Glasshouse Country Christian College

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM Handbook
2014

Growing in faith and knowledge
Contents

Music at Glasshouse Country Christian College – Rationale ………… 4
Instrumental Music Program .......................................................... 4
String Program ............................................................................. 5
Band Program ............................................................................... 6
School Ensembles ......................................................................... 7
Lesson Times ............................................................................... 7
Fees .............................................................................................. 7
Withdrawal of Tuition ................................................................. 7
Instrumental Tutors ...................................................................... 8
Student enrolment & re-enrolment form ........................................ 11
Instrument loan agreement form .................................................. 12
Music at Glasshouse Country Christian College

*Music is for everybody, and like many of the other marvels of humanity, needs to be inculcated as early as possible. This is not some kind of ‘high culture’ limited to the privileged, but a treasure chest which can and must be made available and accessible to enrich every life.* (Rattle, 1998)

**Rationale**

The Arts offer ways to learn about the world that include far more than spoken and written language. When students participate as artists and as audience, they engage their senses, physical skills, emotional and spiritual sensibilities, as well as their intellect to make meaning of the world. Through the Arts we express and communicate what it is to be human and we develop, share and pass on understandings of our histories, our cultures, and ourselves to future generations.

The Arts are widely recognised as powerful educative tools that contribute to the aesthetic development of the individual. They function as complex symbol systems, allowing individuals to assign meaning to human experience, and they represent and evoke responses to life. Music pervades all cultures and evokes a broad spectrum of human emotional response. As one of the Arts, music makes a profound contribution to personal, social and cultural identity. It forms a unique means of expression and of knowing and communicating experience.

In Music, students develop an expressive language with which to represent their observations and their response to experiences. The building blocks of that language are the elements that are combined, according to particular design rules or principles, so as to express particular feelings and ideas, just as words are combined into sentences using the rules of grammar to communicate particular meaning.

Music offers its own unique symbol system: its sensory system is predominantly aural, using sound and the sense of hearing. As an essential form of expression and communication, music provides opportunities for aesthetic experiences. It accompanies the important social, cultural, technological, political and educational functions of existence and enhances our celebration of life; enlightening, inspiring, relaxing, entertaining and enriching our lives. Music has the capacity to cross national borders and assist people of different cultures to understand each other.

Music contributes to learning through the development of aspects such as memory, coordination, concentration and inventiveness. The study of music also develops skills such as logical, critical and divergent thinking, decision-making, and concept formation. Studies in music cultivate specialised skills that affect other aspects of development — cognitive, affective and psychomotor. In this way, music contributes to the development of human intelligence. Mastery of physical and perceptual skills gives students a sense of achievement, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Students studying music are empowered by its vast capacity as a creative medium. They gain insight, discover sensibility and learn the self-discipline that leads to artistic freedom. Music education programs inspire students to be involved with music as a leisure pursuit or as a career.

Music also earns its place in the general curriculum because it offers a unique way of understanding the world. It presents a distinct form of meaning, affords insight into the nature of feelings and can contribute to emotional development. Studies in music, therefore, offer a unique form of self-expression and communication.

**Instrumental Music Program**

All students who wish to be involved in the instrumental program are given the opportunity to join. Learning a musical instrument makes a difference in a child. As every parent knows, their child is a mixture of nature and nurture.

Learning music from an early age enables neural pathways to grow in ways that can help your child maximise the potential they were born with. Research shows that playing music can make significant differences to children's abilities related to learning, memory and social interactions. Playing music:

- Increases memory and reasoning capacity, time management skills and eloquence
- Improves concentration, memory and self expression
- Improves the ability to think
- Music training improves verbal memory
- Learning music helps under-performing students to improve

Not only is music an excellent opportunity, it also provides a holistic educational experience for your child. At Glasshouse Country Christian College we provide many different opportunities for students to become involved
in instrumental music. Students can commence learning an instrument from Prep Year (limited to some instruments) through to Year 12. We provide private individual and group tuition for piano, guitar, percussion, woodwind and brass instruments and vocal.

The Selmer test and classroom music results are used to determine the aural awareness of students who will be involved in the Year 5 Instrumental Band Program. All students who have their own instrument may learn in our program. We have a limited number of instruments available for hire and where students choose to learn an instrument outside of the set instrumental programs; we encourage families to purchase/hire instruments from music instrumental companies (see school website).

