

Instrumental Music – Aims and Guiding Principles

QAHS offers students the opportunity for each student to continue their musical journey, with weekly ensemble-based learning experiences, run by Queensland State Instrumental Music teachers. The primary function of this program is to enhance each child's education and wholistic growth through social connection and development of each student's musicianship. Students develop their instrumental technique and musical literacy through regular ensemble practice, while enjoying the benefits of being part of a larger community of musicians across years ten to twelve. As ensemble members, students will strive for excellence and represent our school in public competitions and performances, while committing to a regular and year-long rehearsal schedule. This opportunity is offered to families for no additional financial cost.

Our Instrumental Music program aims to compliment and further develop in each student the ten IB Learner Profile attributes:

- **Balanced:** with the aural and kinaesthetic practice of music providing respite from the rigours of IB study.
- **Risk-takers:** practicing courage and developing self-confidence through public performances as part of a supportive group of like-minded musicians.
- **Communicators:** expressing their creativity and interpretation of music through ensemble and solo performance.
- **Principled:** demonstrating respect for others and commitment to a larger community through regular rehearsal attendance and etiquette.
- **Open-minded:** exploring unfamiliar musical styles and cultures through exposure to a diverse range of musical works.
- **Caring:** showing empathy and respect for their peers through commitment and service to their community.
- **Knowledgeable:** exploring new musical concepts and techniques that can be applied to different contexts.
- **Inquirers:** consider their own natural curiosity through exploration of supplementary solo and ensemble works.
- **Thinkers:** use critical and creative thinking to solve complex musical challenges.
- **Reflective:** consider their own experiences, identifying strengths and areas for growth.

Queensland Instrumental Music Curriculum and IBDP Music

Our Instrumental Music program is governed by the Queensland Instrumental Music Curriculum (QIMC), which is a formally acknowledged part of the QCE. Students participating in the QIMC are formally assessed twice a semester on solo, ensemble and technical work, for which each student will receive a report at the end of each semester.

In addition, our IM program is designed to be compatible and complimentary to IB classroom music, as ensemble participation and the additional focus on musicianship training will help those students in completing their IB Music assessment. However, our IM program is open to all students regardless of whether they take IB classroom music, and all students at QAHS who possess prior instrumental skills are encouraged to join our program regardless of their subject selections, as a means of continuing their musical journey.

Instrumental Music and CAS

Students are welcome to use their participation in our IM program to fulfill their CAS requirements, as participation in IM fulfills the requirements of all three strands of Community, Activity and Service. However, students should be aware that while IM is listed as a CAS activity, it will not necessarily be governed by the same timelines and requirements. For example, while Year 12 students' CAS obligations conclude at the end of Semester 1, students in each year who commit to our program are expected to participate for the full duration of each year's rehearsal and performance schedule, which will include rehearsals and performances in Terms 3 and 4. Additionally, students who wish to receive their Year 12 Music badge must commit to participation in rehearsals and performance for the duration of the full year.

Regardless of whether students use their participation in our IM program as part of their CAS program, all students from Year 10-12 must join their ensemble Group page on MyQA, for the purpose of communication and being able to access online resources.

Staff

- Mr. Matthew Armstrong, BA (Music), AMusA (Trumpet)
 - Teacher of Brass and Percussion
 - Mr. Armstrong is our brass teacher. He has over two decades of experience teaching wind and percussion students with Education Queensland. He has conducted concert bands, orchestra, and musicals, mentored young musicians at Griffith University's SHEP and EQ's MOST programs, and performed professionally in local bands.
 - Email: marms21@eq.edu.au

- Ms. Sue Ferrers, BA (Music), GradDipEd
 - Teacher of Strings
 - Ms. Ferrers is our upper Strings teacher. She has been teaching for over 30 years with Education Queensland and in Europe, where she also toured and performed for many years. Although violin is her main instrument, she also plays the Swedish nyckelharpa and is the only professional performing player in Australia.

- Email: sferr93@eq.edu.au
- Ms. Danica Inglis, BMus, BEd
 - Teacher of Strings
 - Ms. Inglis studied at the University of Queensland and is a strings specialist with ten years of teaching and conducting experience on the Gold Coast. She is actively involved in the Australian String Teachers Association and continues to perform professionally.
 - Email: diing0@eq.edu.au
- Ms. Sue Purton, MMus Studies, BMus (Hons), PGDipEd, AmusA
 - Teacher of Woodwind and Percussion
 - Ms. Purton studied clarinet performance at the University of Queensland and also gained a Master of Music Pedagogy at the Conservatorium. She has been teaching Instrumental Music for 30 years and has conducted Concert Bands, Big Bands and Musicals while helping support external programs such as Griffith Universities SHEP Program. Ms Purton is also a mentor in SER, actively supporting and training new IM teachers in the region.
 - Email: spurt2@eq.edu.au
- Mr. Patrick Emery, BMus, GradDipEd, MMus candidate
 - Instrumental Music Coordinator, Teacher of IB Classroom Music, ToK
 - Mr Emery has over twenty-years of experience in instrumental and classroom music teaching. He has taught in the South Australian, Victorian, and Queensland education systems, and is currently in his 9th year at QAHS as teacher of IB Classroom Music. Mr Emery is currently writing his Master's thesis through the University of Queensland on classroom music pedagogy.

Ensembles

Please note times may change from year to year, and all rehearsal are held in the school Lecture Theatre.

