



Belmont
Christian
College

Grow up into Christ

Primary Music Ensembles 2024



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Enrolment in our 2024 Primary Music Ensembles, coming soon

To hire a College musical instrument, please click [here](#)

For our music tutor contact details, click [here](#)



We Love Music.

At Belmont Christian College, we love music. Each and every day we encourage your children to grow in their love and appreciation of music. We are convinced of the many benefits of a quality music education, one that is developed through ensemble group performance.

As Creative Arts Curriculum Leader, I am greatly encouraged by the research surrounding a structured Music Program. Neuroscientists have discovered that when a person plays written music in an ensemble, it's as if fireworks are going off in their mind, so rich is the experience. The holistic benefits of a quality music education are significant.

The research highlights three main benefits:

1

Lifelong Love of Music

"Music is part of what makes us human, and the joy of making music together is one of the great mysteries and pleasures of life. It's more important than ever for our children to discover the rich world of music for themselves."

Dr David Banney

Newcastle Composer, Conductor, Music Educator

2

Cognitive Development

"Music learning uses multiple areas and networks in the brain simultaneously... it is a discipline that slowly and effectively improves the cognitive capacity of the brain."

Dr Anita Collins

Neuromusical Educator - biggerbetterbrains.com

3

Wellbeing and Mental Health

"Music making has much to offer our understanding of the brain and the way its multiple systems can interact to produce benefits for mental health and social wellbeing."

The Benefits of Music for the Brain

Sarah J. Wilson, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences,
The University of Melbourne

Our Roadmap to Musicianship

At Belmont Christian College, our approach to developing quality musicianship is first introduced through a structured singing method. This way of teaching, known as Kodály, commences in Kindergarten and forms the foundation of all music learning at the College. When children are ready, some families send their child to learn the piano at this age. This too is an excellent foundation.

From Year 2, students are more ready to further their musicianship by taking up a melodic instrument such as violin, flute, trumpet, saxophone, bass guitar, etc.

Experienced musicians testify that instrument proficiency is achieved more quickly through learning a melodic instrument at an early age. This enables a child to begin enjoying the rewarding experience of being part of a music ensemble sooner, such as String Ensemble or Concert Band.

Where to Start

Beginning on an instrument takes a commitment of time and money. While tuition fees to learn with a private instrument tutor can be challenging (around \$35 - \$45 per lesson), the benefits are truly remarkable and our instrument hire program makes starting on an instrument very affordable.

At Belmont Christian College, we are convinced that this is an investment that will last a lifetime and will sow the seeds for a culturally rich experience of music and the creative arts.

Mr Chris Stewart - Head of Primary School

Mrs Kate Donaldson - Creative Arts Curriculum Leader 7 - 12

KINDY - YEAR 2

Commence Kodály method under the instruction of our College Music Specialist.



YEAR 2 (SEMESTER 2)

Take up a melodic instrument and commence private music lessons through our College tutoring program.



YEAR 3

Join either Beginning Concert Band and/or Primary Choir



YEAR 4 - 6

Continue into Intermediate Band and become a leader in Primary Choir



SECONDARY SCHOOL

From here, students take full advantage of the various music opportunities on offer at the College



Enjoying the rich benefits of music is not
just for the gifted and talented,

It is for every child.

Primary Concert Bands

Concert Band exists as one of our key music ensembles and caters for **woodwind, brass** and **percussion** instruments.

