the school band movement continues to mature in NSW we would naturally expect to see more and more bands entering the higher grades. As bands move into a higher level it is to be expected they might take a year or two to attain the standard capable of achieving a Gold award in that event category.

Compulsory Australian Composition Notice

From 2015 it became mandatory for all bands participating in the NSW School Band Festival to perform an Australian music item in all Festival event levels. The rationale behind this is to promote a home grown Australian music culture and to support the many Australian publishers and artists who are currently composing and arranging for the wind band and big band mediums.

All bands **MUST** include a piece that has been:

- Composed by an Australian or a resident whose work has largely been completed in Australia.
- Arranged by an Australian or a resident whose work has largely been completed in Australia.
Please note: *this does not include published works which have only had parts re-scored for alternative instrumentation.*

Secondary School Concert Band Events

The PERCY GRAINGER Event

Secondary School Concert Bands, Premier Event

To be held on a Saturday Afternoon/Evening

Music Guide

Grade: 3.5 and upwards (Fluent technique, challenging solo writing)

Difficulty: Medium to difficult

Length: Extended plus multi-movements

This is the Premier Event of the Festival, and is open to secondary school concert bands of the highest ability level.

- Bands entered in this section must present a **contrasting** program
- Bands must present a 20 - 25 minute (playing time) program
- Programs must include at least one **substantial** Australian composition
- Bands are required to provide TWO (2) copies of their scores for each work as there will be 2 adjudicators for this event.

All Music Directors are advised that the SBF will assist in providing a professional Guest Artist to perform with the band in the Grainger Event. Please contact the General Manager for details.

The DAVID STANHOPE Event

Secondary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 3.0 and upwards (Fluent technique, free use of solo scoring)

Difficulty: Intermediate to difficult

Length: Up to medium long, some multi-movements

This event is intended for:

- Established bands which perform at a high level
- Bands which may not have the complete instrumentation to qualify for The Percy Grainger Event

Other details:

- Bands must perform a **contrasting** program
- It is recommended a slow melody/choral/hymn or similar is included in the program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 15 minutes playing time applies to this section



The NSW School Band Festival
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The GRAHAM LLOYD Event

Secondary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 2.0 - 2.5 (Fluent technique, section and solo scoring)

Difficulty: Medium to Intermediate

Length: Short to medium

This event is intended for:

- Established bands which perform at a good level
- Bands comprised mostly of competent players (playing for three or more years)
- Bands which have a broad instrumentation, including percussion

Other Details:

- Bands are required to present a contrasting program
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 12 minutes playing time applies to this section

The RAYMOND HANSON Event

Secondary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 1.0 - 1.5 (Sound technique, some independence of parts)

Difficulty: Easy or 'late elementary' to medium

Length: Short

This event is intended for:

- Developing bands which have been performing together for more than twelve months
- Bands which are largely comprised of typical second or third year players who perform at a competent level

Other Details:

- Bands are required to perform **two – three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 9 minutes playing time applies to this section



The GEORGE DREYFUS Event

Secondary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Up to Grade 1.0 (Unison playing or several voices grouped together. Typical 1st year player)

Difficulty: Very easy or elementary

Length: Very short

This event is intended for:

- Bands which have formed this year and perform at an elementary level
- Training Band/Beginner Bands from established band programs
- Bands with typical first year players, including players who have not previously entered the Festival

Other Details:

- Bands are required to perform **two – three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 9 minutes playing time applies to this section

Concert Band Percussion Layout

All bands are required to perform using the large percussion items supplied

Image under construction

See website for more info

- No sticks, mallets or leads are provided.
- Bands are welcome to bring any small auxiliary percussion they may require.
- See our website for a full list of percussion equipment provided

Secondary School Big Band Events

The FRANK COUGHLAN Event

Premier Big Band Event
BY INVITATION ONLY

This is the Premier Big Band event of the Festival and is for bands consisting of ***the traditional big band line up*** of:

- 5 Saxophones
- 4 Trumpets
- 4 Trombones
- Rhythm section
- Vocalist/Instrumental Soloist (Optional)

- The total number of players in the Big Band should not exceed 20
- Instrumentation must adhere to the traditional Big Band line up
- Band which cannot comply with these conditions should enter the Don Burrows Event

Bands are required to present a 20-25 minute contrasting program

- Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals)
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

Please note: unless you have participated in this event previously you should consult the Festival GM prior to submitting your entry.

This event will take place in a commercial environment (a club auditorium or similar) and will attract a separate audience entry fee.

