



# Instrumental Music Information and Policies 2021-2022



# CONTENTS

---

- Introduction
- The EQ Instrumental Program
- Selection of New Students
- Lessons
- Ensembles
- Communication
- Instrumental Music Program Costs
- Instruments
- Practice
- Performances and Camps
- Participation and withdrawal

# INTRODUCTION

---

Yeronga State School offers concert band and string orchestra tuition through the Education Queensland (EQ) instrumental program.

This booklet provides further information and policy details to be considered before accepting a position in the program.

## THE EQ INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

---

Queensland state schools are the only state schools in Australia to receive 100% subsidised instrumental music tuition in the form of concert band and string orchestra programs.

The Education Queensland Instrumental Music program enables professional instrumental music teachers to plan a course of study through which students become musicians, through the development of musical literacy, technique and performance. The course seeks to extend a student's musical experience through participation in a large performance ensemble and a small group lesson each week.

Piano, guitar, voice and drum kit are not members of these ensemble groups therefore tuition on these instruments is not a part of this ensemble-based program.

A team of people coordinate and administer the program and each school develops its own policies and procedures to best meet the needs of the school community.

## SELECTION OF NEW STUDENTS

---

Based on the size of the school, Education Queensland allocates time for instrumental music instruction. Yeronga SS is allocated 1.3 days for Band and 1.3 days for Strings. Therefore, places are limited and a selection procedure is in place. The selection process occurs throughout semester two the year prior to starting an instrument.

---

Selection to the program is as follows:

1. Musical Aptitude Test is completed by classroom music teacher for all year 2 & 3 students
2. Student Profiles created on each student by classroom teachers
3. Parent Information emailed to cohort (invited students and parents)
4. Physical Testing and sizing of students on instruments
5. Student Preference Completed
6. Students selected to an instrument based on results from the above procedures combined with ensemble balance

# LESSONS

---

Lessons consist of 3-10 students in a group and are based on the EQ instrumental music curriculum. Students in the program attend one 30 minute lesson per week during school hours. Lessons are timetabled on a rotation pattern to help minimise loss of class time in any one particular subject. Students are responsible for catching up any work missed in class when attending their instrumental music lesson.

Lessons begin in week 2 or 3 of term 1 and continue weekly until the Awards performance toward the end of term 4.

Students' progress is assessed regularly through the use of informal and formal performance and assessment tasks. Formal instrumental reports are issued for all students at the end of each semester. These reports are issued as part of the One School academic reports. They focus on the three areas of assessment: Technique, Literacy and Performance.

# ENSEMBLES

---

## Ensembles - Instrumental

All students participate in one weekly large ensemble rehearsal in addition to their lesson. Rehearsal days for all ensembles may change each year depending on the timetable of teachers.

Junior Concert Band (year 4 beginner band students) commences in term 2, when students have developed enough technical skill. Rehearsals take place during a school lunchbreak.

Senior Concert Band (year 5 and 6 continuing band students) rehearses before school (7.45am) and includes all players in their second and third years of tuition. Under covid guidelines rehearsals are during a school lunchbreak.

Beginner strings students join the junior *Stradivari* string ensemble partway through their first term of learning. This ensemble rehearses before school from 7:45am. Students usually remain in the ensemble for 2 years.

Students are moved up to the senior *Brandenburg* string ensemble when they are ready to play in the more advanced ensemble as decided by the string teacher. This ensemble rehearses before school from 7:30am and the majority of students in this ensemble are in year 5 or 6.

The Chamber Strings ensemble is the third string ensemble consisting of the most advanced players from within the Brandenburg string ensemble. Chamber Strings rehearses during one lunchbreak a week.

Parents/carers may ask the instrumental teacher if they would like to quietly observe an ensemble rehearsal.

## Ensembles – Choral

---

Instrumental students are encouraged to also join a vocal ensemble, to develop musicianship, aural and presentation skills. Choral ensembles offered may differ from year to year according to the time allocation, teaching load and timetable of the classroom music teacher as well as the interests of students. Being in a choral ensemble is a commitment to a team as much as to an instrumental ensemble.

Members of choral ensembles sign up for a full year and are expected to attend all rehearsals on time. They are expected to undertake some practice at home, learning words and movement as required.

## Ensembles - Attendance

---

Participation in an instrumental ensemble is a requirement of receiving tuition in an instrumental program.

Ensembles are musical teams and as such attendance by all members is expected at all rehearsals and performances. Part of the learning process is to understand the meaning of being in a team and the value of each individual's contribution. Parents engage in this process when students attend all rehearsals, on time and prepared with the necessary equipment.

# COMMUNICATION

## Communication with instrumental teachers

---

Instrumental teachers teach at a number of schools and are allocated at YSS for 1.3 days a week. The classroom music teacher is at YSS four days a week, providing class music instruction, choral programs and administering the instrumental music program.

Instructors communicate mainly via email and are also happy to return phone calls when messages are left with the office.

Education Queensland does not permit the giving out of teacher's/instructor's personal phone numbers.

## Communication by instrumental teachers

---

Instrumental music information will be communicated via email, the school newsletter, and/or notes sent home.

A calendar of events is available 24/7 on our school website [yerongass.eq.edu.au](http://yerongass.eq.edu.au)

We aim to make use of newsletters and email rather than individual letters home where possible, so it is expected that parents of music students are vigilant about engaging with the *sZine* app, emails and the newsletter.

## Communication – Supporting students

---

In instances where instructors have concerns regarding attendance, readiness for lessons, behaviour, homework records or instruments being left at school, a standard letter will be sent home and/or email contact made. It is hoped that by bringing issues to the attention of parents/carers early, and maintaining good communication, support and assistance will be provided to overcome the difficulty faced. A response to the instructor via email assists everyone supporting your child to set them up for success.

