

Bandfest Newcastle

2024 Entry Pack

4-7 November 2024

[Bandfest Newcastle](#) is a festival celebrating the performance development of primary and secondary school bands and is for the enjoyment and enrichment of all school ages.

All Bandfest inquiries can be directed to alison.gill@det.nsw.edu.au

Entry guidelines

- **2024 entries can be complete via the [2024 online Bandfest entry form](#).**
- **Entries close at 5 pm Monday 19 August 2024 (Term 3 Week 5).**
- Bandfest is open to the Department of Education, school aged (primary or secondary) students only.
- Concert, Jazz/Stage, Brass Bands and Small Ensembles may enter.
- **Each band may perform up to 4 pieces** (ONLY 3 pieces for high school stage bands) but must not exceed the time limitations (*see TIME*).
- Repertoire is at the conductor's discretion; there are no set pieces, however, adjudication is based on suitability of material, a balanced program, entertainment value and technical considerations.
- Upon arrival, school coordinators need to sign in at the registration desk in the foyer and present all scores for each band, compare notes and a copy of the completed floor plan for each band.
- Only regular playing students of a school band are permitted to perform.
- Teachers/Tutors/Mentors are **not** permitted to perform in any ensembles.
- The committee will be observing the gradings of all pieces, and failure to adhere to the Bandfest guidelines may result in a band forfeiting a win.
- Band Directors are asked to carefully consider placement of their band in the correct section ensuring a fair performance field for all students in that section. Disqualification will be awarded to bands who enter in the incorrect sections.
- **Please note:** Bandfest guidelines stipulate that Primary Novice bands must **ONLY** consist of **ALL** players that have been playing **LESS** than twelve months. Breaches of these guidelines may result in disqualification from the section.

Venue & times

- **Newcastle Conservatorium - Harold Lobb Concert Hall (Laman St Newcastle)**
- Bandfest may operate from **8am to 4pm each day**. Subject to scheduling, schools MAY be required to perform up until 4pm.
- Adjudication and presentation to take place at the conclusion of each section. All Bands need to be present at the adjudication to accept their prizes. Band Directors are asked

to nominate two band members to stand on stage during this time to accept awards. Please organise this prior to the performance day at Bandfest.

- Bands are required to play up to 4 pieces. **A maximum time limit of up to 20 minutes (subject to program restraints) applies to all bands, which includes set up time.**
- Time allocations will be confirmed once the program for each day has been finalised.
- All Bands will be given preparation time, a scheduled 20 minutes warm up time in a warm up room allocated on the day prior to their performance on stage. Bands will be asked to move from room to room according to the schedule. This is to ensure all band members are ready and prepared to play at their allocated time on the stage.
- The program can be accessed at artsunit.nsw.edu.au/local-arts-programs/regional-north/bandfest-newcastle. Failure to adhere to the time limits may result in marking penalties.

Student organisation

- In 2024 we are encouraging all students to be at the venue for the entire day they are competing. With the additional space at Newcastle Conservatorium Harold Lobb Hall we are able to accommodate the students in the audience to watch the sections they are not competing in as a valuable learning experience.
- **No food or drink sales will be available at the venue in 2024.** Please also be aware no food is permitted in the concert hall. There are also several options available close by if you choose to allow your students to purchase food under your supervision. You will be able to take your students over to Civic Park, under your supervision when you need to for various breaks throughout the day.
- Toilets are available at the venue throughout the day.
- In your section ensembles will be able to get prepared in a warm up space prior to their performance. They will move straight onto the stage from the warm up space.
- All Bands will be scheduled into the warm up room and then on to the stage. Each band in each section will be given 20 minutes in the warm up room to ensure they are prepared for their performance on the stage.
- Remember your 20 minutes on stage is your allocated performance time. This includes getting your band on the stage, playing time, photo opportunity and getting off the stage.
- Bands will not be permitted to warm up or tune on stage.
- Group photos will be taken in the foyer separate to the warm up time This will be scheduled in as the first activity and then bands will move to the Warm Up Room prior to moving to the stage. Please ensure you follow the schedule carefully.