**Instrumental Lessons**

Students can commence instrumental lessons as young as Prep at the discretion of the tutor. Woodwind and brass instruments are not ideal for lower primary students due to their physical size and not yet having the lung capacity to handle these instruments. Often piano is a great option for young students as it allows them to experience pitch, rhythm and beat recognition. A student can continue learning their instrument and participating in ensembles even when involved with the Year 3 Smart Strings Program and Year 5 Band Program.

**String Program**

**Year 3: Smart Strings**

Smart Strings is a compulsory program commencing in Year 3. Smart Strings is delivered by Ross and Jo Walker who have extensive experience in playing and teaching the violin both on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane. The Smart Strings program involves a one half hour lesson each week in which the whole class participates instead of attending classroom Music lessons. Violins are provided to the students for each lesson. Students are not required to practice at home. Fees for Smart Strings are included on your school invoice.

During Term 4, students perform in a concert for parents and teachers displaying their abilities on the violin. This also provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions about continuing violin lessons the following year. Year 2 students will also be invited to the concert so that they can begin to experience what music will involve for them the following year.

As mentioned above, Smart Strings is a compulsory program and fees for this are included on the College invoice.

**Year 4 onwards:**

Students have the option to continue learning the violin or other string instrument from our string tutor. We encourage families to purchase an instrument for their child through an instrumental hire company (see the school website for links to company websites) or we do have some violins at school available to hire. Please speak to the string tutor before purchasing an instrument to discuss an appropriate size for your child.

There are a number of lesson types available to families (group, paired or individual - please see page 11 for lesson costs). Group lessons of 3-4 students are available to Year 4 students who are learning a stringed instrument. This method of instruction is made available to provide cost effective options whilst determining if a student is serious about learning an instrument. Lessons come at family’s own cost and students will attend lessons according to the tutor’s timetable. Students also have the option of learning other stringed instruments (viola, cello or double bass). We do not have these instruments available for loan and will come at an additional cost for families. From Year 5 onwards, if a student wishes to continue participating in the string program, families will need to hire/purchase an instrument from an instrumental company and enrol their child in paired or individual lessons. There are some College instruments available for loan, however Year 4 students are given priority.

In addition to instrumental lessons at the College, all students participating in lessons are required to attend either the Junior String Ensemble (Year 4-6) or the Middle School Chamber Ensemble (Year 7-12). Ensemble lessons do not come at an additional cost but it is a requirement for all students learning a string instrument to attend these rehearsals. Participating in ensembles encourages students to play within a group and find enjoyment in learning with other people. Both the Junior String Ensemble and the Chamber Orchestra rehearsals are conducted on Tuesday’s during break times (please refer to page 7 for rehearsal times). Students are not required to audition for these ensembles.

*Please refer to page 8 and 9 for a full list of available tutors.
Band Program

At the end of year 4:
All students are tested by the classroom music teacher to determine which instrument they are best suited to, their physical size and general reading ability are part of that consideration in preparation for the Year 5 Band Program. Students are also given the opportunity to write down their instrument preferences.

Year 5: Instrumental Band Program
Year 5 Band program is compulsory for all Year 5 students and forms their weekly music program. This does not come as an additional cost for Year 5 families. Students are given an instrument and tutor book and attend one half hour lesson per week in small groups of the same instrument type. They will be expected to take their instrument and tutor book home to practice between lessons. Their tutor will expect them to practice 20 minutes per day, 6 days a week. A music homework book will go home with each student outlining what is expected during practice. It is best that parents set a particular time each day for their child to practice. Learning a musical instrument is about discipline and setting a routine, developing skills through repetition. Individual tutors will share practice tips, ideas and motivators with students as well. It is expected that students will look after their instruments, cleaning the instrument after it has been played and safely storing and transporting it between school and home. Some instruments will require the purchase of reeds from time to time. It is the responsibility of the students to look after reeds, replacing them when necessary. These can be purchased from the Music Department. Instruments are returned at the conclusion of the year so they can be serviced and cleaned. If for some reason throughout the year an instrument is damaged and cannot be repaired by their tutor, it is expected that parents will cover the costs of any repairs. Please do not try and fix the instrument yourself; the tutors can fix most problems at school and have the correct equipment for doing this.

Students commence learning their instruments in Term 1 and attend both half hour group instrumental lesson and half hour theory lessons. From Term 2, band will be introduced. For the first three weeks students will continue in small ensemble groups with band being introduced in week four. This is always an exciting time for students as they begin to hear what their fellow classmates have been learning. Band provides a great opportunity for collaborative learning as they begin to listen and create music as a large group. Band rehearsals will be introduced gradually into the program alternating between small ensemble lessons. By Term 4, music lessons will predominately take the form of band rehearsals in preparation for concerts.

