

Meet a conductor



Does anyone know what a conductor is?

What is their job?

A conductor is a musician whose job is to help the other musicians perform well. They do that by:



beating time



learning a lot about the music they will conduct



telling the other musicians about how the music should sound

Some of the things the conductor needs to know are:



- When the music was composed, and for what occasion. Often the time and place music was composed is very important to the meaning of the piece
- What the different voices or instruments do and how they work together

**This is Lachie, and he is the conductor
at Musgrove Opera.**



**Let's ask Lachie
some questions.**



What's the most important part of your job?

The most important thing for a conductor to do is know the music really well. That means I sit down at my desk with the score (the sheet music!) in front of me, and I read it lots of times, and sing it in my head. Sometimes I listen the music on a recording lots of times, if it's a piece that has been recorded before. I look at the different parts and see how they work together.

What's the best thing about being a conductor?

There are two great parts. One of them is that I get to choose which music we do in a concert. That's called 'programming', because I get to choose which pieces are on the program.

The other great part is that my job is not so much to perform for the audience, but it's to help the singers. I face the singers, and smile and encourage them during a performance.

Do you have a favourite memory from being a conductor?

When I was thirteen, I conducted for the first time at the Sydney Opera House, in honour of an important person. What made it extra special was that there were five Australian Prime Ministers in the audience! I actually conducted the music way too fast because I was a bit excited...

How do you conduct a Musgrove Opera performance?

That's a great question. When I conduct a choir or an ensemble of instruments, I'm out the front in a performance waving my arms around. But often with Musgrove Opera, they don't really need me as there are maybe only 4 or 5 people on stage. So instead, I play the piano. Many of the first operas were conducted by people who also played the harpsichord, which is a bit like a piano, so I do that.

In Sid the Serpent, Lachie is also singing in the production! So we will see him at our school! See you soon, Lachie!

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