Instrumental & Vocal Music Program Information Booklet

Includes sign up forms for new and continuing students
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THE QUEENSLAND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The Queensland Instrumental Music Program is a comprehensive tuition program in which students learn orchestral or band instruments through instruction on a group basis. The instrumental program seeks to extend a student’s experience in music through group lessons and through participation in concert band, stage band or other associated chamber ensembles.

Students in the Instrumental Music Program have at least two contact periods per week, one in an instrumental lesson and at least one in an ensemble rehearsal.

All instrumental music students are required to have a group lesson and, when musically ready, an ensemble rehearsal each week. The ensemble experience is provided through the school concert band and other ensembles.

WHY STUDY MUSIC? HERE’S 12 REASONS.

1. Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain’s circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.

2. There is also a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.

3. Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer.

4. Recent studies show that students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests such as the SAT. They also achieve higher grades in high school.

5. A study of the arts provides children with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures. This development of compassion and empathy, as opposed to development of greed and a “me first” attitude, provides a bridge across cultural chasms that leads to respect of other races at an early age.

6. Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.

7. In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.

8. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.

9. Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Now that there is relative security in the basics of existence, the challenge is to make life meaningful and to reach for a higher stage of development. Everyone needs to be in touch at some time in his life with his core, with what he is and what he feels. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.

10. Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on “doing,” as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.

11. Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.

12. An arts education exposes children to the incomparable.
STUDENT OUTCOMES ACHIEVED IN 2014

Creative Generation – states schools on stage
Mekka Ekeocha performed as a Featured Artist and Backing Vocalist
Caaden Goleby-Newman featured in the Orchestra and James Morrison Big Band
Regan Denneth and Prudence Artango performed in the Core Choir

Workshop of Excellence – conducted by Metropolitan Region Education Queensland
Caaden Goleby-Newman (Yr 12) and Zak Phillips (Yr 12)

State Honours Ensemble Program – conducted by Griffith University
Caaden Goleby-Newman (Yr 12) and Kazlyn Steuer (Yr 11)

Young Conservatorium
Kazlyn Steuer Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Caaden Goleby-Newman Jazz Band and Big Band

Music Gala - The following students received awards:
Best Performer (Brass) Zak Philips (Yr 12)
Best Performer (Woodwind) Caaden Goleby-Newman (Yr 12)
Best Performer (Percussion) Paige Hopper (Yr 12)
Best Performer (Voice) Mekka Ekeocha (Yr 12)
Best Performer (Strings) Kai Li Chua (Yr 12)
Overall Musicianship Award Paige Hopper (Yr 12)

Industry Partnerships
Vocal Manoeuvres - the following students were accepted into the Vocal Manoeuvres Academy this year
Mekka Ekeocha Reuben Fullerton
Zak Phillips Yvette Thompson

MUSIC STAFF 2015

Amelia Hamilton-Smith Head of Department, The Arts, Classroom Music
Sally McLean (nee Griffiths) Classroom Music, Handbell Director
Ethan Arnow Brass, Woodwind and Percussion Teacher, Concert Band Director
Margo Flemming Strings Teacher
INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

General Information
The Instrumental Music department conducts group lessons on all orchestral instruments in the following categories: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Strings, Bass Guitar and Voice. Emphasis is placed on group teaching. Sizes of groups may vary according to types of instrument, availability of instruments, age and ability of students.

Initial enrolment in the program is for a minimum period of one year. At the start of each year a full 12 month commitment is expected.

Students enrolled in the Instrumental and Vocal program must be a member of an ensemble. This is an Education Queensland and Coorparoo Secondary College compulsory requirement. The only exception is beginners who will enter the ensemble program when deemed ready by their teachers.

Cost
Instrumental Program - $100 per year
Vocal Program - $100 per year
Instrument Hire - $100 per year and per instrument

Lesson Policy
At the beginning of the year, instrumental/vocal students will be placed into lesson groups. These groups are placed on a roster system (for example, their first lesson may be in period 1; the following week it will be in period 2 and so on).

All students will receive a copy of their timetable which must be kept in their diaries. These timetables are shown to the class teachers to indicate they have a lesson and therefore are allowed to leave class to attend their lesson. When it is time for the student’s lesson, they must excuse themselves politely from their class and walk directly to the Music Block.

It is the responsibility of the student to:
(i) catch up on any missed class work
(ii) organize a more suitable time for an instrumental lesson if it is scheduled during an exam or important class work. No student should miss an exam because of an instrumental or vocal lesson.

If a student does not meet these responsibilities, their involvement may need to be reviewed. This will be done at the discretion of the Head of Department.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend lessons on a weekly basis. An allowance will be made for Year 11 and 12 students if new classroom work is being taught and they believe it is essential to attend. This must be accompanied by a note from the classroom teacher and explanation to instrumental/vocal teacher before scheduled lesson.

