



ST KEVIN'S COLLEGE

Music Information Booklet

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
INSTRUMENTAL BAND AND STRING PROGRAM	4
VOCAL ENSEMBLES	5
BIG BANDS	6
CLASSROOM MUSIC	7
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES	9

Music is an integral part of the academic, cultural and spiritual life of St Kevin's College. The College provides comprehensive music education for over 900 students participating in classroom music and co-curricular music from Prep to Year 12.

CLASSROOM MUSIC PROGRAM

The classroom music program is recognised as an example of best practice in the field of boys' music education. Every boy can become a musician and our graduates achieve at the highest level.

CO-CURRICULAR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Lessons are held once a week during class time with specialist teachers. St Kevin's College offers the option of private lessons or shared lessons (at Glendalough only, not available on piano or percussion).

Music lessons are available on the following:

- Classical and contemporary guitar, bass guitar
- Brass (trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba)
- Percussion
- Piano
- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- Voice
- Woodwind (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon)
- Church Organ
- Theory of Music

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The College offers a co-curricular music program encompassing instrumental and vocal music lessons, and performance ensembles. There are currently over 20 performing ensembles including: Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestras, Concert Bands, Big Bands, Vocal Ensembles, Guitar Ensembles and a wide variety of smaller ensembles.

Ensemble rehearsals are held either before school, at lunchtime or after school every week during the school term.



INSTRUMENTAL BAND AND STRING PROGRAM

The College supports an introductory instrumental program for band and string instruments. All Glendalough students participate in this program either in Year 3 or Year 5. Heyington students who are new to the college have the option of participating in Year 7. Instrumental lessons are given in small groups and complemented by ensembles. A small fee is payable.

- Year 3 students are offered a year on a string instrument
- Year 5 students are offered a year on a band instrument or a string instrument
- Year 7 students are offered a year on a band instrument or a string instrument

CONCERT BANDS

The Concert Band program involves woodwind, brass and percussion students. These ensembles are open to players who learn an instrument either within the College instrumental program or outside the school. Students of all abilities are catered for.

Senior Concert Band

The school's Senior Concert Band is open, by audition, to students in Years 9 to 12 with advanced playing skills and ensemble experience.

Intermediate Concert Band

Students in this ensemble have generally been playing their instrument for 3 or more years.

Middle School Concert Band

Middle School Concert Band members have generally been playing their instrument for a minimum of 12 months.

Glendalough Concert Band

This ensemble caters for Glendalough students who have been playing their instrument for more than 12 months.

Glendalough Junior Concert Band

This ensemble is part of the Year 5 Instrumental Music Levy program. All members of this ensemble are beginners and develop their ensemble performance skills through weekly rehearsals.



BIG BANDS

The Big Bands instrumentation comprises trumpets, trombones, saxophones and a rhythm section including piano, guitar, bass guitar, drum kit and percussion. These ensembles play music in various styles including jazz and introduce students to the art of improvisation.

advanced playing skills and experience.

BIG BAND 4

Big Band 4 is a training big band. This band is designed to give students in Years 7 and 8 their first experience in jazz styles.

BIG BAND 3

Big Band 3 is a developing big band. This band is designed to continue to build upon the students' jazz and improvisation skills.

BIG BAND 2

Big Band 2 is an intermediate big band involving students predominantly from Years 9 to 11. Students in this ensemble have generally been playing their instrument for 3 or more years.

BIG BAND 1

This is the college's most senior big band. This ensemble is open, by audition, to students in Years 9-12 with

GUITAR ENSEMBLES

The Guitar Ensemble program promotes opportunities for guitarists of all levels to develop ensemble performance skills and enjoy group music making. Guitar Ensembles are a central component of the college's guitar program which values music literacy, technical fluency and the ability to play the guitar with expression. These groups perform a diverse repertoire of original and arranged works and employ octave, alto and bass guitars in much the same way as you would find in a string quartet. The ensembles perform in the biannual guitar recitals presented at the McMahon Music Centre.

GLENDALOUGH GUITAR ENSEMBLE

The Glendalough Guitar Ensemble is for beginning guitarists to support the development of the fundamental practical and aural skills required for ensemble playing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUITAR ENSEMBLE

This group is open to emerging secondary guitarists and aims to develop the fundamental practical and aural skills required for ensemble playing including the ability to follow a conductor.

INTERMEDIATE GUITAR ENSEMBLE

This group is open to emerging secondary guitarists in year 9 and 10 and aims to further develop the practical, aural skills and note reading skills required for ensemble playing.

SENIOR GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Senior Guitar Ensemble comprises the most skilled and committed players of the College. Fifth Grade AMEB or equivalent and good sight reading ability is required to play in this group. The ensemble performs a wide variety of music from the renaissance to recently composed works for guitar ensemble.





