The 2015 Xavier Catholic College Instrumental Music Program

Xavier Catholic College invites students to participate in the College instrumental program. The guidelines for this program are outlined below.

- Bringing expert instrumental tuition to students at Xavier Catholic College, St Francis Xavier, Holy Family and St Finbarr’s Catholic Primary Schools.
- Some instruments available for hire to students entering the program for $10.00 per term.
- School based ensembles already rehearsing and waiting for you to join in!
- Highly qualified, experienced and specialised tutors.
- Small group lessons or individual private lessons.
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin, Viola, Cello, Drum Kit and Percussion, Voice (singing) and Recorder lessons are available through the program.

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<tr>
<td>Small Group Lessons</td>
<td>$15.00 per lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Tuition</td>
<td>$30.00 per lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Private lessons)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrument Hire/Maintenance Fee</td>
<td>$10.00 per term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble Rehearsal and Performances</td>
<td>Free</td>
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Enrolling now for 2015
– see your school office for an application form.
Group Lessons $15.00 per lesson

Group lessons are ideally suited to beginners and represent a significant cost saving in comparison to private lessons while still providing expert tuition. Students will only be grouped with matching instruments and abilities, e.g. a flute student will NOT share a lesson with a trumpet student and a new beginner will not share a lesson with a student who has been playing for two years.

There are, however, some limitations to our group lesson arrangements. When students have achieved a certain level of proficiency on their instrument it may be difficult placing them in a group with comparable abilities. These students are encouraged to consider private tuition wherever possible. Similarly, if there is only one student at a venue wishing to participate in group lessons with a tutor then this is also problematic.

Please Note: Singing lessons and Drum Kit lessons are NOT available in small groups – private lessons only.

Individual (Private) Lessons $30.00 per lesson

Individual lessons obviously provide a considerable advantage. Students who have undertaken private lessons in our program in past years have presented for AMEB grades and solo Eisteddfod performances and provide a strong foundation for our school bands. Students may elect to undertake private lessons from beginner level. Private lessons are particularly recommended for students who have completed two years of group tuition, and for secondary students undertaking elective or senior music courses.

Instrument Hire

Xavier Catholic College has an enviable collection of high quality musical instruments which we make available for the minimal fee of $10.00 per term (subject to availability). Parents are asked to sign a contract agreeing to take all reasonable care of the instrument while it is on loan. The instrument can be kept by the student for as long as they remain enrolled at Xavier Catholic College (or one of its feeder primary schools) and remain involved in Band activities.

Regrettably, we cannot provide enough instruments for every student, or for every student’s first choice. If we cannot provide your son/daughter with an instrument there are several reputable companies that hire musical instruments to school students at reasonable rates, and our instrumental tutors would be happy to provide advice on purchasing an instrument.

Lesson Venues

Holy Family Primary students will be able to attend lessons in the Xavier Catholic College studios before or after school. In 2013 morning lessons ran from 7.45am to 8.15am and from 8.15am to 8.45am. Some lessons are also able to be scheduled at Holy Family during the second half of lunch 11.10am to 11.40am.

St Francis Xavier Primary and St Finbarr’s Primary students will have lessons during class time at their own school. The instrumental tutors will be able to liaise with teaching staff to ensure minimal disruption to learning.

Xavier Catholic College students in junior years will come out of their regularly scheduled class activities for part of a lesson once a week. The College’s cyclical timetable ensures the same lesson is not regularly disrupted. Students in Years 11 and 12 can arrange lessons before or after school or at lunch times.
Billing Arrangements and Additional Expenses

Accounts for instrumental tuition will be mailed or emailed each term by the Tutors. Tuition fees will need to be paid in full before the next term’s tuition commences and is payable to the Tutors directly.

There will be 8-10 thirty minute lessons each term depending on the length of the term. Lesson fees are not refundable for student absences. If lessons are missed because of a school function or tutor illness, a “catch-up” lesson will be provided. If a student decides to withdraw from the program this should be communicated in writing to the tutor and to Xavier Catholic College Office to avoid further billing. Notice should be given at the end of a school term. Please note: fees will be payable until the end of the term if a student chooses to withdraw as tutors are booked in advance for each term.

