



Mt Maria College
Strong Mind – Compassionate Heart



Mt Maria College Instrumental Music Program

A guide for parents and students



Welcome to Mt Maria College's Instrumental Music Program.

This guide provides information about the private music lessons available during school hours to support your child's musical development.

Our specialty Instrumental Instructors are qualified to cater for all ability levels, whether your child is experiencing music for the first time or developing their existing musical skills.

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Why study music?

"Music is a very creative subject but through my studies I've also learned many practical skills. Music allows me to connect with others spiritually as well as creatively."

ASHLIN, YEAR 12

Music provides students with experiences and skills that will benefit them throughout their lives:

- Learning to work in a team
- Increased self-discipline and concentration
- Enhanced problem-solving skills
- Building self esteem
- Improved coordination
- Accepting responsibility for their own progress

Dr Anita Collins, *Bigger Better Brains* (2021)

Studying music and making music is good for your body. When playing an instrument you're often using your arm, core and back muscles. It nurtures creativity, builds empathy and helps people better express their emotions and manage anxiety.

At Mt Maria we offer many opportunities to experience music in one way or another - whether it be listening to the tones of the ensembles, to being an important part of the ensembles.

"Music enhances brain development and learning capabilities. Being in ensembles strengthens community and enables the building of great friendships. It really is a rewarding experience."

INDIGO, PERCUSSION AND VOCAL,
COLLEGE CAPTAIN 2024



Private music lessons available at Mt Maria

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Percussion*	Other
Acoustic Guitar Electric Guitar Bass Guitar Violin Viola Cello	Flute Clarinet Saxophone Bassoon	Trumpet French Horn Trombone Euphonium Tuba	All students will learn orchestral tuned and untuned instruments and drum kit	Piano Voice Music Theory

*Percussion students must have their own pack: stick bag, practice pad, and xylophone or glockenspiel. These can be purchased from Just Percussion (34 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills).

Links to Just Percussion packs:

- [Mt Maria Home Practice Kit](#) or
- [Mt Maria Lesson/Ensemble Kit](#)



Lesson fees

Lesson delivery	Fee per 30-minute lesson
Individual	\$40
Groups of 2**	\$29
Groups of 3**	\$22
**Not available for piano, vocal or guitar. Only available for students of similar skill levels	

Prompt payment of fees

Payment for lessons is a private arrangement between visiting Instrumental Instructors and the parent/caregiver. If the Instructor is a teacher directly employed by the school, payment will be made to the school on a term by term basis. Prompt payment is required by the due date.



Lesson structure

Students receive one lesson per week with a specialist Instrumental Instructor. Lessons are run during regular school hours. Students will be permitted to leave their regular scheduled class to attend lessons. Instrumental lessons each run for 30 minutes and are delivered in either individual or, when available, group settings.

Students' lessons are scheduled using a rotating timetable to minimise the impact on any one subject. A timetable will be provided to students and parents at the end of each term for their next term's Instrumental Music lessons. Some lessons may be offered outside of class time at the Instrumental Instructor's discretion - priority is given to students in Years 11 and 12 and those with diagnosed learning difficulties.





Year 7 Beginner Band Program

Mt Maria offers a Year 7 Beginner Band Program. This program is open to about 30 Year 7 students each year who wish to begin learning a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Students will have the opportunity to express interest during classes in the first week of term. The program is a year-long commitment, and as such, students are required to complete the full year of tuition.

If a student changes their mind after payment has been made, there will be no refund awarded for the remaining tuition. Lessons will be delivered in small groups (3-4) and charged at the reduced rate of \$10 per lesson through the parents' College account. In addition to the lessons, there will be a weekly full band rehearsal. An instrument will be provided free of charge for the duration of this one-year program.

On completion of this Program, students will have the chance to continue to learn their instruments and join the Wind Band. The Year 7 Beginner Band Program is generously subsidised by the P&F Foundation.

Report an absence



If a student is unable to attend their private lesson:

1. Email their private Instrumental Instructor as soon as possible
2. Email the Program Coordinator as soon as possible: belinda.j.tucker@bne.catholic.edu.au

When there is an adequate reason or preplanned absence, your Instructor will arrange an alternative music time in most cases when adequate notice is given. An example of an explained absence is a preplanned doctor's appointment that your Instructor is informed of in advance.