STRING ORCHESTRAS

The orchestral strings program caters for players of violin, viola, cello and double bass. The following groups cater for all levels of playing experience.

CORELLI STRINGS

Corelli Strings is a beginning string ensemble as part of the Year 3 instrumental music levy program. This ensemble rehearses fortnightly after school on Wednesday afternoons.

GEMINIANI STRINGS

Geminiani Strings involves Year 4 string players who have more than one year of experience with their instrument and continue to develop their ensemble skills.

ARCO STRINGS

This ensemble is part of the Year 5 instrumental music levy program specifically designed for beginners. The students rehearse weekly from early in Term 1 to develop their ensemble performance techniques.

GLENDALOUGH STRINGS

Glendalough Strings involves students predominantly from Years 5 and 6 who have been playing for one or more years.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STRINGS

Middle School Strings involves students predominantly from Years 7 to 9 who have been playing for two or more years.

INTERMEDIATE STRING ORCHESTRA

Intermediate String Orchestra involves students from Years 7 to 10 who have been playing for three or more years.

CHAMBER STRINGS

Chamber Strings is the senior string ensemble involving the most advanced players of the College.

CELTIC ENSEMBLE

Celtic Ensemble involves students from Years 7 to 12 to play a range of Celtic repertoire.

SENIOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Symphony Orchestra caters for orchestral strings, woodwind, brass and percussion students. The members are predominantly drawn from Years 9-12.

String players have an opportunity to perform with other instruments in both the Celtic Ensemble and the Symphony Orchestra.

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

St Kevin's College is a singing school and the voice program aims to teach everyone in the College to sing. The choirs work as effective teams to develop their singing and musical skills to perform a wide range of repertoire.

Many of St Kevin's College singers are also instrumentalists who participate in the bands or strings programs.

GLENDALOUGH CHOIR

The Glendalough Choir is an auditioned choir of Year 5 and 6 students which sings varied and enjoyable repertoire.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

The Middle School Choir is a non-auditioned choir for students in Years 7 and 8. It features targeted activities to ensure healthy vocal development. This choir performs at school events and acts as a training ensemble for the Senior Choir.

WATERFORD VOCAL ENSEMBLE

The Waterford Vocal Ensemble is an non-auditioned group which performs frequently at Waterford's Forum.

SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir is a men's choir and is non-auditioned. It is open to all tenors and basses and sings a wide range of repertoire.

SENIOR VOCAL ENSEMBLE

This is the College's chamber choir and its membership is drawn from the Senior Choir. It is an auditioned ensemble which sings challenging repertoire, often including popular styles.



CLASSROOM MUSIC

There is a thorough program of classroom music education running from Preparatory through to Year 12. Music is a compulsory subject taken by all students from Preparatory to Year 7.

PREP TO YEAR 6

Glendalough students learn music through a sequential, developmental singing program based on the work of Zoltan Kodaly. The Kodaly process brings together French rhythm syllables and the use of solfege to combine in creating understanding and music literacy. The sound is learnt before the symbol, resulting in the internalisation of each musical element.

PREP – YEAR 2 MUSIC

No instrumental lessons are offered during these formative years where the focus is on developing a sense of beat, rhythm and in-tune singing. Being artful, beat-ful and tuneful is the focus, to provide the foundation upon which the effective learning of an instrument can take place from Year 3.

Those families that wish their sons to learn an instrument at an earlier age are encouraged to seek Suzuki lessons outside the college, where the parent attends the lesson and therefore can more ably encourage the regular practice at home.

All students are encouraged to develop their musicianship through listening, singing, dancing and playing. The boys are introduced to a variety of classic pieces of music by famous composers through various engaging activities.

The boys develop sensitivity and artistic expression along with musicianship skills and creativity through enjoying rich children's literature and participating in singing games, rhymes, songs and playing tuned and untuned percussion.

YEAR 3

Students in Year 3 participate in a compulsory Levy String Program where they play violin, viola, cello or double bass in small groups for the year. In the Levy program, students cannot be guaranteed their first choice of instrument because as this is an ensemble program, the number of each instrument is carefully allocated to achieve balanced ensembles. They attend a 40 minute classroom music lesson then have their 40 minute string lesson each week. An ensemble session is held each fortnight after school where the students learn to sing then play a repertoire of songs. In classroom music they develop their singing, musicianship skills and music literacy; the reading and writing of music notation.

YEAR 4

Students in Year 4 may elect to continue their string instrument learnt in Year 3. In classroom music they further their music literacy through a Kodaly approach to recorder playing with a focus on improvisation and note reading. Those students continuing their string instrument join Geminiani Strings.

