

Aberfoyle Park High School Music 2024



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this publication is to inform all new students, including current Year 6 students and their parents, of the music courses, instrumental music program and ensembles available in the APHS Music Program.

Studying music provides opportunities for the development of creativity, critical thinking, persistence, resilience, self-discipline, identity, connection and confidence. It also helps students to develop quality life skills such as organisation, self-discipline, time management, patience, tolerance, communication, commitment, team work and leadership - skills transferrable across study, work and social environments.

This is achieved through experiences that encourage collaboration and creative problem-solving, the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding, and the development of aesthetic awareness.

HISTORY

Aberfoyle Park High School has a proud and successful music program since the inception of the school.

It has one of the largest music programs in the public school system outside of the Specialist Interest Music Centres. We offer a broad curriculum, which exposes students to many styles of music through a strong performance-based program.

The music students at Aberfoyle are a very supportive group, who enjoy each other's company. They work hard to further their skills and the reputation of the school through their music. Students are exposed to music in the classroom setting as well as many regularly committing to co-curricular ensembles to extend their learning, including:

- Concert Band
- Big Band
- Choir
- String Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble

These ensembles rehearse after school or at lunch times and regularly perform at assemblies and various venues outside of school providing fabulous musical and personal growth opportunities for our music students.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students wishing to commence or continue learning an ensemble instrument and participate in music ensembles should nominate for our full year Music Specialist Program. The performance-based courses provide students with access to free, small group instrumental lessons. Students participate in year level ensemble rehearsals and performances, study the theory of music, learn basic keyboard, aural and composition skills, engage in music technology projects and explore musical styles and history through practical music-making. There is a large emphasis on the practical application of musical skills. Technology is incorporated, making use of student's iPads and our dedicated Performing Arts iMac Computer Suite and software such as Sibelius, Auralia, Musition and Garageband.

YEAR 7 (Music Specialist - Full Year Program)

This subject caters for both the beginning musician and those with prior musical knowledge. It is designed for students who wish to commence or continue learning an ensemble instrument.

The course is delivered in 4 lessons per week. Students participate in Year 7 Ensemble rehearsals and performances, are introduced to basic keyboard playing, engage in music technology projects, study the music theory and develop aural awareness. Students have tuition on an ensemble instrument either at school in a 30-minute small group lesson during school hours or they learn privately. Commitment to perform in one of the evening performances is expected each semester.

YEAR 7/8 (Music General)

Students who do not undertake the full year Music-Specialist course complete the compulsory Arts rotation that includes a 10-week course in each of the following: Music General (no instrumental tuition), Visual Art, Drama and Dance.

YEAR 8/9/10 (Music Specialist)*

Students can continue their study of music and further develop their instrumental playing by continuing with instrumental lessons and playing in class and co-curricular ensembles. They continue to study theory, aural, aspects of music history, musical styles and elementary composition, and engage in music technology projects.

****Selection of this subject requires the student to have previous knowledge of music through the study of it in Year 7 Music Specialist, or previous lessons outside of the school. It is advised to speak to Mr Kammermann if choosing this without previously learning music.***



SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2 Music Subjects

In the senior years of secondary school, the various music courses offered within SACE such as Music Performance - Solo, Music Performance – Ensemble and Music Explorations, are designed and structured to suit specific interests and areas of study within the music subject. Students select the components that reflect their individual strengths and interests.

INSTRUMENT SELECTION

New students to Aberfoyle Park High School who undertake the Year 7 Music Specialist Full Year Program learn an ensemble instrument. The school can provide tuition in the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone - Alto or Tenor
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Violin, Viola, Cello (*only available to students who undertook these instruments in primary school*)
- Percussion - drum kit, tuned and untuned*
- Electric Bass*

****Please note that positions for Percussion and Electric Bass are very limited. In 2023, there were 75 Year 7 Music students in total, and 9 positions for Electric Bass, and 9 positions available for Percussion. Preference is given to students who have been learning these instruments in primary school through Instrumental lessons where the reading of traditional music notation is taught (not Tab).***

Students benefit most from our school's music program by learning one of these instruments. Year level ensemble rehearsals in Years 7 to 10 constitute the major focus of the learning programs, with theory, aural and composition tasks designed to

complement and support the learning. Students can also participate in a variety of co-curricular ensembles, once they attain a suitable note reading and technical standard.

Students indicate their instrument preferences on the Music Nomination Form and we endeavour to give students one of their highest preferences. We have a limited allocation of the Department's instrumental lessons for each instrument type and the viability, balance and effectiveness of our school's ensemble program is considered when making these decisions. However, Year 6 students intending to continue their current study of an instrument privately can choose to nominate the study of a different instrument at school.

If you are unfamiliar with a particular instrument, please make contact with the Music staff so the instrument can be explained or demonstrated.

Year 6 students nominating for the Music Specialist program will be involved in introductory music sessions at the beginning of Year 7. These sessions have been useful in confirming students' instrumental preferences and often identify "instrument-specific" potential and suitability amongst some incoming students. Confirmation of instruments will then be communicated within the first few weeks of the beginning of the school year.

All Year 7 Students also learn basic keyboard skills within the Music Specialist curriculum as well as their ensemble instrument. Voice, guitar and piano tuition are **not** available through the school, however many students sing in the school choir and make private vocal, guitar or piano lesson arrangements outside of school hours.

New students' access to instrumental lessons and music at other year levels is by negotiation with the Director of Music and the Wellbeing Leaders. Previous study of an instrument and note reading is generally required.

COSTS

If students from Year 7 to 12 need to hire an instrument, they can do this privately or another option is through the school. Instruments hired through the school are hired for a minimum of one term and cost \$50.00 per term.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Year 6 students wishing to participate in the Music Specialist Program will need to complete the Music Specialist Nomination Form 2024 which will be included in APHS application packs later this year. These will need to be returned to Aberfoyle Park High School by **Friday 1 September 2023**.

Any questions regarding the Nomination Form or the Music Program at APHS should be addressed to:

Steve Kammermann
Senior Leader - Visual and Performing Arts
Director of Music
Email: steve.kammermann390@schools.sa.edu.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What commitments are required?

Students need to undertake regular and substantial instrument practice, approximately 30 minutes a day, and attend their instrumental lessons weekly. Students in co-curricular ensembles need to avoid other commitments such as part-time work, on rehearsal nights and attend the few out of school hours' performances scheduled throughout the year.

How are classes organised?

In instrumental lessons, students are grouped with other students of similar ability. In class music lessons, students work at individual theory levels, representative of their knowledge. In some cases students may be accelerated. This is done in consultation with the parents, student, Wellbeing Leaders and Music teachers.

Is there a pathway that includes Music study within the SACE at APHS?

There have been strong numbers of students that study music as part of their SACE at APHS. In both SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2, Year 11 and 12, students undertake single units or a combination of the various Music units that best fit their skills, abilities, interests and post-secondary pathways. Some of our past students have gone on to study Bachelor of Music degrees at the Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide. Other students have taken another music path through study at TAFE and many still enjoy music through their involvement in Community Bands.

What are the other costs?

Students need to purchase tutor books/repertoire pieces as determined by their instrumental teacher and minor equipment/spares associated with their instrument such as reeds, strings, valve oil etc.

Students in the co-curricular ensembles are required to purchase a black performance shirt.

Students in the co-curricular ensembles are encouraged to participate in music tours organised.

How many students do music?

Currently we have approximately 225 Music Program students in Years 7 to 12.



The APHS Choir performing at Elder Hall