- String Orchestra
 - Violin / Viola / Cello / Double Bass
 - Rehearse Thursdays, 2.00-3.30
- Concert Band
 - Woodwind (piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto / tenor / baritone sax, bassoon)
 - Brass (trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, tuba)
 - Electric Bass
 - Percussion (tuned percussion, timpani, bass drum, snare, and more)
 - Rehearse Tuesdays, 2.00-3.15

- Big Band
 - Alto / tenor / baritone sax
 - Trumpet, trombone
 - Electric bass, electric guitar
 - Keyboard
 - Drum kit and auxiliary percussion
 - Rehearse Tuesdays, 3.15-4.00

Instruments

- Students are primarily expected to provide their own instruments to participate in our ensembles. There are a handful of specialised instruments owned by QAHS that have limited availability for loan (oboe, French horn, tenor sax, baritone sax, bass clarinet) but otherwise students will be required to supply their own instrument. QAHS also owns a variety of concert percussion instruments for students to participate on percussion.

Calendar of Events - 2026:

Please take note of the following performance dates for 2026, all IM students are required to perform at these events. Also please note, GC Eisteddfod dates will be released either late Term 1 or early Term 2, and additional dates may be added to this schedule.

- T2W3, Thursday May 7, 4.30pm: T2 Music Showcase
- T2W5, Friday May 22, all day: Fanfare Festival at Pacific Pines SHS
- T3W6-7, dates TBC: Gold Coast Eisteddfod
- T4W1, Thursday, Oct 8, 4.30pm: Music Showcase “Spirit Week” – Senior Celebration
- T4W2, Wednesday Oct 14: Academy Awards Night - Sharks Event Centre

Student Leadership Rolls and Badges

QAHS’s Instrumental Music program is designed with the intent to nurture students’ leadership and mentoring experience across three years of participation. Students will begin their three-year journey in Year 10, and then in recognition of their long-term commitment students will be awarded a Music Badge in semester two of each of Years 11 and 12.

Year 10: Pre-IB Immersion

- Year 10 students in their first year at QAHS will be inducted into our program and spend the year consolidating their prior music skills, within a socially supportive peer-group that includes mentoring by students in Years 11 and 12.

Year 11: Mentoring and Support

- Year 11 students will be awarded a Year 11 Music badge in Semester 2, prior to performance at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. The role of Year 11s will be to mentor and support their Year 10 bandmates in the practices of ensemble participation.

Year 12: Leadership and Celebration

- Year 12 students will be awarded a Year 12 Music badge in Semester 2, prior to performance at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. The role of Year 12s within each ensemble will be to continue mentoring and supporting their junior colleagues, while acting as senior leaders for each group.

Year 12 Music Captains:

- Each year there will be four Music Captain positions open for Year 12 students to nominate themselves. Nomination will be sought early in Term 1, and four Music Captains will be chosen by a panel of teachers, with a specific Music Captain badge awarded to each in the Term 1 Leadership Assembly.
- Music Captains Responsibilities:
 - Leading by example in regular and punctual attendance of rehearsals, organising set-up of equipment, sheet music, and demonstrating effective rehearsal practices.
 - Speaking and presenting on behalf of the ensembles in public events.
 - Being available to consult with ensemble members for any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Music Captains will be expected to maintain these standards through the course of the full year and may be asked to relinquish their role should they not be able to.

Year 12 students will be given instructions on how to nominate themselves in our first IM meeting in Term 1, Week 1.

Rehearsal Policy and Commitment to Program

Our collective goal as instrumental ensembles is to strive for a high standard of excellence in public performance as representatives of the high standards of professionalism and presentation expected of all QAHS students. In the pursuit of meeting these goals, the primary expectation of each student in our ensembles is to punctually attend every rehearsal.

Students are expected to organise their academic work to ensure they are not absent from rehearsal due to last minute work required on academic coursework submission. We kindly ask parents/guardians and students to plan around our rehearsal times to ensure that students do not have to miss rehearsals due to competing commitments.

Please also note that we do not ordinarily rehearse during exam block weeks, nor do we have additional weekly small group lessons, so our window of contact time for students with IM teachers is limited.

Students should also note that on sport days, or days where they may be away from 8.30-2.00 due to an excursion or other event, attendance at rehearsal from 2pm onwards is still expected.

Resigning From the Program

Students who wish to leave the Instrumental Music program should do so only in extreme circumstances and should first discuss any issues with their Instrumental Music teachers and/or the IM Coordinator, to see if accommodations can be made to help them continue. If no accommodations can be made, written notice from a parent / guardian in the form of an email must be sent to the IM Coordinator (Mr Emery), so that the student's enrolment in our program can be formally withdrawn.

Enrichment and Extension Music Programs

To take part in enrichment and extension programs students must be enrolled within our IM program.

- AHEP and SHEP
 - Australian, and State Honours Ensembles Programs (AHEP and SHEP) are run annually by Griffith University, Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Information on applying for these programs will be emailed out to all students by Mr Emery through the course of each year, and students can nominate themselves for this program by replying to those emails.
- MOST
 - MOST, which is for Musically Outstanding Students, is a biennial event due to occur next in 2027, offering a residential extension program for up to 80 musically outstanding students from Queensland state secondary schools. Information will be sent out to students at the beginning of 2027 with information on how to apply.
- Music Showcase, Concert and Public Performances
 - Students will have the opportunity to volunteer for solo or small-ensemble performances in school events, but similarly these opportunities are reserved for students who are enrolled in our IM program, except for students who may play in instrument that can't practically be supported by our program.

Uniforms

Student uniform requirements for public performances and events are the same as required for representing the Academy in and outside of the school, i.e., shirts / ties, or blouse / scarf, navy trousers / skirt (with black stocking / tights) or dress slacks, black leather shoes, and all students should wear their QAHS Blazer. Please refer to the QAHS Student Handbook (p. 17) for more details. This will be the default uniform requirement for all performances, however in some cases IM teachers may adapt these requirements due to specific events or conditions.