NEWCASTLE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

SCHOOLS PROGRAM HANDBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Information for Schools

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

OUR PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT

Our band program is committed to connecting with young musicians, professional educators and local creatives, and inspiring them to develop their musical potential through engaging learning and performance-based opportunities. With the Conservatorium's values of equity and social justice, excellence, engagement, innovation, integrity, and sustainability as our core principles we aim to contribute to its vision of becoming a 21st Century Conservatorium within an Australian context.

Our program strives to oåer multi-disciplinary music-based programs that cater to a range of ages and skill levels, and support social inclusion groups and Indigenous programs and events. We believe that music is a powerful tool for fostering creativity, self-expression, and personal growth, and we are dedicated to providing life-long music learning opportunities and initiatives to the community.

Our program aims to equip students with life long autonomous learning skills through reflective practices. Concepts such as intention, execution, reflection, varied repetition and consolidation all contribute to our students musical and personal development, and overall growth mindset. These skills in conjunction with the well documented benefits of music to brain development and health are proven indicators of students academic, social and emotional well-being.

We aim to maintain high standards of professionalism and best practices in our staèng and administration processes, and to be financially sustainable in order to continue providing quality musical experiences to our students and the wider community. By working in partnership with local schools and other community organisations, we seek to strengthen pathways and community exchange throughout regional NSW and beyond.

The Conservatorium is passionate about music making and the role it plays in enriching young people's lives. We are committed to providing a supportive, inspiring and inclusive environment where students can develop their musical skills, explore their creative and learning practices, and create a strong and diverse community with others who share their love of music.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Conservatorium’s Schools Program has been developed with the aim of supporting school music education in the Hunter region. The program has been running since 2019 and has seen the establishment and reinforcement of several robust school programs encompassing multiple ensembles and several hundred student musicians. The program is committed to expansion in the Hunter region and is focused on developing school music programs of the highest calibre and sustainability.

HOW IT WORKS

The Conservatorium’s Schools Program comes to your school. The Conservatorium provides skilled and experienced tutors to conduct instrumental lessons and ensemble rehearsals on a weekly basis. In addition, the program is designed to further motivate and inspire students through its unique BOOST program. If you want to build your program from new or enhance your existing students’ musical skills and artistic passions this program is ideal for your school.

THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

BRAIN GROWTH

Studies in neuroscience show that music can enhance brain function in children. Musical activities (such as playing an instrument, singing or just listening to music) stimulate the brain, and this brain workout leads to improved brain structure with the formation of new neural connections.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Studies also show that young children who participate in music classes have improved speech development and learn to read more easily. Learning music helps to develop the left side of the brain (related to language and reasoning), assists with sound recognition, and teaches rhythm and rhyme. Songs can also help children remember information (just think of the Alphabet song!).

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Music can help with the development of mathematical skills. By listening to musical beats your child can learn basic fractions, pattern-recognition and problem solving. Children who study music also have improved spatial intelligence and ability to form mental pictures of objects – skills that are important for more advanced mathematics.

MEMORY, ATTENTION AND CONCENTRATION

Recent studies have shown that people who are musically trained have better working memory skills, helping them to remember things even while their minds are busy with other matters – important aspects of mental arithmetic and reading comprehension. Learning music also requires significant levels of concentration, training children to focus their attention for sustained periods.

INCREASED COORDINATION

Just like playing sports, playing and dancing to music helps children develop their motor skills. Making music involves more than the voice or fingers; you also use ears and eyes, as well as large and small muscles, all at the same time. This helps the body and the mind work together.

ACHIEVEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Learning music teaches children to work towards short-term goals, develop routine and practice self-discipline. Setting aside regular time for practice develops commitment and patience. Mastering a new piece of music leads to a sense of pride and achievement, and helps children to learn the value of self-discipline.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Making music with other people (like in a band or choir) improves children's social and emotional skills. They learn to work together as a team and develop their sense of empathy with others. Researchers have found that when children play music together – from simple rhythms to larger group performances – they are better able to tune into other people's emotions.

