

Petersham Public School



Instrumental Music Program Handbook

2022

Welcome!

Welcome to all families joining the Instrumental Music Program! The IMP provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn one or more musical instruments, and also enjoy the social benefits of working together as a team in large, medium and small ensembles.

The Instrumental Music Program is administered by a subcommittee of the Petersham Public School P&C Association, with the support and collaboration of our Principal, school staff and valued parent volunteers. There are four Conductors:

Strings - Bronte Ellis
Recorder - Mikaela Sukkar
Band - Alexander Lee
Percussion - Freya Steele

This handbook will give you an overview of everything you need to know about participating in the IMP, so please take time to read each section.

To register in the IMP in 2022 - fill in the online form in the My School Music Parent Portal by the end of Week 5 (4/3/22)

<http://portal.msmusic.com.au/ppsimp>

Aims of the Instrumental Music Program (IMP)

- To give **every** student the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, regardless of their musical experience.
- To enable students to develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles.
- To provide every student with an opportunity to perform.
- To develop teamwork and leadership skills.
- To encourage a sense of responsibility and commitment.

Being part of a musical ensemble is a wonderful opportunity for all children. No prior musical experience is needed to join the Junior Recorders, Stringlets, Training Band and the Percussion Ensemble. During their time in the program your child will learn to play an instrument (or two!), read music, and work together with their peers to produce wonderful music.

The value of learning a musical instrument has long been acknowledged. Developing musical abilities has wide-ranging benefits in neurodevelopment as well as positive effects on many aspects of a child's education. Being part of an ensemble helps a child to develop the cooperative social skills required to be a valued member of any team.

“The evidence of neuroscience overwhelmingly demonstrates that children studying music have a considerable educational advantage over those who don't. Because of the essentially aural nature of music, together with the requirements of intense listening and concentration, the child's brain responds powerfully to music education, enhancing all other learning” - Richard Gill OAM

IMP Conductors and ensembles

In 2022, our IMP Conductors and ensembles are:

Strings Conductor: Bronte Ellis bronte.ellis@hotmail.com	Stringlets Junior Strings Senior Strings
Recorder Conductor: Mikaela Sukkar mikaela.sukkar@gmail.com	Junior Recorders Recorder Consort
Band Conductor: Alexander Lee alexander.lee168@gmail.com	Training Band Concert Band
Percussion Conductor: Freya Steele freyasteele28@gmail.com	Percussion Ensemble
P&C Music Committee imp@petersshampandc.org.au	

Students from Years 1 - 6 can participate in the IMP. Each group requires varying levels of musical training, however new students can be part of Stringlets, Junior Recorder, Training Band and the Percussion Ensemble without having prior experience.

Rehearsal schedule

All rehearsals are held in the school hall, except for Percussion Ensemble (room TBC).

Monday

- Senior Strings 7.45 - 8.45am (arrive 7.35am)
- Stringlets 8.45 - 9.15am (arrive 8.40am)
- Junior Strings 3.30 - 4.30pm (arrive 3.20pm)
- Percussion Ensemble 3.30 - 4.00pm (arrive 3.25pm) - *subject to sufficient enrolments*

Tuesday

- Recorder Consort 7.45 - 8.45am (arrive 7.35am)
- Junior Recorder 8.45 - 9.15am (arrive 8.40am)

Wednesday

- Training Band 8.00 - 9.00am (arrive 7.50am)

Friday

- Concert Band 8.00 - 9.00am (arrive 7.50am)

Arrangements for students attending PACC

Students attending before or after school care at Petersham Activities Centre for Children (PACC) can arrange to have their child(ren) attend rehearsals and/or on site private music tutoring. PACC staff will arrange to sign-out and take your child(ren) to the session, and/or collect and sign-in your child(ren) from the session.

Please notify PACC directly of your child(ren)'s IMP schedule.

String Ensembles

The IMP offers three string ensembles, catering for students from Year 1 to Year 6. Students who want to learn the violin, viola, cello or double bass are invited to join these ensembles. Keen beginners from Kindergarten, with prior music experience, may also apply to join.

Students in the string ensembles will have the opportunity to perform as a group for school-based events, and also at an annual Soirée Concert where they will present a solo piece of their own choosing, with parents/carers and family invited to listen and watch, and share some party food together in a celebration of their music achievements afterwards!

Stringlets (Monday 8:45 – 9:15 am)

- Stringlets is open to students who have just begun learning a string instrument.
- Students learn how to correctly hold their instruments, read music, play as an ensemble member and develop their listening skills.

Junior Strings (Monday 3:30 – 4:30 pm)

- Junior Strings is open to students who have some experience playing their instrument, eg. having participated in Stringlets for one year or having prior lessons with a tutor.
- Students in Junior Strings should be comfortable with reading music and playing simple scales and songs on their instrument.

- Students further develop their ensemble, rhythm and listening skills, and increase their musical repertoire by playing new and more complex songs as a group.

