



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

MUSIC FACT SHEET

Perth Modern School has an international reputation for excellence in performance and music studies. Music students take part in a dynamic program and are taught by highly skilled professional musicians.

STUDYING MUSIC AT PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

International and Australian research proves that learning music can significantly enhance a child's capacity to learn. Children who are active music makers are more likely to have improved mathematical and language performance, better reasoning capacity, improved problem-solving skills, improved memory; and, social and team skills. Creating and performing music promotes self-expression and has a role in shaping individual identity and character. Studying music fosters self-discipline and diligence – traits that carry over into academic pursuits and become invaluable lifelong attributes.

Our music program maximises these benefits, providing students with a literacy and performance focus in their music studies to strengthen and further increase skills on their chosen instrument and broadening their analysis and composing skills.

THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music Program at Perth Modern School develops students' creativity and expression through a diverse range of music learning experiences.

The program is based upon the acclaimed Kodály Concept; this is a practical approach to music education that cultivates a synthesis of all skills necessary to develop complete musicianship. Central to the approach is the belief that music serves to develop a person on all levels – emotionally, spiritually, intellectually and physically. We nurture a love and appreciation for music that is supported by understanding and direct musical experience.

In Years 8, 9 and 10, students have the opportunity to study music in the Extension Music Program or the Class Music Program.

Students are exposed to the following areas of study:

PERFORMANCE

- Skill development in music including the study of music elements and how these translate within music performance.
- Solo, small and large music ensemble experience, performance techniques.
- Performance opportunities at school, local, national and international events and venues.

COMPOSING

- Students will access a range of computer and keyboard technology to compose using a variety of compositional techniques.
- The fundamentals of composing are implemented through music theory and analysis of repertoire.



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ANALYSIS

- Students are exposed to a variety of different music styles and genres and will develop aural and written analysis skills.

The Music programme at Perth Modern School has recently celebrated its 50th year. Many of our former students are distinguished professional performers, composers and academics.

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Every two years, students have the opportunity to participate in the School's international music tour to perform at renowned performance venues, at notable events, compete in festivals and participate in masterclasses and workshops.

ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES

The School supports the following orchestras and ensembles:

- Symphony Orchestras
- String Orchestras
- Wind (Concert) Bands
- Jazz Orchestras
- Classical Guitar Ensembles
- Contemporary (Electric) Guitar Ensembles
- Chamber Ensembles
- Choirs



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ANSWERS TO SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For general information on the music program and curriculum, please refer to the Curriculum Handbook or Music Fact Sheet.

How long will I learn my instrument for?

All students should undertake the Music Program as a six-year program.

Can I change instruments?

It is not possible to change instruments after the year has commenced.

When will my music lessons be?

Students taking instrumental lessons through the school will leave timetabled classes in order to participate in lessons. These times will rotate each week, resulting in the minimal possible amount of interruption to other classes.

Can I just learn an instrument without being in ensemble?

No, participation in an instrumental ensemble (Band, Orchestra or Guitar Ensemble) is compulsory for all students when judged by their instrumental teachers and/or music staff to be sufficiently proficient to meet the program's demands. Vocal students will participate in the Vocal Ensemble as well as the relevant choir.

Can I learn piano?

Piano as an instrument is not taught at Perth Modern School.

When are Ensemble rehearsals held?

Ensemble rehearsals are held weekly either before or after school as advised.

When will I be allocated to an ensemble?

Year 7 students who are continuing the instrument from Primary School are generally considered sufficiently proficient for immediate entry into the relevant Junior Ensemble. You will be allocated an appropriate ensemble in the first two weeks of the school year.

I am learning a new instrument when do I join an ensemble?

Students commencing learning a new instrument will not have immediate ensemble commitments and will be advised of the appropriate ensemble and rehearsal times when they are ready for this. This will normally be by the beginning of Term 2.

What are the compulsory ensembles?

Students continuing into Year 8 and subsequent years are expected to participate in the relevant co-curricular choir as well as the appropriate ensemble for their instrument (Band, Orchestra, Guitar or Voice)



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Can I join more ensembles?

In addition to the compulsory ensembles, all students are encouraged to audition for option ensembles such as Jazz Bands, Chamber Music Ensembles and Chamber Choirs.

Can I be in the ensemble if I learn my instrument outside of school?

Yes, but the same expectations apply. They are: you must be enrolled in class music, you must be in the appropriate ensemble for your instrument and you must be in the appropriate choir (Year 8 Choir, Year 9 Choir or Chorale. The Year 7 Choir is run as part of the timetabled class)

Any other questions that you may have will be addressed at the time of your child's audition.