



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

INSTRUMENTAL & ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

2021

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Music Instrumental and Ensemble Program at Terrey Hills, a dynamic and vibrant part of our school. We firmly believe in the importance of music in education, and with over two thirds of our students involved in either ensembles and/or tuition in 2020, our strong program provides evidence of the value of this. Through participation in the program, we hope to foster an interest, an understanding and an overall enjoyment of music.

This handbook gives you an overview of all you need to know about participating in the Terrey Hills Instrumental and Ensemble Program; please take the time to read it, prior to filling in the enrolment form, which is located at the back of the book.

ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

Our ensemble program is a formative part of the school, with numerous ensembles and multiple performance opportunities offered for students throughout the year.

In 2021 we are planning to have the following Music Ensembles at Terrey Hills:

- **Crescendo Band** (Entry-level band for woodwind, brass & percussion, Year 3 upwards) [\$40/term]
- **Concert Band** (Our premier band for woodwind, brass & percussion, Year 3 upwards) [\$70/term]
- **Keyboard Clubs** (Beginner Keyboard Groups – Kindy, Year 1 & 2 students, and Year 3 & 4 based on demand) [\$150/term]
- **POCO Strings** (Beginner String Group – Year 1 & 2 students only) [\$150/term]
- **MEZZO Strings** (Intermediate String Group for second year upwards string players) [\$70/term]
- **String Orchestra** (For established string players, Year 3 upwards) [\$70/term]
- **Debut Guitar Ensemble** (Entry-level ensemble for guitar players, Year 2 upwards) [\$150/term]
- **Intermediate Guitar Ensemble** (For second year guitarists, based on demand and minimum numbers) [\$150/term]
- **Senior Guitar Ensemble** (For established guitarists, Year 3 upwards) [\$150/term]
- **EXTENSION MUSIC GROUP – Woodwind Ensemble** - minimum numbers permitting - (Flutes, clarinets & saxophones - Members must first be a member of the Concert Band) [\$40/term]
- **EXTENSION MUSIC GROUP – Percussion Ensemble** - minimum numbers permitting - (Members must first be a member of the Concert Band, or Crescendo Band with an audition) [\$40/term]
- **EXTENSION MUSIC GROUP - Stage Band** (Jazz group for established saxophone, trumpet, trombone/euphonium and rhythm players - bass, drums, vibraphone, guitar & piano. Members must first be a member of the Concert Band or Senior Guitar Ensemble) [\$40/term]

2021 Rehearsal Schedule, as at December 2020:

Tuesday 7:45 – 9am: Stage Band	Wednesday 3:15 – 4pm: Senior Guitar Ensemble
Tuesday 3:15 – 4pm: Crescendo Band	Thursday 7:30 – 8:30am: String Orchestra
Wednesday Lunch (1pm): Kindy Keyboard Club, Debut Guitar Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble*	Thursday 8:30 – 9:10am: Mezzo Strings
Wednesday Lunch (1:30pm): 1/2 Keyboard Club	Thursday 7:45 – 9am: Concert Band
Wednesday 3:15 – 4pm: Concert Band Sectional Tutorials (students will be required approximately twice per term)	Thursday Lunch (1pm): POCO Strings, Percussion Ensemble*

Benefits of being involved in an Ensemble Program

Being part of a music ensemble provides numerous benefits and opportunities. Not only will your child learn to play their instrument with their friends and peers to produce wonderfully energetic, exciting and melodic sounds, but the many other skills they learn - such as increased concentration, perseverance and self-discipline - carry over into all parts of their lives. Most importantly, by playing in an ensemble they have lots of fun, and the opportunity to perform with and for their peers!

Playing in an ensemble can contribute to a student's non-musical development in many ways. These may include:

- Increased concentration, maturity and self-discipline
- Increased self-confidence and self-esteem
- Learning about team spirit
- Leadership skills

Aims of our Ensemble Program

The aims of our Ensemble Program are:

- To ensure that all students' participation in the ensembles is a happy, productive & memorable experience;
- To give every student the opportunity to play a musical instrument regardless of their musical experience;
- To give every student the opportunity to play in a group;
- To help students develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles;
- To develop 'musicianship' and expressive skills;
- To develop teamwork and leadership skills and encourage social interaction with fellow students and teachers;
- To encourage a sense of responsibility and commitment to themselves and the ensemble.

Communication

Most communication regarding the Instrumental & Ensemble Program will be sent out via the THPS App and the newsletter. Please download the App, and turn notifications on in the 'Music' section, in order to not miss any important updates. A performance schedule will also be sent out at the beginning of each term, with any further performances being communicated about through the newsletter and via notes sent home.

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsals occur every week, even if they fall on the first day of the school term (if students are onsite for that day), with the only exception being Term 1, where rehearsals will commence in Week 2. All students are expected to be committed and punctual to rehearsals and to assist with setting up and packing away. Students are required to bring their instrument, music, THPS Practice Diary, pencil and eraser.