Parents must contact the tutor in advance to advise if a student will be absent from a lesson due to illness, sporting event etc.

All wind and brass students will need a copy of a tuition book. The school has multiple copies of “Essential Elements 2000 Book 1” available to borrow, but as a student progresses they will need to purchase later copies for themselves. These can be purchased from local music stores and online for around $20.00.

All students learning a musical instrument will need a music stand. Practising music from a book placed on a bed, chair or desk leads to poor posture, sore eyes and a reluctance to practise at all.

Saxophone and clarinet players need to regularly replace reeds (from $3.50 each). Recorder students will need to purchase their own recorder. (Yamaha is our preferred brand – retailing locally for $15.00.) String students will need to purchase their own shoulder pad and may need to replace strings.

The Ensembles

Once students have reached a minimum level of proficiency they can join an ensemble. There is no charge for participation in band or ensemble activities. All students who are competent players are very welcome to participate in ensemble activities – regardless of where they learn their instrument.

For the past several years the Xavier Catholic College Concert Band has been placed first in the Open Band section at the Lismore Eisteddfod and numerous small ensembles have won various woodwind, brass and string sections at the eisteddfod.

It is anticipated that in 2015 there will be a Combined Schools’ Concert Band, a Stage Band at Xavier Catholic College, a concert band at Xavier Catholic College, a string ensemble, and small ensembles at each of the feeder Primary Schools. Rehearsal times and arrangements for these ensembles will be advised early in 2015.
The 2014 Tutors

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<tr>
<th>Mrs Kathleen McLennan</th>
<th>Mr Dean Doyle</th>
<th>Mr Peter Jaggle</th>
<th>Mrs Rebecca Britton</th>
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<td><strong>Woodwinds</strong></td>
<td><strong>Brass and Vocal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percussion and Drum kit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Orchestral Strings</strong></td>
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<td>Flute, Recorder, Clarinet, Saxophone</td>
<td>Trumpet, Trombone and Singing</td>
<td>Mr Jaggle is a highly successful and acclaimed percussionist. He was responsible for running the “Young Drums Orchestra” and runs his own studio in Lismore.</td>
<td>Violin, Viola, Cello</td>
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<td>Mrs McLennan received her degree in Music Education from the Sydney Conservatorium. She performs regularly with the Lismore Symphony Orchestra and works professionally as a secondary Music teacher and private instrumental teacher.</td>
<td>Mr Doyle performed professionally for several years as a singer and trombonist in The Royal Australian Army Band. He also holds a Music Education degree from Melbourne University and is a qualified and experienced classroom Music teacher and instrumental tutor. He performs regularly as “Dean Doyle with Sophistication”.</td>
<td>Mr Jaggle is a highly successful and acclaimed percussionist. He was responsible for running the “Young Drums Orchestra” and runs his own studio in Lismore.</td>
<td>Mrs Britton has a BA in Music Education from Central Washington University in Washington State. She teaches professionally as a primary strings teacher at Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School. She plays viola regularly with the Lismore Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Rivers Symphony Orchestra. She also plays violin in the Lismore based band Thrillbilly Stomp.</td>
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Important Points to Consider

**Transport**

It is essential that students have their instruments at home to practise. It is not appropriate to leave the instrument at school. For this reason any student wishing to take lessons at school must consider how they will transport their instrument to and from school. Many students successfully negotiate school buses with large instruments such as trombones and tenor saxophones. A small student on a particularly crowded bus might need to make alternative arrangements.

**Time**

To master an instrument takes time and commitment. Even an exceptionally talented individual will not progress far without regular practice time. 15 minutes every day is much better than a few hours at irregular intervals.

**When is a good age to begin lessons?**

There is no one answer that will be correct for all students. Generally speaking, students in Years 1-3 would be best suited to violin, cello, recorder, or hand held percussion. Year 4 would be a very appropriate time for most students to start a woodwind or brass instrument. Years 7-9 is not too late to make a start – we have had Year 7 beginners in past years who have progressed quickly enough to join in ensembles by the end of that first year.