- ❑ **Beginning Concert Band** is for beginning players typically in Year 3
- ❑ **Intermediate Concert Band** runs for intermediate players in Year 4 - Year 6

General Information- Primary Concert Bands

- ❑ Beginning Concert Band is for students in **Year 3** or are new to learning an instrument and is directed by **Mr Chris Stewart**
- ❑ Intermediate Concert Band is for students in **Year 4 - 6** or who are established on an instrument. The band is directed by **Miss Emily Shield**
- ❑ Eligibility to play in the band requires members to play an instrument within a section, including woodwind, brass and percussion
- ❑ It is necessary that a band member have their own instrument (owned OR hired)
- ❑ It is necessary that a band member **receive regular, formalised tuition** by a competent tutor (see link to our endorsed tutors on page 1)
- ❑ Beginning Concert Band follows the Essential Elements method book, which can be borrowed from the library for the duration of the year



Rehearsals

- ❑ **Beginning Concert Band** rehearsals are held every week in school term and begin at 8am till 8:40am on Friday morning
- ❑ **Intermediate Concert Band** rehearsals are held every week in school term and begin at 7:40am till 8:40am on Tuesday morning
- ❑ Students will need to arrive 5 - 10 mins prior to the rehearsal start time in order to set up and be ready to play.
- ❑ Rehearsals take place in the band room, currently at the southern end of J Block
- ❑ Rehearsals are a chance for members to participate in a focused session of playing together as a team. They are enjoyable and fulfilling when approached with dedication
- ❑ Arriving prepared and on-time is crucial in ensuring that the band maximizes its rehearsal time together. Students need to arrive with everything they need (instrument, music, water bottle and a pencil).

Instrument Hire-to-Buy Program

A range of Concert Band, strings and contemporary instruments are available for hire from the College. This is a fantastic way for students to trial an instrument without the costs of purchasing their own.

To hire a College musical instrument, please click [here](#)



Primary Choir



Singing is for every child.

Our classroom Music program from K - 2 emphasises singing as a way to develop the music skills to learn to play an instrument and to progress to more challenging singing in a choral context.

In 2023, our Primary Choir is open to students from **Year 3 - 6** and rehearses on Thursday morning at 8am.

Through singing, students have the opportunity to enjoy an activity which promotes healthy wellbeing, cognitive development, working in a team and spiritual connectedness.

Our Choirs build on the foundations of singing achieved in class time Music and challenge students to further develop technical skills, repertoire and performance.

Requirements:

- ☐ A willingness to sing and have fun
- ☐ Preferably confidence in using solfa hand signs, but not necessary

Music Tuition

Available at the College during school hours.

Guitar & Bass

Chris Turner 0458 694 294

christurnermusician@gmail.com

Piano

Denise Farthing 0411 286 303

denisefarthingmusic@gmail.com

Flute

Alyssa Ayling 0403 032 978

flutewithalyssa@gmail.com

Vocal

Maddie Watts 0422 415 926

maddie.elizabeth.watts@gmail.com

Drums/Percussion

Brad Rheinberger 0407 261 521

brad_458@hotmail.com

Clarinet/Saxophone

Susan Philippa 0417 465 151

susans.m.studio@gmail.com



For our music tutor contact details, click [here](#)

Helpful Practice Tips:

Encourage your child to learn an instrument

- ❑ Help your child set up a special place at home to play the instrument.
- ❑ Establish a time each day to play. Some children are at their best in the morning, before school. Some parents set a time after the evening shower when the child is relaxed, but not tired.
- ❑ Consider using the phrase "playing time" rather than "homework" or "piano practice"
- ❑ If possible, play a role in your child's playing time. Sit with your child while they play and ask, "show me what you're learning." Or, consider learning to play the instrument with your child.
- ❑ Encourage your child for each step forward.
- ❑ Never make negative remarks about how your child's playing sounds. It takes time and effort to produce good music.
- ❑ Encourage other family members to applaud the child's efforts. Positive attention is a great motivator.
- ❑ Remember that there are always peaks and valleys in the learning process. You and your child should expect times of discouragement, accept them, and focus on the positive fact that they are learning to make music. Remind them that everything worth doing takes time and effort.
- ❑ Provide positive role models. Bring your child to hear amateur or professional musicians perform at child appropriate concerts around Newcastle or in Sydney.



“Music is nourishment, a comforting elixir. Music multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.”

Zoltan Kodaly



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