



# Schools Music Program 2017

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## CCC Schools Program Staff 2017

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## **Program Overview**

The Central Coast Conservatorium's Schools Music Program offers students at participating schools the opportunity to learn music through an instrumental program (band or strings). It is also a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with their peers and develop new friendships through music making.

The Conservatorium provides schools with staff whom are all professional musicians and qualified music educators, offering students expert music tuition.

Our Schools Program offers students regular tutorials/lessons with specialist teachers to learn about playing their instrument. Students are also offered a weekly ensemble rehearsal where all the instrumentalists at the school come together to play and perform music.

The Schools Program provides an opportunity for students to learn a musical instrument of their choosing.

All students involved in the Conservatorium's Schools Program are encouraged to also audition for Conservatorium ensembles (such as Super Band). These ensembles comprise of students whom are selected from the schools program, through an audition process. Students should consider this opportunity after two to three years of instrumental study and in consultation with their conductors.

## **Performance Opportunities**

The Conservatorium's Schools Program offer the students many wonderful opportunities to perform during the school term. These performances provide students with the opportunity to enhance their music skills by working with students involved in the program from a wide range of schools from the Central Coast.

The Schools Program offers two annual performance opportunities which all schools are invited to participate in:

- Big Day Out (End of Term 2)
- Strings Festival (Term 2)
- Band Festival (mid Term 4)

These performance opportunities allow students to hear and work with other students involved in the program that are outside of their school.

## **Ensembles Offered**

### ***Training Band***

The training bands are the introductory ensembles for wind, brass and percussion players. During the year, the members of training bands experience music making for the first time and learn important musical ensemble skills which will carry through for their music making. At the end of the year, these training band ensembles will be able to perform approximately Grade 1 level repertoire.

### ***Concert Band***

The concert bands are for the continuing students in the program. They allow for students to further develop their instrumental and ensemble skills by working on more challenging repertoire.

### ***String Ensembles***

Like the wind ensembles, the string ensembles provide students the opportunity to work with other string students in a group setting. The string ensembles encourages students to develop ensemble playing skills and working with like minded students.

## **Instrumental Choice and Tuition**

The Conservatorium's Schools Music Program offers students the chance to learn a new instrument, with no prior experience necessary.

### ***Choice of Instrument***

It is important to carefully choose the instrument your child plays, as it is an ongoing commitment. The Conservatorium provides tuition on most instruments, although some choices are limited by the age and physical size of the student. The choice of instrument is usually determined by means of a "blow test" in the year leading up to the commencement of learning. The blow test is a means for students and music staff to determine which instrument will best suit your child.

The following instruments are offered within the program:

Flute	Oboe	Clarinet	Bassoon	Saxophone
Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass	
Trumpet	Trombone	French Horn	Tuba/Baritone/Euphonium	
Percussion ( tuned/ unturned)			Piano	Guitar

## **Tuition Timetable**

All instrumental tuition is scheduled during the school day. Lessons for all students are timetabled by the Conservatorium in consultation with the music staff and school liaisons. Each lesson is scheduled at a set time each week.

It is recommended that each student sets a reminder for their lesson time so as to attend their lessons punctually. It is the responsibility of the student to attend their lesson. Music staff may try to locate students if they forget but there is no guarantee.

Should changes need to be made to the lesson time (e.g. excursions or if the student knows they will be absent), students will be notified by our teaching staff as well as relayed by school liaisons.

## **Tuition/Ensemble Rolls**

A roll is taken by music staff each session to keep record of a student's attendance. This roll is used for our financial records as well as record of our duty of care to students. If a student is away for more than 2 consecutive weeks with unexplained absences, the Conservatorium teaching staff will notify the school liaisons and the teaching staff, school liaisons and the Conservatorium will follow up on this.

## **Expectations of Tuition**

Your child will receive some of the best instrumental tuition available in NSW. The Conservatorium teaching staff are carefully selected and comprise of some of the best educators and performers of Central Coast's music scene. These teachers will challenge your child to achieve their musical potential.

To get the most from their lessons, your child must always bring a working instrument, music, a pencil and all associated equipment (reeds, rosin, valve oil, cork grease, cleaner etc). Training Band students are also required to purchase their own copy of the band method book to use. Your band conductors and instrumental teachers will notify you as to which book to buy.

Progress on an instrument is directly related to the quantity and quality of instrumental practice. Students must be prepared to practice regularly and carefully. When they begin, most students benefit from having a parent take them through their practice each day. Most children who cease playing an instrument do so through stagnation and lack of progress.

### ***Commencement of Tuition***

Lessons can only commence when the student has all their equipment. In general, lessons commence at the start of each year, however, enrolments are accepted during the year, subject to availability of staff. Information to register for the Schools Program can be obtained through the school contact or online from our website: [http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools\\_Program/schools\\_program.htm](http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools_Program/schools_program.htm)

### ***Termination of Tuition***

It is assumed that students will continue with their instrumental tuition during the course of the year. However, should you wish to discontinue lessons, students will need to notify the teacher, school liaison and the Conservatorium. Student's wishing to discontinue are expected to see out the end of the term on their instrument. No refund will be given for an undertaken term not completed.

### ***Student Absence***

If a student is knowingly going to be absent from a lesson, parents must notify the school liaison and the instrumental teacher beforehand. If a student forgets their lesson, they will be charged for that lesson. School liaisons will help facilitate students attending lessons.

