

Parents

Parents can greatly assist their sons with their ensemble responsibilities by helping them attend weekly rehearsals and other commitments punctually as required. They can provide an appropriate practice area at home, away from the distractions of TV and other family members, equipped with a simple chair and a music stand. They can encourage their son's regular practice and celebrate their son's achievements at concerts and other events.

Communication with the Music Department is greatly encouraged. Questions regarding the major ensembles can be put to the ensemble directors, to the Music Administrator Ms Andrea McDonald on 9804 3045 or music@stkevins.vic.edu.au, or to the Assistant Head of Music Dr Andrew Mathers.

Major Instrumental Ensembles

Symphony Orchestra

Directors: Mr Simon Harris & Mr Marcel Trussell-Cullen
Email: harriss@stkevins.vic.edu.au or trussellcullenm@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Chamber Strings

Director: Mr John Quaine Email: quainej@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Middle School Strings Directors: Ms

Margaret Baker & Ms Catherine Bishop
Email: bakerm@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Glendalough Strings

Director: Mr Marcel Trussell-Cullen
Email: trussellcullenm@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Junior Strings

Directors: Ms Catherine Bishop & Ms Billie-Jean Clancy
Email: bishopc@stkevins.vic.edu.au or clancyb@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Senior Concert Band

Director: Dr Andrew Mathers & Mr Jamie Lawson
Email: mathersa@stkevins.vic.edu.au or lawsonj@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Intermediate Concert Band

Directors: Mr Henrik Beasy
Email: beasyh@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Middle School Concert Band

Director: Mr Simon Harris & Mr Andrew Werner
Email: harriss@stkevins.vic.edu.au or werner@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Glendalough Concert Band

Director: Mrs Ruth Friend & Mr Henrik Beasy
Email: friendr@stkevins.vic.edu.au or beasyh@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Junior Concert Band

Director: Dr Andrew Mathers
Email: mathersa@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Big Band One

Director: Mr Andrew Werner
Email: werner@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Big Band Two

Director: Mr Jamie Lawson
Email: lawsonj@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Big Band Three

Director: Mr Henrik Beasy
Email: beasyh@stkevins.vic.edu.au

Big Band Four

Director: Mr Martin Hemingway
Email: hemingwaym@stkevins.vic.edu.au



ST. KEVIN'S COLLEGE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE HANDBOOK

Music is a significant activity in our cultural lives. Over the years, many boys have found that a musical journey begun at St. Kevin's College has developed into a lifelong passion!

Importance of Ensembles

One of the most exciting opportunities presented by learning a musical instrument is the opportunity to perform as a member of an ensemble. Through ensemble involvement, students learn teamwork, independence, problem solving skills, leadership, artistry, commitment and punctuality. For these reasons, all students learning an instrument at St. Kevin's College are expected to participate in at least one of the school major ensembles, as well as other smaller ensembles as required.

Rehearsals

An essential component of being an ensemble member is attending weekly rehearsals. Just like a sporting team, an ensemble requires the attendance of all of its members to operate effectively. The absence of even ONE ensemble member from a rehearsal adversely affects the ensemble, denying other ensemble members the opportunity to get to know the missing part.

Punctuality

A vital life skill developed in ensemble music making is the importance of attending all ensemble commitments punctually. This means arriving at school at least 10-15 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal starting time to set up the room, organise the music and warm up the instruments so that the rehearsal itself can begin on time. We ask for the assistance and cooperation of parents and other family members to ensure this occurs.

Absences

As every ensemble activity is important, we ask that absences be kept to an absolute minimum. Please aim to avoid booking non-essential medical or dental appointments in scheduled ensemble times. At the start of the school year, a calendar of the year's events for each major ensemble will be made available to families and we ask that these dates be transferred to the family calendar to avoid potential clashes. We understand that from time to time unavoidable clashes do occur and ask that a leave request from a scheduled ensemble activity be submitted by email to the ensemble director no less than 2 weeks before the requested date. In cases of illness, either a phone call to the music office (9804 3045), or an email or note, are appreciated.

Performances

Just as matches are important to sporting teams, performances are when ensembles showcase the work put in at rehearsals by all of the members. Concerts are important occasions for both performers and audience members. Performers are required to attend all performances of their ensemble at the appointed time, with their instrument and any other required equipment, wearing the correct uniform, looking neat and tidy

as appropriate for a public performance. Performers are required to remain at the concert until the end in support of other ensembles that may be also performing at the concert and may be then required to assist with packing up afterwards. Parents and appropriate family members are encouraged to attend concerts to support all of the participating boys and are therefore requested to remain at the concert until the end.

Participation

Participating in an ensemble involves more than just turning up. As a group activity, all ensemble members are required to assist with setting up the ensemble prior to the activity and packing up the ensemble at the conclusion. Ensemble members who avoid these duties are seriously letting down their colleagues! Ensemble members also have a responsibility to participate fully in rehearsals by remaining attentive even when their particular part may not be directly rehearsing. Rehearsals are important opportunities for those in the ensemble to find out what other people are doing and how it relates to their part. Only by remaining involved in the rehearsal can this occur.

Ensemble Leadership

Other ways to participate actively in an ensemble are to take on a leadership role. Leaders of the major ensembles include an Ensemble Captain and Vice-Captain, a Personnel Manager, a Librarian and Section Leaders. St. Kevin's College both values and places a high degree of expectation on its student leaders and the major ensembles present outstanding opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills.

Practice

Ensemble members have a responsibility to their colleagues to practise their parts diligently between rehearsals. Students who consistently come to rehearsals not knowing their music are depriving other ensemble members of knowing that player's part! It is recommended that students bring their iPads to rehearsal regularly and take a photograph of their parts for practice purposes. They can then practice from their iPads and take their parts to lessons.

Awards

Ensemble Captains may wear a badge on their school blazer. At the end of each year, participation certificates are awarded to Year 7 & 8 members of ensembles who participate fully in their ensemble. More senior ensemble members are eligible for Green and Gold awards and full and half colours are awarded in cases of exceptional ensemble participation.

Mentoring

Members of all ensembles at Heyington are expected to mentor students in younger ensembles. On 1 or 2 occasions per term students may be rostered to attend a rehearsal of another ensemble with their instrument to assist less experienced players on the same instrument. Students in a mentoring role should take their responsibility very seriously and be mindful of the influence their assistance can have on the progress of other players.