YEAR 5

New students in Year 5 participate in a Levy (Compulsory) Band or Strings Program which includes a small group lesson on a wind, string or percussion instrument and an ensemble rehearsal before school. Rigorous surveys are undertaken by students as part of the Music Orientation. Students then attend the Try Out Day, where they are provided a lesson on their highest scored instruments. In the Levy program, students cannot be guaranteed their first choice of instrument because as this is an ensemble program, the number of each instrument is carefully allocated to achieve balanced ensembles. Students attend a weekly before ensemble rehearsal before school; 7:20am arrival for a 7:30am start.

In classroom music they further their music literacy and music-making skills via a sound then symbol approach, sequentially developing their ability to read and write music notation.

YEAR 6

Students may elect to continue their instrument begun in the Year 3 or Year 5 instrumental program. The focus in classroom music continues to be musicianship development with more focus on aural analysis, music appreciation, improvisation and composition using tuned percussion instruments.

FRIDAY SINGING

In year level groups, students from Prep to Year 6 come together for 40 minutes as a year level each week to sing. They learn to develop vocal and musicianship skills along with preparing songs for the biennial events such as the Year 5 and 6 Glendalough Musical, House Singing, the College Concert and regular liturgies along with the annual end of year celebration, Glendalough Carols.

YEARS 7 AND 8

The course aims to develop an understanding and appreciation of music through integrated activities in listening, composing and performing. For one semester there are two periods of class per week in Year 7 and three periods of class per week in Year 8. Some of the topics covered are:

- An exploration of the place music has in our lives
- The variety of music notation styles
- Instrumental performance
- Aural skill development
- Rhythmic structure and its effect on style
- The use of technology in music
- The computer as a tool for composition

YEAR 9

Students of music in Year 9 would normally be having individual lessons on an instrument. The classroom curriculum supplements this study by developing analytical, compositional and aural skills. There are three periods a week for one semester. The topics covered are:

- Appreciation of Rock music
- Aural training
- Composing and arranging music for selected instruments
- Instrumental ensemble performance
- Music theory

YEAR 10

Students of music in Year 10 must be having individual lessons on an instrument. The classroom curriculum supplements this study by developing analytical, compositional and aural skills to prepare them for VCE Music Performance. There are three periods a week for two semesters. They study topics including:

- Appreciation of music from various periods
- Aural training and Musicianship
- Composing and arranging music for selected instruments and voices
- Theory
- Analysis of set works
- Using computers to create, arrange and score music

VCE MUSIC PERFORMANCE - YEARS 11 AND 12

Music Solo Performance is offered - five periods of 45 minutes per week.

a) Units 1 and 2

There are no formal prerequisites for Units 1 and 2, however students are expected to have a working knowledge of music theory and musicianship to a minimum of Grade 3 AMEB.

Students are asked to demonstrate their practical, theoretical and aural skills before being accepted into Music Performance Units 1 and 2.

b) Units 3 and 4

A student must demonstrate skill to a minimum standard of sixth grade AMEB or equivalent.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

There are regular and varied performance opportunities throughout the year including:

Performances both at school and in the wider community

Participation in festivals and competitions such as the Victorian School Music Festival, Generations in Jazz and the All State Jazz Championships

MUSIC CAMPS AND TOURS

MUSIC CAMPS

The Music Department holds two annual Music Camps, Glendalough Music Camp and Year 7-9 Music Camp. These involve selected ensembles. These camps are an important part of the development of the ensembles both musically and socially.

MUSIC TOURS

St Kevin's Music Department endeavours to undertake regular national and international tours. In 2019 the College toured Europe with performances in Rome, Florence, Venice, Graz and Salzburg.



PARENTS MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

The SKC Music Association provides essential support to the music department, providing valuable practical and financial assistance. Meetings are held termly and everyone in the College community is welcome and encouraged to attend. Parents who are unable to attend meetings can join the helper's list.

OLD COLLEGIANS BIG BAND

The Old Collegians Big Band enables our graduated students the opportunity to continue the enjoyment of playing music with friends forged during their time at St Kevin's College. Members of this ensemble have gone on to a wide variety of further studies and careers, but maintain their love for the big band sound.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The St Patrick's Cathedral Choir scholarships are offered by the Archdiocese of Melbourne in conjunction with St Kevin's College to support the liturgical music program of St Patrick's Cathedral. Alongside their involvement in the musical and spiritual life of the Cathedral, scholarship holders also contribute to the musical activities of the College. The scholarship scheme provides an opportunity for boys from Year 5 with appropriate musical talent to receive an academic education of the highest quality at one of Melbourne's finest Catholic schools, alongside an exceptional musical education both at the Cathedral and at St Kevin's College.





ST KEVIN'S COLLEGE

A Catholic College for Boys in the Edmund Rice Tradition

stkevins.vic.edu.au

Phone 03 9832 4941

Email music@stkevins.vic.edu.au