To be excused from their instrumental lesson, the instrumental teacher must be informed on the morning of the lesson. Students may miss instrumental lessons if they have a class exam or excursion. Again, the student must inform the instrumental teacher the morning of the lesson. Parents will be informed if their student is absent for a lesson without an explanation.

To not offer an explanation and apology relating to any absence will result in the student being marked “absent without cause” and may negatively affect the student’s position in the program. Parents will be notified of unexplained absences by receiving the following letter in the mail.
Absence from Instrumental Music Letter

Date: ___/___/ ___

Dear Parent / Guardian,

According to our records, _________________________ was absent from:

☐ Ensemble Rehearsal _____________________ and/or ☐ _____________________ Lessons on the ___ / ___ / ___.

As this was an unexplained absence, this letter aims to identify the reasons for this occurrence. It is hoped that this contact between students, teachers and parents/guardians will help to identify any problems or concerns that students are experiencing. The Instrumental Music staff may be contacted at the College on 3394 8888 or via email through the Head of Department, dphil31@eq.edu.au, and would be more than happy to discuss any issues related to the Instrumental Music program.

Whilst issues preventing lesson and ensemble attendance understandably arise from time to time, it is the responsibility of the student to let their teacher know in advance (or as soon as possible after the absence) reasons for the absence from the lessons or ensemble rehearsals.

Please discuss this matter with your student, complete the Reason for Absence form below and return it to Mrs Hamilton-Smith, Head of Department The Arts.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Amelia Hamilton-Smith     Kristie De Brenni
Head of Department, The Arts     Principal

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Please detach and return to The Arts HOD at the College or via email ahami105@eq.edu.au

REASON FOR ABSENCE FROM INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON/ENSEMBLE FORM

Date ____/____/___

I ______________________________________ (Parent/Guardian) of ____________________ (student) have received the notice regarding lesson/ensemble absence, and provide the following information regarding the absence on the ____/____/____.

Student explanation of absence: __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature: ____________________ Parent / Guardian Signature: _________________________
Instrument Hire

1. Some College instruments are available for loan on a yearly basis. A $100.00 fee per year per instrument must be paid before the instrument will be issued to the student.

2. Percussion students are expected to either purchase their own practise glockenspiel, or hire one from the College. See Percussion Program section for further details.

3. It is expected that students learning less expensive instruments eg. flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone would purchase their own within the year.

4. More expensive instruments will be available for longer loan periods at the discretion of music teachers in consultation with the Head of Department.

5. A number of music stores offer a rental scheme where the instrument is paid off over a period of time.

6. A loan agreement form (see form at the back of this booklet) must be completed by the student’s parent/guardian before College instruments can be issued.

7. Holiday loans are available for the duration of the end of year holiday break. Forms must be completed by the student’s parent/guardian and then signed and approved by the school’s Business Services Manager.

Damages / Repairs

Students are to treat all instruments with care and respect. They should be cleaned regularly by the student.

If a College instrument is damaged, under no circumstances is it to be sent to repairers by parents. The instruments must be returned to the Head of Department and staff will organise repairs. If parents/guardians choose to do otherwise, they cannot be reimbursed by the College.

Insurance

College instruments which are not stored on the College premises are not insured by Education Queensland. Also, College instruments are only insured if they are stolen in the event of a ‘break and enter’. Privately owned instruments are not able to be replaced by Education Queensland in any event.

Parents are requested to insure the instrument their son/daughter is using under their own House and Contents Policy. If a College instrument is lost or stolen it is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to reimburse the College the reasonable value of the instrument.

This is particularly important as the replacement cost for many instruments is quite prohibitive. Checking your policy and making the amendment (if necessary) would be advisable.

Reporting Procedure

In line with the College reporting system, instrumental teachers will include a report on each student’s progress throughout the year at usual reporting times.

Uniform Policy

Students in all ensembles for all performances will perform in their College Uniform. The requirements are as stated in the College diary.
Equipment
It is expected that students bring the following to every lesson:

1. **Music instrument.** Students must either own their own instrument or hire one from the College.
2. **Music folder.** This will be issued to each student at their first lesson and they are expected to keep their music in it.
3. **Music exercise book.** This will be issued to each student at their first lesson. It will be used to keep notes about what is learnt in each lesson, what to practise each week, scales to learn.
4. **Ensemble music.** Students may have opportunities in their group lessons to work on ensemble music.
5. **Method book.** Students are expected to purchase a tutor book for their instrument. Their teacher will advise the details of the book appropriate for each student.
6. **Pencil and eraser.** Students will be expected to learn about the music they are playing and should make notes on their music, in pencil, to assist them during at home practise sessions.

