



## Instrumental Music Handbook 2024

**Contact: Instrumental Co-ordinator Shannon du Plessis**

**Ph: 07 4939 9600**

**Email: [shannond@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:shannond@stursulas.qld.edu.au)**



## St Ursula's College Instrumental Music Program

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Music Education is a vital ingredient for a holistic education: Music stimulates academic excellence, motivation, discipline, self-esteem, teamwork and fun.

At St Ursula's College, the Instrumental Music Team is dedicated to providing students with a comprehensive and extensive Music program, encouraging them to join Choir, Jazz band, String ensemble and other multi-instrument ensembles. Students are encouraged to sit Practical and Theory Music Exams with the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) but have the option of learning just for enjoyment. An understanding, appreciation, and love of Music is something students can take with them throughout their lives.

### Lesson Times

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Tuition is conducted during class time and consists of one 30-minute lesson per week. The time slot is rotated throughout the term so students avoid missing the same lesson each week. Some tutors also provide lesson times before and after school, though these time slots are limited.

Instrumental Music students need to catch-up on work missed in class, as well as to check their lesson time and attend lessons punctually. This develops good time management skills and efficient work habits.

Students learning more than one instrument will need to have a lesson outside the school day, either before or after school or during breaks.

Lesson times for the week are posted to the College's Morning Notices and emailed to students by individual tutors. It is the girls' responsibility to check this weekly and students are advised to make note of the time in their Planners.

### Performance Opportunities

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Performing is an integral element of the Music program at St Ursula's College, promoting self-esteem and the sharing of one's gift. Students are encouraged to sing or perform within the College community at Assemblies, College Masses and other functions.

St Brendan's College students are welcome to join into our ensembles.

St Ursula's College Arts Showcase evening presents creative highlights from throughout the year.

In 2024 there may be an opportunity for our students to participate in the Queensland Catholic Schools' Music Festival, State Honours Ensemble Program, Rockhampton Eisteddfod, Yeppoon Village Festival and Yeppoon Pinefest.

There will also be smaller informal performances presented after school for families to attend and see how their daughter is progressing at the end of each semester.

## Uniform

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All students who are members of ensemble groups will be required to purchase a Music uniform. The new long black pants available at the Uniform Shop is required for performances. We also have a smart casual St Ursula's College Music shirt that girls will wear for some performances and when travelling together in groups for events. They will also require polished black College shoes and black socks. Students will be notified by the Instrumental Co-Ordinator when shirt can be purchased as it is currently undergoing a redesign.

## Instruments

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The College owns a limited number of instruments, so students are encouraged to use their own. We do have some instruments available for hire; cost is \$25/term/instrument, which covers the maintenance (but not the consumables, e.g. strings, reeds, valve oil, etc.) of the instrument. Available instruments are Guitar, Keyboard, Violin, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Trombone, Tenor Sax and Baritone Sax. Please contact Shannon du Plessis regarding availability. A Rental Request and Agreement Form is required to be submitted.

## Tutors

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At St Ursula's College, tuition is offered in the following instruments:

- **Piano (including exams)** – Jane Bacon (0417 770 112) [janeb@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:janeb@stursulas.qld.edu.au)
- **Piano** – Shannon du Plessis [shannond@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:shannond@stursulas.qld.edu.au)
- **Guitar (pop, rock, contemporary)** – Mitch Vanhoff (0408 683 961) [mitchv@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:mitchv@stursulas.qld.edu.au)
- **Violin/Viola/Cello/Double Bass/Voice (classical/folk/pop)** – Kate Ellis (0418 787 096) [katee@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:katee@stursulas.qld.edu.au)
- **Drum Kit/Percussion** – Judy Carling (0423 168 830) [judyc@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:judyc@stursulas.qld.edu.au)
- **Brass/Woodwind** – TBA
- **Voice (exam level) /Flute/Theory** – Tink Boyd (0429 392 346) [tinkb@stursulas.qld.edu.au](mailto:tinkb@stursulas.qld.edu.au)

*(Please note that Mrs Boyd is NOT available during school hours in 2024 and has limited spots for before or after school lessons)*

## Tuition Fees and Conditions

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Fees are less than the recommended hourly rate set by the *Music Teachers' Association of Queensland*.

