

Petersham Public School



Instrumental Music Program Handbook

2020

Welcome

Welcome to all families joining the Petersham PS Instrumental Music Program! The IMP at Petersham 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 both large and small ensembles.

The Instrumental Music Program is administered by a sub-committee of the Petersham PS P&C Association, with the support and collaboration of our Principal, school staff and valued parent volunteers. There are three musical directors:

Bands - Alexander Lee for Bands
Strings - Bridget Hall for Strings
Recorders - Mikaela Sukkar

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

Enrolment Forms can be found at the end of this handbook, or at the following link: <https://forms.gle/ZwjNtr8SiDJGRBEE7>

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 give every student 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 and Training Band. 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*

Band Director

Alexander Lee
alexander.lee168@gmail.com

Strings Director

Bridget Hall
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Recorder Director

Mikaela Sukkar
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Petersham IMP Ensembles

At Petersham PS, we are proud to offer a vibrant Instrumental Music Program. Our instrumental ensembles include:

Stringlets

Junior Recorders

Training Band

Junior Strings

Senior Recorders

Concert Band

Senior Strings

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 and Training Band without having prior experience.

String Ensembles

PPS offers three string ensembles, catering for students from Year 1 to Year 6. Students who learn the **Violin, Viola, Cello** or **Double Bass** are invited to join these ensembles. Keen beginners from Kindergarten or students with prior music experience may also apply to join.

Learning a string instrument requires encouragement and support from parents to ensure that students are practicing their music each week. Students are expected to have weekly individual lessons with an instrumental tutor in addition to taking part in ensemble. 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 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 (Thursday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- Junior Strings is open to students who have had some experience in playing their instrument, for example, 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 PPS at the Festival of Instrumental Music, a huge and exciting concert at Sydney Town Hall.

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 (Monday 3:30 – 4:00 pm)

- From Year 2 onwards, students are invited to join the recorder program.
- This is a great opportunity for students to learn how to play an instrument and read music.
- Students will usually start on the descant recorder, and after a year of playing graduate to a larger recorder (either treble, tenor or bass).
- 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 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- The Recorder Consort is the most experienced recorder ensemble the school offers.
- Students can audition to be part of this ensemble after 1 – 2 years of learning the recorder.
- Students in the Recorder Consort partake in the Instrumental Music Festival at the Opera House each year, and some students are selected to be part of the State Recorder Ensemble.

Bands

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.
- Students are expected to practice 4 – 5 times a week at home, attend weekly rehearsals for their ensemble and attend a weekly private lesson (a list of tutors will be emailed home in upon commencement of the program in 2019)

All instruments are important to the ensemble 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, tuba/baritone horn, french horn, oboe, trumpet and bassoon).

Concert Band (Friday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- This is the most advanced band offered at Petersham. Once students are proficient on their instrument, they can audition to be a part of this ensemble (see *levels* below).
- Students will learn more advanced repertoire, more advanced instrumental skills and more advanced ensemble skills.
- The same practice and commitment is expected at in all ensembles. Students must attend the rehearsal every week and a lesson with their tutor, as well as practicing at home.

The Concert band regularly perform at the Engadine Band Festival and achieve high results every year!

Auditions

At the end of Term 4, IMP students are invited to present an audition. For Band and Recorder ensemble students, this takes the form of a 'Level' (see below) of music that they have achieved throughout the year. Strings students have the opportunity to move between ensembles or be invited to act as a section leader by presenting a piece and a scale that they feel comfortable playing and they feel reflects the best of their playing ability. Students and parents are encouraged to talk to their tutor and conductor about what level or repertoire they should prepare. It is not a competition between students, but rather a marker for students to work through the levels at a pace that suits them.

After presenting their audition at the end of the year, students may be invited to move up to a higher ensemble, or offered the chance to be a section leader. These levels are a great chance for our conductors to hear how each individual is progressing, and give feedback to the students.

Strings Audition Requirements

Stringlets

Any one octave Major scale and a short piece that the student feels comfortable to play well.

Junior Strings

Any one or two octave Major or Minor scale and a short piece that the student feels comfortable to play well, and which shows their level of progress.

Senior Strings

Any two or three octave Major or Minor scale and a short piece that the student feels comfortable to play well, and which shows their level of progress.

Recorder Levels

Level 1 - Select two songs from Junior Recorder Music

Level 2 - Come Lovely May – Mozart

Level 3 - Menuet – Dieupart

Level 4 - Sonata in C or F – Handel

Level 5 - Sonata in A minor/E minor – Handel

Woodwind and Brass Levels

Level 1 - Essential Elements – Page 28 and/or A.M.E.B Preliminary Scales + List A

Level 2 - A.M.E.B Grade 1 Scales + List A

Level 3 - A.M.E.B Grade 2 Scales + List A

Level 4 - A.M.E.B Grade 3 Scales + List A

Level 5 - A.M.E.B Grade 4 Scales + List A

Level 6 - A.M.E.B Grade 5 Scales + List A

Hiring an Instrument

Petersham has a wide variety of instruments that can be hired from the school. Some instruments (alto saxophone in particular this year) may need to be either hired from other places or purchased due to their popularity. Recommendations for places to hire or purchase instruments can be given. Instruments available to be rented from the school include:

Recorders – Sopranino, Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass Recorders

String Instruments – Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Band Instruments – Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Horn/Euphonium, Tuba

Students are able to play percussion instruments, however these instruments will remain at school. Parents 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 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. All instruments will need a general 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.