If a student is absent for two consecutive weeks without explanation, enquires into these absences will be made.

When a Conservatorium staff member plans to be absent, notification will be given to students and schools in advance by the staff member and/or the Conservatorium.

### ***Illness***

If a student is absent from school on the day of a lesson, parents must inform the school liaison.

In the case of long-term illness and planned absences, please notify the tutor as early as possible. In the interest of the health of all members of the ensemble please do not make your child attend a lesson if they are sick.

In the case of music teacher illness, notification will be given to the school liaison either directly from the teacher or the Conservatorium.

## **Membership and Commitment**

### ***Commitment***

The following level of commitment is expected of each student involved in the Schools Program:

- Attendance at the weekly group lesson on their chosen instrument with a specialist teacher.
- Attendance at one rehearsal per week per ensemble.

Students are expected to make a commitment to the ensemble for a full year to ensure as little disruption to the progression of each ensemble and tutorial as possible and encourage an atmosphere of teamwork within each group.

### ***Supporting your child's musical endeavours***

It is important to note that regular practice at home is vital for students to develop musically. Teachers and conductors will provide weekly practice tasks that students should look at between each band/tutorial session. To assist in this, we ask that parents help monitor this practice at home. It should also be noted that learning and instrument can have it's highs and lows. Students can sometimes experience bad practice sessions from time to time and when they do, we ask that parents help support students—help them and sit in on the practice session or encourage them take a break for that session and talk through the problems.

## **Enrolments, Fees and Conditions**

### ***Enrolments***

Enrolments are done online through our website:

[http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools\\_Program/enrol](http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools_Program/enrol)

Once you have electronically registered, your enrolment will be processed and a invoice will be emailed to you within a few days.

### ***Tuition fees***

The costings for the program are inclusive of the ensemble and group tuition. The fees are a term fee where which the Conservatorium provides a minimum of 8 lessons/rehearsals per term. A list of schools program fees can be found here:

[http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/School\\_fees](http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/School_fees)

Individual lessons are also available in consultation with your music teacher and the Conservatorium.

### ***Terms and Conditions***

Terms and Conditions for the Schools Program can be viewed online and are located at the bottom of the enrolment page:

[http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools\\_Program/enrol](http://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools_Program/enrol)

## **Instrument Hire**

### ***Hire***

The Conservatorium owns a limited number of instruments which are available for hire. If you are able, please provide your own instrument. Many music stores have hire, rent-to-own and purchase schemes. If you are considering purchasing an instrument, it is **STRONGLY recommended** that you consult your instrumental teacher and/or conductor first to confirm the suitability of the instrument for your child.

The school's hire charge covers fair wear and tear. The cost of repairing any damage done or loss to the instrument through carelessness or negligence is the responsibility of the hirer. If this is the case, the hirer should notify their instrumental teacher and they can refer you to a suitable repairer. Any warranty issues with the instruments are the responsibility of the Conservatorium, and warranty repairs will be completed as quickly as possible. Where possible a replacement instrument will be issued for warranty repairs. Damage to instruments not covered under warranty or due to negligence of the student will be the responsibility of parents

Larger instruments such as pianos, drum kits and double basses etc are not available for hire, but are available for use at school within the ensembles.

### ***Instrument Hire Fees***

Per term     \$50 (plus GST)

Per annum   \$200 (plus GST)

### ***Other Costs to expect***

A music stand and appropriate chair or stool is required for home practice to optimise posture and minimise injury. Students should also purchase their own copy of the band method book for practice.

It is also important to note that instruments also require an upkeep of accessories which is the responsibility of the hirer. These may include strings, reeds, cork grease, valve oil, etc. Please consult your teacher for which accessories and for when/where to purchase these.

## **Communication**

### ***Roles within the Schools Program***

The Schools Program consists of a large number of staff in various roles that each have equal importance to the continual running of the program. These consist of:

Music Teachers	Conductors	School Liaisons
Schools Manager	Conservatorium Administration	

Clarifying each role will enable you to communicate relevant information to the appropriate person(s). General information about the program can be found within this handbook or online.

### ***Instrumental Teachers***

- Student attendance.
- Timetable variations.
- Instrument advice (purchase, repairs).
- Practice advice.
- Discontinuation of the program.

### ***Conductors***

- Student attendance.
- Notify students of concerts, extra rehearsals or variation of rehearsal times.
- Distribute music to students for band (excluding band method books).
- Band recruitment & information events.
- “Blow testing” and recommending instruments to students—in consultation with music teachers.
- Expressions of interest to join Conservatorium ensembles.
- Discontinuation of the program.

### ***School Liaisons***

- Student attendance.
- Help students attend lessons (e.g. put timetables on display or notify classroom teachers of when to let students leave for lessons).
- Distribute information internally regarding changes to or cancellation or regular rehearsal/lesson times.
- Ensure conductors and music teachers are aware of School Medical Action Plans for students in their care. 0
- Band recruitment & information events.
- Discontinuation of the program.

### ***Schools Manager***

- Communicate issues or concerns regarding Conservatorium conducting & teaching staff.
- Address issues regarding timetabling
- Changing instrument.
- Interest in private lessons.
- Music Event organisation

### ***Conservatorium Administration***

- Enrolments.
- Payment of fees and payment plans.
- Instrumental Hire.
- Discontinuation of the program.

