MUSICORP
St Martins School
Instrumental Music Program
2015
New Student Information

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1.1 Why Play a Musical Instrument

There are many benefits for students who take up learning a musical instrument. While the obvious benefits include the skills and knowledge gained on their chosen instrument, there are other, just as worthwhile benefits that students receive.

Music has its own language and reading requirements. The fact that reading music (1) is a left to right procedure, (2) requires a non stop approach and (3) sustained concentration of a written symbol means it is similar to learning to read and comprehend English (or any other language). Studies overseas have found that students who have received ongoing music instruction were shown to have better language reading skills, speaking skills and perceptive language skills than their non-musical peers.

Music is highly mathematical. This refers to the division of time, the written music as a graph and the exact control of many other variables that need to be calculated instantaneously by the brain. It has also been found that there is a high correlation between success in music and success in mathematics.

Playing an instrument requires an amazing coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, eyes and facial muscles as well as the
control of back, stomach and chest muscles. Each of these must respond instantly to the sounds that the ears hear and the mind interprets.

Participation in music provides an outlet for creativity and self-expression.

1.2 Aims of Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music education of children in Queensland Schools is guided by a belief in the following principles:

1. The right of each individual to develop his / her music potential.
2. To develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of music.
3. To develop a further knowledge of music and develop an appreciation of the discipline required in performance of music.
4. The use of workshops and performances to assist the above principles.
5. To use music to develop the individual – socially, emotionally and physically.
2.1 **Direction of Instrumental Music Teaching at St Martins School**

Mrs Chelsea Campbell from Musicorp visits St Martins School each week giving group lessons (3 to 6 students per group). Parents pay Musicorp Teaching Services each term for these 30 minute lessons that take place on a rotational basis. In Term 4, the Musicorp teacher will assess each new student as to what instrument/s would be more suitable for them to learn and parents will be advised of the outcome.

The following Instruments are taught at St Martins School.

- Flute
- Clarinet and Bass Clarinet
- Alto and Tenor Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone

French Horn
- Euphonium
- Bass Guitar
- Percussion
- Keyboard

**2.2 Rehearsal and Performance Schedules at St Martins School**

St Martins School is very lucky to have a Junior Concert Band (for students in their first year, usually Gr4) as well as a Senior Concert Band (for students who have been learning for one or more years). Instrumental Music students at St Martins are offered a variety of opportunities to perform within the school community and the greater community. Such performances include Sunday Funday,
Grandparents Day and Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival to name a few. In order to prepare for these occasions, rehearsals are held weekly at the following times:

Junior Concert Band – Mondays 7:45-8:30am (commencing in Term 2 each year)
Senior Concert Band – Tuesdays 7:30-8:30am (commencing in Term 1 each year)

By participating in these ensembles students further develop their musical abilities. Students learn to work as a team, develop the aural skills required to pick (and correct) wrong notes, tuning and to create balance within the ensemble. Performances also develop higher levels of self-esteem and confidence in the student.

2.3 Expected Commitments of Musicians at St Martins School

Students are expected to always try their best in learning a musical instrument. It is highly recommended that students practise in blocks of at least 20 minutes, at least three times a week. It is imperative that the student takes home the material learnt in lessons and further develops their skills on the instrument.

It is also expected that students do their best to check their lesson time each week and arrive promptly with the required materials-
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instrument, book/folder with music, pencil, spare reeds or valve oil (as required for their instrument).

Last but not least, the implementation of exemplary behaviour is crucial to ensuring that each student (in lesson time and band rehearsal) receives the best quality musical experience possible. Students who do not meet these expectations will be dealt with according to the school’s behaviour management policy.

3.1 Assessment and Evaluation of Instrumental Music

Evaluation takes place from week to week as verbal communication on a students’ progress between student and teacher. At the end of each Semester students undergo assessment where they are required to prepare a piece and perform it in front of their group. Students and Parents also receive a report card that is based not only on this performance but the student’s overall progress for the Semester. Tips for improvement in the next Semester are also included in this report.

4.1 St Martins Instrumental Music Support Group

The Instrumental Music Support Group is an integral part of the Instrumental Music Program at St Martins as it provides ongoing support to the Music Program by coordinating Instrument hire, collecting an annual band levy to help cover costs of sheet
music/music folders provided to band members and assisting in the setup at band performances throughout the year. Involvement in this small committee, with meetings only once per term, will contribute to your PPP points.

4.2 Instrument Availabilities at St Martins School

St Martins has a number of the following instruments available for hire at a very reasonable $52.50 per term commencing in 2015. The cost includes servicing if required. These instruments are subject to availability and are allocated on a “first in, first served” basis late in Term 4. If you elect to hire an instrument from St Martins the hire fees will be added to your School Fees Account each term. You will however, still be required to pay Musicorp for the lessons. (Reminder - In Term 4, the Musicorp teacher will assess each new student as to what instrument/s would be more suitable for them to learn and parents will be advised of the outcome)

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Bass Guitar
You also have the option to hire an instrument from Musicorp as per the rates set out in the brochure you have received.

All instruments are distributed from school on the day of the first lesson and include specific care instructions that, if followed, should reduce the need for any repairs or exchanges to be made.

4.3 Band Uniforms and Levies

UNIFORMS

Junior band members: no band uniform required, day uniform is worn for all performances.

Senior band members: uniform requirements for all performances are as follows:

- Long black dress pants – jeans, jean style pants or leggings will NOT be permitted (band pants hire scheme no longer exists)
- Black socks and black shoes
- Long sleeved white shirt with front buttons and collar (cheaper to buy boys shirt)
- Band vest and tie – hired from the Music Committee. The hire cost is covered via the Band Levy (see below)
(Note re Band Vests: The band vests and ties are distributed on the day of the performance and are returned immediately at the end of the performance. They are not to be taken home.)

BAND LEVY

A levy is charged annually to all instrumental music students via the Term 2 or 3 School Fees Account. This levy helps cover the costs of providing sheet music and folders to band members as well as contributing to competition entry fees. The sheet music and folders are to be returned at the end of each year.

Junior Band Levy - $10 – (sheet music/folder only)

Senior Band Levy - $15- (sheet music/folder and Vest hire)
Please do not hesitate to contact the St Martins Music Support Group if you have any queries or are interested in joining this committee:

**General Email Enquiries and Instrument Hire Enquiries** - stmartinsmusicgroup@gmail.com

**Tennille Willington (President/secretary)** - 0412 650 124

**Rita D’Amore (Instrument Coordinator)** - 0412 210 705

**Tuition/ General Enquiries about the music program:**

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