Costs and Commitment

Students who join an ensemble are expected to make a commitment for a full year. Students need to attend weekly ensemble rehearsals at school, and attend weekly private lessons. There are tutors available at the school for all instruments, and a list of the years tutors will go out on commencement of the program next year.

All students in the Band and Strings programs (except Stringlets) pay a large ensemble fee of \$180 per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment. **Students participating in more than one large ensemble will only pay one large ensemble fee** - it does not cost more for your child to do multiple ensembles!

Instrument hire is \$155 per semester, with a \$30 servicing fee if required. Percussion players will pay a levy of \$50 which goes to the maintenance and purchasing of new percussion instruments.

Students in the Recorder program and Stringlets pay a small ensemble fee of \$100 per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment.

All students who are in Band and Strings ensembles **must have weekly private lessons outside school hours**. These lessons are not included in the ensemble fees, and are paid directly to your tutor. The current costs are around \$35-45 for a half hour lesson.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are organised between parents or caregivers and the tutor. A list of tutors at the school will be given out at the beginning of each year. As invoices are paid directly to tutors, please ensure that they are paid on time each term, and be sure to give 24 hours notice to your tutors if you need to cancel your lesson for any reason. Private lessons occur on school premises, before and after school, however some tutors teach in studios near the school.

Financial Assistance

Families who would like to be part of the IMP who may not be able to afford to partake in the program are encouraged to apply for financial assistance in writing to the IMP Band Director (Alexander Lee). This will be reviewed by the IMP Band Director, the P&C Music Committee and the School Principal. Applicants can apply for full assistance for Recorder program, and partial assistance for Band and String programs. There is no financial assistance 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's Duties

- Practise at home 20 – 30 mins 4-5 times a week. Students who do regular practice at home experience the most success in ensembles.
- Attend rehearsals for each enrolled ensemble every week.
- Arrive 10 mins before the rehearsal start 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 emails from the committee. These will include rehearsal and performance information, so are very important!
- Have weekly private lesson(s) on your chosen instrument(s) (not including recorders, for which no private lessons are required, but can be taken).

Parent's 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 of very young students (Kindergarten - Year 2) are encouraged to observe music lessons as well as home practise, 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 10 mins 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 mins of the rehearsal, where new concepts are introduced for the lessons. Students who are continually late will miss key learning.
- Please pay Ensemble Fees on time. The Music Committee will send home invoices to be paid each semester.
- Communicate with the ensemble director in advance if your child will be away for a rehearsal or performance.
- Read emails sent by the Music Committee, as this is the main form of communication with parents and guardians.
- If you have any questions about the IMP, please email your Musical Director
Alexander Lee alexander.lee@gmail.com
Bridget Hall bridget.g.hall@gmail.com
Mikaela Sukkar Mikaela.Sukkar@gmail.com

IMP Uniform

Members of the IMP are expected to wear full uniform for public performances (not including performances at assemblies). Students are loaned a white shirt that needs to be cleaned and returned to the IMP at the end of your tenure in the program. The cost of shirt rental is included in your ensemble fees. Parents will need to supply black pants, socks and shoes to complete the uniform.

How to Join the Program

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

Please return the enrolment form on the next two pages to the School Office. An online enrolment form can be submitted via this link: <https://forms.gle/ZwjNtr8SiDJGRBEE7>

Application for 2020 Instrumental Music Program

Interested students are invited to apply for the Petersham Instrumental Music Program. Please return the application to your **classroom teacher**, to **the office** or to a **musical director** (Alexander Lee, Bridget Hall or Mikaela Sukkar) by Friday, 6th December 2020.

If you have any questions about the instrumental music program, please contact one of the musical directors via email:

alexander.lee168@gmail.com bridget.g.hall@gmail.com Mikaela.Sukkar@gmail.com

Student's Name

School Year in 2020

- ☐ I would like to enrol my child in the Petersham PS Instrumental Music Program for 2020.
- ☐ I have read and understood all the information contained in this handbook about the IMP, and costs and commitment to the IMP.
- ☐ I understand that accepted students will be assigned an instrument based on their suitability and the availability of places within the IMP.
- ☐ I acknowledge that I will be liable for the loss of or any damage to hired instruments.

Parent Name/s (please print)

Parent Signature

Date

Contact Number

Email Address

(Please print carefully as this is the main form of communication for the IMP)

I would like to apply for my child to take part in the following ensembles (please tick)

- ☐ Junior Recorder
- ☐ Stringlets or Junior Strings
- ☐ Training Band

My child would like to be considered for the following instrument/s
(Please number up to five choices in order of preference, 1-5)

Recorder

- ☐ Recorder – all students will start on descant recorder, and will be assigned other recorders as they advance through the program

Strings

- ☐ Violin
- ☐ Viola
- ☐ Cello
- ☐ Double Bass

Training Band

- ☐ Flute
- ☐ Oboe
- ☐ Clarinet
- ☐ Bassoon
- ☐ Saxophone
- ☐ Trumpet
- ☐ French Horn

☐ Trombone

- ☐ Baritone
- ☐ Tuba
- ☐ Double/electric
Bass
- ☐ Percussion
- ☐ Glockenspiel

Instrument Hire

- ☐ I would like to hire an instrument from the school
- ☐ I would like to hire/purchase an instrument from an external source
- ☐ I already have my own instrument