

Monbulk College

Instrumental Music Program

The outstanding Instrumental Music Program at Monbulk College enables students to thrive as musicians and members of the community. At Monbulk, we have a team of specialist instrumental music teachers with extensive industry and educational experience who believe in empowering students to be creative, confident and compassionate. In addition to students' weekly music lessons with supportive, helpful, and experienced music teachers, students also have the opportunity to perform at school and beyond in a range of settings. Recently, our students have been involved in performances at local restaurants and markets along with larger events like one at Hamer Hall. Learning a musical instrument helps students to excel in all areas of their education. We invite all students who are interested to enquire into the program to see if this is the right fit for them.

Monbulk College Instrumental Music Program

The music program at Monbulk College provides students with the opportunity to be part of a performing ensemble and learn a musical instrument from Year 7 to 12 levels, including VCE VET Music. The College has had a long tradition of excellence in its music program with many students finding that being involved in the program enhances both their academic and social development.

"Instruments are a unique art form that everyone can master and are tons of fun to learn. There are lots of opportunities that will help you improve and band is great!" Tijana, student

"Music is fun, it's social, it's really relaxing, and it makes me feel really happy." Ava, student

We offer a comprehensive performance-based music program. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in a variety of musical activities that include:

1. Participation in one or more of our College ensembles:

- Beginner Concert Band
- Concert Band
- Guitar Ensemble
- Singing groups
- Percussion ensemble
- Contemporary groups

2. Attendance at music camps, excursions and workshops

3. Performances that include but are not limited to:

- Regional concert at Hamer Hall
- Soirees, Winter Concert, Jazz night
- AMEB/ANZCA exams

- local events: Lantern Festival, Christmas Carols, markets, restaurants and Festivals
- Presentation Night

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the information found here, please feel free to contact Roz Wilson, Instrumental Music Coordinator; roz.wilson@education.vic.gov.au

The three Essentials

The three essential, equally important components to successful participation in the instrumental music program:

1. A weekly lesson
2. Compulsory participation in a College ensemble
3. Regular practice at home

A Holistic Education: the value of learning music

A quality instrumental music education can play a fundamental role in the development of your child. Recent research shows that learning music can help your child's ability to learn, including:

- Increasing memory and reasoning capacity
- Improving problem solving skills
- Improving mathematics and language performance
- Developing self-discipline skills
- Increasing concentration, memory and self-expression
- Developing time management skills
- Developing social and team skills
- Helping under-performing students improve learning
- Working effectively within a team
- Enjoyment and social connections

Throughout the history of Monbulk College, many of the student leaders and high academic achievers have been active participants in the music program. Many duxes of VCE and other year levels have been actively involved in the instrumental music program. Participation in the Monbulk College music program is one of the most rewarding activities that your child can experience at school. It is our aim to have all students engaged in playing an instrument as it is seen as a beneficial and integral part of our co-curricular program.

TED talk Anita Collins: How Playing an Instrument Benefits your brain

<https://youtu.be/R0JKCYZ8hng>

Quotes from Parents

"Both our kids have loved participating in the college music program, and the fantastic music making options that come with it. The range of groups and real-world opportunities to perform have instilled a life-long passion for music, with all the academic, social and happy-soul benefits that come with learning and making music!" Matt, parent

"Joining the music program encourages creativity, confidence and increases concentration. It also gives a better appreciation of music by providing a deeper understanding of composition. They also have opportunities to meet other students from different schools and to experience playing at Hamer Hall if they want too." Dan and Tina, parents

Music Staff

Monbulk College has a dedicated team of music staff who work together to help your child achieve success in playing the instrument they want to learn.

Our team includes:

Roz Wilson	Contemp workshop, keyboard, flute, clarinet, saxophone
Lisa Baird	Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Keyboard, Drumkit, Contemp Workshop
Rachel Nendick	Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Adam Russo	Guitar, Bass Guitar
Helen Jackson	Voice
Harrison Kolevich	Drumkit

The Logistics

All students are invited to join the program.

