IONA COLLEGE

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

Instrumental / Vocal Music Handbook

Welcome

Welcome to the Iona College Instrumental/Vocal Program. Giving your son the opportunity to learn an instrument or singing here at the College is a great way of helping him develop important lifelong skills which he will use every day for the rest of his life. Research tells us that there are many benefits to learning an instrument or singing. These include:

- Creating new pathways in the brain
- Improving reading and comprehension skills
- Refining time management and organisation skills
- Enhanced co-ordination
- Further develops social skills
- Develops emotional response
- Teaches perseverance and discipline
- Relieves stress

> *"Students who sing in a choir or play in an ensemble must simultaneously perform a complex set of operations that call on more aspects of the human being than any other activity they face in school"*
>
> Walter Bitner, Composer and Educator

Music is a significant part of Iona life not just for the students who participate in the music program but for the entire school. All boys are encouraged to sing and participate fully at our College Masses and music often features during our College assemblies. We also have a very strong academic music program with many boys electing to study music in their senior years.

Over the years, Iona students have been members of ensembles such as the Queensland Youth Orchestra, the Griffith University Young Conservatorium and Birralee Voices. Students have also gone on to study at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, perform with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and even have their music played on the national youth radio network, Triple J.

This handbook outlines the aims, expectations and details of the Iona College Instrumental Music Program and is required to be read by parents before enrolling their son. If you require further information than what is listed in this handbook then please contact the Music Department directly.

Mr Brian L'Huillier
Head of Instrumental Music

Aims of the Instrumental / Vocal Music Program

The Iona College Instrumental / Vocal Music Program is an ensemble-based program and membership of an appropriate level of ensemble is a compulsory condition of enrolment. Playing or singing in an ensemble with students who are at a similar level helps students to further develop their ability and understanding of music.

Students have a range of opportunities depending on the musical discipline they learn. In some cases, a new student may need a few focused lessons before attending their first ensemble rehearsal however, this is always at the discretion of the Head of Instrumental Music. It is our aim to have all new students in an ensemble as soon as possible following their enrolment.

Expectations

To get the most out of the Iona College Instrumental/Vocal Music Program students, parents and teachers must work in collaboration. School life is often busy, and students will need to navigate all their commitments ensuring that expectations are met. The responsibility lies with all to ensure that communication is clear and timely, and all interactions are positive and constructive.

Students are expected to:

- Attend their weekly lesson;
- Practise regularly, as directed by their teacher;
- Attend ALL of their scheduled ensemble rehearsals and performances;
- Demonstrate continual improvement; and,
- Accept responsibility for proactively solving scheduling conflicts.

Parents are expected to:

- Provide an appropriate place and time for practice in the home;
- Guide their son through time management planning processes surrounding practice, study, work and other activities;
- Give their son positive and constructive feedback regarding their progress;
- Assist their son in attending all rehearsals and performances punctually;
- Support their son in developing the skills needed to negotiate positively with their teachers and conductors;
- Support their son by attending his concerts and other performances.

Teachers are expected to:

- Prepare lessons, rehearsals and materials that are suitable to the students age and stage of development;
- Plan for the musical development of each student for the short, medium and long term;
- Communicate clearly, positively and in a timely manner any concerns regarding the student attendance or progress with the student, parents and the Head of Instrumental Music;
- Engage with all staff, students and parents in a positive manner with the goal of working proactively and collectively towards the holistic development of the student.

Tuition

All boys in the College can elect to learn singing or a musical instrument. Students have the opportunity to take these lessons during school time on a rotating timetable that has minimal impact on their academic subjects. Individual and small group lessons are offered on all instruments except piano, which are individual only.

Please note: ***Lessons are not offered outside school hours***.

The Iona College Instrumental Music Program offers tuition on the following:

Flute	French Horn	Violin	Voice
Oboe	Trumpet	Viola	Guitar
Bassoon	Trombone	Cello	Electric Bass
Clarinet	Euphonium	Double Bass	Percussion
Bass Clarinet	Tuba	Piano	Saxophone

Enrolment

To enrol your son in the program an ***enrolment form*** must be submitted. This can be by contacting the Music Department Office. The enrolment form is an agreement between you, the parents and the College with regards to the Music Program and is an agreement that you will follow the guidelines in this document and agree to pay the associated fees.