Cost

- **\$120 (Inc GST) entry fee per ensemble for the first two ensembles, \$50 (inc GST) for each subsequent ensemble entered.**
- **Entry Fees will be collected from your school via a SAP Intercompany Journal transfer in conjunction with your.**
- Students in school band uniforms and designated personnel (maximum 2 per band) with Bandfest tags will be admitted free. Bandfest tags will be distributed upon arrival at the sign-on desk. These must be worn at all times to gain entry to the backstage area and the auditorium. All other personnel are required to pay an admittance fee of \$5 at the door.

Event divisions and requirements

- All band directors will nominate which section their ensembles wish to participate in. Band directors should use their professional judgment to appropriately select the correct section for your ensemble.
- Band directors should consider the majority of their band's population and consider the category that best represents the majority of players in their ensemble.
- To ensure consistency across sections, all pieces performing must fall into the designated division. If a band chooses to have one piece from a higher division, they need to enter in that higher division. (For example, if a Primary Band plays 1 x Grade 1 ½ piece, 2 x grade 2 pieces and 1 x grade 2 ½ piece, the band must enter the Premier division.)
- To ensure all ensembles are competing fairly in each Section please consider the descriptors carefully.
- Bandfest is about all bands being offered the opportunity to perform with other bands of a similar level of performance ability. It needs to be a fair and level playing field for all competitors. To avoid embarrassment or disqualification, please avoid entering your ensemble into the wrong section.
- Please choose your repertoire carefully and make sure your students can play the pieces successfully. Try to keep all pieces to the same or similar grading.

Multiple sections and overall winners

Please Note:

Each Primary and Secondary Band Sections will be determined by the number of entries.

In the event of multiple band applications in Sections (ie over 5 bands per section), these sections will be divided up in groups of 4-5 bands according to the size of the band entered. Student numbers in each ensemble must be close to accurate on the day of the performance.

No schools may add students to their numbers on the day of the performance. Bands may present a lesser number of students than first stated in their application form. Please try to be as accurate as possible and err on the side of caution.

- **Group A - Small Bands 0-12 students**
- **Group B - Medium Bands 13-24 students**
- **Group C - Large Bands 25-34 students**
- **Group D - Extra Large Bands 35+ students**

We are all very aware that things can change at the last minute, so once the schedule has been set up, based on the numbers provided on the entry applications, this will be how the sections will run on the day of the performance. As close to accurate as possible. Bands with differing numbers on the day will not be penalized, but they need to be kept within 1-2 players of the original numbers quoted.

Prizes in each section and/or Group within a section, will be awarded as follows:

Winner, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, Highly Commended and Commended in each section. The number of awards given out will be up to the Adjudicator.

In the event of multiple Groups within a section, there could be multiple winners awarded according to how many groups are within a section. The Adjudicator will then decide on an OVERALL Section Winner out of the Bands that were awarded winners within each group trophies in that section.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Primary Developing may have 15 bands entered.

Therefore, there will be 3 separate groups will be set up for bands to perform in with 5 bands in each group, based on the numbers in each ensemble.

Therefore, creating Group A, Group B and Group C with prizes awarded for each group.

Each group will be awarded prizes, therefore three winners (Group A Winner, Group B Winner, Group C Winner)

An “overall section winner” will be awarded from each of the three winning bands (Group A, Group B and Group C).

N.B. Each of these three groups will be divided up according to the number of students playing in each band.

The overall section winner will be awarded a separate trophy as the overall section winner.

This process may occur in multiple sections depending on the number of Bands that apply for each section.

Event Sections

Please read the following information very carefully as there have been adjustments made to the rules and regulations for Bandfest 2024. In fairness for all ensembles participating in Bandfest 2024 please enter your ensembles into the most appropriate section.

Bands entering in the Primary Sections must adhere closely to the following instructions.

To keep a fair and level playing field, Band Teachers and Directors should aim to present pieces that fit into the Grading Levels marked for each section. If you wish to play different graded pieces in the one section, you need to go into the section that matches your highest graded piece.