If a lesson is missed without prior notice or an adequate reason, such as forgetting to attend, the student will be charged for the cost of the lesson. The private Instrumental Instructor will not be required to reschedule the lesson.

Please note: Even when a student is absent on an official College excursion, on a year-level camp or because of assessment, it is still vital that the private Instrumental Instructor is contacted.

Withdrawing from private lessons

The school needs to meet its contractual obligation with its visiting Instrumental Instructors. If a student wishes to discontinue lessons during the school year, the current term of lessons must be completed, and at least four weeks of notice must be given. Notice of withdrawal should be stated in an email to both the private Instrumental Instructor and the Program Coordinator at belinda.j.tucker@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Where notice has not been given, it is expected that parents pay for lessons in the new term even if the student chooses not to attend.



Instruments

Students must provide their own instruments for lessons and it is highly recommended that they are insured. While at school, instruments will be stored in the Mackillop Music Staffroom. If you need advice about buying or renting an instrument, please contact your relevant Instrumental Instructor.

Instrument Loan Scheme

Mt Maria College has a loan scheme for a limited number of large instruments (including tuba and baritone saxophone). Smaller school instruments are also available for loan to students in Year 7 Beginner Band Program. The instrument loan fee is \$100 a year, which covers basic maintenance and upkeep.

Please contact Music Program Leader, Belinda Tucker, at belinda.j.tucker@bne.catholic.edu.au for further details.



Reporting procedure: individual music reports

Instrumental Instructors will prepare individual music reports to be sent out at the end of each semester. These reports, released through the Parent Portal, report on technique, tone production, music literacy, aural and performance skills, attendance and attitude. Individual participation in external music examinations or competitions, such as AMEB, Trinity and Trinity Rockschoool, is encouraged and is entirely at the discretion of the student and parent/caregiver, in consultation with the private Instrumental Instructor.



Expectations

Before lessons commence, all students, caregivers, and private Instrumental Instructors need to be aware of the following expectations.

Students are expected to:

1. Attend their weekly lesson, bringing along all required materials and equipment
2. Practice as directed by their Instrumental Instructor
3. be a member of a school Ensemble, attending Ensemble rehearsals and performances
4. Attend all scheduled Ensemble rehearsals and performances
5. Demonstrate a desire to continually improve
6. Take responsibility for the scheduled lesson time

Parents/caregivers are expected to:

1. Provide their child with a place and time for practice at home away from distractions
2. Monitor that that student's instrument is taken home
3. Support the student with constructive, positive comments regarding their progress
4. Monitor that their child has notified their private Instrumental Instructor of any absences
5. Check their emails and BCE Connect App announcements from the school regularly, join the Mt Maria Official Parents Community Facebook page, and read all communications from the Music Department - Teams page, emails, broadcasts, etc





Ensemble Program

It is expected that all students learning an instrument participate in one or more core Ensemble. Ensemble membership enables students to progress on their instrument and provides performance opportunities to showcase their talents. Ensembles are a one-year commitment with a one-hour rehearsal every week. Ensembles are subsidised by the Activities Levy with no cost to families.



Students who excel in their core Ensembles may be invited to join an extension Ensemble - they will remain in their core Ensemble to develop leadership skills.

Performance uniform

Students performing in school Ensembles are required to wear the formal school uniform.



We are currently designing a Performance Uniform to be worn by all musicians at school events.



List of ensembles

Ensemble	Description	Ensemble type
College Choir	All students welcome.	Core
Samaritan Singers	By audtiion.	Extension
Concert Band	Must be currently learning an instrument.	Core
Wind Band	Years 7-9 only. Must be currently learning an instrument.	Core
Year 7 Beginner Band	Must be currently learning an instrument.	Core
String Ensemble	Must be currently learning a string instrument.	Core
The Benedictines	Must be currently learning guitar.	Core
Champagnet Combo	By invitation only.	Extension
Percussion Ensemble	Must be currently learning percussion.	Extension
Pelletier Percussion	Must be currently learning percussion.	Extension by invitation only
Lavalla Strings	By invitation only.	Extension
Rock Band Program	All students welcome.	Community



Enrolling in lessons

To enrol in the Instrumental Music Program, please complete the enrolment form [here](#) or through the QR code.



If you have any questions about the music program, please email Mrs Belinda Tucker (belinda.j.tucker@bne.catholic.edu.au), Mt Maria College's Music and Culture Program Leader.