A parent evening is held in Term 4 to inform parents about the Instrumental Music Program, how it works and the responsibilities involved. This is a time when the parents can meet and speak to both the instrumental teachers and the classroom music teacher.

Year 6 onwards:
Following on from the Year 5 Band Program, students have the option to continue learning their instrument from their tutor in Year 6. We encourage families to purchase or hire an instrument for their child through an instrumental hire company (see the school website for links to company websites). Please speak to your child’s instrumental tutor before choosing an instrument to discuss price, brand and the quality of an instrument.

There are a number of lesson types available to families (group, paired or individual - please see page 11 for lesson costs). Group lessons of 3-4 students are available to Year 6 students. This option is made available only to Year 6 students learning a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument as a cost effective way of determining if a student is serious about learning an instrument into the future. From Year 7 onwards, if a student wishes to continue participating in the Instrumental Program, they will need to be enrolled in either paired or individual lessons. Families will need to hire/purchase an instrument from an instrument company.

In addition to instrumental lessons at school, students are required to attend either the Wind Ensemble (all primary excluding Year 5) or the GCCC Concert Band (Year 7-12). Ensemble lessons do not come at an additional cost but it is a requirement for all students learning a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument to attend these rehearsals once a required level of skill has been attained. Participating in ensembles encourages students to play within a group and find enjoyment in learning with other people. Both the Wind Ensemble and the GCCC Concert Band rehearsals are conducted on Tuesday’s (please refer to page 7 for rehearsal times). Students are not required to audition for these ensembles.

*Please refer to page 8 and 9 for a full list of available tutors.
**College Ensembles**
Students are encouraged to become involved in a broad range of musical experiences beyond the regular classroom lessons. The College provides opportunities to participate in a number of different ensembles. Entry into some ensembles is by audition or aptitude testing. Students will also be expected to attend performances determined by the music teacher/instrumental tutors. A separate form does not need completing for your child/children to be part of College ensembles.

**Choral**
- **Primary Vocal Group** (Yrs 4-6) – Teacher: Lin Smith  
  - Tuesday 1st break 10.36 - 11.20
- **GCCC Voices** (Yrs 7-12) – Teacher: Ebony Hilton  
  - Wednesday 7.30 – 8.25am  
  - Thursday 2nd break 12.50 - 1.25
- **Little Voices** (Yrs 1-3) – Teacher: Ebony Hilton and Jane Beadon  
  - Thursday 1st break 10.36 - 11.20

**Instrumental**
- **Year 3 Smart Strings** – Teachers: Ross & Jo Walker
- **Junior String Ensemble** (Yrs 4-6) – Teacher: Janice Morris  
  - Tuesday 2nd break 1.20 - 2.00
- **GCCC Primary Band** (Yr 3 – 6) – Teacher: Ebony Hilton  
  - Tuesday 7.45 – 8.30am
- **GCCC Concert Band** (Yr 7 - 12) – Teacher: Ebony Hilton  
  - Tuesday 3.15-4.30

**Lesson Times**
The respective tutor allocates lesson times. Lessons are scheduled during the school day. Students are placed on a fixed timetable. Any timetabling requests should be directed to the music tutor. First and Second Break lesson times will be prioritised to secondary students. If your child/children are enrolled in more than two instrumental lessons, the second lesson will have to be scheduled either before or after school hours.

**Fees**
Tutors provide a minimum of eight 30 minute lessons per term. Instrumental/Vocal tutors will invoice parents directly each term.

If you wish to enrol your child in Instrumental Lessons (excluding Smart Strings and Year 5 Band Program), please fill out the form on page 11 and return to the Music Department. Your details will be passed on to the tutor. Before a student can commence instrumental lessons, families need to have all school fees paid up-to-date.

**Absence**

**Student Absence:**
- If for any reason a student is unable to attend a lesson, the instrumental tutor must be notified by 8.00am on the day of the lesson. If notification is not given, the lesson fee will be charged and the lesson not rescheduled.

