

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2023



**St John's**  
LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE SMALL SCHOOL SHAPING BIG FUTURES

# ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

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## **“Play skilfully and shout for joy.” PSALM 33:3**

The opportunity to play and experience music is one of the most precious gifts you can give your child. Playing an instrument is a form of relaxation and also one of the most highly prized skills in the adult world.

The Instrumental Music Program at St John's is growing from strength to strength. The school musical program continues to grow in both number and in skill. We hope to have many performances next year including Grandparents' Day, Twilight Concert and visits to Gracehaven.

Music making starts in Prep and Year One where aural and rhythmic perception is introduced in a fun classroom atmosphere. Year level classroom music continues through to Year Six.

As outlets for musical performance the school has a Junior Concert Band, a Senior Concert Band, various performance ensembles including Performance Band, and a Flute Choir. We also have weekly choir class for students who are interested in joining our choir.

The school welcomes your child to our instrumental program and trust that they will gain both musically and personally from their participation.



## **OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM**

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**The outcomes of the Instrumental Music Program are:**

- To enrich your child as a musician and as a person.
- To provide an opportunity for the musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis or in private classes.
- To improve the skills of students continuing to learn a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument.
- To provide ensemble experiences for students, so that they develop group performance skills.
- To provide opportunities for groups of Instrumental Music students to improve their performance skills by performing in Eisteddfods and playing for local community and school concerts.
- To complement the school music program.

## **ENSEMBLE GROUPS**

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St John's Lutheran Primary School offers participation in a variety of instrumental and choral music ensembles.

- Senior Concert Band
- Junior Concert Band
- Performance Band
- Flute Choir
- Performance Choir
- Sing-A-Long Choir



## **FLUTE CHOIR**

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There is a large number of enthusiastic flute students at our school. Senior flute students are invited to join our Flute Choir, and are given performing opportunities as well as weekly rehearsals.

## **PERFORMANCE CHOIR**

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The school choir practises once a week. This group regularly performs at the local Eisteddfod. These students are proof of the benefits of how including music in classes from Prep to Year 6 can benefit the musicality of these young people.

## **SING-A-LONG CHOIR**

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This group encourages a love of singing for all students from Years 1 to 6. We mainly sing along to children's movie songs.

## **SENIOR CONCERT BAND**

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This is a group of approximately 30 students, usually from Years 4 to 6 who have been learning for a couple of years and have reached approximately Grade 2 band level.

Acceptance into this band is by audition. Auditions will be held once per term. Progression to higher positions in the band is also by audition. This encourages students to strive for greater performance skills on their chosen instrument. The repertoire, though educationally based, is chosen for the enjoyment of the students. Although the band is predominately wind based, the strings are accommodated for as much as possible.

The Senior Band performs at Grandparents' Day, the Twilight Concert and often visits the residents of Gracehaven Nursing Home. We also host other Lutheran School Bands and workshop together.

The Senior Concert Band rehearsal day will be advised early next year.

## **JUNIOR CONCERT BAND**

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This band was formed to accommodate beginning instrumental students. Students join in their first week of playing. It is a time to learn and practise together as they are taught new notes.

Progression from this band to the senior concert band is by audition.

This band is predominately education based with a lot of time spent re-enforcing skills learnt in instrumental class lessons. The repertoire studied is still very enjoyable for the young musicians.

The Junior Concert Band rehearsal day will be advised early next year.

## **PERFORMANCE BAND**

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This is a more advanced group of musicians. We strive to play, practise and perform music of a higher standard than the senior concert band. This gives students a chance to reach a higher level of musicianship and really enjoy the fruits of their hard work.

## **CHAPEL BAND**

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More experienced musicians are encouraged to play and sing in Chapel and at school services. The Chapel singers usually involves Year 5 and Year 6 students on a roster basis.

## UNIFORMS

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Bands, ensembles, singing choir and choral groups usually perform in their regular day uniform.

