



Information for Instrumental Music Lessons 2022

Instruments Offered

The School offers individual tuition in the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Classical Guitar, Acoustic Guitar (steel string)*#, Electric Guitar*#, Electric Bass Guitar

Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone*

Brass: French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion: Orchestral Percussion, Drum Kit*+

Keyboard: Piano# (classical, contemporary and jazz), Pipe Organ#, Harpsichord#

Voice: Singing (classical, musical theatre)

* places are limited

prerequisite standards required

+ audition may be required

Please note that enrolment in some instruments is subject to the fulfilment of prerequisite standards, and that places are limited in piano, saxophone, drum kit and guitar. The relevant Head of Department will advise you if your son does not meet the required standard and lessons cannot be offered.

Musicianship classes (Grades 2 to 6 only) are offered principally for boys who are advanced instrumentalists sitting AMEB examinations. The AMEB sets Musicianship as a prerequisite for some practical examinations. For more information or to apply for Musicianship classes, please see the form on the Parent Portal.

Instrument Hire

The School has a number of instruments for hire for use at home, school or both. Boys who play larger instruments such as tuba or double bass are given a second instrument to leave at school, free of charge. The School does not hire out the following instruments: acoustic/steel string guitar, electric guitar, drum kit, piano, pipe organ, some orchestral percussion. Only a limited number of classical guitars (nylon string) are available. If a boy wishes to learn piano it is necessary to own a piano.

The hire fee covers the instrument's ongoing maintenance for reasonable wear and tear. The cost of repairing any damage done to the instrument through carelessness or negligence is the responsibility of the hirer. The Music Department will arrange for any necessary repairs.

Please note that submitting an application does not automatically guarantee the hire of an instrument.

Lesson Timetable and Out of Hours Lesson Policy

Instrumental lessons typically take place at the same day and time each week. As school classes are given on a rotating 6-day timetable, a boy is unlikely to miss the same subject more than twice a term. Limited lesson times are available outside of class time but **priority is given to boys in Forms V and VI, and boys learning two or more instruments at the School**. If your son applies for lessons for more than one instrument, lessons for one of those instruments will take place during class time with lessons for any additional instruments held out of class time. Hundreds of boys attend individual lessons each week and quickly become accustomed to following up with their masters and classmates regarding missed class work.

Generally one lesson per week is given throughout the school year so that boys receive a total of thirty lessons during the year regardless of interruptions such as examinations and excursions. If time allows, permission for extra lessons may be sought and these lessons will be charged for on a pro rata basis.

Ensemble Participation

At Grammar we believe that being part of an ensemble is a vital part of becoming a musician. For this reason, ensemble participation is mandatory for boys learning an instrument at the School until the end of Form IV, after which it is compulsory only for boys taking Elective Music as a subject. Boys who learn outside the school are also strongly encouraged to participate in the ensemble program. The rehearsal schedule is published on the School's webpage at: www.sydgram.nsw.edu.au/CurrentFamilies/Music. Some boys who are not yet ready to play in an ensemble will sing in a choir until an ensemble opportunity arises for them on their instrument.

Form I boys will be auditioned on their instrument(s) early in Term I and then usually during Term III or IV of subsequent years. They will be placed into an ensemble appropriate to their skill level and may elect to join additional large or small ensembles if their weekly schedule permits.

The following paragraphs relate to the particular instrument families:

Strings: Once auditioned for seating, all boys play in Stringendo, the Form I string ensemble. Later in the year they will be auditioned for a Form II string ensemble based on their skill level, and may also be invited to join the Seymour Orchestra. They will have the opportunity to join senior ensembles such as School Orchestra and the Alastair Mackerras Chamber Orchestra (AMCO) from the end of Form III.

Brass & Woodwinds: all players are placed in one of the bands and/or one of the smaller ensembles such as Flute Choir, Saxophone Ensemble, Tuba Ensemble, French Horn Ensemble or Form I Brass Ensemble. They may have the opportunity to participate in the Jazz programme in addition to their main ensemble placement. They will have the opportunity to participate in one of the full orchestras in subsequent years.

Percussion: all percussionists and drum kit players are placed in one of the bands or percussion ensembles. Depending on skill level and experience, a small number of drum kit players are placed in the Jazz ensembles. There are also opportunities for some drummers to play in the rock bands. Boys will have the opportunity to participate in one of the orchestras in subsequent years.

Keyboard: pianists who have reached AMEB Fifth Grade level and have good sight-reading skills are able to audition for one of the Keyboard Ensembles. Groups of various sizes and interests are then formed depending on the cohort. Boys not in a keyboard ensemble will participate in the Choral programme.

Vocal: all boys studying voice as an instrument will participate in the Choral programme regardless of their other ensemble commitments. All boys at the School are welcome to join a choir regardless of their musical experience. As their voices change, boys are moved from one choir to another to best match their physical and vocal development.

Missed Lessons and Lesson Cancellations

If a boy cannot attend his scheduled lesson time the teacher should be advised directly as soon as possible. Where sufficient notice is not given, the lesson will not be made up. Notification on the day of the lesson is not considered sufficient notice.

If, on the morning of his lesson, your son is unexpectedly ill or absent from School for any reason, please advise his instrumental teacher directly.

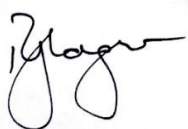
Cessation of Lessons

Written notice of intended withdrawal from the instrumental/vocal programme must be received by the Music Department no later than the end of Week 5 of a term for the cancellation of lessons to be effective at the end of that same term. Continued enrolment is assumed from year to year.

Fees (provisional per October 2021)

Instrumental Lessons (30 lessons of 40 minutes)	\$ 2,818.19
Extra Instrumental Lessons in excess of the standard 30 per year (per lesson)	\$ 93.94
Instrument Hire (per annum)	\$ 230.00

Please feel free to telephone me on 9332 5886 or email me: rjw@sydgram.nsw.edu.au if you have any queries or would like to discuss your son's participation in Music at Grammar.



Robert Wagner
Head of Instrumental Music