The DON BURROWS Event

Secondary School Big Bands - Open

This event is open to secondary school big bands consisting of:

- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Rhythm section
- No more than 4 electronic instruments are permitted
- Vocalist (Optional)

Note: It is permissible for bands in this section to use alternative instrumentation, although it is expected they attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instruments where possible.

Bands must present a contrasting program

Other Details:

- Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals)
- An Australian compositions/arrangement is compulsory

A time limit of 15 minutes (4 pieces MAXIMUM) playing time applies for this section.

The JOHN MORRISON Event

Secondary School Big Bands - Novice

This event is open to secondary school big bands:

- Which have formed this year and perform at an elementary level
- Which are Training Band/Beginner Bands from established band programs
- With typical first year players, including players who have not previously entered the Festival

This event is open to secondary school big bands consisting of:

- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Rhythm section
- No more than 4 electronic instruments are permitted
- Vocalist (Optional)

Note: It is permissible for bands in this section to use alternative instrumentation, although it is expected they attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instruments where possible.

Bands must present a contrasting program

Other Details:

- Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals)
- An Australian compositions/arrangement is compulsory

A time limit of 10 minutes (2 pieces MAXIMUM) playing time applies for this section.

Stage Set-up for Big Band events

Due to the necessity to re-set the stage after the concert band events, all Big Band events will take place at the end of each day. The stage set-up will be as per below. Piano will have mic. Electric keyboard will be available. There will be two vocal/soloist mics available. Auxiliary percussion available on request.



Raised stage for trumpets

Standing/Optional seating for Trombones

Seating for Saxophones

Audience

Primary School Concert Band Events

The ALEX LITHGOW Event

Primary School Concert Bands, Premier Event

To be held on a Sunday Afternoon/Evening

Music Guide

Grade: 2.5 and upwards (Fluent techniques, independence of parts, section and solo scoring)

Difficulty: Medium to Intermediate

Length: Up to medium long, some multi-movements

This is the premier event for Primary School Bands and demands a high standard of musicianship across a range of instrumentation.

- Bands entered in this section must present a **contrasting** program
- Bands must present a 15 - 18 minute (playing time) program
- Programs must include at least one **substantial** Australian composition
- Bands are required to provide TWO (2) copies of their scores for each work as there will be 2 adjudicators for this event.

The WILLIAM LOVELOCK Event

Primary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 2.0 – 2.5 (Sound techniques, independence of parts, section and solo scoring)

Difficulty: Medium (to intermediate – see above)

Length: Medium to medium long

This event is intended for:

- Established bands which have been performing at a high level for several years
- Bands whose players are competent on their instrument
- Bands which may lack the complete instrumentation to qualify for The Alex Lithgow Event

Other Details:

- Bands in this section are to play **two to three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 12 minutes playing time applies to this section



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The JOE COOK Event

Primary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 1.5 – 2.0 (Independence of parts, possible section and solo scoring)

Difficulty: Late elementary to medium (requiring sound technique across a range of instruments)

Length: Medium

This event is intended for:

- Established bands which have been performing at a good level for some years
- Lovelock/Lithgow level bands which are in the process of rebuilding
- Bands whose players have been learning their instrument for two or more years
- Bands which have a broad instrumentation, including percussion

Other Details:

- Bands in this section are to play **two to three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 12 minutes playing time applies to this section

The ROBERT McANALLY Event

Primary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 1.0 - 1.5 (Some independence of parts)

Difficulty: Easy or late elementary to medium (typical 2nd year player)

Length: Short to medium

This event is intended for:

- Developing bands that have been together for more than twelve months and which play at a competent level
- Bands whose players have had over 12 months or more experience playing their instrument
- Bands with limited instrumentation and rehearsal time

Other Details:

- Bands in this section are to play **two to three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 8 minutes playing time applies to this section



The WILBUR SAMPSON Event

Primary School Concert Bands

Music Guide

Grade: 0.5 – 1.0 (includes unison playing, percussion)

Difficulty: Very easy or elementary; Typical first year player

Length: Very short to short. 1 – 3 minutes per piece

This event is intended for:

- Newly established band programs
- Bands newly formed this school year
- Bands whose members have not entered the Festival in previous years
- Bands whose players have been learning for fewer than twelve months

Other Details:

- Bands in this section are to play **two to three contrasting pieces**
- Bands are encouraged to include a chorale/slow melody/ hymn in their program
- An Australian composition/arrangement is compulsory

A total time limit of 6 minutes playing time applies to this section

Concert Band Percussion Layout

All bands are required to perform using the large percussion items supplied

Image under construction

See website for more info

- No sticks, mallets or leads are provided
- Bands are welcome to bring any small auxiliary percussion they may require
- See our website for a full list of percussion equipment provided

Primary School Big Band Events

The ED WILSON Event

Primary School Big Bands - Open

This event is open to primary school big bands consisting of:

- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Rhythm section
- No more than 4 electronic instruments are permitted
- Vocalist (Optional)

Note: It is permissible for bands in this section to use alternative instrumentation, although it is expected they attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instruments where possible.