## PERFORMANCES

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Performance opportunities for our students include Grandparents' Day, and the Gala Christmas Twilight Concert.

Other performances may include tours to other Lutheran schools, Gracehaven Nursing Home and other cultural events as they become known.

Our Chapel Band will be playing at some of our Chapel services and school services.

## ORGANISATION OF LESSONS

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- Students are taught in small groups and are organised across year levels, according to ability.
- Students may move to a higher-class level according to results of audition.
- Private lessons are available upon discussion with individual instrumental teachers.
- Group and private lessons are of half-hour duration.
- Lessons are held from Monday to Friday, usually on the same day each week. Piano students are asked to leave their music in their school bags whenever possible. When classroom curriculum requirements demand their time on allotted instrumental class days, alternate lessons will be arranged.
- Lessons occur on a rotation basis on the rostered day so that the same subject is not missed each week.



## **USE OF INSTRUMENTS**

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- Most of our instruments are hired through Musiccorp.
- Instruments are issued in Term One of each year
- Hiring rate is \$20.00 per term.
- A refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required on all instruments hired from the school.
- Basic upkeep and repair of the instrument then becomes the responsibility of the student/parent for that year.
- The instruments are provided in good working order and at the end of the year the instruments must be returned in the same condition – any necessary repairs are the responsibility of the borrower in conjunction with the instrumental teacher.
- Very affordable instrumental purchase plans are available upon request. These will be sent to all students hiring instruments in Term 4.
- It is expected piano students will have access to a keyboard for practise.

### **Responsibilities of Students**

- To attend Instrumental Music lessons as arranged on the timetable.
- To be punctual to all Instrumental Music lessons and punctual back to class after Instrumental Music lessons.
- To become an active member of the Junior or Senior Concert Band and Instrumental Ensembles.
- To attend rehearsals as organised by instrumental tutors.
- To practise regularly at home.

### **Responsibilities of Parents**

- Arrange a regular time and place for home practise.
- Keep your child's instrument in good repair.
- Parents are always welcome to help, especially at concert times. Jobs that need extra time include transporting of stands and percussion instruments.



## PRIVATE & GROUP LESSONS

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**Private Piano Lessons** are available for students in Year 2 and above only (subject to availability). Private lessons are charged at \$1050.00 per annum, this is divided into 4 equal term amounts of \$262.50 per term (\$30/lesson).

- The *Music Teachers Association of Qld* recommends a minimum lesson cost of \$40.00 per lesson. In deciding the amount to charge for private lessons at St. John's we take into account that there are not always 10 weeks in a term and that the children sometimes have to share lessons, students are guaranteed 35 lessons per calendar year.

**Group Instrumental Lessons** are available for students in Year 3 and above only (subject to availability) and are of half-hour duration. Group Lessons are charged at \$560 per annum, this is divided into 4 equal term amounts of \$140.00 per term.

- Students receive lessons weekly. Occasionally lessons are missed due to unpreventable scheduling of classroom events, students are guaranteed 35 lessons per calendar year.
- Lessons missed due to forgotten instruments or sickness are not always able to be made up.

*Sometimes, on weeks with limited teaching days due to other school curriculum activities, private piano lessons are 'shared'.*

*This gives your child a chance for music theory study and peer performance skills without missing the important regular lessons that are conducive to musical progress.*



- If your child doesn't receive their lesson on the scheduled day, instruments should be brought in on the following Friday. Scheduling is often employed to ensure that students receive lessons each week but occasionally lessons are missed.
- Band instruments (those other than piano) are taught on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- At Concert, Eisteddfod and Performance time most students receive extra lessons and ensemble rehearsals.
- Lessons missed due to forgotten instruments or sicknesses are not always able to be 'made-up'.
- All instrumental charges are added to your term school account and should be paid accordingly. Fees not paid by the end of each term will mean that music lessons cannot continue unless arrangements for payment are made.
- One full term's notice is required if lessons are to be discontinued.



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