

Petersham Public School



Instrumental Music Program Handbook

2019

Welcome

Welcome to those families joining the Petersham P.S. Instrumental Music Program. The music program 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.

The Instrumental Music Program is administered by a sub-committee of the Petersham P.S. P&C Association, with the support and collaboration of the Principal and School Staff. There are three musical directors; Alexander Lee for Bands, Bridget Hall for Strings, and Mikaela Sukkar for Recorders.

We hope this handbook will give you an overview of all you need to know about participation in the Instrumental Music Program so please take the time to browse through this handbook. *There is an enrollment form at the end of the handbook.*

Aims of the Instrumental Music Program (IMP)

The aims of the IMP

- to give **every** student the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument regardless of their musical experience
- to help students 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 and 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

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Strings Director

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Recorder Director

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Petersham IMP Ensembles

At Petersham Public School, we are proud to offer a vibrant Instrumental Music Program (IMP). 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 Strings, Junior Recorder and Training Band.

String Ensembles

There are three string ensembles in the school which cater for students from Year 1 to Year 6. Students who wish to 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 join Stringlets.

Stringlets (Wednesday 8:30 – 9:00 am)

- Stringlets is the beginner ensemble for string players with little or no prior instrumental experience.
- Students will learn how to hold their instruments, read music, play as an ensemble member and develop their listening skills.

String Instruments require a hands on approach from parents to oversee that students are practicing what the teacher asks each week. Much like home reader, parents play an active role in their child's practice at home.

Junior Strings (Thursday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

- Students who are new to ensemble but have prior experience with a string instrument or music reading may begin in Junior Strings.
- Students can audition to move up to Junior Strings after 1 - 1.5 years of participating in the Stringlets ensemble.
- Students in Junior Strings should be comfortable with reading music.

Senior Strings (Monday 8:00 – 9:00 am)

This is our most experienced string ensemble, with members able to participate in the Instrumental Music Festival at the Sydney Opera House, and many other exciting performance opportunities.

- Students in Junior Strings can audition and move up to Senior Strings.
- Senior Strings plays music at an advanced level and students should be equivalent to AMEB Grade 1 at a minimum standard.

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 or 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 tuba, baritone, french horn, oboe, saxophone, 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

In Week 9 of Term 4, Students are invited to present a 'Level' (see below) of music that they have achieved throughout the year. Students and parents are encouraged to talk to their tutor/conductor about what level 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.

In presenting a 'level' at the end of the year students may be invited to move up to a higher ensemble, or move up a to a higher part in their section (i.e. Violin 1 or Violin 2). These levels are a great chance for the relevant musical director to hear how each individual is progressing, and give feedback to the students.

Strings Levels

Level 1 - D major scale + Jingle Bells (Encore on Strings: Music Maestros).

Level 2 - A.M.E.B Preliminary Scales + List A and List B and sight-reading.

Level 3 - A.M.E.B Grade 1 Scales + Piece or Suzuki Book 1 Piece.

Level 4 - A.M.E.B Grade 2 Scales + Piece or Suzuki Book 2 Piece.

Level 5 - A.M.E.B Grade 3 Scales + Piece or Suzuki Book 3 Piece.

Level 6 - A.M.E.B Grade 4 Scales + Piece or Suzuki Book 4 Piece.

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

Instruments in the Music Program

Petersham has a wide variety of instruments that can be hired from the school. Some instruments, however, 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/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 that hire an instrument will sign a contract with the school for care of the instrument, families will be liable for loss or damage to instruments. All instruments will need a 'general service' before they are returned at the end of the hire contract.

Cost 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.

The fees listed here are from 2018 - These might change a little for next year and there will be a separate email sent out with updated fees attached. All students in the Band and Strings program pay a large ensemble fee of \$360 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 will not cost more for your child to do multiple ensembles!

Instrument hire is \$150- per semester, percussion players will pay a levy of \$50- that goes to the maintenance and purchasing of new percussion instruments.

Students in the recorder program pay a small ensemble fee of \$200 per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment.

All students who are in a large ensemble (band and strings) **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. 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.

- Practice at home 20 – 30 mins 4-5 times a week, Students who keep up practice regular at home experience the most success in ensembles.
- Younger students, (*Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2*) will need a lot of parental supervision in both lessons and practice at home to establish good practice techniques.
- 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.
- Letting the conductor know by email (see above) if you are going to 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 – which no private lessons are required, but can be taken)

Parent's duties

- Please make sure your child is practicing regularly at home. Sometimes children will find this hard, and we encourage extrinsic rewards for students who may find it hard to maintain regular practice.
- Please make sure your child is punctual. Please **arrive 10 mins** before rehearsal starts to ensure your child has enough time to set up their instrument, and organise their music. Most of the key learning occurs in the first 10mins 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 if you are going to be away for a rehearsal, and performances.
- Read emails sent by the Music Committee, as this is the main form of communication with parents.
- Finally if you have any questions about the program, please email your Musical Director; either Alexander Lee (alexander.lee@gmail.com), Bridget Hall (bridget.g.hall@gmail.com), or 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. 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 enrollment form at the end of the handbook to the Office, your classroom teacher, or one of the musical directors *by the 7th of December 2018*

Application for 2019 Instrumental Music Program

Please return this form by 7th December

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 the 7th of December.

If you have any questions about the instrumental music program, please contact one of the musical directors by email (alexander.lee168@gmail.com, bridget.g.hall@gmail.com, Mikaela.Sukkar@gmail.com)

Students Name

Year/ Grade in 2019

- I would like my child to be considered for the Petersham Instrumental Music Program for 2019
- I have read and understood all the information contained in this handbook about the program and costs and commitment to the program.
- I understand that accepted students will be assigned an instrument based on their suitability and the needs of the program.
- I also understand that I will be liable for the loss or damage of the instrument when hiring from the school.

Parents Name

Parents Signature

Date _____

Contact Number

Email Address

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

My Child would like to be considered for 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) (mark up to 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

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