



# PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

2 March 2023

## ATTN: Principals and Performing Arts Coordinators

### Dear Colleagues

The Spirit of The Arts Festival (previously the Catholic Performing Arts Festival) is now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year and has provided opportunities for many thousands of our students to showcase their talents through a wide range of performance genres. From quite modest beginnings, the Festival has developed to now encompass 36 sections at 16 venues across the Perth metropolitan area. In addition to this, there are opportunities for schools that are unable to attend performances in person, to submit electronic entries for adjudication.

Since its establishment, the Festival has been blessed with, and relied heavily upon, the support of a dedicated band of volunteers, many of whom have in recent years, for a variety of reasons, ceased this very rewarding and necessary support. We are deeply indebted to all who have so selflessly given of their time and talents to serve the students and staff in our schools.

The time has now come for us to seek support from within our schools to continue the work of the past 34 years. Without this, the effective operation of the festival and our ability to offer a full range of opportunities for our students, will be significantly impacted. In a spirit of co-responsibility, it is our hope that schools will be able to be creative in finding ways to release staff to support the festival. If all schools that participate in the festival were to provide just one volunteer, we would certainly have sufficient support to ensure the ongoing viability of events.

There are a number of roles that we require assistance with, including:

- Coordination of a Section of the Festival;
- Commentator for the various Sections;
- Secretary to the Adjudicator;
- Door Staff.

These roles are well within the capabilities of most of our staff, particularly those in leadership positions, and offer a very rewarding experience for all involved. There is support available through the Catholic Arts office for those who would like information on what the roles entail.

Please view the Festival Calendar on the Catholic Arts website [www.spiritofthearts.com.au](http://www.spiritofthearts.com.au) which outlines this year's Festival sections and contact Sabrina D'Roza, Executive Officer, Catholic Arts Office at [catholicarts@cewa.edu.au](mailto:catholicarts@cewa.edu.au) to offer your school's assistance or to discuss further.

We appreciate any support you can offer.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tony Curry  
Acting Deputy Executive Director

Darryl Winsor  
Chair – Catholic Arts