



Ensemble & Instrumental Music Handbook 2020

We provide every student meaningful and creative experiences in music learning, and for them to be musically challenged and motivated. We aim to develop learning independence in musical preparation and performances, as well as skills of collaboration and leadership and to sustain the growth of whole school musicality.

Music office: (03) 9864 7763 music@macrob.vic.edu.au

Introduction

Mac.Rob has a long-standing tradition of excellence in music education and musical participation. Music is an integral part of each student at all year levels and every student is offered opportunities to experience music in various forms and to enjoy its benefits.

There are numerous other performances throughout the year which involves large and small ensembles, within and outside school. Student leadership is integral to the performance program and students are encouraged to be part of the organisational teams. Events coordinated by the music captains and the Student Music Committee include Music Week, Jazz Night, Spicks & Specks.

Ensemble & Instrumental Music Lessons

Students may apply to participate in ensembles only or combine this with instrumental lesson as further support of their ensemble learning.

We currently offer the following instrumental lessons; all conducted by some of the best musicians and music educators:

Woodwind	Brass	Strings	Others
Flute	French Horn	Violin	Guitar
Oboe	Trumpet	Viola	Voice
Clarinet	Trombone	Cello	Percussion
Saxophone	Tuba	Double Bass	Private Piano
Bassoon			Piano Accompanist Course

Enrolments

There is an annual subject levy (*all fees are non-refundable*) that covers the costs of the music lessons. Ensemble/Lessons will commence when payment has been completed.

➤ Cost:

1. Ensemble & 1st Instrument Lessons (\$875) – in groups of 2 or more which includes ensemble/s participation
2. Ensemble Only (\$300) – no extra charge to be in more than one ensemble and Chorale does not incur an ensemble fee
3. Ensemble and Individual Instrument Lessons (\$1463) – available for advanced senior students; includes ensemble/s participation
4. 2nd Instrument Lesson (\$600) – for students who want to learn a 2nd instrument
5. Private Piano Lessons 30 minute (\$1443) & Private Piano Lessons 60 minute (\$2886) – minimum of 32 lessons per year; does not include ensemble participation
6. Piano Accompanist Performance Course (\$1463) – includes ensemble/s participation

- Enrolment forms are available from the music office (located on Level 3 of the Lakeside Building). If a place is available, new enrolments are accepted at any time during the year.
- To avoid a conflict of interest, students who learn an instrument outside of the school cannot learn the same one at Mac.Rob.

Instrumental Lessons Timetable

An instrumental teacher will be assigned to students once the application and payment have been received. The first lesson will commence on the second week of school, timetable will be posted on Compass.

Instrumental lessons will be scheduled during class time and students are expected to arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the lesson time for set up. This will be a weekly 35 minute lesson on a rotational basis for Middle School students (Year 9 & 10) and during free study periods for the Senior School students (Year 11 & 12). It is the student's responsibility to know when their lesson is, have their instrument with them on the appropriate day, and to arrive at their lesson on time. The expectation of students undertaking lessons is to be in a core ensemble.

There are two categories of piano lessons: Private Piano Lesson & Piano Accompanist Course

Private Piano Lessons - Students will discuss and establish an individually catered program with their teacher, which may include preparing for external examinations. The student will be encouraged to prepare and to perform at the end of semester piano soiree.

Piano Accompanist Performance Course - Focuses on developing piano techniques and musicianship through the repertoire of ensemble work. The student will study ensemble practice, improvisation and sight-reading skills. The student will work with other instrumentalists other than piano and be expected to perform as associate artists in concerts. Students whom select interest in this course may be scheduled an informal interview with the Music Department. Piano Accompanist Performance Course runs weekly for 35 minutes.

Ensemble Music Performance

Core ensemble is required for students who enrolled in the Music Program. The ensemble program offers each student appropriate challenges and variety of musical experiences to students to explore their love of music making and to extend their learning and performance opportunities.

The rehearsals for these ensembles is a weekly 45 – 60 minute lesson, and is scheduled either during lunchtime or after school. Students participating in ensembles without having instrumental lessons may be placed in a weekly small group for an additional practice to complement their learning and support the core ensemble repertoire.

Core Ensembles

Ensemble	Description	Rehearsal Time - TBC
Principiante Strings	Instruments: Violin, Viola, Violoncello & Double Bass This ensemble is for all students new to playing strings.	Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm
String Ensemble	Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass An ensemble which focuses on developing musicianship, style and technique in their repertoire.	Friday 3:30-4:30 pm
Symphonic Winds	Instruments: All Wind instruments & Percussion A friendly open environment that encourages the development of ensemble skills for winds, brass and percussion.	Thursday 3:30-4:30pm
Concert Band	Instruments: All Wind instruments & Percussion This ensemble is for all students new to playing wind and percussion instruments.	Thursday 3:30-4:30pm
Guitar Ensemble	Instruments: Guitar The school's premier guitar ensemble plays a range of styles.	Thursday 3:30-4:30pm
Percussion Ensemble 1	Instruments: Percussion, Keyboard An ensemble for all interested in drumming and keyboard percussion.	Wednesday Lunchtime
Percussion Ensemble 2	Instruments: Percussion, Keyboard An ensemble for all interested in drumming and keyboard percussion.	Thursday Lunchtime
Chorale	Instruments: Voice, Piano Accompanist A non-auditioned choir that gives an opportunity to expand on vocal experience and technique.	Friday lunchtime

Students may choose to audition for the following Ensemble, please note that students are still expected to be in their respective core ensemble in addition to the auditioned ensemble. Exception: Chamber Strings and Chamber Voices can be counted as core ensemble.

