Music is a central part of every day for many boys at Prince Alfred College. With so many ensembles to choose from and many of Adelaide’s best instrumental tutors, it is no wonder that so many boys develop a passion for performing while at PAC.

This year, we have celebrated some outstanding achievements from our students, on the local and national stage.

Generations in Jazz, which is held at Mount Gambier, is an event hosted by James Morrison and is the largest jazz festival in the country.

A top-three finish there is very big stages.

Big Band 1’s first performance this year was for an audience of 3000 while playing as support for Gurrumul and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Rising Dragons at the final Superband selections.

The victorious Big Band 1.

As well as playing at these festivals, the students have had opportunities to play on some very big stages.

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The Senior Concert Band – conductor of the Adelaide University Wind Ensemble – as a guest conductor.

A highlight of the year would have to be the performance of Rising Dragons at the final concert in Term 3. Combining with the Senior Concert Band from Wilderness doubled the size of our band for the night, ensuring this piece was played with the shock and awe it deserved.

This year has been great for the music department, but with some outstanding achievements from our students, on the local and national stage.

PAC Bands results this year amongst Australia’s best. The event hosted by James Morrison is the largest jazz festival in the country.

As well as awards for our ABODA (Australian Band and Orchestra Director’s Association) school band festival, with the following placings:

Division 2 - Big Band 1 - 3rd (out of 26 bands)
Division 3 - Big Band 2 A - 1st (out of 23)
Division 3 - Big Band 2 B - 9th (out of 23)
Division 4 - Big Band 3 - 1st (out of 25)

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If that was not enough, the school also hosted Australian music prodigy Ross Irwin as the Bamboos. Such acts as the Cat Empire and educators, Ross also plays with Australia’s most respected music organisations to name a few.

Music taught me plenty of life skills

Hugo Chapman, Year 11 Student

I STARTED music at PAC in year 5. I initially played the clarinet because I thought it looked interesting and the sound was unique. Prior to this I had already learnt some piano growing up, so I enjoyed music.

Playing music has taught me many important life lessons. I learnt a lot of skills that could relate back to my academic studies, like time management, working with others and organisation.

I was always strong with the more artistic side of school and it wasn’t surprising that I loved music. It was tough at first, but the hard work paid off. Over time I found things being easier and more fluid.

I added the saxophone to my music studies in year 8 on top of the clarinet and piano which I continued to study.

Progressing further, I started to want more from music and that led to me successfully gaining a position in the Adelaide Youth Orchestra for Clarinet. The same year I also won an award at the Generation in Jazz Festival, this time for saxophone.

Through PAC, I have had so many chances to play with top-tier musicians from around the world, the likes of Andy Firth, James Morrison and Ross Irwin to name a few.

Music is forever, and it will be with me no matter what career I have in the future.

These last few years for me have been amazing, having a chance to play along with the best artists, develop my individual skills, work in an ensemble and develop my music skills, travel to Mount Gambier every year … the list goes on.

For me, music is about expression; you can release a lot of emotion and that is what music has given me.

It has also taught me to appreciate the little things in life, that I when I was a child, I got a lot of things, but I think they all went to my head. Since I started music, I have learnt some important life lessons. I learnt a lot of skills that could relate back to my academic studies, like time management, working with others and organisation.

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