

# Instrumental Music Handbook 2021



**Principal**

John Roberts

**Assistant Principals**

Karen Boyle  
Cameron Campbell  
Jasvinder Kaur

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## CONTACTS

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### COLLEGE ADDRESS

20-48 George Street, East Doncaster 3109

Telephone: 9842 2244

Fax: 9841 8010

#### Principal

Mr John Roberts

#### Assistant Principals

Mr Cameron Campbell

Mrs Karen Boyle

Ms Jasvinder Kaur

#### Business Manager

Mrs Fiona Roper

#### Director of Music

Mr Norm Grimmett

#### Instrumental Music Coordinator

Mr Carl Williams

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STAFF

#### Double Reeds

Ms Tania Berezin

#### Flute

Mrs Catherine Bruce

#### Brass

Mr Evan Clements

#### Low Strings

Ms Annette Eldridge

#### Clarinet and Saxophone

Mrs Emily Fry

#### Percussion

Mr Norm Grimmett

#### Upper Strings

Mr Carl Williams

### ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS AND REHEARSAL TIMES

#### Monday

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Junior Strings – Mr Carl Williams

3:30pm – 4:30pm

String Group – Ms Annette Eldridge

#### Tuesday

7:30am – 8:30am

'Diamond Divas' (Girls vocal group) – Mrs Tina Marchant & Mr Norm Grimmett

3:30pm – 4:45pm

Chamber Strings – Mr Carl Williams

#### Wednesday

7:15am – 8:30am

Symphonic Band – Mrs Emily Fry & Mr Evan Clements

3:30pm – 4:30pm

'Vox-Pack' (Boys Vocal Group) – Mr Norm Grimmett & Mrs Tina Marchant

#### Thursday

7:30am – 8:30am

Concert Band – Mrs Cathy Bruce & Mr Evan Clements

#### Friday

7:30am – 8:30am

Beginner Band – Mrs Tania Berezin & Mrs Emily Fry

7:30am – 8:30am

Senior Vocal Group – Mr Scott Copeman

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR OUR BEGINNER MUSICIANS

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- First instrument lesson **Mon 15 – Fri 19 February** (students will be notified of time)
- **Fri 18 March** - Beginner Band first rehearsal
- **Mon 15 March** - Junior Strings first rehearsal
- **Mon 17 May – Fri 28 May** – Instrumental Exams
- Victorian Schools Music festival

VSMF Orchestra section either **31 May, 1, 2 or 3 June**

VSMF Young Band Section - either **15, 16, 17 or 19 November**

- **Fri 3 June** – ‘Winter Warmers’ Concert @ EDSC Theatre
- **Week 4, Term 4** - ‘Middle School Spring Concert’ @ EDSC Theatre
- **Mon 25 October – Fri 5 November** – Instrumental Exams
- **Tuesday 7 December** – Orientation Day performances to 2022 year 7 students

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

## COURSE BACKGROUND

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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 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**

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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 \$100.00 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 **\$450.00**. This levy covers students for ensemble costs, such as purchase of sheet music, their weekly instrument lesson, the cost of excursions, performances, transport and staffing costs.

Purchase of the performance uniform, available from the uniform shop, is around **\$70 - 80** for beginner students.

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. These are generally available through the music department at cost price.

Generally the only additional cost is that of the Music Camp, which students in the senior music ensembles are expected to attend.

## **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**

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.

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 fees, there are usually accompanist fees associated with undertaking an AMEB exam.

## **COLLEGE ENSEMBLES**

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

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

'Stage Band', 'Vox-Pack' and 'Diamond Divas' 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**

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All students will need to purchase the following uniform items from Target, either in-store or on-line and through the college uniform shop PSW:

### **BOYS**

Black pants – Target Men 'Preview Anti-Wrinkle Pants' \$25 (Size 30 upwards)

OR Black pants – Target Kids 'Classic Suit Pants' - Black \$25 (smaller sizes)

OR PSW Elastic Black Trousers \$51.50 (10/62cm - 117cm)

Black shirt – EDSC Music shirt from PSW \$33.95 (10/3XS - 14/XS) - \$35.95 (16/S - 2XL)

### **GIRLS**

Black pants – Target Women 'Regular Length Straight Leg Pants' - Black \$30 (size 6 upwards)

OR Target Women 'Belle Curve Straight Leg Stretch Work Pants' - Black \$30 (Size 16 upwards)

OR PSW Elastic Black Trousers \$51.50 (10/62cm – 117cm)

Black shirt – EDSC Music shirt from PSW \$33.95 (10/3XS - 14/XS) - \$35.95 (16/S - 2XL)

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

In addition, students in all college ensembles can purchase the EDSC Music Black soft shell jacket from PSW, PSW \$76.95 (10/3XS - 3XL).

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

## **PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT**

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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

Clarinet – Yamaha for student models, Buffet (or Le Blanc) for wooden instruments

Saxophone – Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter

Trumpet – Yamaha, Bach, Schagerl

Trombone – Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter

French Horn – Yamaha, Holton, Schagerl

Oboe – Buffet, Howarth, Yamaha

Bassoon – Fox, Schreiber

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass – EDSC recommends [Bows For Strings](#) PH. 8802 7905

7 Glenwood Avenue, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150

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

## **COLLEGE HIRE INSTRUMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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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 music building. 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 \$150.00 per year**

**Double Bass \$200.00 per year**

**Euphonium, Tuba, Saxophone, Bassoon \$250.00 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 Grimmatt or Mr Williams if you are considering hiring an instrument from the college to check current availability.

## **LEARNING A SECOND INSTRUMENT**

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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 \$450.00.

## **CAMPS**

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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.

## **PERFORMANCE PROTOCOLS**

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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**

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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**

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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 Grimmatt or the Instrumental Music Coordinator, Mr Carl Williams.



**Reply Slip - Conditions For Participating in the Instrumental Music Program – NEW STUDENTS FROM YEARS 8 – 12 and YEAR 7 STUDENTS WITH PRIOR EXPERIENCE.**

*\* New Yr 7 students should apply at Music Information Night and not use this form.*

*Please return this slip to the Music office or your child's instrumental music teacher with the Levy payment (\$450.00) in a college payment envelope or through Compass (please note that Compass payment will incur an extra processing cost) **no later than the first instrumental music lesson** to secure your child's place in the program. Please note that there are limited places available on many instruments, and available places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis for new students in years 8 - 12.*

*Parents experiencing difficulties with these payment arrangements are encouraged to contact the Director of Music or the General Office to discuss payment options.*

**We have read the Music Department Handbook and agree to participate in the Instrumental Music Program according to these conditions.**

Student Name: *(please print)* .....

Form: .....

Instrument: .....

EDSC Music Department to fill out.

Compulsory Ensemble: .....

Your child's first lesson will be on: .....

Your child's teacher will be: .....

The Levy payment of \$450.00 has been enclosed or paid through Compass.

**Student Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....

**Parent Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....