Section	Description
Primary Novice Band	<p>This band section caters for brand new or beginner players with no previous band or instrumental experience on ANY instrument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students MUST have only one year or less learning experience on the instrument they are currently playing in the ensemble. • Students MUST not have played in a School Band Program before. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Are currently playing band music from any tutor book or scores marked “Beginner Band” charts.
Primary Preliminary Band	<p>This band section caters for inexperienced players with minimal learning experience in a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may have been playing for 6 months - 2 years or less on the instrument they are currently playing in this ensemble. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students in this section can play band music marked as “Beginner Band” or up to and including Grade ½ . • All Band Charts presented in this section MUST be at a Grade ½ level or lower. <p>N.B. All Bands who wish to play pieces marked higher than Grade ½ please enter the Developing Section.</p>
Primary Developing Band	<p>This band section caters for players who are able to demonstrate a suitable level of performance and ensemble playing with some experience in performing as a member of a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in this section are performing at a good standard. • Students in this section may have been playing for 1-3 years on their instrument they are playing in the ensemble. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students in this section can play band music up to and including Grade 1. • All Band Charts presented in this section, MUST be at a GRADE 1 level or lower. <p>N.B. All Bands who wish to play pieces marked higher than Grade 1 please enter the Intermediate Section.</p>
Primary Intermediate Band	<p>This band section caters for experienced and confident performers in a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in this section are performing at a high standard. • Students in this section have 1-5 years performing experience. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 1 ½ Band Charts. • All Band Charts presented in this section MUST be at a Grade 1 ½ level or LOWER. <p>N.B. All Bands who wish to play pieces marked higher than Grade 1 ½ please enter the Premier Section.</p>

Section	Description
Primary Premier Band	<p>This band section caters for very experienced and very confident performers in a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bands in this section may have won the Intermediate Section the year before. • Bands in this section may have won or competed in the Premier Section the year before. • Bands in this section are performing to a high level of musical competency showcasing their excellent ensemble skills, musicality and performance ability. • Students in this section are very confident players who may play more than one musical instrument, and may also play in more than one ensemble. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 2-3 Band Charts. • All Band Charts presented in this section MUST be at a Grade 2 level or HIGHER. <p>N.B. All charts presented by Bands in this section MUST NOT be LOWER than Grade 2.</p>
Primary Jazz/Stage Band	<p>This band section is for all Primary school aged students who perform in a Jazz Band, Stage Band or Big Band.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in these ensembles should be in years 3-6. • The repertoire performed in this section fits into the Jazz or Big Band Style. • The ensemble should have instrumentation that represents these types of ensembles ie: horn line, sax line and rhythm section • There is no set grade for repertoire in this section however the charts performed must represent the ability of the performers. • Bands in this section should present 3 pieces for their performance.
Primary Open Section	<p>This band section is for OPEN Ensembles. This section is for acoustic instruments ONLY but One electric Keyboard could be used for accompanying purposes only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Rock Bands with electric instruments such as guitars, basses and keyboards will be permitted in this section. • All Students performing in this section should be playing an acoustic musical instrument. • Ensembles in this section may represent melodic, harmonic, bass and rhythmic lines in their performances. • Students performing in this section should perform all parts of the music live (NO Backing tracks will be allowed) • No groups in this section may be accompanied by pre-recorded backing tracks. • Students may sing but only if the singing is to accompany or add a melodic line to the piece (ie strumming the

Section	Description
	<p>ukulele/guitar/banjo or playing drums/untuned percussion and singing the piece).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensembles may represent Instrument family groups (Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) as well as guitars, ukuleles, drums etc. <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strings instruments – violins, violas, cellos, double basses Woodwind instruments – flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons etc Brass instruments – trumpets, cornets, french horns, trombones, tubas, euphoniums etc Acoustic Ukulele Ensembles Acoustic Guitar Ensembles (Nylon or steel string acoustic guitars only) Mallet Percussion Instruments such as glockenspiels, xylophones, marimbas, metallophones, or other keyboard-based percussion instruments Percussion Instruments such as snare drums, bass drums, cymbals, drumline-based drums Recorder Ensembles/consorts <p>N.B. All ensembles participating in this section must perform acoustically.</p> <p>N.B. Backing Tracks will not be accepted to accompany groups (however student may sing melodic lines to accompany themselves ie: ukelele or guitar ensembles)</p> <p>N.B. No electric instruments will be permitted in this section (Groups may be accompanied by one keyboard if necessary)</p>
<p>Secondary Novice Band</p>	<p>This band section caters for brand new or beginner players with no previous band or instrumental experience on ANY instrument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students MUST be learner players and may have been playing their instrument for one year or less on the instrument they are currently playing in the ensemble. Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. Are currently playing band music from any tutor book or scores marked “Beginner Band” charts up to and including Grade 1.
<p>Secondary Developing Band</p>	<p>This band section caters for players who are able to demonstrate a basic to developing level of performance and ensemble playing with some experience in performing as a member of a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in this section may have been playing for 1-3 years on their instrument they are playing in the ensemble. Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. Students performing in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 1 - 1½ . All Band Charts presented by bands in this section MUST be at a GRADE 1½ level or lower. <p>N.B. Bands who wish to perform band music charts <u>higher than GRADE 1½</u> MUST go up to the Intermediate Section.</p>