Performance Expectations

Once a student has committed to an ensemble, it is expected that they will **attend all rehearsals, camps, workshops and concerts**. Similar to how a sporting team would run, it is expected that once students commit to an ensemble, they are in attendance for all aspects, as every player is valuable and needed in order to not let the team down. It should be understood that failure to attend all rehearsals and events may result in students not being able to perform with the ensemble.

Practice

To get the most out of learning a musical instrument, regular home practice is encouraged. We encourage a "little & often" approach. Around 4-5 short practice sessions at home will see a regular improvement. If possible, leave instruments where they can be seen (but out of the reach of little hands) as students will pick them up and play them more often during the week if they are visible and easily accessible. Practice is recorded in the student's Practice Diary. These diaries are reviewed by our Ensemble Directors from time to time to help encourage regular practice and to provide an opportunity to reward our young musicians who are practising their instruments regularly. Diaries are also used by our music tutors in weekly lessons.

Ensemble Fees

The cost of being part of our large ensembles is \$70 per term per ensemble, excepting Crescendo Band at \$40 per term. Extension ensembles incur a \$40 ensemble fee, and smaller ensembles a \$150 fee per term. As joining an ensemble is considered a commitment for a full year, fees will be billed per semester (i.e. twice per year). Any withdrawal from an ensemble during that semester, if not done before the second rehearsal of the ensemble, will forfeit the fees for that semester.

Extension Ensemble Program

In 2021 we will offer a number of Extension Ensembles, based on minimum numbers. The first group is the Woodwind Ensemble. This group is aimed at Concert Band members who play flute, clarinet or saxophone and would like the opportunity to further their performance skills and play music especially written for the woodwind section.

The second Extension Ensemble is the Percussion Ensemble. This is for students with over a years' experience in learning percussion, who are also involved in either the Concert Band or Crescendo Band (Crescendo Band members may require an audition to determine their level).

The third Extension Ensemble is the Stage Band, which in 2021 will be directed by Mr John Morrison. This ensemble gives our students a unique opportunity to learn how to play jazz music and work on their improvisation. Throughout the year this group will have the opportunity to work with various professional jazz musicians. This group is aimed at our more advanced Concert Band (or Senior Guitar Ensemble) members in upper primary who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone/euphonium or a rhythm instrument (bass, piano, vibraphone, guitar or drums). Younger students will be considered if they demonstrate a superior playing ability and dedication to practice & rehearsals. Please note that there is a very limited amount of places available for guitar players in this ensemble.

POCO Strings Program

In 2021 we will again offer a beginner string program (POCO Strings) for students in Years 1 & 2. This is a lunch time group lesson which costs \$150 per term. This group is designed to give our younger students a chance to be part of a fun music ensemble at an affordable cost, as students in POCO aren't required to be having private music lessons alongside this ensemble. POCO Strings students will need a method book, which the school will purchase for you and put on your term fees. Violins and cellos are available for hire for \$65 per term. When applying to be part of the 2021 POCO Strings Program, please indicate if you would like your child to play the violin or cello. Instruments are allocated on a first in, first allocated basis, and we aim to balance the violin and cello numbers.

Keyboard Club

For the first time, we will be offering a keyboard group for beginner players in Kindy to Year 4, split into Stages (with Years 3 & 4 based on demand). Students are welcome to be learning another instrument at the same time as being involved in Keyboard Club, but should be beginners on keyboard. This group is designed to give our students a chance to develop their music skills in a small group, and each group will be run during one lunchtime per week. Students aren't required to be having private music lessons alongside this ensemble, but will need a keyboard at home (which can be hired through the school). Keyboard Club students will also need a method book, which the school will purchase for you and put on your term fees. Spaces are limited for these groups, and capped at 8 students per group, so get in early!

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM: Private Tuition

We are fortunate enough to have a highly experienced and dynamic group of music tutors teaching onsite at Terrey Hills. All of our tutors have multiple years' teaching experience and are dedicated to supporting our school ensembles. When taking music lessons onsite, each lesson contains proper instruction regarding:

- correct posture and holding positions of instruments
- correct embouchure (mouth position) for wind instruments
- correct bowing technique for string instruments
- appropriate music reading skills
- instrument maintenance
- good structure for a regular practice routine
- encouragement in the development of rhythm, dynamics and sound ensemble technique

Students in all ensembles (bar Poco Strings, Debut Guitar and Keyboard Club) are required to be having weekly private tuition, in order to progress along with the ensemble. Private tuition can be organised through the school, or can be done outside of school. For students learning wind, brass or percussion instruments for the first time, a method book is required, which the school will purchase and put on your fees. This is the same method book used for Crescendo Band from 2021 onwards.

At Terrey Hills Public School we offer private music tuition onsite for the following instruments:

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|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Flute | • Trombone | • Guitar |
| • Clarinet | • Baritone / Euphonium | • Bass Guitar / Double Bass |
| • Alto & Tenor Saxophone | • Tuba | • Violin / Viola |
| • Trumpet / Cornet | • Percussion / Drums | • Cello |
| • French Horn | • Piano | • Voice |

We also have contacts for external tutors in the local area who teach various other instruments.

