Ensemble on song

MUSIC ➞ LAURA MACINTOSH

PLENTY Valley International Montessori School tasted success at the Boroondara Eisteddfod.

The school’s concert band was awarded first place in the Junior Large Ensemble section.

Although many students from the school have played in a combined band before, made up of children from primary schools in the area, this is the first year that it has staged its own independent concert band. The ensemble is made up of 36 students from years 4, 5 and 6, who rehearse together once a week after school.

The school’s music director, Daniel Neal, explained there was no audition process to join the school’s concert band, and any student could join after having lessons on their instrument for a year.

After the success of the band’s inaugural season, Mr Neal said the group plans to enter the Eisteddfod again next year.

“It has been really successful and the kids have really enjoyed working together,” he said.

Now the band will look towards performing at the Melbourne School Bands festival in August, and the prestigious Royal South Street Society Competition in Ballarat in September.