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM COSTS

---

- Instrumental Music Student Resource Scheme \$40  
Includes the purchase of ensemble sheet music, photocopying etc.
- Instrumental Instrument Loan contribution \$140 per year  
Covers the servicing and cleaning of school hired
- Tutor book and accessories- Parents/carers will need to purchase a method book and accessories needed to play and maintain the musical instrument. Accessory book pack lists will be provided to beginner students. All book pack orders will be delivered to the school prior to lessons commencing. The accessory book pack is optional to purchase through the school. Those who choose not to participate in the school book pack order are required to purchase the required accessories from a music store prior to the first lesson.
- School music folder \$10  
Yeronga Music Ensemble folders are a standardised size to cater for music which can be printed larger than A4. The folders are thick and protective, with the school logo printed on the front. A folder is included in beginner fees and should be kept in good working condition. Additional folders are available from the school office for \$10. All ensemble members are expected to have and use a music folder.

## INSTRUMENTS

---

Instruments on offer include:

**STRINGS**          Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass

**BAND**              Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Trumpet,  
Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion

All instruments (except Percussion) are available for loan by the school for one year. Families are expected to purchase their own instrument after the first year (violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone). Plan to purchase your own instrument for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of tuition.

More expensive instruments are available for hire from the school each year. These instruments include double bass, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, euphonium, tuba.

Double basses are loaned as a pair – one stays at home and an additional bass is played at school. There is no extra fee for using two instruments.

Percussion students are expected to purchase a percussion pack from year 4. This is due to the cheaper costs involved compared to other instruments.

*An instrument loan agreement contract must be signed by parents and students before the instrument can be issued.*

Any damage caused to the instrument is the responsibility of the person signing the contract. If a school instrument is damaged, return it to the instrumental teacher who will organise repairs. Parents should not arrange repairs of school instruments.

## Instrument Purchasing

---

After the one year loan period has expired, the expected cost of a new decent student model instrument to purchase is:

- Violins and violas: \$300 - \$500
- Flutes, trumpets, clarinets, trombones: \$700-\$1000
- Cellos: \$1000-\$1200
- Alto saxophones are \$1600

Second-hand instruments are usually about  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  price of a new purchase price.

String instruments come in a number of different sizes and students' progress through different sized instruments as they grow before being ready for a full-sized instrument. ***Parents/carers of strings players should expect to need to purchase two different sized instruments for their child during their primary school years.*** The strings teacher will inform parents what size instrument each student needs and when they are ready for a bigger sized instrument.

Instrumental teachers can provide parents/carers with instrument purchasing advice such as recommended music retailers and instrument brands.



## Instrument insurance and care

---

It is advisable to add a school hired instrument on your home and contents insurance. Loan instruments are not covered by EQ insurance while on loan. Information on instrument specific insurance is available from most music retailers.

***It is expected that all instruments are taken home at the end of the lesson/ensemble day.***

YSS takes no responsibility for privately owned/hired instruments that are left at school overnight or longer.

## PRACTISE

---

In order to make progress and feel successful, students in the instrumental program are required to complete daily practise at home. Students are expected to practise each day (5 days per week minimum) for the length of time recommended by their instructor (aiming for 20-30 minutes after the first year of learning.)

Students will require parent/carer support with establishing a practise routine and developing effective time management practices. Instrumental teachers assist with this process by teaching effective practise skills and may use a practise record sheet and reward scheme.

---

# PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

---

A number of performance events are part of the school calendar. Performances can also take place at the weekly assembly and other school events. **All ensemble members are expected to attend all performance events.** In exceptional cases where attendance is not possible, the ensemble teacher should be notified as soon as possible.

- Ensemble performances- The school presents Music Showcases in Semester One (June) and Semester Two (November). Some ensembles also participate in a Band or Orchestra competition performance on a weekend in October.
- District music workshops- Yeronga is part in the Southside region for music workshops. All students have the opportunity to participate in a beginner workshop, while senior workshops are by nomination and selection. These workshops are held over 2-3 days during school hours at a school in our region. There is a separate cost involved in workshop participation. Parents will need to provide transport for the workshops. Students attending workshops are expected to attend for the full length of the workshop.

YSS supports the involvement of our instrumental teachers in hub and district camps, workshops and competitions. This requires the cancellation of lessons and rehearsals at times. Parents and students will be notified well in advance of such cancellations.

## The Performance Uniform –

The school does not have a separate music uniform; students wear the school formal blue uniform for performances. **Students need to be wearing the full formal uniform for all performances.**

# PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

---

The decision to join the program should be well considered. It requires extra responsibilities to be taken by the students, parents and families. Students are expected to commit to the program for the duration of primary school.

A Contract of Commitment is signed at the commencement of the program by the student and parents. The expectation is that all students will continue in the Instrumental Music Program up until they leave Yeronga SS. Enrolment may be discontinued by the Principal if attendance, practice, progress or aptitude are inadequate.

In the first year of tuition, first term is considered a trial period. At the end of this first term, the student may leave the program if agreed to by the student, parents, Principal, instrumental teacher and classroom music teacher. However, once the decision is made to continue after this first term 'trial period', it is expected that the student will continue for the rest of the program i.e. until the end of Year 6.

In the event that a student wishes to leave the program after this trial period, the parents and student must attend an interview with the Instrumental Teacher and Principal. At this meeting a plan of action is developed to assist the student in re-engaging with the program. This plan is usually implemented over a term, then at the end of the term the student, parent and principal may meet again, if necessary. **A verbal or written note advising of withdrawal will not be accepted. Discontinuance of a student is a decision only the Principal can make.**

If a child in the Strings Program discontinues lessons after the trial period has elapsed, they will not be eligible for consideration for a place in the Band program.