Instrumental Method Book & Equipment List
Students are expected to purchase a tutor book for their instrument. Students should see their Instrumental Music teacher before purchase. Below is a list of possible method books.

**Strings**
Essential Elements 2000 for Strings by M. Allen, R. Gillespie, P. Hayes

**Woodwind**
Standard of Excellence Book 1, 2, 3
Reeds for clarinet, saxophone and bassoon students

**Bass Guitar**

**Brass**
Accent on Achievement Book 1, 2, 3 by J. O’Reilly & M. Williams
Standard of Excellence Book 1, 2, 3
Valve oil

**Percussion**
1. Practise pad & glockenspiel (available for hire or must be purchased)
2. Drumsticks. A pair of 7A or 5A drumsticks – Vic Firth brand is recommended
3. Standard of Excellence for Percussion Book 1, 2 or 3.
ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

The primary emphasis of all College Ensembles is teamwork. To ensure your son/daughter develops as a conscientious team player, the following guidelines and expectations have been set.

1. All instrumental students are required to participate in a minimum of one College ensemble as soon as they are deemed technically ready by their teacher. Students must make a full year commitment to the ensemble. The primary ensemble is Concert Band for all woodwind, brass and percussion students. String ensemble is the primary ensemble for string students. 1 bass guitarist will be appointed to Stage band, 1 to Concert Band and the rest will form Rock Band A or Rock Band B.

2. Attendance at rehearsals is compulsory. A student who misses three rehearsals per term without a valid written explanation will have to show cause in writing why they should not be excluded from the instrumental program. As stated in the Education Queensland Instrumental Policy - “Students who fail to observe the school’s policy on rehearsal and concert attendance should be excluded from the program.”

3. Any student who misses a major final rehearsal before a performance may not be permitted to participate in the subsequent performance.

4. Attendance at performances is compulsory. Any student who misses a performance without a valid excuse may be excluded from the Instrumental or Vocal Program.

5. Students are expected to learn their ensemble music between rehearsals. Rehearsals are for preparing the whole ensemble, not learning individual parts.

6. Come prepared with the required equipment. Students must bring their instrument, accessories, band folder with sheet music, pencil and eraser to every rehearsal.

7. Contact the relevant ensemble conductor if you are absent due to illness.

8. Attend rehearsals, even if for health reasons you are unable to play or sing. If a student is well enough to attend school then they should be well enough to attend rehearsals. If a student arrives late for any reason (personal, late train, etc) they should come directly to the rehearsal and join in immediately.

ENSEMBLES

Please note: These change year to year based on staff availability and student numbers/instrumentation in the program.

**Concert Band** - All instrumentalists (woodwind/brass/percussion/strings) who are deemed ready to join an ensemble will be a member of the Concert Band.

**Stage Band** – This band consists of advanced students who display a good deal of musicality and strong technique. Due to the specialty of the music, entry is by audition only or at the discretion of the conductor. Rehearsals will be once week. *Students in Stage Band must also be a consistent member of Concert Band.* The only exception are guitarists.

**Rock Band** – This band will cater for bass guitarists. It will be compulsory for all bass guitar students (except the student appointed to Stage Band) to attend regular rehearsals and perform in this ensemble. Rehearsals will be once a week on a Monday (Rock Band A) or Thursday (Rock Band B) during lunch. The bass guitar teacher will direct each student to the appropriate Rock Band. Other students may join these Rock Bands on a volunteer basis but full commitment will be expected.

**Percussion Ensemble** – This ensemble is for percussion students. Entry is at the discretion of the percussion teacher and rehearsals will be once a week.

**Handbell Ensemble** – This auditioned ensemble is available to all students in Years 9 – 12 with occasionally students in younger year levels participating. Students must be able to sight-read music to an advanced level. Rehearsals will be once a week.

**String Ensemble** - This ensemble is for all students learning a string instrument who are deemed ready to join an ensemble. Rehearsals are once a week.
Choir — This is an SATB choir and is compulsory for all vocal students but open to anyone at the College who enjoys singing. Rehearsals are once a week.
INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Coorparoo Secondary College’s Music Department has a partnership with Vocal Manouevres and Brisbane Bells. Our students directly benefit from these partnerships in a variety of ways.

**Vocal Manouevres**

The Vocal Manouevres Academy provides Private Tuition in singing and Vocal Coaching for established Artists. The Academy also provides an extensive Ensemble Program for singers of all ages. Through an extensive performance program, the Academy provides artists the opportunity to develop and apply skills learnt in the studio to the live performance medium. These skills are not only relevant to enhance solo performance but also the skills required of Backing Vocalists and Ensemble Singers.

The Vocal Manouevres Academy provides expert teachers to CSC to conduct our entire vocal program including lessons and choir rehearsals. They also provide a pathway for our senior students who wish to continue singing and their love of music after Year 12. The Vocal Manouevres Academy provides several scholarships to selected students each year to participate in their ensemble program.