Section	Description
Secondary Intermediate Band	<p>This band section caters for mostly experienced performers in a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 2 Band Charts. • All Band Charts presented by bands in this section MUST be at a Grade 2 level or lower. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students performing in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 2. <p>N.B. Bands who wish to perform band music charts <u>higher than GRADE 2</u> MUST go up to the Premier Section</p>
Secondary Premier Band	<p>This band section caters for very experienced and confident performers in a Band Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bands in this section may have won the Intermediate Section the year before. • Bands in this section may have won or competed in the Premier Section the year before. • Bands in this section are performing to a high level of musical competency showcasing their excellent ensemble skills, musicality and performance ability.. • Students in this section are very confident players who may play more than one musical instrument, and may also play in more than one ensemble. • Students in this section may be in years 7-12. • Bands may elect to perform up to four pieces of music. • Students performing in this section can play Band Music Scores marked up to and including Grade 2 ½ or 3 Level and HIGHER. <p>N.B. All charts presented by Bands in this section MUST NOT be LOWER than Grade 2 ½ .</p>
Secondary Jazz Band	<p>This band section is for all Secondary school aged students who perform in a Jazz Band, Stage Band or Big Band.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in these ensembles should be in years 7-12. • The repertoire performed in this section fits into the Jazz Style or subcategories of Jazz. • The ensemble should have instrumentation that represents these types of ensembles ie: horn line, sax line and rhythm section (Drums, bass, keys, guitar). • Bands who require vocalists will need to provide their own microphone and PA equipment as these items will not be provided. • There is no set grade for repertoire in this section however the charts performed must represent the ability of the performers. • Bands are to present THREE pieces only.

Section	Description
<p>Secondary Open Band</p>	<p>This band section is for OPEN Ensembles. This section is for acoustic instruments ONLY but One electric Keyboard could be used for accompanying purposes only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Rock Bands with electric instruments such as guitars, basses and keyboards will be permitted in this section. ● All Students performing in this section should be playing an acoustic musical instrument. ● Ensembles in this section may represent melodic, harmonic, bass and rhythmic lines in their performances. ● Students performing in this section should perform all parts of the music live (NO Backing tracks will be allowed) ● No groups in this section may be accompanied by pre-recorded backing tracks. ● Students may sing but only if the singing is to accompany or add a melodic line to the piece (ie strumming the ukulele/guitar/banjo or playing drums/untuned percussion and singing the piece). <p>Ensembles may represent Instrument family groups (Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) as well as guitars, ukuleles, drums etc.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strings instruments – violins, violas, cellos, double basses ● Woodwind instruments – flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons etc ● Brass instruments – trumpets, cornets, french horns, trombones, tubas, euphoniums etc ● Acoustic Ukulele Ensembles ● Acoustic Guitar Ensembles (Nylon or steel string acoustic guitars only) ● Mallet Percussion Instruments such as glockenspiels, xylophones, marimbas, metallophones, or other keyboard-based percussion instruments ● Percussion Instruments such as snare drums, bass drums, cymbals, drumline-based drums ● Recorder Ensembles/consorts <p>N.B. All ensembles participating in this section must perform acoustically.</p> <p>N.B. Backing Tracks will not be accepted to accompany groups (however student may sing melodic lines to accompany themselves ie: ukelele or guitar ensembles)</p> <p>N.B. No electric instruments will be permitted in this section (Groups may be accompanied by one keyboard if necessary)</p>

■ Open ensembles

This is a small **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE** section separate to a concert, jazz and stage band. It may consist of various instrument groups, e.g. acoustic guitar consort, recorder consort, ukulele ensemble, percussion ensemble, marimba band.... or something else!