Once committed to the program, students must continue their tuition for a minimum of one year.

It is expected that students honour their commitment to the program by attending lessons regularly and participating in our College ensembles and performances. Please ensure that you can meet the rehearsal requirements before deciding on your instrument choice.

- Students will be placed in a lesson group comprising of similar standard players.
- Lessons are provided weekly with a specialist teacher.
- Lessons will rotate their timetable to minimise students missing the same subject each week. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any class work they have missed whilst participating in Music lessons. It is also the responsibility of the student to check Compass regularly to ensure that they know when their lessons are timetabled.

Costs

There are 2 different streams for Instrumental Music lessons at Monbulk College. This is because some lessons are subsidised by the Region and these need to follow certain guidelines set by them.

1. Ensemble Program

If a student is interested in learning an instrument such as Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, Bass, Drums, keyboard, or Voice, they will be placed in an ensemble that rehearses once a week. On top of this, they receive a small group lesson, timetabled on Compass. It is expected that these students will attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.

- Cost for this stream is \$350 per year.
- Ensemble times for beginner Brass/Woodwind is Monday after school from 3:30pm – 4:15PM
- Voice students will attend lunchtime rehearsals on Monday.
- More advanced Brass/Woodwind students will attend Concert Band rehearsals on Thursdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- All guitar and bass students are expected to attend the Guitar Ensemble which takes place at lunchtime on Tuesdays.
- All Drums/Keyboard students will be placed into the Percussion Ensemble that rehearses Tuesday lunch.

2. Contemporary Workshop Stream

This stream does not receive the same amount of subsidised funding as the first two.

- Cost for this stream is \$600 per year.
- Students interested in a contemporary instrument (guitar/bass/ukulele/keyboard/drums) but are not wanting to pursue formal instrumental music can complete an Expression of Interest form for this stream.
- Lessons will consist of workshops focused on putting together songs for performance. Individualised focus on technique will not be a priority, but rather a general approach for an authentic experience in performing music.
- Lessons will be solely in groups and students will not be required to participate in an extra College based ensemble.

Ensembles

Participating in an ensemble is a vital part of the College's music program. It is an opportunity to get together on a weekly basis to put all the pieces of the musical jigsaw together.

- Some of the benefits to the students of being an active member of an ensemble include:
- Improving instrumental technique
- Building self-confidence, self-esteem, and social skills
- Developing a sense of accomplishment and pride
- Leadership opportunities

Ensembles also provide motivation to enhance students' skills with their musical instrument.

Students are expected to give rehearsals priority over other activities where they can so that the best possible progress can be made. If a rehearsal is to be missed for any reason, students are to notify the relevant leader of that ensemble in person or via Compass as soon as possible. Rolls will be marked on Compass and attendance will be monitored in progress reports.

Concert Band	Thursday	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Junior Concert Band	Monday	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Choir	Monday	Lunch
Guitar Ensemble	Tuesday	Lunch
Percussion Ensemble	Tuesday	Lunch

Balance within our Ensembles

So that each of our musical ensembles have a balanced sound, it is important that we have a good mix of instruments with different sounds and pitches. It is like a football team: you cannot field an effective team with 18 forwards. All positions need to be covered. Good music making is not different. For this reason, there is a restriction on some instrument numbers per ensemble. It is imperative that students name 3 preferences for instrument choice for this reason.

Practice

For progress to be made it is essential that all students undertake regular practise at home. Developing the self-discipline that it takes to practise and improve is one of the greatest benefits of studying a musical instrument. We would expect that students starting an instrument would practise for a minimum of 20 minutes three times a week.

