

Honours Ensemble Programs 2026

SHEP Sth-East Qld	
Program Code	SEQ
Dates: (rehearsals & concert)	Thursday July 9 - Saturday July 11
Criteria: Instrumental	Years 7 - 10: AMEB 2 - 4 Years 5 & 6: AMEB 4 - 5
Criteria: Vocal	Years 7 - 8: Member of school or external choir, choir experience expected Year 6: minimum of AMEB 1
Program suited to:	This program is suited typically to students in years 7 - 10 and primary school students in years 5 and 6 who are playing at AMEB 4 or 5
Program Fee	\$ 290
Ensembles	Thirteen ensembles; 6 x String, 4 x Concert Band, 2 x Vocal, 1 x guitar
Rehearsal times	Students will be allocated to either a morning rehearsal session (AM) 8am – 1pm or afternoon rehearsal session (PM) 2 – 7pm for Thursday and Friday
Saturday Rehearsal and Concert	Saturday rehearsal including concert is approx.3 - 4 hours. Times will be advised once all students are registered and program is finalised

SHEP Brisbane	
Program Code	BNE
Dates: (rehearsals & concert)	Friday May 29 – Sunday May 31
Criteria: Instrumental	Years 7 - 12: AMEB 5 - 6 Years 6: AMEB 6 Year 5: AMEB 7
Criteria: Vocal	Years 9 - 10: mid-level choral experience Years 7 & 8: minimum of AMEB 2 or auditioned choir
Notes	SHEP Brisbane is typically suited to students in years 7 - 12 who are playing at AMEB 5 - 6 standard and year 6 students who are at AMEB 6 and year 5 students who are at AMEB 7. This program is available to schools within Brisbane Metro, SEQ and Gold Coast
Program Fee	\$ 290
Ensembles	7 ensembles; 2 band, 2 string, 1 guitar and 2 vocal
Rehearsal times	Friday: rehearsals will be scheduled between the hours of 5 - 8pm; Saturday 8 am – 5 pm; exact times confirmed at a later date
Sunday Rehearsal and Concert	Sunday rehearsal including concert is approx.3 - 4 hours. Times will be advised later once all students are registered and program is finalised

SHEP Queensland	
Program Code	QLD
Dates: (rehearsals & concert)	Thursday October 1 – Sunday October 4
Criteria: Instrumental	Years 7 - 12: AMEB 5 & above Year 6: AMEB 7 and above
Criteria: Vocal	Years 10 - 12: high level choral experience Years 7 - 9 Minimum of AMEB 3 or auditioned choir
Notes	SHEP QLD is typically for senior school students. Year 6 students will be considered for a place if their AMEB is 7 or above.
Program Fee	\$ 320
Ensembles	Twelve ensembles; 4 band, 3 string, 1 guitar, 2 SATB vocal ensembles, 1 SSA vocal ensemble and 1 SATB Jazz vocal ensemble.
Rehearsal times	Students will be allocated to either a morning rehearsal session (AM) 8am – 1pm or afternoon rehearsal session (PM) 2 – 7pm for Thursday - Saturday.
Sunday Rehearsal and Concert	Sunday rehearsal including concert is approx.3 - 4 hours - Times will be advised later once all students are registered and program is finalised

What is the difference between each program?

The difference between each of the programs is the repertoire that is selected, year and music levels of students and schools. SHEP Qld is offered to all students within the state of QLD, SHEP Sth-East QLD is for students in SEQ including Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs, SHEP Brisbane is only for students within Brisbane Metropolitan area including Gold Coast.

The difference between SHEP Brisbane and SHEP QLD:

Is exposing students to different experiences for their music making, at different levels of ability. Students can experience more advanced repertoire in SHEP Queensland but may have opportunities to lead and extend themselves in SHEP Brisbane. SHEP Queensland is about being represented at a state level, Brisbane at a local (or regional level) however both offer the experience of playing alongside new people, to further expand their musical journey and learning.

SHEP Brisbane is held over 3 days; Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday with just over 500 students who attend.

SHEP QLD generally consists of students in the higher year levels from around the state with high level repertoire selected for ensembles. QLD is held over 4 days in the last week of the September School holidays: Thursday – Sunday. Just over 1000 students attend this program.

