

Music Program Fact Sheet



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL
Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.



Studying Music at Perth Modern School

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.

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.





The Music program at Perth Modern School has passed 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.

Perth Modern School music ensembles

Music ensembles offer students the opportunity to develop their individual performance skills in a team environment. Auditioning the ensembles allows students to work with peers at a similar performance level, drawn from a number of year levels. The compulsory choirs are year specific, supporting the development of skills through the classroom curriculum.

The ensembles at Perth Modern School are an integral part of the music program as they support and develop musicianship skills in counterpart to the classroom program and instrumental lessons.

All students who learn an instrument through the IMSS music program are required to be a participating member of the appropriate ensemble for their instrument as well as compulsory choir. All ensembles rehearse before or after school with Senior Wind Orchestra rehearsing on Saturday mornings.

Compulsory Ensembles (IMSS instrumental students must belong to at least one of these).

Students will be allocated to an appropriate ensemble with or without an audition as decided by the Music Department. These are:

- 5 Wind Bands
- 2 Symphony Orchestra
- 3 String Orchestras
- 3 Classical Guitar Ensembles
- 4 Contemporary Guitar Ensembles
- Vocal Ensemble.

Compulsory Choir – All students must be in the appropriate choir for their year level. Year 7 Choir operates as a part of the timetabled class.

- Treble Voices Choir
- Changing Voices Choir
- Senior Chorale

Optional Ensembles – no audition

- 2 Jazz Ensembles

Optional Ensembles – audition only

- 2 Piano Quintets
- 1 Wind Quintet
- Chamber Choirs:
 - Schola Cantori
 - Phoenix
 - Chorus Angelicus.



Frequently Asked Questions

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

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.

Can I keep learning my instrument privately and have lessons through IMSS as well?

No, students that are learning through IMSS are not permitted to have private lessons on the same instrument.

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).

Can I join more ensembles?

In addition to the compulsory ensembles, all students are encouraged to audition for optional 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.