Things to know about this section:

- There will be one Open section for Primary Schools and one for Secondary Schools.
- Information regarding time limits and number of pieces to be performed will be given to the bands after the entries are received, as the number of entries will determine some of these criteria.
- **THIS IS NOT A ROCK BAND SECTION.** (This is an acoustic section; bass guitar and keyboard are permitted.)
- **THIS IS NOT A CHOIR SECTION.** (Singing may be added to the group's performance to accompany the ensemble adding a melodic line to the arrangement).
- For more information, please see FAQs section on the website.

■ Adjudication and awards

- Our adjudicator is a well-respected professional musician/teacher.
- The adjudicator's decision is final.
- Each ensemble will receive constructive and helpful feedback via an adjudication video.
- Ensembles will also receive one of the following awards:
 - First Prize
 - Second Prize
 - Third Prize
 - Highly Commended
 - Commended
 - Additional Highly Commended or Commended awards can be added if sections are larger than 5 ie: 1 - 2 Bands extra.

In the event of multiple band applications in Sections (ie over 5 bands per section), these sections will be divided up in groups of 4-5 bands according to the size of the band entered.

See further information above about Multiple Bands in Sections creating smaller sections with an overall winner. In previous years the Primary Preliminary and Primary Developing Sections have had up to 15 or more bands in them. Three smaller sections with three winners and placegetters would be more ideal with an overall section winner presented from the three smaller section winners.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Primary Developing may have 15 bands entered.

Therefore, there will be 3 separate groups will be set up for bands to perform in with 5 bands in each group, based on the numbers in each ensemble.

Therefore creating Group A, Group B and Group C with prizes awarded for each group.

Each group will be awarded prizes, therefore three winners (Group A Winner, Group B Winner, Group C Winner)

An “overall section winner” will be awarded from each of the three winning bands (Group A, Group B and Group C).

N.B. Each of these three groups will be divided up according to the number of students playing in each band.

- In 2024, Bandfest “diamond prizes” will also be awarded based on the adjudicator’s discretion for the band demonstrating worthy encouragement in each section.
- Ensembles will also receive a photograph of their ensemble on stage at the end of their performance at Bandfest. Band Directors are encouraged to ensure their students know this will be happening at the end of their performance. Photos will be emailed to the school after the event at no cost.

Equipment

All groups must use the equipment supplied unless previously arranged.

Thanks to The Conservatorium of Music, The Drum Shop & Musos Corner the following equipment will be available for your use on the day:

- Chairs and music stands
- Electric Guitar Amplifier (**bring own leads**)
- Bass Guitar Amplifier (**bring own leads**)
- 2 Keyboards with amplifier
- Drum kit, congas, bongos, orchestral bass drum and mallet
- 3 Timpanis, 1 glockenspiel, 1 xylophone
- Power boards and extension power cords

Please note:

- **Schools are to bring their own guitar/keyboard leads.**
- **Schools are to bring their own Auxiliary Percussion mallets.**
- **All other equipment ensemble specific must be supplied by the school.**

Audience

- A **\$5 program/ticket** will be charged as your entry once for the day (please retain ticket).
- Please make sure all parents, family and friends are invited to attend Bandfest. This new venue now means we can fit a large audience in to comfortably watch all bands perform live on a big stage.
- To avoid disruption to the competition, audience members are asked to be seated five minutes before a section commences.

General

- We strongly encourage schools to stay for their own section and for as much of the day as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear other bands perform and to appreciate the musical expertise of others. Bands in the Premier Section are always a highlight and a fabulous opportunity for less inexperienced players in other sections to hear what they can aspire to be in the future.
- When the entry forms are received and processed, information regarding exact days and times will be available on the website artsunit.nsw.edu.au/local-arts-programs/regional-north/bandfest-newcastle. Section performance and warm up times will be strictly adhered to and each section and band will commence at the scheduled time.
- All music copyright laws must be strictly adhered to and Bandfest takes no responsibility for schools that do not comply with regulations.
- For further questions about Bandfest, please contact the event coordinator, Alison Gill via email at alison.gill@det.nsw.edu.au or the local Arts Coordination Officer, Heather Ross at heather.l.williams@det.nsw.edu.au.

We look forward to bringing you this regional band festival again in 2024. We hope your students enjoy the performance opportunity provided by this event