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Introduction

Yeronga State School offers concert band 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 Education Queensland Program

Queensland schools are the last remaining schools in Australia to receive 100% subsidised instrumental music tuition in the form of concert band and string orchestra programs. Professional instrumental music specialists are employed by EQ to provide small group instrumental tuition and direct and administer concert bands and string orchestras.

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. Some State High schools do offer tuition in these areas on a paid basis.

Specialist teachers could work in up to seven schools a week instructing up to 250 students and directing an average of five ensembles before school and at lunch times.

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.
COMMUNICATION

Communication with instructors

Instrumental instructors teach at a number of schools and are usually based at YSS for only 1.3 days a week. The classroom music teacher is also at YSS three days a week, providing class music instruction and administering instrumental programs for 580 students. Education Queensland does not permit the giving out of teachers/instructors personal phone numbers.

Parents are requested to consider the busy schedule of instructors and allow instructors time to give considered responses to queries and requests.

Instructors are happy to return phone calls when messages are left with the office, or communicate via email.

Communication by instructors

In instances where instructors have concerns regarding attendance, readiness for lessons, behaviour, homework records or instruments being left at school, parents are notified via a general notice or email. In repeated instances or where there are concerns about student progress or suitability, parents will be contacted by phone.
Communication - Progress Reports

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 a set of skill and knowledge areas and the criteria associated with them.

Communication – Newsletter, notices and website

A calendar of events is available 24/7 on our school website yerongass.eq.edu.au. General instrumental and community music information will be communicated via the school newsletter and notes sent home. Please download the QSchools app or subscribe to the online delivery list to be able to access newsletters, calendar dates and notices anywhere, anytime. We aim to make use of newsletters rather than individual letters home, so it is expected that parents of music students are vigilant about engaging with the newsletter. See the school website for more information.

From 2015, a bulk-email list will be made for each ensemble, with email addresses sourced from students’ One School information. Directors will use this as a form of direct communication.

All parents and carers are expected to stay informed via the school newsletter and email list.
Communication – Rehearsal non-attendance

Instructors take their duty of care to students on their ensemble roll seriously. Parents/carers are expected to inform instructors via email, verbally via another parent or by phone call to the school office on the day of the absence. Notes are sent home after uninformed, non-attendance at two rehearsals in a row.

Communication – Supporting students

In cases where students are having difficulty meeting the requirements of the program or maintaining school-wide behavior and learning expectations, 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. A response to the instructor via email assists everyone supporting your child to set them up for success.
COSTS

Costs - General

The following general costs are associated with and part of participation in the program.

• music folder- under $10 from the office.

• reeds - clarinet and saxophone players ONLY $15-$20 per term

• general items. Please see the materials list for each program. This includes such things as tutor books, oils and greases, strings and shoulder rests etc. The instrumental music contribution levy applies for every child in the instrumental music program. It assists with the high cost of ensemble music, administrative costs - photocopying, letters, competition fees, and the acquisition and maintenance of instruments used by all students in the program. It is $50 per year for all participants.

Costs – Instrument Loan Contribution

All instruments are made available for loan by the school so students can trial the instrument before parents invest in one of their own. It is expected that less expensive instruments such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, percussion and
trombone will be purchased after the first year. If this is not possible, an extension of one year may be negotiated, only if an instrument is available. More expensive instruments are made available for longer than one year. Please plan to purchase your own instrument. The instrument loan levy is an additional $90 from 2015.

The instrumental music contribution levy and loan contribution will be invoiced by the school in Term 1.

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

Any damage caused to the instrument through negligence is the responsibility of the person signing the contract.

Post-loan instrument purchase costs

More inexpensive instruments can be loaned from the school for a maximum of one year. After the loan period has expired, the expected cost of an instrument to purchase is:

- violins, new are $300 - $500 for a decent make/model
- flutes, trumpets, clarinets, trombones, cellos, new, are $700-$900 for a decent student model
- alto saxophones new are $1200 plus These instruments that can be loaned from the school for a maximum of
three years:

• tenor saxophones new are $1500 plus

• baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, french horn are available from $3000, although most high schools will also have these instruments available for hire.

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. Second hand prices are usually 1/2 to 3/4 of a new purchase price.

DRESS

The Performance Uniform

The YSS formal uniform currently acts as the uniform for all music ensembles. It consists of the formal blue shirt, blue culottes and white socks for girls and grey shorts with grey socks for boys. Fully black shoes are required. Students who attend a competition or concert with incorrect uniform items may be excluded from performing. Boys are not to wear light grey shorts with pockets on the legs.
Ensembles - Instrumental

Rehearsal days for all ensembles may change every year depending on the timetable of teachers. These days may not be established until week 2 of term 1.

Senior concert band rehearses before school (7.30am) and includes all players in their second and third years of tuition.

Junior concert band commences in late March, when students have developed enough technical skill. Rehearsals take place before school from 7.45am. Please engage with the newsletter for the commencement date.

Non-beginner string players audition for a placement in either the Brandenburg or Stradivari strings ensembles.

