



# KING'S HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS

## SHAKESPEARE SHEILAH WINN FESTIVAL

The annual University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival provides an opportunity for teachers and students who have a real passion for Shakespeare to perform scenes from the Bard's plays.



- 2021 King's placed 1st in Otago for the 15-minute teacher directed scene. At the national competition, King's won the 'Outstanding Stage Combat' Award and Zac Bell won the 'Outstanding Individual Tragedy Role' Award.
- 2020 King's placed 1st in Otago for the 15 minute teacher directed scene and 1st for the 5 minute student directed scene. Awarded "Best Understanding of a Play" at the national competition.
- 2019 King's placed 2nd in the Otago competition for the 15-minute teacher directed scene and 3rd in the student directed scene.
- 2018 King's placed second in the Otago competition for the 15-minute teacher directed scene.
- 2017, King's won the regional competition and 12 students travelled to Wellington to perform at the National Festival with groups from all over the country. Two of our students were then selected to join the National Shakespeare Performance group who perform in October in Wellington.
- 2015, one of our students was selected to perform at the Globe Theatre in London, a privilege awarded to only 24 students in New Zealand annually.

## SONG WRITING AND MUSIC COMPOSITION

Composition and song writing are key components of Music and Music Technology classes at King's. In addition to this, many students will continue to hone their craft through lunchtimes using the practice rooms and recording studio. A song writing club runs at King's where students can come along to learn the basics of song writing

such as developing musical ideas, structuring songs and writing lyrics.

We have had several recent successes with Ben Horlock releasing his first single and currently working towards his next release. Tomuri Spicer was named as a finalist in the Play It Strange Lion Foundation Song Writing Competition in both 2019 and 2020.

For each he won a day in a professional recording studio and had his songs released through the Play It Strange compilation album. Tomuri's prolific song writing also saw him receive 2nd place in the Hook, Line and Singalong song writing competition, and first prize in the Uke-Can-Do-It song writing competition.

## TAGATA PACIFIKA – KING'S OF THE PACIFIC

King's of the Pacific are a performing arts group made up of Pacific students who are passionate about their culture. Presently the group has 52 members from a range of Pacific Islands, many of whom are in the Kings of the Pacific choir. In recent years, the group has had considerable success in the annual Polyfest competition, presenting a range of pieces with immense energy and skill.

## THEATRESPORTS

Theatresports is not only enjoyable and challenging, it is also a valuable activity for any Drama student. The games played help to develop the skills of improvisation, which are essential for all actors on-stage and give performers a huge amount of confidence.

- 2019, 2018, 2017 – King's placed 2nd in the Otago Competition
- 2016 - King's won the Otago Competition and went to Christchurch to compete in the South Island competition where they placed 2nd.



# PERFORMING ARTS



Through involvement in the performing arts, students explore, challenge, affirm and celebrate unique artistic expressions of self, community and culture.

The school strives to provide students with a diverse range of opportunities to help them develop the interest and passion they have for performing.

Involvement in the performing arts enables students to become:

- Confident through continual performance opportunities
- Connected through group/band/ensemble activities; they learn to relate well to others
- Involved in general cultural participation at school and in the wider community.

## CHAMBER MUSIC

A chamber music group is a small ensemble group of instrumentalists. Playing in ensembles requires young musicians, regardless of standard or experience, to perform together and strive towards excellence. Each year King's aims to provide this experience to those who show the interest and commitment. Those involved can enter the New Zealand Chamber Music competition.

## CHOIR

Singing in a choir is a fantastic creative outlet, a great social activity and wonderful for well-being. Currently, King's has two choirs – ACafellas – our smaller chamber choir and the much larger King's of the Pacific. The boys in both choirs clearly enjoy a real sense of loyalty and camaraderie as they work towards major events such as The Big Sing, Prizegivings, Special assembly performances and events as well as invitations to perform outside of the school.

