

Instrumental Music Handbook 2024



Principal

Karen Boyle
(Acting)

Assistant Principals

Cameron Campbell
Jasvinder Kaur
Brett Lamb

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CONTACTS

COLLEGE ADDRESS

20-48 George Street, East Doncaster 3109

Telephone: 9842 2244

Principal

Assistant Principals

Business Manager

Director of Music

Instrumental Music Coordinator

Mrs Karen Boyle (Acting)

Mr Cameron Campbell

Ms Jasvinder Kaur

Mr Brett Lamb

Mrs Fiona Roper

Mr Norm Grimmett

Mr Carl Williams

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STAFF

Double Reeds (Oboe and Bassoon)

Flute

Clarinet and Saxophone

Upper Brass

Low Brass

Upper Strings

Low Strings

Percussion

Ms Tania Berezin

Mrs Catherine Bruce

Mrs Emily Fry

Mrs Dianne Gunn

Mr Kenton Smith

Mr Carl Williams

Ms Annette Eldridge

Mr Paul Coles

ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS AND REHEARSAL TIMES

Monday

3:30pm – 4:20pm

Da Capo Strings – Mr Carl Williams

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Stage Band – Mr Norm Grimmett

Tuesday

7:30am – 8:30am

'Euphonix' (Girls & Boys Vocal Group) – Mrs Tegan Gaschk

3:30pm – 4:40pm

Chamber Strings – Mr Carl Williams

3:30pm – 4:30pm

String Group – Ms Annette Eldridge

Wednesday

7:15am – 8:30am

Symphonic Band – Mrs Emily Fry & Mrs Dianne Gunn

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Sempre Strings – Mr Carl Williams

Thursday

7:30am – 8:30am

Concert Band – Mrs Cathy Bruce & Mrs Emily Fry

3:30pm – 4:45pm

Stage Band – Mr Norm Grimmett

Friday

7:30am – 8:30am

Beginner Band – Mrs Tania Berezin & Mrs Emily Fry

7:30am – 8:30am

Performance Band – Mr Paul Coles and Mr Carl Williams

IMPORTANT DATES FOR OUR BEGINNER MUSICIANS

- First instrument lesson **Mon 19 – Fri 23 February** (students will be notified of time and room)
- **Fri 15 March** - Beginner Band first rehearsal
- **Mon 18 March – Da Capo** Strings first rehearsal for beginner students
- **Mon 13 May – Fri 24 May** – Instrumental Exams
- **Wed 5 June** (TBC) – ‘Winter Warmers’ Concerts @ EDSC Theatre
- Victorian Schools Music festival
August VSMF Orchestra section: **Dates TBC**
August VSMF Young Band Section: - **Dates TBC**
- **Wed 16 October** - ‘Spring’ Concerts @ EDSC Theatre
- **Mon 21 October – Fri 1 November** – Instrumental Exams
- **Tuesday 10 December** – Orientation Day performances to 2025 Year 7 students

Lunchtime Concert Series & Year level assemblies – throughout the year as advised. Opportunities for performers at all levels, including beginner musicians, to attain performance experience and House points.

COURSE BACKGROUND

The Instrumental Music Program is a non-compulsory subject and can be taken by students in Year 7 through to Year 12.

Students are encouraged to own their own instrument(s) and are required to attend weekly lessons and ensemble rehearsals.

Students receive an instrumental music report at regular intervals throughout the year.

AIMS

The Instrumental Music Program aims to expose students to the many benefits that a music education will bring.

The making of good music is seen as a main focus by the department and our aim is to produce the best performers and performing groups possible. The participation of ensembles in performances and concerts throughout the year are a vital part of a young musician’s training.

The social and personal aspects associated with learning an instrument are also seen as very important and are fostered by the department. Students learn to work cooperatively as a team member, build communication and performance skills, build motor proficiency, self-confidence, responsibility, leadership skills, mental and physical discipline, creativity, self-expression and, of course, to have fun.

Research has shown that students benefit in other school subjects by learning and playing music, leading to improved academic results.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

All students undertaking instrumental music lessons at the school are required to participate in at least one of the compulsory school music ensembles (see College Ensembles below).