An enrolment form does not guarantee a place in the Music Program. Some instruments have a waiting list due to popular demand.

Cancellation

Re-enrolment is assumed across semester and from year to year ***unless cancellation is submitted in writing*** three weeks prior to the end of term. A withdrawal midterm will still require full term fees to be paid.

Cancellation for Year 5 students

The Year 5 Instrumental / Vocal music program is considered an extension to the core learning for all Year 5 students and as such, enrolment is for a full year before they have the option to withdraw. More information about the Year 5 program can be found on the College website.

Lesson structure

Students will participate in one group / individual lesson per week with a specialist teacher in their chosen musical discipline. Lessons are 30 minutes in duration and scheduled during school time. ***There are no lessons given before or after school***. All lesson times are on a rotating timetable which ensures that students do not miss out on the same curriculum lessons each week. Lessons are scheduled in TASS and it is an expectation that students check their eDiary regularly each day. Any changes will be advised via student email.

What to bring to your lesson?

Students are required to bring to every music lesson their instrument, method book (if required), black music folder and any other music required by the teacher.

All sheet music distributed to the student throughout the year must be kept in the music folder and returned in good condition to the Music Department Office at the end of the year.

Rescheduling & non-attendance:

- If a student is unable to attend a lesson due to a genuine reason he must notify his Instrumental Music Teacher or the Music Department Office ***at least 24 hours in advance***. In most cases an alternative lesson time can be arranged if enough notice is given.
- However, ***if the student or parent does not notify us in advance, or simply forgets to come to the lesson, a rescheduled lesson cannot occur***. Even if a student is absent on official College excursions, year-level camps, or because of assessment, a rescheduled lesson cannot occur without prior knowledge from the student or parent.
- Parents shall be contacted via the Music Department Office with regards to absence from lessons or rehearsals.

Absences

Please adhere to the following guidelines with regards to absence from lessons:

- ***Notice of absence must be provided directly to the Music Department Office or to the Instrumental Teacher*** at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled lesson, or by 8.30am on the day in case of illness. Contacting the Main Office, Tutor Group or Head of House is unfortunately not sufficient as there is no guarantee the message will make it to the Music Department in enough time to reschedule the lesson.
- ***Explained absence*** will be marked on the instrumental roll if a student is away on camp, an excursion or is sitting an exam, ***providing enough notice was given*** to the Music Department Office or Instrumental Teacher to reschedule their lessons for the day.
- ***Unexplained absence*** will be marked on the instrumental roll if a student does not show up to a scheduled lesson without the Music Department Office or Instrumental Teacher being notified in enough time to re-schedule. In this case the lesson is forfeited. Notification will be sent to parents when an unexplained absence is recorded on the instrumental roll.
- If a student is ***away sick***, a call or email directly to the Music Department Office before 8.30am is required to ensure the lesson is not forfeited. This will give the Instrumental Teacher enough time to reschedule any lessons that were affected by the day's absentees and arrange for opportunity for catch-up lessons to occur.
- Recurring absences without explanation could result in the student's exclusion from the ensemble, an upcoming concert or in some cases, the program.

Fees

The Instrumental/Vocal Music fees are added to the yearly school fees.

Music Fee Type	Per Semester*
Music Tuition – Individual Lessons	$924
Music Tuition – Group Lessons	$460
Instrument Hire	$152
Percussion Instrument Levy	$57

Instrument Hire

Iona College offers instrument hire to students who do not own their own instrument. Before hiring an instrument, parents and students must acknowledge that the instrument remains the property of Iona College and is issued on loan to the student subject to the following conditions:

- The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person.
- Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of loan.
- The instrument is returnable upon demand at any time for inspection or repair.
- The instrument must be returned promptly for any repair that may be required through normal wear and tear.
- In the event of accidental loss or damage, the circumstances must be immediately reported to the Music Department Office.
- In the event of deliberate damage to a College instrument, the cost of repairs will be charged to the family.
- A hire fee will be charged for all instruments.

The following instruments are available for hire: flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto / tenor / baritone saxophone, bassoon, oboe, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, violin, viola, cello, double bass. There is no hire charge for guitar, bass guitar or piano as these students must provide their own instrument.