Bands must present a contrasting program

Other Details:

- Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals)
- An Australian compositions/arrangement is compulsory

A time limit of 12 minutes (3 pieces MAXIMUM) playing time applies for this section.

The GRAEME BELL Event

Primary School Big Bands - Novice

This event is open to primary school big bands:

- Which have formed this year and perform at an elementary level
- Which are Training Band/Beginner Bands from established band programs
- With typical first year players, including players who have not previously entered the Festival

This event is open to secondary school big bands consisting of:

- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Rhythm section
- No more than 4 electronic instruments are permitted
- Vocalist (Optional)

Note: It is permissible for bands in this section to use alternative instrumentation, although it is expected they attempt to restrict themselves to traditional Big Band instruments where possible.

Bands must present a contrasting program

Other Details:

- Bands are encouraged to feature a soloist (including vocals)
- An Australian compositions/arrangement is compulsory

A time limit of 8 minutes (2 pieces MAXIMUM) playing time applies for this section.

See above for Big Band stage set-up and percussion info

THE ANNUAL NSW SCHOOL BAND FESTIVAL

ADVISORY PANEL



A non-competitive, inspirational and educational event

Need some advice?

A number of our most experienced Music Directors are on hand to assist you with your entry decisions. Contact them for information on:

- The event level in which to enter your band
- What music you should be playing in each event
- Advice on how to improve your band program/professional development ideas

To contact members of the SBF Advisory Panel log onto the NSW School Band Festival site at www.sbf.org.au

or ring the Festival General Manager, Pat Devery on 0417 664 472

The Cliff Goodchild AOM Scholarship for Professional Development in Music Education

- Have you been entering bands into the SBF for a number of years?
- Are you looking for some Professional Development and inspiration?

Check out the Festival site or contact the Festival GM for info on the 2017 Cliff Goodchild OAM Scholarship and get your application in today.

Congratulations to the 2017 Cliff Goodchild OAM Scholarship recipient

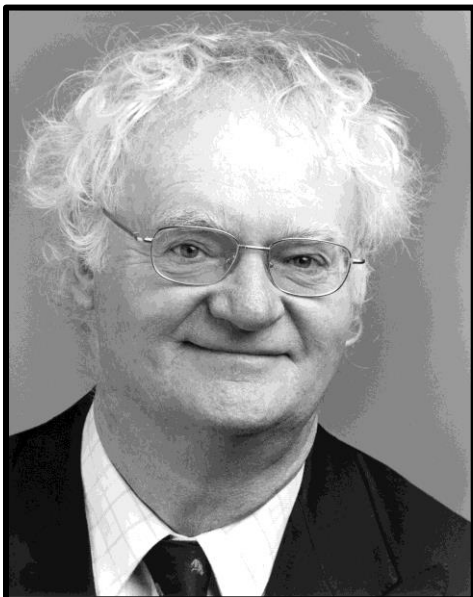
Luis Fernando Madrid

General Information

Player eligibility/playing in lower grade events/band entry levels

1. All players must be enrolled students of the school at the time of performing.
2. If a Music Director's wishes to use A LIMITED NUMBER of more experienced players in lower grade events in order to fill essential parts in the score they should email the General Manager with the details requesting approval.

In the spirit of the non-competitive nature of the event MDs are requested to minimize their use of this facility.
3. In the event of a band being entered in an event which is clearly below the ability level of the band the Adjudicator will advise the General Manager to monitor the future entry for that particular band.
4. 'Stacking bands' or entering bands into lower events in order to achieve a higher rating runs contrary to the spirit of the event, does little to improve the ability of your band or the improvement of school band movement in general and may result in a review of any future entry applications.
5. If you have any questions regarding your entry contact the GM or one of the experienced SBF Advisory Panel members who can assist you in your entry decision.
6. A full list of the Festival Conditions of Entry can be found on our website.



Richard Gill AO

'The School Band Festival is one of the most significant events on Sydney's school music calendar.'

For over 50 years the SBF has been providing performance and educational opportunities for the children in our schools.

Join over 300 bands and more than 10,000 students at this wonderful celebration of young Australian musicians learning, having fun and making music.

I am absolutely thrilled to be Patron of such a professionally run and worthwhile event.'

Richard Gill AO, Patron