## CONCERT BAND

The recently re-formed King's Concert Band (previously Orchestra) welcomes all students learning orchestral or jazz band instruments to get involved in group music making. Rehearsals are always a fun occasion, with much light banter as well as music making.

## DEBATING

Debating is an excellent social activity for boys interested in developing their confidence as public

speakers and thinking about and debating controversial issues. King's has a strong track record of performance in the Dunedin Schools' Debating Competition. In 2018, King's became the only boys' school in Dunedin to win the Junior division. In 2019 and 2020, King's students were selected to participate in debating development squads, coached by members of the Otago University Debating Society. In 2019 one of these students was also selected to be in the five member Otago/Southland Schools Debating Regional Squad. Our inter-house competition at King's also includes a hotly contested debating event. This is often the highlight of the inter-house calendar for the boys involved. The interschool exchanges King's has with other Boys' Schools also often include debating.

## ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS

The Itinerant Music Scheme is a government funded education scheme that allows students to learn a musical instrument. Lessons take place in school time, for 30 minutes, and are taught by specialist, qualified tutors through the Itinerant Music Programme.

## JAZZ BAND

Directed by Paul Claman and assisted by music staff from both King's and Queen's High Schools, the Jazz Band comprises students from Years 9 - 13 who play any instrument found in a Jazz ensemble. Annually, the band works towards competing in the Dunedin Youth Jazz Festival as well as performing at various school and local events.

## KAPA HAKA – HE WAKA KŌTUIA

He Waka Kōtuia is the King's and Queen's High Schools Māori performing arts group. They perform traditional and contemporary songs and haka that tell the stories of our connection to our land, celebrates our ancestors and their deeds, and promotes indigenous values for the generations to come.

In 2019 He Waka Kōtuia gained first place for their outstanding performance at Hautonga, the Otago/Southland secondary school kapa haka competition. This qualified the group for entry to the National Competition in 2020, which unfortunately was cancelled due to COVID. He Waka Kōtuia looks forward to showcasing its latest bracket at the upcoming Hautonga kapa haka competition.

## MUSICAL

King's has a long history of producing musical theatre of a high standard. Combining music, dance and drama with set design, lighting and costume, many of our past and present students remember their experiences in their high school musical fondly. Working annually with Queen's High School, past shows have included Les Miserables, Jesus Christ Superstar, Spamalot, The Lion King and Cats. The experience brings together expertise in all aspects of musical theatre, allowing a variety of opportunities for those of any standard or experience who are interested in on or off stage roles.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

As the number one adult phobia, but also as one of the most significant life skills, King's places a rightful emphasis on public speaking. At King's, we have an

annual, Year 9 and Year 10 Speech Competition, both of which are hotly contested and enjoyed with a presentation in the Performing Arts Centre.

As a highlight on the junior calendar, King's also hosts the Otago-wide Secondary Schools' Speech Competition, which sees contestants from high schools across Otago come together to present their best.

In 2019, a number of He Waka Kōtuia members and other King's students performed in Ngā Manu Kōrero Regional and National Speech competitions. Taumana Pene (then in Year 13) gained first place in the Regional competition in the Senior Māori and Senior English categories. We are looking forward to the 2021 competition after the cancellation of the event in 2020.

## ROCK BANDS, SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST AND SMOKEFREE TANGATA BEATS

King's bands have a proud history of entering the annual Smokefree Rockquest competition. In 2020, King's High School had two bands and three soloists competing in the Otago Smokefree Rockquest. M.C.S managed to keep their titles for 1st Place in Tangata Beats and Best Vocalist (for singer Te Kahurangi Mclean). Solo rapper and producer Zed Ramsay (under the moniker Subject95) won the "Best Use of Electronics" award for his production work. This success was not unique to 2020 with M.C.S achieving those same titles the previous year and 2018's Solo/Duo category being won by the duo of Ben Horlock and Campbell Landrebe, while metal band Imperium came second in the band category. Both submitted their video compilation to the National competition.