

Geraldton Grammar School Instrumental Music Program Requirements and Expectations

Welcome to the Geraldton Grammar School Instrumental Music Program (IMP). This letter outlines the expectations and requirements of students participating in the program to ensure their best chance of success in studying music.

In 2026, the Instrumental Music Program staff are:

- Ewan Stevens Director of Music, Secondary Music Teacher, Ensemble Director, Guitar & Bass Tutor
- Maree McGrath Primary Music Teacher, Brass Tutor, Windstars & Choir Director
- Charlotte Stone Woodwind Tutor, Piano Tutor
- Ryan Crothers Drum Tutor

Instruments and Equipment

Students can hire wind and brass instruments from *Musicorp Australia* via the school with rental costs being included in the school fees and all logistics being handled by the Director of Music. There are benefits and drawbacks of the scheme, as outlined below:

	Pros	Cons
Hiring instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower upfront cost • Service/repair included in hire fee • Low commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control - often older instruments • Beginner models only
Purchased Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper in the long term • Able to sell in the future • Students more likely to take more pride in and care of their own instrument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher upfront cost • Service/repair costs are extra • Difficulty of getting repairs in Geraldton

All tutors use their preference of method books for the instruments they teach. Students will need to have their own copy, however, these will be bulk ordered and distributed by the school, with the cost being added to school fees. Cost of books varies by student and instrument.

IMP Fees

- Annual Tuition Fee - \$950
- Band Folder (for Concert Band) - \$15
- Method Books ~ \$20-50

Musicorp 2026 Annual Hire Fees

- Flute - \$246
- Clarinet - \$246
- Alto Saxophone - \$396
- Tenor Saxophone - \$411
- Trumpet - \$246
- Trombone - \$246
- Baritone Horn - \$600

Woodwind:

- Apps/Web Resources: TonalEnergy Tuner (compulsory for everyone), Note Rush (compulsory for beginners)
- Flutes: Thumb ports or position stickers (compulsory for beginners), cleaning swab, cotton/microfiber cloth
- Recommended flute brands: Yamaha, Pearl, Trevor James, Jupiter
- Clarinet: neck strap (compulsory for beginners), pull-through cleaning swab, cotton/microfiber cloth, cork grease, mouthpiece "cushion," box of reeds (strength 1.5 for beginners)
- Recommended clarinet brands: Buffet, Yamaha, Jupiter, Syrinx
- Saxophone: neck strap (Neotech "Soft Strap" recommended), pull-through body swab*, pull-through neck/mouthpiece swab, cotton/microfiber cloth, cork grease, mouthpiece "cushion," pad dryer, box of reeds (strength 1.5 for beginners)
*N.B. some swabs will fit only the body, not the smaller parts of the instrument, while others can be used on the entire instrument. It is **essential** that students have a swab that can be used on the neck and mouthpiece, not just the body. Hire instruments often come with a swab that can only be pulled through the body.
- Recommended saxophone brands: Yamaha, Jupiter, Syrinx
- Portable instrument stands that fit in the case (Travlite brand) are recommended.

Brass:

- Apps/Web resources: Youtube
- Trumpet: valve oil, tuning slide grease, spit rag
- Trombone: slide oil, tuning slide grease, spit rag
- Baritone: valve oil, tuning slide grease, spit rag
- Recommended brands: Jupiter, Yamaha

Guitar/Bass

- Apps/web resources: Youtube
- Guitars: picks, clip on tuner, capo, spare strings
- Bass: clip on tuner for bass
- Recommended brands: Squier, Epiphone, Ibanez

Drums

- Apps/Web Resources: Youtube
- Drumsticks (multiple pairs), drum key, ear plugs
- Recommended brands: Yamaha, Pearl, Roland (electronic kits)

Please contact us if you want further information when looking to purchase an instrument.

Universal equipment/resources required for all students

- A4 display folder
- Device for listening/recording/accessing online resources and metronome
- Headphones/Earphones
- Music stand

Expectations

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of their lessons throughout the year. Practice expectations of each tutor will be discussed in lessons. All tutors generally advocate for more frequent, shorter sessions throughout the week, especially for younger students. Practise should involve time dedicated to warm-ups, technique, and repertoire. Practise is about focusing on what you can't play, not just going over what you can play. Although, spending time playing pieces that you have mastered and enjoy is an important part of studying an instrument.

Listening to and playing along with recordings should be a normal part of every student's daily practice routine. Additionally, students should be regularly listening to and engaging with music that they enjoy outside of practise.

Parental involvement and support at home is essential for any student to succeed in studying an instrument. Parents should help students set and keep to a practise routine that works for them and meets the expectations of their tutor.

Participation in at least one ensemble is required for all students in the program when they have enough experience on their instrument. Students must attend 80% of rehearsals for the ensembles they are enrolled in.

- Junior and Senior Concert Band: wind, brass, and percussion students
- Guitar Ensemble: guitarists, bassists, and percussionists
- Rock Band: experienced players from the Guitar Ensemble will be invited by the Ensemble Director
- Jazz Band: experienced players across the program will be invited by the Ensemble Director
- Choir: all students are welcome to join the primary or secondary choir

Ensemble members will need to be available for occasional performances outside of school hours. Dates will be provided with as much notice as possible.

The Director of Music, Ewan Stevens, is your first point of contact for any queries or concerns regarding lessons, timetabling, ensembles, instruments, etc. Please don't hesitate to get in contact through ewan.stevens@gegs.wa.edu.au.

Thank you for supporting your child's musical education.