Each instrumental student is expected to:

- attend a weekly timetabled lesson
- regularly attend one ensemble rehearsal per week outside of class hours
- practise the music until the required standard is achieved
- attend performances as advised throughout the year
- actively strive to maintain and develop the standard and performance of the ensemble

Students who accept these requirements/commitments to the ensemble program will be offered lessons on their chosen instrument. The school offers tuition on the following instruments – Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba and Orchestral Percussion.

Lessons are conducted on a rotating timetable (through periods 1 – 6), in small groups and are usually held on the same day each week.

It is an expectation that students make a commitment to learn their instrument for the full school year. Only under exceptional circumstances will a refund be given for withdrawing, and then only if a replacement student takes their place on that instrument.

[Students who wish to participate in an ensemble, but not undertake lessons at the college, can do so if places are available. An Ensemble Levy of \$150.00 is payable in these circumstances to help cover the considerable cost of purchasing ensemble music.]

FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

Students participating in the Instrumental Music Program pay a yearly levy of **\$600.00**. This levy covers students for ensemble costs, such as purchase of sheet music, their weekly instrument lesson.

Purchase of the Performing Arts uniform, available from the uniform shop, is around **\$90** for beginner students. Please refer to the PERFORMANCE UNIFORM section below.

Students will be asked to purchase tutor book(s) for use in their instrumental lessons and a music stand for use at home. Students will need to supply their own consumables for their instrument, such as reeds and strings.

Generally, additional costs are that of the Music Camp, which students in the senior music ensembles are expected to attend, and bus costs to performances and the cost of festival performance entrance fees.

ABSENCES

The teacher must be notified, in advance through Compass email, if the student is unable to attend their lesson or ensemble rehearsal due to excursions, tests, sport outside of school and/or medical appointments. Staff always try to accommodate changes if possible. It is not possible for a lesson to be changed if students notifying their teacher on the day of the lesson.

Parents are encouraged to regularly check Compass for their child's music lesson attendance.

PRACTICE

It is important that students follow the practice routine discussed with their teacher(s). Often a few short practice sessions can be more beneficial, and more achievable, than fewer longer practice sessions. It is perfectly normal for students to need encouragement to practise, particularly when the novelty of learning a new instrument starts to wear off. Research has shown that high-achieving musicians are not born that way, nor are they necessarily children of musical parents. The most successful musicians are those who have had positive and supportive encouragement from their parents and teachers, and realistic expectations of what can be achieved with consistent practise.

EXAMS

INTERNAL: All students who undertake lessons at the school will have a practical exam towards the end of each semester. The exams will be during normal lesson time and students will be advised of their exam time in advance.

EXTERNAL: Students may undertake AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) exams. It is not compulsory to undertake these exams, but many students do. Students who wish to undertake exams should see their teacher early in the year so that plans and times can be worked out. There are usually 5 examination sessions throughout the year to choose from. In addition to an examination fee, there are usually accompanist fees associated with undertaking an AMEB exam.

COLLEGE ENSEMBLES

All students undertaking instrumental music lessons at the college are required to participate in either the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Intermediate Band, Beginner Band, Chamber Strings, String Group, Sempre Strings or Da Capo Strings.

All students, regardless of whether they play an instrument in the program or not, are welcome to participate in the 'Euphonix' (Girls & Boys Vocal Group) or by successful audition into the Senior Vocal Group.

'Stage Band', 'Euphonix' and other small ensembles are voluntary options offered to any student who wish to extend their performing experiences by playing in an additional ensemble to their compulsory ensemble. Acceptance into these ensembles may be through an audition process.

PERFORMANCE UNIFORM

All students will need to purchase the following uniform items from the college uniform shop PSW. You will find these items listed under Performing Arts:

BOYS & GIRLS

Black pants – Elastic Black Pants from PSW \$53.50

Black shirt – EDSC Music shirt from PSW \$37.95 (10/3XS - 2XL)

Boys and girls are required to wear black socks and polish-able black shoes (lace-up).

In addition, students in all college ensembles may purchase the EDSC Music Black soft-shell jacket from PSW, \$75.95 (10/3XS - 3XL).

Purchase of the soft-shell jacket is **optional** for all students.

PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

Students are encouraged to own their own instruments where possible. These are the brands that our staff recommend to students who are buying new instruments.

Flutes – Yamaha, Pearl, Armstrong, Jupiter, Eastman

Clarinet – Yamaha and Jupiter for student models, Buffet (or Le Blanc) for wooden instruments
Saxophone – Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter
Trumpet – Yamaha, Schagerl
Trombone – Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter
French Horn – Yamaha, Holton, Schagerl
Oboe – Buffet, Howarth, Yamaha
Bassoon – Fox, Schreiber
Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass – Chamber Student (Bows for Strings), Enrico, Gliga, Ragetti,
Schumann (Whitehorse Music), Struna, Stentor 2

If you are considering purchasing a second-hand instrument please contact your child’s teacher beforehand.

COLLEGE HIRE INSTRUMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As the purchase price of some instruments can be prohibitive at a junior level, the college has a limited number of hire instruments reserved for the use of students in Year 7 (listed below). The hire period, and the hire charge, is for the whole school year. As these hire instruments are for use of Year 7 students, it is expected that students continuing with instrumental music in later years will purchase an instrument so that college instruments can be available to the next wave of young musicians.

The school may be able to make arrangements to source instruments for families experiencing financial difficulties. Please contact the music department if this is the case so that arrangements can be made in a timely fashion.

Students and parents are responsible for the safety of the instrument outside of the school grounds. While at school, the instrument will be stored in a secure, supervised room in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). Students can access this room from 8.30 – 8.45am in the morning, after school until 3.30pm and, of course, at their lesson time.

COLLEGE HIRE COSTS

Violin, Cello, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Oboe	\$250.00 per year
Double Bass	\$300.00 per year
Euphonium, Tuba, Saxophone, Bassoon	\$350.00 per year

Please note that the college does not have flutes or clarinets for hire, as these instruments are relatively inexpensive to purchase. Violins and Violas are also inexpensive and we would recommend buying an instrument rather than hiring the low-quality school instruments.

Please contact Mr Grimmett or Mr Williams if you are considering hiring an instrument from the college to check current availability.

LEARNING A SECOND INSTRUMENT

Students may choose to learn a second instrument provided that:

- The Director of Music and the student’s current teacher have given approval.
- There is sufficient time in the instrumental timetable to cater for the additional lessons.
- The student is able to keep up with their normal class workload.

Students learning a second instrument will pay a second levy payment of \$600.00.

CAMPS

The Music Camp is held during Term 2 to enable the senior music ensembles (Symphonic Band, Chamber Strings, Senior Vocal Group) to learn new repertoire through intensive rehearsals and tutorials and for students to get to know each other socially. All members of these senior ensembles are expected to attend the Music Camp.

PERFORMANCE PROTOCOLS

The Music Department hopes that these protocols help all concertgoers to enjoy and appreciate the hard work that our students present throughout the year.

Performers are asked to

- be prepared for performances
- respect the audience by wearing neat & clean performance uniform
- be an active listener when not performing
- stand when your conductor enters the stage
- acknowledge the audience at the end of the performance
- turn mobile phones off during a performance
- avoid moving around unnecessarily, particularly during a performance item.

Audience members are asked to

- encourage all performers by remaining for the entire performance
- not video or use mobile phones and respect other audience members
- be an active listener
- turn mobile phones off during a performance
- show appreciation by applauding performers
- avoid moving around unnecessarily, particularly during a performance item.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of their child's instrument playing. Parents can help by encouraging regular practise and helping students to remember rehearsal/lesson times and equipment. Parents who would like to become more involved might consider joining the **EDSC Parents and Friends Association** (EDSC PFA). Involvement in the **PFA** allows parents to help with concert and performance preparations, student BBQs, Music Camp (especially if you have music skills), fundraising and other music activities and initiatives throughout the year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Music Staff look forward to working with parents and students to provide the best possible environment in which to make great music. Questions regarding the above information can be directed to the **Director of Music**, Mr Norm Grimmett or the **Instrumental Music Coordinator**, Mr Carl Williams. We also encourage you to explore the EDSC Music web page: <https://eastdonsc.vic.edu.au/our-community/music>.