All music lessons at school are once a week 30 minute individual lessons. **The cost of a half hour private music lesson is \$42, which is paid directly to the music tutor.**

Music Exams

All of our private music tutors are suitably qualified to help children sit for a music exam. At THPS we regularly have students sit for their AMEB, Trinity or Rockschoool Music Exams. Exams are not compulsory but are, however, a chance for your child to practise performing and working towards musical goals both in their technical ability and the learning of a wider range of music. Students sitting exams also receive constructive feedback from professional examiners and obtain an internationally recognised level of achievement in music.

Conditions of Private Music Tuition at School:

- Private music lessons occur once a week for 30 minutes. Most terms will have 9 private music lessons. Days and times are allocated through negotiation with the Music Director, Principal, and classroom teachers to ensure minimal disruption to class. In 2021, lessons will commence no earlier than 12:30pm so that students don't miss out on their core curricular classes. As such, students may have lessons across lunch time or after school.
- Once you have submitted the linked application form, our private music tutors will contact you directly, in the lead up to Term 1 2021. This ensures clear communication between the parent and the tutor.
- Each student will be issued with a THPS Practice Diary. Take the time to read it regularly to see what is taking place in your child's music lessons. Feel free to write in the Practice Diary if you have any questions for your child's music tutor.
- Parents must contact the music tutor directly at least 24 hours prior to a lesson if the student will not be able to attend, including for school event clashes. If your child has woken up sick, please contact the tutor before the school day starts. If due notice has been provided then either a credit to the next term's fees or make up lesson may be arranged at the tutor's discretion, but this is strictly up to the tutor, who has already allocated that time to the student and is therefore effectively losing a lesson.
- Music tutors are responsible for notifying parents in advance if they are unable to attend a lesson for any reason, and to arrange a make up lesson or credit, based on the tutor's preference.
- Invoicing occurs once a term for a FULL term's music lessons. Invoicing typically occurs within the first 3 weeks of term and allows 2 weeks for payment. If fees are not paid, lessons may be suspended until payment occurs.
- If a child forgets their instrument, the lesson will still take place with a focus on music theory and musicianship.
- Lessons missed during the school term due to family trips will not be able to be made up and will be charged unless the private music tutor has been notified before the beginning of the term and has agreed to adjust the term's invoice or provide make up lessons.
- If you wish for your child to cease private music lessons, tutors must be informed in writing during the term before the lessons are to cease. Lessons are charged by the full term even if the student discontinues part way through the term, and refunds will not be given for change of mind partway through a term.

INSTRUMENT HIRE

Hiring an instrument is a great way of seeing if your child is suited to playing a musical instrument, especially in the first year of playing. We have limited school instruments available for hire, and preference for hire is given to students who are also involved in an ensemble. It is encouraged that after 12 months of hire you purchase your own instrument. Although eBay and other internet outlets look attractive, often the quality of instruments being sold are not suitable for young musicians, and a poor instrument can lead to frustration and an overall negative experience. When looking to purchase an instrument, please speak with your child's music tutor first, for recommendations.

The cost of instrument hire is \$65 per term, billed at the beginning of each term.

If you accept hire of an instrument the following conditions are deemed to apply:

- The hirer must be the sole user of the instrument.
- The hire fee covers general maintenance of the instrument and general 'wear & tear'. General servicing is also included in the hire fee. Should an instrument require repair, please notify the school. Please do not attempt to repair the instrument yourself or arrange your own repairer. We have suitably qualified repairers who we deal with through the school, and you will be asked to drop the instrument to our preferred local repairer for service.
- The instrument is not insured whilst in the hirer's care, and instrument insurance is the hirer's responsibility. If the instrument is lost, stolen or irreparably damaged the hirer agrees to pay the full replacement cost of the instrument.
- Instrument hire is on a per-term basis, and change of mind once the instrument has been hired, will not elicit a refund. Whilst billed per term, the instrument is automatically deemed to be hired for the full year, and thus the school must be informed in writing if the hire will cease, the term before cessation. The instrument must be returned to school by the final day of that term, otherwise the following term's hire fee will be charged. There are no exceptions to this, as the school is either billed by an external hire company for the following term, and/or is unable to send the instrument for service before it is then hired to the next student.

Contact: If you require any further information, please contact Dani Cosford at thpsmusic@syncopatestudios.com.

Enrolment Form:

Please use the link below to enrol your child for our 2021 Ensembles, Private Tuition, and/or Instrument Hire.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VFGwU0HXCE->

[lkFNu9L7b1sRrQNaqnp1MnYC5AQbeyfdUQjJIQUNFNTZMRUdXSUgwTEM5NU0xR0gxTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VFGwU0HXCE-lkFNu9L7b1sRrQNaqnp1MnYC5AQbeyfdUQjJIQUNFNTZMRUdXSUgwTEM5NU0xR0gxTi4u)