The best practice habits are developed during the first years of study. Parents can help to foster great practice habits by creating a set time and a private place with a music stand to practise in the home. Children need an approving audience. Be encouraging! Let your young musician know you are interested and listen to them practise when possible. Skill development depends upon practise; skills erode without regular practise. A consistent approach to practising will help and parent intervention may be required at times to ensure that practise takes place. Even a few minutes will be better than no time at all! Feel free to contact your child's teacher if you feel motivation is a problem.

Materials Required

Instruments

The College has a limited number of instruments available for hire for \$120 per year. This is in addition to the tuition fee. Instruments available for hire include:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Bass Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone

Students in Year 7 have priority for hire instruments. It is expected that a student's family will make a commitment to purchase a second hand or new instrument so that the student can continue in the program. Musical instruments are also available for hire through private companies such as Music Corp, Fine Music or Eltham Brass and Woodwind.

Students learning guitar, bass or keyboard should have their own instrument to practise on. These do not need to be brought to lessons each week, but bass and guitars can be if they choose to do so. Drum students can begin with sticks and practise pads and do not require a whole drum kit for beginners.

Purchasing an instrument

Research has shown that when children learn on their own instrument, they are less likely to drop out of the music program in school. They experience the pride of ownership and will be even more dedicated towards their music education. In addition to this, your commitment to your child by buying an instrument instils a sense of confidence in your child. For second hand instruments, Brass and Woodwind in Ormond <http://www.ozwinds.com.au> is a great place to start, or <https://www.2ndwinds.com.au/> in Brunswick West. Instrument repairers also sell reconditioned instruments, such as <https://www.morrisonmusicrepairs.com.au/> based in Mt Evelyn. It is also worth checking eBay, Marketplace and Gumtree.

If circumstances change and you want to sell an instrument second hand, please remember that instruments do hold their value. For advice on the purchase of a new or second-hand instrument, please see one of the Monbulk College music staff.

Please do not buy an instrument from a supermarket chain. They are of inferior quality and often cannot be repaired if things go wrong with them.

What Happens Next?

1. All of the grade 6's that visit the College on Orientation Day will have an introduction presentation to Instrumental Music at Monbulk College.
2. During 'O- Week' at the beginning of the year, each class will have the chance to try out Brass and Woodwind instruments and parents are welcome to reach out to Instrumental Music teachers to speak about your child's instrumental preference.
3. Fill out the Expression of Interest form found on the College website. Please include three different instruments in priority order so that we are able to best place your child. Any child not getting their first choice is spoken to first. Please don't select an instrument unless you are prepared to try it!

4. Soon after the Year 7 BBQ night, your child will receive a confirmation letter detailing the allocation of instrumental tuition. They will then be invited to enrol via the link provided in the letter.
5. Lessons will begin in March and the first Junior Band rehearsal will begin in Term 2.

We can't wait for as many students as possible to have an active and rewarding participation in the College's Music Program. Again, if you have any questions contact Roz Wilson, Instrumental Music Coordinator; roz.wilson@education.vic.gov.au

Terms and Conditions

1. Enrolment is for the entire year and is to be paid for when enrolling.
2. Students are enrolling in an Ensemble Program. They will receive a lesson as part of this program. Students who do not participate in an ensemble may not receive small group instrumental lessons. (exception: Contemporary Workshop stream)
3. Instrumental lessons will not commence until all payments have been finalised or arrangements with the office have been made.
4. Parents must notify the Music Coordinator and the General Office in writing should their child discontinue their involvement in the Music Program. NOTE: discontinuing lessons after the commencement of the year does not immediately mean a refund will be given.
5. A range of ensembles will be made available to students to participate in, which is a requirement of this program. These rehearsals MAY occur before or after school.
6. Small group instrumental lessons will be on a rotating timetable to avoid students missing the same class each week. It is the responsibility of the student to check Compass for lesson times and ensure that they arrive on time.
7. Students must purchase required sheet music and sundries, eg Reeds as soon as practicable
8. All students must participate fully in ensemble rehearsals and performances as designated.