Brandenburg strings rehearses before school at 7.30am, and includes more advanced players and those who wish to play in competitions and advance their ensemble skills.

Stradivari strings rehearses before school from 7.45am. This group is string students who may wish to play for enjoyment and not compete.

Amati strings is the beginner strings ensemble. Participants in their first year of study, rehearse at lunchtime, starting in term

Students attending performances without the full music uniform will not be allowed to perform with the ensemble.
Ensembles - attendance

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, and when directors are informed about absences. As much notice as possible is given to students/parents when outside performances are scheduled.

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

If your child is absent due to illness or holidays please ensure this is communicated on the day.

Parents will be contacted if their child misses two rehearsals in a term without notification.

Attendance at all performances is expected. In exceptional cases where attendance is not possible, the ensemble director should be notified as soon as possible.

Students who accept positions at district camps are required to attend for the full length of the camp.

Rehearsals are a normal part of the teaching day. Parents are expected to ask the instructor if they wish to attend a rehearsal. The Director has the right to decline.
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.

Failure to meet requirements will result in parent notification and possible withdrawal from the ensemble.

EVENTS

Our instructors have agreed to only participate in events which occur out of school (curriculum) time. A number of new performance events have become part of our calendar in recent years. Performances also take place at the weekly assembly.

All ensemble members are expected to attend all performance events.
Events - School

The school also presents a Winter concert in June, for beginner and intermediate ensembles, a Senior Showcase Concert in August (for our three senior groups and auditioned soloists) and an end of year Celebration and Awards Night (YMCA) in November, for all groups.

Events - WestCent District Camp

Instrumental music instructors within the Western and Central districts organise two camps for all intermediate to advanced string and band in early June each year. Both ‘day’ and ‘away’ camps are run over one week, simultaneously. Auditions for this are usually in April, and tutors nominate students capable of meeting audition requirements. There is no tuition and no rehearsals at school during camp week as instructors assist with camps. Parents of students auditioning are required to provide transport to the audition.

Events - Annual Hub and District

Junior strings, band and choir utilise school assemblies as their main performing platform. Queensland Youth Music Awards in May provides a competition platform for some ensembles.

YSS supports the involvement of our instructors 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.

Parents are expected to provide transport for events scheduled out of school time.

**EXPECTATIONS**

The student role is to:

- attend lessons and rehearsals on time each week
- bring their instrument, music, practice record and pencil to each lesson
- practise each day (5 days per week minimum) for the length of time recommended by their instructor
- fill in their practice record daily, and ask a parent for their signature
- behave in a considerate manner to the instructor and other members of class, and follow the school rules while involved in music events and lessons
- participate in a school instrumental ensemble and attend every performance on the calendar
- care for and look after their instrument
- keep playing for a whole year.
The parent role is:

- to provide a suitable place and organise a regular time for home practice
- to encourage and support your child’s progress and involvement in all aspects of the instrumental music program, including their commitment to remain in the program for a minimum of one whole year and participating in all events
- to check and sign your child’s practice sheet
- to purchase extra resources as required
- ensure your child remembers lesson days and ensemble rehearsals and is prepared with the necessary equipment
- to notify the school if your child will not be attending a rehearsal due to illness, or to notify in advance by note if a change of circumstances is known
- to ensure your child’s involvement in all performances, especially those occurring outside school time/grounds eg. concerts, and festivals, and competitions
- to ensure your child wears the appropriate uniform to performances.
FOLDERS

Ensemble music is expensive ($80 – $150 per piece) and strict copying limits and conditions apply. Each ‘sheet’ is the equivalent of one library book. Folders assist with the teaching and learning about the value of sheet music, as well as adding to the team ‘uniform’ in performance.

INSTRUMENTS

Instruments, Insurance and Materials

Instruments can be owned outright or taken on loan from YSS for one year. Large instruments (double bass, euphonium, horn, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, tuba and baritone) can be hired for up to 3 years and are generally also available for loan in High Schools. In the case of breakage or low performance, parents must return the instrument to the director. Do not take instruments to a repairer or attempt any degree of repairs yourself. A loan agreement must be signed and returned before an instrument can be taken home. It is advisable to check the position of a school instrument on your home and contents insurance. Information on instrument specific insurance is available from most music retailers.

Blue YSS music folders are to be purchased through the school office for around $10. It is expected that all students in the instrumental program will have one at all times.
LOAN INSTRUMENTS ARE NOT COVERED BY EQ INSURANCE WHILE ON LOAN.

All materials on the materials requirements list are to be supplied by parents. This includes maintenance items such as oils and grease, neck straps, reeds, sticks and practice pads (percussion) and tutor books.

 Instruments left at school

Through the instrumental program students develop skills in organisation, time management and the responsibility of owning and caring for an expensive item – their instrument. Leaving instruments at school overnight and longer, poses a risk of the instrument being stolen. Practice cannot be taking place if instruments are at school. Consistent practice is required to remain in the program.

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.

