



Instrumental Music Program - Recruitment for 2018



Important information for parents of students in Years 2 and 3.

Nominate online. Nominations close Wednesday, 6 September.

STRINGS nominations Year 2s: <https://goo.gl/forms/qNxolFP451XzEhtM2>

BAND nominations Year 3s: <https://goo.gl/forms/Y5a1V8DdFnqlmtHk2>

Offers are made in week 5 of Term 4. Payment is then due by week 8.

About Education Queensland's Instrumental Music Program

Education Queensland schools are only schools in Australia to receive 100% subsidised instrumental music tuition, in the form of Concert Band and String Orchestras which include group lessons and an ensemble. Professional Instrumental Music Instructors are employed by EQ to provide small group instrumental tuition and direct and administer Concert Bands and String Orchestras.

Piano, guitar, voice and drum-kit are not members of these ensemble groups therefore tuition on these instruments is not a part of this ensemble-based program. Some State High and most private schools do offer tuition in these areas on a paid basis. Yeronga offers piano and guitar lessons on a private basis after school. (Contact the P&C)

Instrumental teachers work in up to five schools a week instructing up to 250 students, direct 5-7 ensembles and attend 20 or more concert nights and five camp nights a year.

Following EQ guidelines, a team of people coordinate and administer the program as each school develops its own policies and procedures to best meet the needs of the school community.

Instruments and Cost

Instrumental programs are largely self-funding. An annual program participation contribution fee of \$50 (and instrument loan fee of \$90, if applicable), assists with the purchase and maintenance of instruments, music stands, a music library and competition entries. Beginners are also invoiced for a music folder \$10. Fees are invoiced in Term 4 at the same time as offers are received. Payment is required to secure your child's place. (First year fees - \$150)

Instruments are generally loaned from the school in the first year of learning and smaller instruments must be purchased after that initial year. There is no scope for a second year of accessing a school instrument. In accepting a place in the program, parents also accept their responsibility to supply their own instrument from the second year on. Instruments are valued at around \$400 for a beginner violin to \$2000 for a saxophone. Larger, more expensive instruments are available for loan for 3 years and usually are available in High School.

The Programs

The Concert Band Program commences in Year 4 and is recruited in Year 3. The following instruments are offered:

- flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone
- trumpet, trombone, horn, tuba, euphonium, and
- percussion (glockenspiel and snare drum leading to a wider range of instruments).

The String Orchestra Program commences in Year 3 and is recruited in Year 2, except for double bass, which may be recruited in Year 2 or 3.

The following instruments are offered:

- violin, viola, cello, and,
- double bass is offered when available

The number of positions available in each program are determined by:

- instructor time made available by EQ.
- the number and type of instruments available to make up a balanced ensemble,
- student interest, and

The days in which the programs are taught and ensembles rehearse may change from year to year according to the changing circuits of instructors.

An Ensemble Program

All EQ programs are ensemble-based. This means that students are taught using method books that lead easily to ensemble work and allow for mixed-instrument tuition groups. The program is taught in two parts. Both are compulsory:

- a small group lesson during school class time, and
- an ensemble rehearsal before school.

Throughout the year, there are opportunities for students to attend area and district ensemble days, workshops and camps and experience making music with larger groups. These are always motivating and exciting for all. All instrumental program members are expected to attend the annual series of concerts and competitions. It is expected that all participants attend all performance events unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Music Uniform consists of the standard navy sports shirt in your child's house colour, white socks, fully black shoes (no white or colour at all) and the newer, darker culottes/shorts.

Entry

Students are offered positions by the school. There is no automatic entry into the program for any reason.

An information and recruiting process usually commences in Term 3. Positions for the following year are offered late in Term 4.

So that the most students have the chance to experience the instrumental program, students who undertake string studies in Year 3 will not be eligible for the Concert Band Program in Year 4, even if they discontinue string studies.

Exceptional string students who show an interest in a band instrument may be offered a dual place in the Band Program if there is a position available. This is extremely rare and decisions are made on a case by case basis.

The Commitment

Participation in the Instrumental Program at Yeronga State School is a privilege and carries responsibilities for the whole family. While each case will be considered, it is hoped that students will continue in the program for the remainder of their time at YSS. For example, the Strings Program is a possible commitment of at least five years. It is hoped that students will wish to also continue their participation on into High School as well.

The Recruitment Process

This type of extension program does not suit all students. For some it may even disadvantage them.

While parents and students ultimately choose to nominate themselves or not, those who do show an interest are assessed by their class teacher, the music specialist, the instrumental instructor and Support Specialists, who contribute the following information:

- each student's academic ability to catch up on work missed during instrumental lessons,
- how the program may affect students with special needs,
- reliability and responsibility,
- group and independent learning skills,
- musical aptitude,
- approach to learning an instrument - (Year 3 Recorder Program),
- fine motor skills, and
- physical suitability for certain instruments.

Decisions and allocations are then finally made to achieve a balanced ensemble.

Student Decision making

Year 3 students undertake a short study of Concert Band instruments during music classes.

Year 2 students are also introduced to the Concert Band instruments so they understand the differences before they join the Strings Program. They are then exposed to stringed instruments and string music during music classes.

Making the decision to undertake an instrument is difficult for children of any age. The recruitment program aims to give students in Year 2 and 3 as much information as possible so they can make a well-informed decision.

While students see, hear, feel, hold and play instruments, an emphasis is placed on being informed about the following:

- the time commitment (2.5 hours a week) and morning rehearsals,
- the need for independence, organisation and self-motivation,
- the need to be playing an instrument that their 'ears love!', and
- playing one they feel they can achieve on and would fit their family lifestyle and living circumstances.

View/Q&A Sessions

Strings Program with Charise Holm: Monday 4 September - Brandenburg Strings rehearsal viewing from 8.15 - 8.30am and a Q&A from 8.40 - 9.00am - Senior School music room, F block (above the uniform shop)

Band Program with Robyn Rosewarne: Wednesday 30 August - Senior Band rehearsal viewing from 8.15 - 8.30am; Q&A anytime from 8.40 - 9.00am Upstairs, L block (Junior School).