

# Instrumental Music Program Information 2025

## Cost:

Small group lessons: \$500 for the whole school year (this is for most students)

Private lessons: \$800 for the whole school year (**only** available to students in Sweethearts and VCE music)

This fee is payable to the front office either via Compass or over the phone. This payment can be made in instalments. Please contact the front office for payment and more info.

*For new year 7 2025 students – we are offering half price group trumpet and trombone lessons as we are seeking to recruit more students for these instruments. Please contact the Leader of Instrumental Music (email below) if interested.*

## Instruments offered and availability:

We endeavour to offer all students their first choice of instruments, however sometimes this isn't possible due to our numbers and staffing.

The instruments we offer are **vocals, saxophone, flute, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano and drums.**

At the start of 2025 we have **spots available for: trumpet, trombone and vocals.**

If your child would like to swap into one of these three from another they were offered, please reply to the original email.

## Instrument Hire:

MFG has a small number of brass (trumpet and trombone) and woodwind (flutes, saxophone) instruments available for hire in the first year of learning. After the first year, families are encouraged to purchase the instrument. This instrumental hire fee is \$220 for the year.

## Instrument Purchase:

For brass and woodwind instruments: A great place to shop is online at <https://futuremusic.com.au/> This is an excellent school instrument supplier. You can either have your selection delivered to your home or to the school. Yamaha is the recommended brand. Be wary of purchasing instruments off eBay or third-party cheaper imitations, as the quality can't be guaranteed. A good instrument is an investment, and your child will have more success on a quality instrument. You may also email your child's instrumental teacher about specific recommendations once they begin lessons.

For drums, guitars, basses, keyboards: Oxygen music, A and B music and Music Workshop are three good music retailers located in Geelong. We recommend beginner 'bundles' that may include accessories such as drumsticks, guitar picks, leads and a small amplifier. You can also find many of these types of instruments online second hand.

## Group sizes:

Our group lessons average about 4 students per group. Some will be slightly less due to enrolment numbers and nature of the instrument and the space. For example: vocal groups may have 5 students each whereas trumpet or saxophone groups may have 2 or 3 students. Sometimes a slightly larger group is better for group dynamics and for students having 'friends' in their music lessons.

## Lesson Structure:

Lessons occur weekly during class time on a rotating basis – so student do not miss the same class each week.

Lesson duration is 35 minutes (half of a 74-minute period). Our lessons all take place in the Music Cottage or Music Multi-Purpose room on the Helen Fraser Campus. Our teachers will come and find new students in class for their first lesson, after that they will need to look at their timetable and walk to music for their lesson time.

### **Commitment:**

Once beginning, students are expected to attend every lesson for the year unless their lesson clashes with an excursion, assessment task or other vital learning activity. This is to enable the music staff to build up your child's musical abilities over time and allow them time to prepare for concerts and events.

If students know in advance that their music lesson will clash with something, they may talk or email to their teacher who will endeavour to change it for them that week.

Ideally, we would love students to commit to pursuing lessons on one instrument throughout their schooling journey at MFG. However, we understand that some students may wish to switch instruments later once they are in the program. This can be done provided there are spots available. The process for this is to email the Leader of Instrumental Music (contact below).

### **Ensembles:**

MFG offers a range of different ensembles that all students can be a part of. Your child will automatically be added to one of these groups once they begin lessons.

All instrumental music students are required to be a part of **one** ensemble from the list below in addition to their lessons. Ensemble participation is an important part of building musical skills and improvement happens faster when students have a chance to apply their skills in a band.

These ensembles include:

- Junior Choir (Yr 7 and 8 vocalists)
- Inter Choir (Yr 9 and 10 vocalists)
- Senior Choir (Yr 9 – 12 vocalists)
- Lunchtime bands (Anyone)
- Beginner Band (All Yr 7 instrumental students)
- VCE ensembles
- Young Hearts (audition based entry – for Yr 5 to Yr 9 students)
- Sweet Hearts (audition based entry – for Yr 7 to Yr 12 students)

**\*The Young Hearts and Sweet Hearts programs run separately to the MFG Music Program. For more info on these including how to audition, please visit their website:**

<https://sweethearts.com.au/auditions/>

### **Concerts and Performances:**

The yearly musical performance calendar typically includes the following. Most groups will be invited to perform at these, however not all students will perform at all events.

- MFG Open Night Showcase (March) – Variety of performances
- GEM Fest (March) – (Geelong Evening Music Festival) - After school outdoor music festival
- Winter Concert (June)– Most music students involved
- Year 9/10/VCE Music Nights – Students involved in classroom music
- Spring Sing (Sept) – All vocal students involved
- End of Year Concert (Oct/Nov)- Most music students involved
- Other small events throughout the year: Local excursions to perform at St John of God Hospital, Nursing Homes, Workshops at other schools, collaborative performance nights with other schools, MMADDD day, lunchtime concerts, assembly performances

### **Lesson Payments:**

Please ensure that lesson deposits and payments are made via Compass before the due dates to avoid missing out on continued participation.

For payment queries please contact the MFG Front Office on [4243 0500](tel:0342430500) or [info@mfgsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@mfgsc.vic.edu.au)

For other questions, you may contact the MFG Leader of Instrumental Music Mr John Kingma  
[John.kingma@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:John.kingma@education.vic.gov.au)