For more information please visit [www.vocalmanoeuvres.com](http://www.vocalmanoeuvres.com).

**Brisbane Bells**

Brisbane Bells is a handbell ensemble established in 2007 by Samantha Cook, a former music teacher at Coorparoo Secondary College. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Auditorium at CSC and have a number of performances and workshops during the year. In 2013 they will be running three groups; an advanced, intermediate and beginner handbell ensemble. For more information, or if you would like to join an ensemble, please email [handbellsbrisbane@gmail.com](mailto:handbellsbrisbane@gmail.com).
PRACTISE REQUIREMENTS

Below are some tips for good practise habits.

The following times are for maintaining development only and are a minimum requirement.

Year 8  15 - 20 minutes daily  
Year 9  20 - 30 minutes daily  
Year 10  30 - 45 minutes daily  
Year 11  45 - 60 minutes daily  
Year 12  45 - 60 minutes daily

Students in Yr 12 Music Extension should be doing well above the minimum requirement.

Routine practise organisation would include the following disciplines:

- Warm ups – (very important), focus on sound, long tones, ease into practise
- Technical skill building - scales, exercises on the instrument, flexibility
- Specific development - work on specific areas eg. range, tempo, dynamics
- Set works - music/songs/ensemble pieces

**Practise Tips:**

- Set a goal for your practise session: 30 minutes after I get home, after my favourite show on TV
- Set yourself small goals each session so you improve each day
- Listen to yourself - be very critical of your playing and only accept your very best

**A Note to Parents/Guardians:**

It is important to encourage your son/daughter to develop positive practise habits.

You can do this by –
- organizing a space for them to practise, away from the distractions of television, people and pets
- commenting on improvements in your student’s playing, whether these improvements are big or small
- refraining from commenting negatively about their efforts
The Arts Support Group (ASG) is a sub committee of the P&C and meet on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Music Block at 6pm.

It is a great way to stay involved in what your busy Arts student will be getting up to throughout the year and to stay connected with his/her teachers. It is also a great way to get to know other parents who you will no doubt see many times throughout the year at numerous events. All parents of students in The Arts are welcome and invited to attend these meetings.

Information regarding upcoming events and other important notices and announcement will be posted on the Coorparoo Secondary College Arts Faculty Facebook Page.
COORPAROO SECONDARY COLLEGE

VOCAL PROGRAM
SIGN UP SHEET

Complete this form if you wish to enroll in the vocal program. Return completed form to Head of Department, Arts Faculty.

Name: ________________________ Year level: ________________________

The vocal program consists of 1 x 30 minute group lesson per week plus 1 x 1 hour Choir rehearsal per week. This is non-negotiable and compulsory for all vocal students. Students who do not attend Choir regularly may be excluded from the program.

COST - $100 (per year). This is non-refundable.

Parent/Carer signature: ________________________ Date: ________________________

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COORPAROO SECONDARY COLLEGE

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM
SIGN UP SHEET

Complete this form if you wish to enroll in the instrumental program. Return completed form to Head of Department, Arts Faculty.

Name: ________________________ Year level: ________________________

COST - $100 (per year). This is non-refundable.

The Instrumental Program consists of 1 x 35 minute group lesson per week plus 1 x 1 hour ensemble rehearsal. It is a requirement of the EQ Instrumental Program that all students in the Instrumental program are members of an ensemble. The only exception is beginners who will enter the ensemble program when deemed ready by their teacher. The primary ensemble for instrumentalists is Concert Band and for String Players it is String Ensemble.

New students, did you learn an instrument in primary school? If yes, which one? ________________________

Where possible, students will be encouraged to continue learning the previous instrument.

Instrument: (pick from the table of orchestral instruments below only) ________________________

The following instruments are those approved for group lessons by Education Queensland. Unfortunately we can not provide lessons on piano or guitar as they are not part of the EQ Instrumental Curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOODWIND</th>
<th>BRASS</th>
<th>STRINGS</th>
<th>PERCUSSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>Percussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>French Horn</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>(includes all tuned &amp; untuned percussion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Clarinet</td>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>Cello</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxophone (Alto/Tenor/Bari)</td>
<td>Euphonium</td>
<td>Double Bass</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oboe</td>
<td>Tuba</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bassoon</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Beginner  ☐ Intermediate  ☐ Advanced

☐ I own my own instrument  ☐ I need to hire an instrument (cost associated with instrument hire)

INSTRUMENT HIRE - $100 (per year & per instrument). This is non-refundable and is per instrument hired from the College. Percussionists are required to purchase instruments as per page 8 or hire from the College for the same fee.

Parent/Carer signature: ________________________ Date: ________________________