Weekly Lesson Type	Cost
30 min individual lesson	\$35
30 min group lesson	\$20

Discount will be given by individual tutors if they teach two (2) or more students in the same family (individual lessons only). For further information, please contact the relevant Music Tutor.

Parents will receive an account each term and fees are payable by the due date on the account. Students must attend lessons for a whole term. NO credits can be given once lessons commence. Instrumental Music lessons are a separate account and are NOT PART OF COLLEGE FEES.

If a student knows in advance that she is unable to attend a lesson due to excursions, dental/medical appointment, competitions, subject exam, etc., all efforts should be made to advise the tutor IN ADVANCE and arrangements made for a lesson change.

As a general policy, if a student fails to attend a lesson without giving a tutor **advanced notice of at least 24 hours**, the normal fee applies. Unforeseen circumstances such as sudden illness will be taken into account.

## Expectations of Students

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Students making a commitment to private tuition need to understand the importance of regular and consistent practice. *Perfect Practice makes Perfect!*

Students must continually check notices in Student Café for lesson and rehearsal times and other musical information.

Students must promptly return to class after music lessons and it is their responsibility to communicate with teachers regarding any missed work.

Attendance at lessons and any extra musical ensemble **IS COMPULSORY**. If girls are absent from lessons two (2) weeks in a row, parents will be contacted. Failure to attend will result in the student forfeiting her place in any performance.

Absences must be notified in advance so that rescheduling of a lesson can occur. If a student misses a lesson and does not attend the substitute lesson, the lesson will be charged. Tutors will **NOT** make up lessons missed due to a student forgetting or not being punctual.

Students **CANNOT** be contacted during class time to remind them about their Music lesson, so it is important that they remember their lesson time.

Boarding students will have access to the Chapel to practice – contact the Boarding Supervisor for this to occur.

It is **STRONGLY ADVISED** that all girls participating in the Instrumental Music Program join the Decibelles Choir. It is extremely beneficial for Music reading, understanding of part-work and developing listening skills, not to mention a lot of fun!

## Support of Parents

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The Instrumental Music tutors request full parental support for the practice schedule and commitment to ensembles.

There may be some additional expenses throughout the term. These may include purchasing Music, Eisteddfod entries, exam entries, participation in Music programs outside school, or excursions.

## Equipment Required

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Learning an instrument often requires the purchase of small consumable items e.g. reeds, picks, etc. Individual Instrumental tutors will notify parents and students upon acceptance into the program of any equipment that needs to be purchased.

## Tutors' Commitment to You

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As an Instrumental Music Team, you will find us approachable and dedicated to your daughter's musical journey, enabling and encouraging her to achieve her own individual potential.

Instrumental Music tutors do not issue reports; however, time will be available to discuss your daughter's progress at Parent-Teacher interview sessions. Please contact any Tutor via email throughout the term with any questions or enquiries regarding your daughter's progress.

## Date Claimers – 2024

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- Instrumental Music forms will be emailed out in Week 1, also available on the College website. Forms **MUST be returned to Student Reception by Monday, January 29, 2024.**
- Lessons will start Week 2 – students will receive an email from their tutor with the timetable.

**IMPORTANT MEETING** - Year 7 and new students – meet with Instrumental Music tutors  
**Thursday, 25 January, 2024, in the Music Room – First Break (10.39am)**

**IMPORTANT MEETING** - Years 8–12 students (existing) – meet with Instrumental Music tutors  
**Thursday 25 January, 2024, in the Music Room – Second Break (1.04pm)**

- State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP) – Rockhampton: March 22-24; Capricornia: May 17-19; QLD September 26-29, 2024
- Music Soiree – Term 3, Week 4 (instrumental students to perform for family and friends)
- Catholic Education Week Mass – Term 3
- Yeppoon Village Festival Jazz Band performance – Term 3, August 11
- Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival, Brisbane – August
- Battle of the Bands – Term 3
- Arts Showcase – Term 3, Monday, August 26
- Yeppoon Pinefest Jazz Band performance – Term 4, end of Week 1
- String ensemble and Decibelles to perform at CARV as part of Community Christmas events

Should you have any questions on the above information or anything else, please phone or email.

Thank you,

*Shannon du Plessis*

Head of Arts  
Instrumental Co-ordinator  
07 4939 9600  
shannond@stursulas.qld.edu.au