Senior Strings (Monday 7:45 – 8:45 am)

- Students join Senior Strings by auditioning once they have had some experience in Junior Strings (usually around one year to 18 months).
- Senior Strings plays music at an advanced level and students should be equivalent in their learning to AMEB Grade 1/Suzuki Book 2 at a minimum standard.
- Each year, a small selection of students from Senior Strings is invited to represent the School at the Festival of Instrumental Music, an exciting concert at Sydney Opera House.

Recorder Ensembles

Recorder is a great way to start your child's musical journey. They are great for small hands and easy to carry! Students are not required to have private lessons on recorder, however if students wish, lessons can be arranged.

Junior Recorders (Tuesday 8:45 – 9:15 am)

- From Year 1 onwards, students are invited to join the recorder program.
- This is a great opportunity to learn how to play an instrument and read music.
- Students will start on the descant recorder, and after a year of playing, will likely be ready to move into Recorder Consort.
- Learning the recorder is recommended for all students before learning a band instrument, as it will give them a very useful musical foundation!

Recorder Consort (Tuesday 7:45 – 8:45 am)

- The Recorder Consort is the most experienced recorder ensemble the IMP offers.
- Students can audition to be part of this ensemble after 1-2 years of learning the recorder.
- The ensemble includes descant recorders, trebles, tenors and bass recorders.
- Students in the Recorder Consort partake in the Instrumental Music Festival at the Opera House, and some students are selected to be part of the State Recorder Ensemble.

Bands

All instruments are important to the bands, and require the same level of commitment, practice and enthusiasm. Some students will obviously have a preference for, or be more physically suited to play, a particular instrument. When instruments are assigned this will be taken into account. (The band program is particularly looking for students to play the trombone, baritone horn/euphonium, tuba, french horn, oboe, trumpet and bassoon.)

Training Band (Wednesday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- The Training Band is made up of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments as well as the double bass and electric bass guitar.
- This band is for students with little or no prior training on their chosen instrument.
- Students are able to join the Training Band from Year 3 onwards.
- Students will learn about their instruments, how to be part of an ensemble, and create music together.
- Students spend a minimum of 1-2 years in the Training Band - the first year as a beginner, and the second year as a section leader to help new students learn.

Concert Band (Friday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- This is the most advanced band offered in the IMP. Once students are proficient on their instrument, they can audition to be a part of this ensemble (audition is based on p28 of essential elements book 1).
- Students will learn more advanced repertoire, more advanced instrumental skills and more advanced ensemble skills.
- The Concert Band regularly performs at the Engadine Band Festival and achieves high results every year!

Percussion Ensemble

The IMP will continue the trial of a Percussion Ensemble this year, which will proceed subject to sufficient enrolments. Students from Year 1 to Year 6 are welcome to participate.

Students will learn both untuned (drums) and tuned (keyboard percussion such as xylophones) percussion in this ensemble.

Percussion Ensemble (Monday 3:30 - 4:00 pm)

- This ensemble is for students Year 1 and up, with little or no prior musical experience.
- Students learn important rhythmic and ensemble skills, and work together as a team.
- Private lessons are not required to be part of this ensemble, but if you wish to have lessons there will be a tutor available.

Depending on the number of enrolments, the group may be split into a Junior Percussion Ensemble and a Senior Percussion Ensemble at the start of Term 2, 2022.

Instrument practise

Students are expected to practise at home for 20-30 minutes, 4-5 times a week. All students who are in Band and Strings ensembles must also attend a weekly private lesson (please see the list of IMP tutors on the last page of this handbook).

Auditions

At the end of Term 4, continuing IMP students are invited to present an audition. After presenting their audition, students may be invited to move up to a higher ensemble, or offered the chance to be a section leader. Auditions are also a great chance for Conductors to hear how each individual is progressing, and give feedback to students.

Hiring an instrument

The IMP has a wide variety of instruments that can be hired from the school. Some instruments (bass guitar in particular this year) may need to be either hired from other providers or purchased due to their popularity. Recommendations for places to hire or purchase instruments can be provided by the Conductors.

Instruments available to be hired from the IMP include:

- **Recorder** – soprano, descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders
- **String** – violin, viola, cello, double bass
- **Band** – flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn/euphonium, tuba

Students are able to play percussion instruments, however these instruments will remain at School. Parents/carers will need to make arrangements to have access to their own percussion equipment. Recommendations on how to arrange this can be given.

Instruments loaned out to students are either new or just serviced. It is the students and parents/carers responsibility to look after the instrument. Families hiring an instrument will sign a contract acknowledging their responsibility for care of the instrument, and liability for loss or damage to the instrument. If required, instruments need a service before they are returned at the end of the hire contract - we can provide a recommendation of businesses or technicians specialising in instrument servicing or repairs on request.

Commitment

Students need to attend weekly ensemble rehearsals at School. Students in Band and Strings ensembles also need to attend weekly private lessons. There are tutors available on site for most instruments, and a list of the IMP tutors is included at the end of this handbook.

Students are expected to make a commitment for at least a semester (two terms), preferably the full year. If you withdraw, you will generally not be issued a refund.

Cost

Membership fee

There is a \$50 per student membership fee, payable per Semester. The membership fee covers the general expenses of running the IMP, such as the cost of music repertoire / books and the My School Music licence fee.