What happens once nominations have been submitted

We sort all the nominations by instrument, AMEB and then year level. We then determine which program or programs the student will be suitable for based on instrument, AMEB and year level. Once this process is completed you will receive an email from us to advise which program or programs you are being considered for and timeline for next steps.

Selection and Offers

Once selection is made (see below for our we make selection) we then send offers out in rounds. This may take 3 or 4 rounds depending on how many acceptances we get in each round. We have a certain amount of places available for each instrument for each program so not all students will receive an offer to attend unfortunately. Students that do not receive a first round offer are placed on a reserve list and we then make our way down the list for each round. Once all places are filled we then advise students who are on the reserve list that places have filled.

Can students attend more than one program?

There are many students who may attend more than one program in the same year depending on their instrument, we have some students who may attend one program on one instrument and another program on a different instrument.

General Information for SHEP Programs

What is the Honours Program?	The State Honours Ensemble Program is an educational program for music students that helps extend and encourage their pursuit of musical excellence. Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University's State Honours Ensemble Program has grown from relatively modest beginnings in 2001. SHEP is now a firmly established aspect of music learning in Queensland, bringing together young people from all over the State, in regional centres and Brisbane to share their passion for making music. Further information can be found on our website at: State Honours Ensemble Program (griffith.edu.au)
The Honours Program gives students the opportunity to:	Work in an intensive environment of musical excellence with their peers offering a unique opportunity to extend and develop their musical skills Work with a team of eminent Conductors from Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University Represent their Schools (in full uniform) in a Finale Performance on the last day of the Program Receive a Certificate of Participation and Honours Program T-Shirt
Rehearsals	Rehearsals are held at either: QLD Conservatorium Griffith University, 140 Grey St, Sth Brisbane South bank campus, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Somerville House or Brisbane State High School. All venues are within a 10minute walk from QLD Conservatorium. Concerts are held at QLD Conservatorium Theatre Rehearsals are scheduled within the program dates
Accommodation & Travel	Students/Families attending the program are required to organise their own transport and accommodation (if applicable) throughout.
What to bring	Food: Participants to provide their own food for the program

	<p>String/Band Students need to bring their instrument and a collapsible music stand.</p> <p>Percussion students: bring sticks and/or mallets</p> <p>All students: Food water bottle, lip balm, jacket or jumper</p>
What to wear	<p>Rehearsals: Participants wear appropriate clothing (same as a free dress at school) and covered flat footwear (no thongs or sandals). T-shirts will be handed out during the first rehearsal session.</p> <p>Concert Performance: Students to arrive in their formal school/day uniform (not band uniform). Please refer to your school's uniform policy that you would wear to an official school event or school photo day. Students who were nominated by private teacher, young conservatorium or home schooled wear concert blacks</p>
How selection is made for SHEP Programs	<p>The process commences with us asking teachers to nominate students for our programs. We honour the teachers nomination, as we acknowledge that the teacher has the best idea of the student's standard. We ask teachers to nominate students with their approximate AMEB grade and school year level. From the nominations, we place students into relevant instrument groups, and sort them from the highest AMEB, as nominated by teacher, and then year level within each AMEB group. Based upon the required number of instruments within each section of the ensemble (as we are required to maintain a specific ensemble balance), we select students from the highest AMEB down based on number of required instruments. At times there are students of the same AMEB within the cut-off range, at this point we allocate to older students as they may not have another opportunity to participate or be nominated again. We then select students as reserves, as they may be selected for the program depending upon whether other students decline and ensemble vacancies arise. Please be assured there is no preferential treatment given to any student, and unfortunately some instrument areas (violin, trumpet, flute, saxophone) are incredibly competitive as we receive numerous nominations, often in the multiple 100's. Vocal students: are selected in a similar way to instrumentalists, however we also take into consideration the potential year level range of the ensemble. This also helps conductors with selecting appropriate repertoire for the age range of the ensemble.</p>
AMEB/Music Level	<p>Students do not need to be doing AMEB exams to be nominated for our programs, teachers need to refer to the AMEB alignment guide to indicate the estimated AMEB</p>
Attendance requirement	<p>Participants are expected to make themselves available for all rehearsals and the concert performance. If you have an event (eg family, school, sporting, community, religious) that you know will preclude you from any part of the rehearsals or concert <u>you must decline the offer (if one is made)</u> to participate so we can extend the invitation to another student.</p>
How to contact us	<p>shep-conservatorium@griffith.edu.au</p>