**Teacher Absence:**
- If a tutor is absent from school and unable to conduct lessons, the tutor will contact families through a text message and/or email. The College will endeavour to place a message in the morning notices and a note on the door in H1 and H2. The tutor will contact families regarding catch-up lessons.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**
It is not the responsibility of the classroom teacher to remind individual students to attend lessons. Music lessons cannot be interrupted to search for a student who has forgotten to attend their lesson. If a student does not attend a lesson without prior notice, the lesson is still charged and not made up for a later time. The parent/guardian will receive a phone call from the instrumental teacher to notify them of a missed lesson.

Helpful tip for remembering lessons:
- Have the student set an alarm 5 minutes prior to the lesson (watch, small alarm).

**Withdrawal of tuition**
The College and Music Department reserves the right to withdraw tuition if the above requirements are not met or the student constantly forgets their instrument, comes to lessons unprepared or becomes unco-operative.

If your child no longer wishes to participate in the program, four weeks notice in writing is required.

If the teacher terminates a student’s contract before the conclusion of the term, the fees will be reimbursed on a pro-rata basis.
MATTHEW GILL
BRASS

Matthew is currently studying Grade 8 Trombone towards his AMusA and a diploma in private music teaching. He also plays euphonium and trumpet, as well as beginner guitar, ukulele and piano. He teaches brass to students with the hope that they may share his passion and love for music.

Matthew is currently a member and assistant with youth band BrassBright who will compete in the 2014 National Championships. He is also a member of the Salvation Army Band in Nambour, and until recently was a member of Sunshine Brass.

You can contact Matthew on m) 0428 085 826 or email) matthew.g656@hotmail.com

JANICE MORRIS
VIOLIN, CELLO, VIOLA & PIANO

Janice has taught at Glasshouse Country Christian College from 2004-2010 as the classroom music teacher. Janice studied Music at University of Queensland graduating with a Bachelor of Arts/Education Dual Degree. She has taught violin and piano privately at Nambour Christian College, as well as from home, and entered students of different ability levels into AMEB exams both in violin, piano and theory.

You can contact Janice on m) 0402 267 122

IAN RIX
Voice

Ian Rix has been a Sunshine Coast resident for 30 years and a professional music teacher for the past 5 years. As well as delivering lessons at GCCC he is a choir leader for Spiritus Care Services in Cooroy and teaches out of his home in Little Mountain. Ian has many years experience as a professional musician, playing in bands, trios, duos and as a solo performer. Ian is an active member of the local amateur theatre community, ‘Oriana Concert Choir’, based in Buderim. Ian’s previous choral experience includes singing the role of Jesus in the Sunshine Coast Choral Society’s presentation of Stainer’s The Crucifixion, and singing the bass arias in Handel’s Messiah. Ian is passionate about music, he loves many musical genres, from Opera to Heavy Metal and just about everything in between.

You can contact Ian on h) 54927740 or m) 0438 136 833 or by email) ian.rix@bigpond.com
**JOE CRAN**

**GUITAR**

Job started learning guitar at the age of nine and studied classical guitar as well as music theory. During early high school his passion for the guitar grew and he studied blues and rock guitar, keeping a keen interest in music theory going at the same time. He studied grade 5 music theory through AMEB and this helped him develop as a musician. He has since played in numerous projects/bands of all different styles and tried to become as musically diverse as possible. He started teaching guitar in grade twelve and has since taught at 3 music schools, privately and at a primary school. His tuition style is tailored in such a way that the students enjoy and engage with the material, using relevant music and technology to ensure a fun learning environment whilst ensuring that through the material the students learn correct technique and theory.

You can contact Job on m) 0418 534 027 or by email) jobcran@hotmail.com

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**STEPHANIE MORAN**

**FLUTE, CLARINET**

Stephanie has over 30 years experience teaching Instrumental Music (majoring in Flute) in elite schools such as Abbotsleigh Girls in Sydney and Southern Cross Catholic College in Brisbane along with running a Private Music Studio for 20 years. After engaging in the Alexander Technique of which she is very passionate, Stephanie underwent 2 years teacher training in the Technique in order to enhance her work as a teacher.

Stephanie has had enormous success with students preparation in A.M.E.B. and Trinity Exams, Eisteddfods, etc. Within her musical career she has held positions such as Librarian for QYO, member of Sydney Flute Choir and Secretary of the Sydney Flute Society.