Ensemble fees

In addition to the IMP membership fee, ensemble fees are as follows:

- Large ensemble - \$130 per semester (**Training Band, Concert Band, Junior Strings, Senior Strings, Recorder Consort**)
- Small ensemble - \$70 per semester (**Junior Recorder, Stringlets, Percussion Ensemble**)

If you are in two ensembles of the same stream (eg. Training Band and Concert Band), you will not be charged for the second ensemble - as usually this is at the conductor's request.

Percussion levy

In lieu of instrument hire, there is a levy of \$50 per Semester for percussion students, to cover the cost of instrument wear & tear / maintenance. If you play percussion in multiple ensembles (eg. Training Band and Percussion Ensemble), you will only pay the percussion levy once per Semester.

When joining Percussion Ensemble for the first time, new drumsticks are included as part of your ensemble fee.

Instrument hire

Instrument hire is \$120 per semester, with a \$30 servicing fee if required. There is no hiring fee for alto or tenor recorders.

When joining Junior Recorder for the first time, a new descant recorder and Black Belt Recorder book is included as part of your ensemble fee.

Private lessons

All students in Band and Strings ensembles must have weekly private lessons outside school hours. Private lessons are organised directly between parents/carers and the tutor. The cost of these lessons are *not* included in the ensemble fees, and are paid directly to your tutor.

Private lessons usually occur on School premises both before or after school, and can be undertaken while students attend PACC. Some tutors also teach in studios near the school. The current costs are around \$35-45 for a half hour lesson.

A list of IMP tutors is maintained by the Conductors, and is included on the last page of this handbook. Any tutor who is included on this list has a valid Working With Children Check, and has completed an annual school / child safety induction with the School Principal.

Financial assistance

Families who would like to be part of the IMP, who may not otherwise be able to afford to partake in the program, are encouraged to apply for financial assistance from the P&C. You can make a request by contacting the Conductors, the P&C or the School Principal. Applicants may be eligible for full or partial assistance with ensemble and instrument hire fees.

All applications will be treated confidentiality and respectfully. Note: there is no financial assistance available for private music lessons.

Getting the best out of the program

There is a level of commitment involved in being part of the Instrumental Music Program. We encourage you to read the following points before applying for a place in the IMP.

Student duties

- Practise at home 20-30 minutes, 4-5 times a week. Students who do regular practice at home experience the most success in ensembles.
- Attend rehearsals every week.
- Arrive 5-10 mins before the rehearsal starts to set up and be ready to start on time.
- Let the conductor know by email (see above) if you will miss a performance or rehearsal.
- Keep up to date with the IMP by reading newsletters and emails from the P&C Music Committee. These include rehearsal and performance information, so are important!
- Have weekly private lesson(s) on your chosen instrument(s) (not including recorder and percussion ensembles, for which no private lessons are required, but can be taken).

Parent/carer duties

- Please ensure your child is practicing regularly at home. Sometimes children will find this hard, and we encourage extrinsic rewards for students who have difficulty maintaining regular practice. Parents/carers of very young students (Stage 1) are encouraged to observe music lessons as well as home practice, and check in with their child's music tutor to ensure that they are on the right track with their learning.
- Please ensure your child is punctual. Arriving 5-10 minutes before rehearsal starts will give your child enough time to set up their instrument and organise their music. Most of

the key learning occurs in the first 10 minutes of the rehearsal, where new concepts are introduced. Students who are continually late will miss key learning.

- Please pay ensemble fees on time. The P&C Music Committee will send home invoices to be paid each semester.
- Communicate with Conductors in advance if your child will be away for a rehearsal or performance.
- Read newsletters and emails sent by the P&C Music Committee, as this is the main form of communication with parents and carers.

IMP uniform

Students in the IMP are expected to wear the full IMP uniform for public performances (not including performances at school assemblies), which consists of:

- White IMP shirt - available to purchase new or second-hand from the P&C Uniform Shop
- Black pants or black leggings (no tracksuit pants please)
- Black socks
- Black shoes

Questions

If you have any questions, please email your Conductor or the P&C Music Committee:

- Bronte Ellis - bronte.ellis@hotmail.com
- Mikaela Sukkar - mikaela.wukkar@gmail.com
- Alexander Lee - alexander.lee168@gmail.com
- Freya Steele - frevasteele28@gmail.com
- P&C Music Committee - imp@petershampandc.org.au

How to join the program

Students interested in joining the program are encouraged to apply online. . Students will be assigned an instrument based on suitability for the instrument and needs of the program, while keeping in mind students preferences.

To register in the IMP - fill in the online form in the My School Music Parent Portal by the end of Week 5 (4/3/22)

<http://portal.msmusic.com.au/ppsimp>

List of IMP tutors - 2022

IMP tutors listed below have a valid Working With Children Check and have completed an annual school / child safety induction with the School Principal. Private lessons usually occur on school premises before or after school, however some tutors also teach in studios near the school (marked with a **).

**THE LIST OF IMP TUTORS IS CURRENTLY BEING FINALISED
AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN WEEK 3 (w/c 7 February 2022).**