Parents may be contacted if their child consistently leaves their instrument at school overnight or longer. Their position in the program may be at risk.
Instruments - Buying

Some parents may wish to purchase an instrument outright instead of loaning for a year. This should only be done after advice is sought from the instrumental tutor. Purchasing instruments unseen and un-played off of the internet is not recommended – even new ones. Please be aware that instruments purchased in a supermarket will be of doubtful quality.

Parents are required to purchase an instrument for their child in their second year of study if the maximum loan time is one year.

Instruments - Maintenance

Maintenance and repairs are not to be attempted by parents as often, more damage is done. This includes the removal of stuck mouthpieces, bent keys and broken corks.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS CAN ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN BY QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS, ORGANISED BY THE SCHOOL.

The loan levy does not cover damage or loss. Any repairs deemed to be beyond normal wear and tear by the instrumental specialist are not covered by the loan fee and may be required to be paid for by parents.
Instruments – Percussion

Percussionists use a range of instruments in rehearsals and lessons. These include the concert-size bass and snare drums, glockenspiels and cymbals and a range of auxiliary hand percussion. These large items are stored at school and need to be moved and set up before rehearsals/lessons.

Naming

Please clearly name every book, folder and instrument belonging to your child. The school takes no responsibility for lost instruments, folders, books and music. Take note of the serial number and make/model of your child’s instrument.

All damage, breaks and repair requirements must be brought to the attention of the instrumental specialist immediately and are to be dealt with by a professional repairer only.

Due to the specialist nature of learning percussion, all percussionists are required to safely move and set up and store the percussion section instruments as needed. This requires early attendance.
PRACTICE

In order to make progress and feel success, students entering the instrumental program are required to complete daily practice in their own time. The length of time varies and will be indicated by the instructor each year. Maintaining a routine or setting a place and time for practice assists students to develop effective time management practices. Instructors assist with this process by teaching effective practice skills and may use a practice record sheet and reward scheme.

It is often QUALITY and CONSISTENCY of practice rather than quantity that makes a difference.

Parents will be contacted if there are concerns about home practice.

Where practice record sheets are implemented, parents are required to sign the sheet weekly.

After concerns are raised and practice is still consistently not completed, the student’s position in the program may be reviewed.

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 initially expected to give a
commitment to the program for a minimum of ONE WHOLE YEAR.

In exceptional circumstances where continuation in the program is deemed to not be in the student’s best interests or a student is not showing commitment to the program, the opportunity to participate can be withdrawn by the school. In these circumstances, a meeting will be convened by the instrumental music teacher with the parent and (where appropriate) the child. If the situation is not resolved then a further meeting is to be arranged with the principal also attending.

String students and parents should be fully aware that they cannot stop learning a stringed instrument in order to take up a band instrument in year 4. Students who discontinue strings during year 3 are generally not eligible to take up a band instrument in year 4.

After the comprehensive recruitment process in which student participation in the decision making process is high, it is anticipated that students selected are suited to their instrument and will continue.

Band students are expected to give a commitment to the program on the instrument they are allocated, for three years. Re-assignment to another instrument is rare and would be at the discretion of the band specialist. The decision will be based on considerations of ensemble balance and the suitability of player to the instrument.
MATERIALS

Most music retailers will supply the method book and initial items required for your child’s instrument. *Masson’s Music, Music Express, Ellaways and The Brass Shop* will all have materials and know what a beginner needs.

The Concert Band uses the method book *Essential Elements 2000* - a Hal Leonard publication. (Percussion $35, all other instruments $19)

Band Additional Band Items:

Consider purchasing a ‘care kit’ for your instrument. This will contain cleaning, polishing, grease, oil, and reed care items as required to maintain an instrument well.

Saxophone and clarinet players require four (4) ‘V1 1/2’ reeds and four (4) ‘V2’ reeds for their instrument, plus a reed guard for their type of reed. Saxophone players may also like to purchase a well-padded neck strap to keep. Rico Royal are a good starter brand.

This supply should last 1 term. After that, reeds will need to be supplied on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The instructor will inform parents when a change of reed size is required.

Percussion students require a pair of beginner drum sticks - 5A or 7A. Music stores will be able to advise on the best value
sticks, usually for around $15 a pair. The school will supply a glockenspiel and practice pad for the first year only.

We have an arrangement with Mau Music, where parents can order and pay for Instrumental School Packs according to the instructor’s wishes, online, and packs are delivered directly to the school ready for the first week of school. Follow the links on the Mau Music website and look for our school.

**Strings**

Beginner string students require the *ENCORE ON STRINGS - Music Maestros Violin Book 1 (includes Play Along CD)* for their instrument.

Additional String items.

Violin students require a good quality shoulder rest to suit a 1/4 - 1/2 size violin. Kuhn is a quality brand.

Cello students who will be practising on a tiled or wooden floor at home may require a way of stopping the spike from slipping. A piece of carpet with latex backing could suffice. Alternatively, ‘rock stops’ can be purchased and will last for many years.