

The Ilma Kelson & Penelope Thwaites Music Scholarships
~ bestowed annually by the Kelson Family

Background: Ilma Kelson

Mrs Ilma Kelson was the Music Director at Tintern during 1958-1973. During her sixteen years at Tintern, Mrs Kelson developed the Classroom Music program up to and including the Higher School Certificate and Choral groups at the school flourished under her leadership. She arranged many performances and touring opportunities for the Choirs (Country Victoria and Europe), and involved them in many fundraising activities for a variety of charities. She always supported and encouraged young performers and endeavoured to provide them with quality performance opportunities within the school and the local community.

After leaving Tintern, Mrs Kelson continued to foster the development of young performers, initiating the Australian College of Education Music Project which involved setting up a Music Scholarship Program in conjunction with the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Music. This program gave many country and city students the opportunity to participate in Masterclasses with leading teachers. Students developed solo and chamber music performance skills and were given many opportunities to perform in a wide variety of venues eg. Melba Hall, many Independent Schools, Burwood State College, the Lyceum Club and various city Music Society venues.

Mrs Kelson continued to be actively involved in organising concerts to raise money for various organisations for many years. In 1994 the school and community mourned the passing of this outstanding teacher for her contribution to music education and for her dedicated encouragement of young musicians.

Background: Penelope Thwaites

Ms Penelope Thwaites was a student at Tintern from 1953-1960, School Pianist from 1958 to 1960 and a member of the Madrigal Group in 1958 and 1959. She was Captain of Somner in 1960. After leaving Tintern, in recognition of Miss Constance Wood's completion of 25 years of service as Headmistress and in her honour, Ms Thwaites composed the music for a setting of Psalm 121: 'I will lift mine eyes unto the hills'. This was first performed at the Annual Service at St. Paul's Cathedral in October 1964 and remains the Tintern Grammar Psalm to this day.

Ms Thwaites has performed and broadcast in over 25 countries on five continents. She has appeared as soloist with the London Philharmonic, the Philharmonia, City of London Sinfonia and BBC Concert Orchestra, as well as with leading orchestras in Australia, Europe and America. She is a committed protagonist for Australian composers, often including Australian repertoire in her programs. She was appointed to the Order of Australia (AM) in 2001 for services to Australian music. In 2020, Ms Thwaites released a CD album of her choral music and songs entitled, 'From Five Continents'.

The Kelson Family, represented by Mrs Kelson's granddaughter, Mrs Kate Butterworth, has endowed annual encouragement scholarships to be awarded to support the tuition of students in the pursuit of their music education. The Ilma Kelson Scholarships are now into their 19th year and this is the 13th year of the Penelope Thwaites Scholarships. The support of Music at Tintern Grammar by the Kelson Family is greatly appreciated.

Conditions of Awards

1. Three scholarships to be awarded in honour of Mrs Ilma Kelson.
2. Two scholarships to be awarded in honour of Ms Penelope Thwaites.
3. Students are to demonstrate a very high level of commitment to the musical life of the school by participating in at least one choir (or the chorus of the School Musical Production) and at least one Instrumental ensemble (in addition to one choir).

- Pianists will be expected to participate in choirs or Chamber ensembles, or may be involved in the Bands and Orchestras as negotiated. Vocalists in Years 9-12 must be in at least one vocal ensemble; those in Years 7-8 must be dedicated members of their one choir.
4. The Scholarships would be used by the school to support the tuition of the recipients: 5 x the cost of 30 x 30 minute lessons in 2023 (Semester 2) and 2024 (Semester 1).
 5. The Scholarships are to be used to support Music Tuition within the school, but not necessarily the student's main instrument (for example theory, a second instrument or accompanying).
 6. The tenure of the scholarship is conditional upon a student's maintaining a high standard of musicianship, attitude, behaviour, and contribution to the school.
 7. Normally no student would be awarded a scholarship for two consecutive years.

Determination of Successful Applicants:

Students are to present for an audition **in the first 2 weeks of Term 2**. The audition will take about 10 minutes and will include the performance of two short contrasting pieces (or excerpts) except in the case of the original composition and Australian composer categories, which require only one work. Questions will be asked about involvement in music making at Tintern and outside school, and future music studies. Students should present at their audition a performance on their best instrument (including voice).

Final decision on the award of scholarships will be based on:

- (a) Recommendation of the Music Director who, with the invited adjudicator and/or other Music Staff, would adjudicate the audition, and
- (b) Acceptance of the recommendation by the Principal of Tintern Grammar and a Kelson Family representative if available.

The Kelson Scholar Awards

1. The first scholarship shall support the tuition of an **Outstanding Performer**. This student shall have demonstrated excellence in performance as a soloist and as a dedicated member of at least one choir and/or instrumental ensemble. This award is open to students in Years 7-12 who are working at a minimum of AMEB Grade 5 level and may be awarded to a student already holding a School Music Scholarship.
2. Two further scholarships will be for the encouragement and support of students already learning an instrument that is seen as being 'desirable' by the Music Department to achieve a balance of parts within our orchestras and bands. Currently this would include all Brass instruments, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Double Bass, Harp and Keyboard Percussion. This list would need to be reviewed annually as the needs of the Music Department will change over time. This award is conditional on the applicant having already commenced lessons on the desired instrument for at least one year, and there would be an expectation for this student to contribute to ensembles designated by the Director of Music. Open to students in Years 5-12.

The Penelope Thwaites Music Scholarships

1. The first scholarship honours Ms Thwaites' commitment to Australian music and requires an instrumentalist or vocalist to perform one work by an Australian composer. The work should be in the 'art music' genre (i.e. not contemporary/popular). The performance shall be judged on technical and musical merit. Open to students in Years 5-12.
2. The second scholarship recognises Ms Thwaites' work as a composer and requires a student composer to present a performance of one original work written by that student (performance may or may not include the student as a performer). The work must feature piano. It may be a piano solo or an instrumental or vocal solo with piano accompaniment. A work for small chamber ensemble (up to four performers) including piano is permissible. The work must be performed acoustically (i.e. no backing tracks). **A copy of the manuscript of the work must accompany this application.** Open to students in Years 7-12

TINTERN GRAMMAR

ILMA KELSON / PENELOPE THWAITES MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS 2022 APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this application form and return to the Music Office by 4 pm on
Friday 31 March

NAME OF STUDENT _____

YEAR LEVEL in 2023 _____

INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

Main instrument/voice _____ Highest AMEB grade _____ Last Result _____

Other _____

INVOLVEMENT IN MUSICAL ACTIVITIES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL:

(e.g. sing in a choir, play in a band/orchestra) Name groups: _____

MUSIC THEORY/MUSICIANSHIP EXPERIENCE

(State grades and results of the latest theory/musicianship examinations completed, list any Compositions or arrangements written. Name your teacher.)

CAREER/FURTHER STUDY ASPIRATIONS (VCE Music, Higher education, possible career)

AWARD SOUGHT

Outstanding Performer (must be at least AMEB Gr 5 level)
Year 7-12

Unusual/Desirable instrument (must have learnt for 1 year)
Year 5-12

Australian Composer
Year 5-12

Original Composition
Year 7-12

Please note that:

- The tenure of the scholarship is conditional upon a student maintaining a high standard of musicianship, attitude, behaviour and contribution to the school.
- Applicants will be required to furnish copies of any recent music reports (eg. AMEB, Trinity)
- Students must make their own arrangements for an accompanist at the audition and for rehearsals OR **indicate that a school accompanist is needed YES / NO (please circle)**

Name of Music teacher: _____ Signature: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____ Signature: _____
(supporting this application)