Students are required to look after their instrument. If a problem arises with the instrument, you must advise your music teacher. The instrument will be sent off for service / repair.

Storage of instruments

Instruments are to be stored in the storerooms located in the Music Department. When arriving at school students can leave their instrument in the designated storeroom before school and collect their instrument when leaving the College.

It is an expectation that your son's instrument is to be taken home throughout the week, over the weekend and during the holidays to practice.

Practice

Regular home practice is a crucial part of a student's success in his chosen musical discipline. It is advisable that all boys are given a suitable place to practice and that this becomes part of their daily homework routine. It is very important that parents are supportive of the practice routine and are encouraging of their son.

Students are expected to establish a regular home practice routine. This is on top of their lesson and rehearsal times. It is a condition of enrolment that students from Years 5 and 6 will do a minimum of 10 minutes, three days per week. Students in Year 7 and above will be expected to increase their home practice sessions to at least 20 minutes.

Ensembles

The College successfully runs a broad variety of ensembles ranging from beginner through to advanced offering students a wide range of musical experience. Our top ensembles have enjoyed success on both a state and national level.

Year 5 Ensembles

All students in Year 5 who are enrolled in our Instrumental / Vocal Music Program are required to play in one of our year level ensembles. These ensembles run once a week during school time within a lesson dedicated to learning the art of performing with others.

More advanced Year 5 musicians are often invited to join a more advanced ensemble that may rehearse before or after school in addition to their year level band. Our ensembles in Year 5 include: Year 5 Concert Band, Strings, Guitars and Voices.

Concert Bands

The College currently has four concert bands: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Concert Band and our Year 5 Concert Band. These bands cater for a large number of students who play woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Membership ranges from 30-80 students, depending on the band and students are expected to rehearse each week for the duration of the year.

Big Bands

The college currently runs a traditional jazz band. Traditional Jazz bands are often a student's first experience of Jazz as both a performance art and a discipline. Students develop skills such as improvising and soloing within a jazz context. Woodwind, brass and percussion students who play in a concert band may be invited to play in a big band where they will further develop their skills. Numbers are limited.

String Ensembles

The College has five string ensembles: Chamber Strings 1, Chamber Strings 2, Chamber Strings 3, Iona String Quartet and our Year 5 String Ensemble. For special events, we may also run the Iona Symphony Orchestra. ISO provides strings, woodwind, brass and percussion players an opportunity to perform alongside each other, further developing the skills of all participating students within an orchestral setting.

Percussion Ensembles

The College has two Percussion Ensembles: Percussion Ensemble 1 and Percussion Ensemble 2.

Percussion students who play in a concert band may be invited to play in a percussion ensemble where students will further develop their skill in a variety of contemporary genres. Electric bass players may also have an opportunity to join a percussion ensemble.

Guitar Ensembles

The College has four guitar ensembles: Guitar Ensemble 1, Guitar Ensemble 2, Guitar Ensemble 3 plus Year 5 Guitar Ensemble. All guitar students develop their reading skills and explore a variety of styles such as contemporary, jazz, classical, gypsy and Spanish. Guitar ensembles are also home to bass players and percussionists.

Vocal Ensembles

The College has five vocal ensembles: Iona Singers, Ionian Chorus, Senior and Middle years Vocal Ensembles and our Yr 5 Vocal Ensemble. All boys at Iona are encouraged to sing and students are welcome to join a choir without participating in vocal lessons. However, vocal lessons are always encouraged for students who show an aptitude for singing. Many students who learn an instrument often join a choir as well which supports their instrumental lessons.

Student ensemble obligations

Core Ensembles

Students involved in the Music Performance Program are required, without exception, to perform in the core ensemble that is appropriate to their chosen musical discipline. Ensemble placement is decided by conductors and instrumental teachers in consultation with the Head of Instrumental Music. Core ensembles are as follows:

Brass	Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble
Woodwind	Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble
Percussion	Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble
Strings	String Ensembles CH1, CH2, CH3
Voice	Iona Singers, Ionian Chorus
Guitar / Bass	Guitar Ensembles G1, G2, G3
Piano	Iona Singers, Ionian Chorus

Performances and music concerts

There are a variety of performances throughout the year that your son will be involved with. Many are listed in the College calendar, however, there will also be other performances listed in our Semester 1 and Semester 2 Schedules on the College website. As we get closer to the performances, more details will be provided in the College newsletter and concert notifications will be emailed home.