THE JOY OF MUSIC

Music can give children a way to express themselves, to unleash their creativity, to be inspired and uplifted, to relax, and to relieve stress and tension. Just think about listening to a beautiful piece of music, singing along to a favourite song with friends, or dancing to a great song on the radio. Music education is a gift for life.

BOOST PROGRAM

The BOOST program (Building Outstanding Orchestral Skills and Talent) is a cornerstone of the schools program and allows schools to access the Conservatorium's world class staå and facilities. These "theme" days can be rotated through approximately a three year cycle to cater for the average participation of a primary school band member.

Days are selected to focus on the specific needs of an ensemble, to ensure variety whilst maintaining high quality educational outcomes and to respond to the diverse cohort of students found in schools in the 21st century.

Flexibility is a feature of these days as partial roll outs of selected themes can be coupled with more traditional rehearsal models depending on the requirements of specific ensembles.

The teaching and technical staå involved in these days are qualified, experienced and have strong relationships to the local music community. They are engaged to support each individual school's needs and the Conservatorium's public profile.

BOOST DAY THEMES

These theme days can work in conjunction with a more traditional rehearsal day where the ensemble is fine tuning their material or can be the main focus of the day.

Schools may have their own ideas for a “themed” day which could be negotiated with the Conservatorium with a suitable lead time.

EXAMPLES OF THEME DAYS

- Robotics/ tech day
- Concert day including soloists
- Recording day
- Multicultural day
- Indigenous day
- Potential to collaborate with other schools
- Staå concert day/ instrument demo day
- Sectional day
- Masterclass day (high school) with various experts on each instrument
- Theory day (for high school) which aligns to school curriculum
- Technical Day (for high school)
- Singers day - Choirs and /or instrumentalists activities.
- Homemade instrument day
- Historical theme e.g. War Movie theme, Sports.



IN SCHOOL LESSONS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

When students begin taking music lessons in school, parents, teachers, and even administrators may become worried that the student will fall behind academically if they attend the pull-out lesson.

On the surface, this may seem like a rational concern, but there is no data that shows that students suåer academically from half an hour per week of pull-out lessons. In fact the overwhelming data showing the overall academic success of music students should alleviate any concerns.

Here are a couple of credible articles on this subject:

- National Association for Music Education
- The Eåect of Pullout Lessons on the Academic Achievement of Eighth Grade Band Students
- Pullout Lessons in Instrumental Music Education



Terms & Conditions

I. Instruments
All band members are required to have an instrument in time for their first rehearsal.
Each student is responsible for the hire or purchase of their instrument.

II. Commitment
All band members must show strong commitment to the program for the duration of their enrolment.
Any band member wishing to discontinue his/her band program enrolment should email the school / conservatorium well prior to the start of Term.

III. Expectations
All band members are required to:
Bring their instrument/s and all relevant music to each band rehearsal.
Attend all rehearsals and performances as advised.
Practice their instrument at home on a regular basis.
Behave appropriately during all band rehearsals.
Have a private weekly lesson or group lesson on their instrument.
Follow the school's Code of Conduct at all times.

IV. Payment Of Fees
Lesson and Band Invoices will be sent out at the end of term and payment is due before the first lesson of the next term.
Band fees are invoiced as a flat fee per term and are non refundable.
Missed band rehearsals are not refundable.
There is no make-up lesson for pair or group lessons.
Payment can be made via direct deposit or online.

V. Photography And Recording
Occasionally we will use group photos/videos from concerts or other events on our social media, website or other marketing platforms. Please let us know if you do not want us to photograph or video your child and include them in these postings.

VI. Student Welfare
Conservatorium tutors are responsible for their students during scheduled lessons and rehearsal sessions only. They do not take responsibility for children outside of these times.

(link to Enrolment form, Parent/Student Terms and conditions & Fees)
https://conschoolsprogram.teachworks.com/form/conservatorium-schools-program-enrolment-form

CONTACT US

For more information about our Schools Program or to enrol, please contact us:

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