You can contact Stephanie on m) 0419 255 679 or by email) stephanie_flute24@hotmail.com

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**KASANDRA MCCLURE**

**PIANO**

Kasandra is a professional piano teacher who loves working with students of all ages and has been blessed through her work in the industry for 26 years. She has taught groups of children of 3 years to 5 years of age music appreciation, where the children work with their whole bodies to develop a feel for rhythm and beat through song and play. Later, when they begin Prep they sit at a piano where a story book method of learning is taught, to gradually help their fine motor and musical ear to develop. By age 7-8, as their ability to read and write improves, a more serious approach to learning begins, and the opportunity for sitting piano exams is provided. Kasandra has worked with a number of examination boards - Trinity College London, A.M.E.B. and recently ANZCA (Australian and New Zealand Creative Arts). She has seen her students experience great success.

You can contact Kasandra on p) 5493 0310 or by email) thepianocottage@bigpond.com

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**TERRY ROBSON**

**DRUMS**

After 3 years of drum lessons at high school Terry continued on with renowned drum teacher Col Gillies for a further 6 years. Since then he has played with numerous churches and bands, playing many different styles of music. Terry started teaching about 15 years ago, where at one stage he had about 30 students per week. Terry started teaching at Glasshouse Country Christian College two years ago and now has about 15 students. He teaches many styles of drumming including rock, pop, shuffle, Latin American beats, Jazz and more. He also teaches double kick for more advanced students.

You can contact Terry on his m) 0423 579 099 or by email) terryrobsontitch@bigpond.com
VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
STUDENT ENROLMENT & RE-ENROLMENT FORM 2014

(Please complete all details)

STUDENT NAME: _____________________________ YEAR LEVEL in 2014: ___________

Parent/Guardians
Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Parent’s Phone:     (H) ________________________   (W) ___________________   (M) _________________

Parent’s Email: ________________________________________________________________

INSTRUMENT
__________________________________________

Years experience on instrument? _____________ Continuing student from 2013? (Circle) YES/NO

BILLING DETAILS
To (Name) _______________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

(if different from above)

Signature of payer __________________________________________________________________

CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT
1. Students will bring all necessary equipment to lessons.
2. Students will maintain their instrument/s in playing condition.
3. Students will practise at least five days per week.
4. Students will be expected to join college bands and ensembles on reaching an appropriate standard.
5. To be part of band/ensembles students are expected to be enrolled or taking part in weekly instrumental lessons.
6. Students will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances that bands and/or ensembles have been requested to perform at.
7. Students/parents must always notify the teacher prior to any unplanned/planned absences (e.g. excursions, exams, illness) so an alternative time can be arranged. No credits or catch up lessons will be given for lessons missed without prior notification to the teacher.
8. To withdraw from the program, a student must complete the remainder of the term.
9. Students are required to provide their own instruments. Some instruments are available to hire from the school. Please contact music@gccc.qld.edu.au regarding availability. Recommended hire companies are listed on the school website.

TYPE OF TUITION – Please circle your preference below. Instrumental lessons are 30 minutes duration.

Individual - $27     Pair - $13.50     Group - $10.00
(Option only available for Year 4 Strings & Year 6 instrumental).

I understand and agree to all the conditions of enrolment in the Instrumental Music Program as stated above.

Signed ___________________________ ___________________________
LOAN AGREEMENT FORM 2014

(TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENTS BORROWING AN INSTRUMENT IN 2014)

STUDENT NAME: .............................................   CLASS: ..........................................

DATE OF BIRTH: ..........................................

ADDRESS: ..........................................................................................................................................

..............................................................................................................................................................

TELEPHONE: (Home)........................................... (Mobile).........................................................

(Work) ............................................. instrument: ..........................................................

Access to an instrument is subject to the following conditions:

- All instruments under this agreement remain the property of Glasshouse Country Christian College and must be returned to the college when a student leaves the Instrumental Music Program.
- The instrument is returnable on demand at any time for inspection, repair, and adjustment or for any other reason.
- The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person.
- Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of the loan. In the event of loss or damage, the matter must be reported to the College immediately.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for the maintenance and safe keeping of any instrument loaned by their children. Therefore, parents/guardians will be solely responsible for the cost of the repair or replacement of any damaged or lost instruments. Please check with your own insurers as these risks may be able to be minimized through your existing Home Contents Insurance.
- Upon signing this agreement it is expected that students will remain in the program for a minimum of one year.

We agree to the conditions of loan as outlined above and enrol our child to participate in the Instrumental Music Program

..........................................................................................................................................

Parent Signature Date

..........................................................................................................................................

Student Signature
OFFICE USE ONLY

Instrument Type: .................................................. Date Issue: .........................................
Instrument Serial Number: ................................. Date Returned: .................................
Instrument Condition: .................................................................

Last service Date: ........................................