It is an expectation of the College that students will play at all scheduled concerts. Any date conflicts that arise must be discussed firstly with the Ensemble Conductor and secondly the Head of Instrumental Music as soon as possible. The rehearsals that precede a concert are as important as the concert itself, therefore any rehearsal conflicts must also be discussed with both the conductor and the Head of Instrumental Music as soon as possible.

Iona performances take priority over outside of school activities. Attendance at all performances is expected. If any issues arise, or for further clarification, please contact the Head of Instrumental Music.

Performance Uniform

Our Year 5 ensembles perform in full College winter uniform. This includes grey shirt, grey shorts, black belt, Iona College tie, black shoes and grey socks. Year level ensembles are as follows:

Year 5 Band Year 5 Strings Year 5 Guitars Year 5 Vocal Group

All other ensembles must wear the ***College performance uniform***.

All co-curricular (practice outside of school hours) ensembles (Iona performance uniform) – long sleeve white shirt with Iona logo on left pocket, long black dress pants, Iona tie (all available from the Uniform Shop). Dress leather shoes and black socks are to be worn.

Please note: ***All students performing in co-curricular ensembles will be required to wear their performance uniform for the entire concert unless otherwise notified.***

Membership of all co-curricular ensembles is by invitation, and every student in Years 6-12 must participate fully in at least one core ensemble but may participate in more than one with permission.

If students wish to join Ionian Chorus it is not necessary to be having singing (voice) lessons at the College. All are welcome.

Concert notification

Notifications will be sent via the parent lounge in TASS. This notification will have all the information regarding the upcoming event.

Iona College Performing Arts Complex (IPAC)

The Iona College Performing Arts Complex is not only where the Music Department is located, but it is also the venue for most of the performances. The College is proud to offer our students the opportunity to perform in this state-of-the-art 550 seat professional theatre.

Music camps / workshops

Each year we offer opportunities for in-house workshops and music camps. Selected ensembles are invited to attend these events, during which times ensembles participate in music rehearsals and activities.

All relevant workshop and camp information, including fee charges, will be emailed home when necessary.

Ensemble rehearsals

Ensemble rehearsals are held during, before and after school. Students involved in ensembles are required to attend every rehearsal. If your son is absent from his rehearsal, an email is required to explain his absence.

In the event a clash arises between ensemble rehearsals and other College events, students are to advise the relevant teacher/conductor in a timely manner so that College staff can negotiate a resolution.

Music department staff

Mr Brian L'Huillier – Head of Instrumental Music, Guitar Specialist

Dr Madonna Forster – Assistant Head of Instrumental Music, Vocal Specialist

Mrs Aimee McDonald - Head of Music Curriculum, Woodwind Specialist

Mrs Kirsten Hudson – Music Administrator

Ms Carolyn Eastman – Music Administrator

Mrs Karen Corkeron – Woodwind Specialist

Mr Pierce Hurne – Woodwind Specialist

Mr Alex McPherson – Cello and Double Bass Specialist

Mrs Carmen Hooper – Violin and Viola Specialist

Mrs Madison Dedini – Percussion Specialist

Mr Jeremy Stafford – Guitar and Bass Guitar Specialist

Mrs Allister Harrison – Brass Specialist

Mr Timothy Reed – Brass Specialist

Mr William Martineau – Piano Specialist

Music Department Office - contact us

Mrs Kirsten Hudson & Ms Carolyn Eastman
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E: ionamusic@iona.qld.edu.au

Mr Brian L'Huillier
P: 3893 8872
E: lhuillierb@iona.qld.edu.au

Music Supporters Group

The Music Supporters Group consists of parents who volunteer their time to assist the music department.

The MSG have most recently worked together to deliver a brand-new music library system with cabinetry and dedicated files to house our sheet music collection. In the past MSG have contributed a variety of musical instruments including our Sports Band equipment, music stand lighting and a PA system. The MSG also help with the smooth running of concerts and have helped feed our musicians at workshops or evening rehearsals.

We would love you to join us so if you are thinking about supporting the College with a little bit of your time and energy please let us know.

Music Supporters Group - contact us

Mrs Kirsten Hudson
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