Auditioned Ensembles:

Ensemble	Description	Rehearsal Time - TBC
Chamber Strings	Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass A chamber group which focuses on developing good technique and quality sound in concertos and various other repertoires. (Can be counted as Core ensemble once students passed the audition)	Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm
Chamber Voices	Instruments: Voice, Piano Accompanist An auditioned group that prides itself in performing highly skilled material for various styles. (Can be counted as Core ensemble once students passed the audition)	Thursday after school 3:20-4:50pm
Stage Band	Instruments: 2x Alto Saxophone, 2x Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, 4x Trumpet, 4x Trombone, Drums, Bass, Piano & Guitar. From smooth swing to jive and jazz, stage band plays music so good it makes everyone want to get up and dance.	TBC
Symphony Orchestra	Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass, Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon; French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Percussion; Timpani, tuned & un-tuned percussion. A flagship ensemble which performs exciting repertoire of all styles.	Wednesday after school 1:50-3:30pm

Other Optional Ensembles

Ensemble	Description	Rehearsal Time - TBC
Clarinet Ensemble	Instruments: Soprano, Alto, Bass, Clarinets An ensemble consists of students from across different year levels. Their repertoire is from jazz to baroque music.	Thursday lunchtime
Double Reed Ensemble	Instruments: Oboe, Bassoon This is a chamber ensemble featuring oboe and bassoon catering for all abilities performing pieces from different genres including classical and pop.	Thursday Lunchtime
Flute Ensemble	Instruments: Flute, Piano Accompanist An ensemble of flutes of varying levels which play repertoire ranging from classical to contemporary.	Monday lunchtime
Saxophone Ensemble	Instruments: Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Baritone Saxophones An ensemble consists of students from across different year levels. Their repertoire is mostly jazz music.	Friday Lunchtime
Brass Ensemble	Instruments: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba An ensemble consists of students from across different year levels, with a focus on brass repertoire.	Thursday lunchtime

Lesson Equipment

Student will require certain equipment throughout the year and is expected to come to all lessons prepared. Basic equipment may include musical instrument, music books and other instrument specific items such as: reeds, guitar leads, strings, rosin, valve oil.

Attendance

It is the responsibility of the student to give at least 24 hours' notice in the event of needing to re-scheduled instrumental lesson. Where 24 hours' notice cannot be given, for example in the event of sudden illness, every effort will be made to provide a makeup lesson; however please note this is entirely at the discretion/availability of the individual teacher and cannot be guaranteed. If the student does not attend lesson, and 24 hours' notice has not been given, the lesson will be forfeited and will not be made up later.

When a teacher is unable to teach on the day as scheduled, the lesson may be timetabled on another day of the week. Otherwise, a replacement teacher will be organized and the student will be informed of the change.

Attendance at rehearsals and concert is required and necessary for students' to develop their musicianship and performance skills. Continued unexplained absence from ensemble rehearsals will result in instrumental lessons being suspended until ensemble attendance is resumed.

Instrument Hire

Mac.Rob offers the hire of musical instruments. The following instruments are currently available for hire: violin, viola, violoncello, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone. There are only limited number of each instrument and priority will go to Year 9 students.

Hire of instruments will be for the full school year and will be for students who are active participants in Mac.Rob music program.

In the event that the student withdraws from the music program, the instrument must be returned to Mac.Rob immediately. The hire fee is non-refundable in these circumstances.

Instruments hired or lent to students are not covered by Mac.Rob insurance for use outside normal classes. You are advised to check your Household Contents Insurance Policy to determine if it will cover the instrument while it is in your possession. Many policies require that valuable articles be 'names' specifically by advising the insurance company of the details. **It is the responsibility of the student/parents to appropriately insure any instrument hired. The cost of a replacement instrument, should it be lost or stolen, will be at the student/parents expense.**

- Instrument Hire Fee: \$250.00
- Security Deposit: \$250.00 (refunded at the end of the school year/return of instrument in the same condition as the point of hire)

Please indicate on the music application form if you would like to hire an instrument; it will be organized by the student's instrumental teacher in the beginning of 2020 school year. Please refer to the Instrument Hire Form for more information after enrolment has been confirmed.

In School Hire Only: Students may hire larger size instruments (cello, double bass) to use during school hours. It is free of charge; please pick up the hire form from the music office.

Withdrawal of the Instrumental Music Program

Cancellation of lessons cannot be made once a student has been allocated to a teacher. Please note that in such a case, payment of the full year will still apply (regardless of how many lessons are attended). It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to discuss any issues with the Music Department prior to enrolling on a new instrument.

Please be aware that withdrawal from lessons impact on the employment contracts of the music teachers. If circumstances arise that a student is considering withdrawal from the program all attempts will be made to resolve any issues to ensure they are able to continue their music lessons until the end of the year.

If a student wishes to discontinue having lessons, they are required to;

1. Discuss with their music teacher.
2. Contact the Music Office for a meeting as soon as possible.
3. If a student is withdrawing from lessons during the year, they must return the Cancellation Form to the music office, signed by a parent/guardian.

If a student does not fulfil their responsibilities as part of the agreement, they may be withdrawn from the program. Please note that there is **no refund of the fee** at any stage of the school year as the teachers are employed based on enrolments finalised at the start of the school year.