



“I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but more importantly music; for in the patterns of music and all the arts, are the keys to learning,” - Plato.

Extensive research has shown that learning to play a musical instrument and studying music at school can have lifelong benefits:

- Music improves confidence, self-expression and fosters creativity.
- Music promotes teamwork and collaboration.
- Music develops neural pathways and enhances brain function.

At Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School there are many ways to be involved in our dynamic and exciting Music Department.

School

Class Music (compulsory subject)	Kindergarten - Year 9
Music as an Elective	Year 10
Music ATAR	Years 11 - 12
Music General	Years 11 - 12
Free String Tuition & Instrument use	Year 3
Free Wind/Brass Tuition & Instrument use	Years 5 - 6
Instrumental Tuition & Instrument Hire	Pre-Primary - Year 12

Primary and Secondary Students

Primary Choir
 Vocal Ensembles (by invitation)
 String Ensembles
 Steel Pans Ensembles
 Intermediate Concert Band

Secondary Students

Jazz Ensemble	Worship Band
Senior Concert Band	Flute Ensemble
Big Band	Secondary Choir
Brass Ensemble	



Instrumental Music

As a general rule, it is recommended that tuition on woodwind and brass instruments begin at Year 5 or older and voice at Year 7 or older. If you are unsure which instrument to choose for your child, please contact the Music Department to discuss your requirements. Tuition is offered as follows:

- Piano
- Guitar and Bass Guitar.
- Theory and Musicianship.
- Brass - Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Baritone and Euphonium.
- Strings - Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.
- Percussion - including drums.
- Woodwind - Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone.
- Voice - Classical and Contemporary.

Instrumental Hire

The School has a large range of instruments available for hire. Instruments may only be hired for one year; after this time students are expected to provide their own instruments. In some circumstances, however, instruments may be available for hire in excess of one year, at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Instruments are hired to families on the condition that they are maintained in good order at all times. Parents are responsible for bearing all the costs contingent upon the loss, damage and repair of the instrument. Instruments will be issued at the first lesson.

The listed instruments are available for hire through the School:

Alto Saxophone	Tenor Saxophone
Cello	Trombone
Clarinet	Trumpet
Double Bass	Tuba
Euphonium	Viola
Flute	Violin
French Horn	

Piano, keyboard, guitar and drums are not available for hire.

Ensembles

Ensembles offer an opportunity to develop teamwork skills and a range of musical skills that cannot be taught in an individual lesson. Intermediate Concert Band is for young players and those new to their instruments. More experienced players will be invited and auditioned to join Senior Concert Band. Older students are welcome to attend Intermediate Concert Band in a mentoring capacity. Singers who are regular members of a School Choir may be invited to participate in Vocal Ensembles. These are designed as extension opportunities for students undertaking vocal lessons, however, other committed choir members may be invited to participate provided they maintain membership of a School Choir.

Commencing and Ceasing Tuition

Students wishing to commence tuition are required to complete the online application form. Generally students are dissuaded from undertaking instrumental tuition on more than two instruments.

Lessons may be offered during and out of school hours. Lessons during the school day are timetabled on a rotating basis so that the same class is not missed each week. Priority for out of school lesson times is given to senior students. It may be possible for Year 11 and 12 students to have fixed lesson times; all other students will have lessons conducted on a rotational basis.

Tuition is undertaken on a yearly basis. Students wishing to discontinue tuition must provide four weeks written notice from a parent to the Director of Music.

Re-scheduling Lessons

Lessons will not be rescheduled except in the case of a lesson coinciding with an event published in the School Calendar.

“We teach music because it is unique and good. We teach music so that children can make their own music. We teach music because it acts in a unique way on the heart, mind, soul and spirit of the child, stimulating thought and imagination in very special ways,”

Richard Gill AO, 2013.

Parental Assistance

Parents are asked to ensure that practise is completed and recorded in the Music Record Book provided. The rate of progress and amount of pleasure derived from playing an instrument depends largely on the amount and regularity of practice, as well as effort and concentration applied.

It is recommended that students practise for 20 to 30 minutes per day in their first year of instruction and 30 to 40 minutes per day in their second year. Primary students may find practising for five or ten minutes at a time, several times a day, more beneficial and easier to cope with. It is unrealistic to expect improvement without regular practice. Encourage your child to play for you, be generous with praise and offer your support when children become discouraged during difficult stages of learning.

Student's Responsibilities

The student is responsible for:

1. Knowing the time and day of their next music lesson. Students must check SEQTA at the beginning of each week and enter the lesson time in their Music Record Book.
2. Informing their subject teacher in advance of when they will be absent from class, as a result of an Instrumental lesson.
3. Informing the Instrumental teacher in advance if they are going to be absent from school for any reason. Instrumental teachers require a full week's notice of such an absence.
4. Attending each lesson and practising between lessons.
5. Taking care of their instrument, whether hired from the School or their own property.
6. It is compulsory for all instrumental students to participate in a relevant school ensemble.

Fees and Charges for 2025

Instrumental Hire (per semester)	\$130
Private Instrumental Lesson (per 30 minutes)	\$40

Eight Lessons per term will be scheduled.

Music lessons are billed for in advance and teachers will bill parents directly within the first few weeks of each semester.

Prompt payment is required in accordance with the terms and conditions of the account received.

Music Staff Profiles

Gary Larkin

Percussion (CMus.)

Gary completed a Certificate of Music (Jazz) at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts and he has been teaching at various schools in the South West for the past 15 years. He has taught percussion at the School since 2005. Through his work within the school system, Gary has toured California, New Zealand, Singapore, the Northern Territory and he has played at the Sydney Opera House. He has supported various artists at Leeuwin Estate Concerts including James Morrison, Diana Krall, Michael MacDonald, Bryan Ferry, Boz Skaggs. Over the past five years Gary has played as the percussionist for the Jazz ensemble, 'Jazztrix'.

Jessica Reid

Classical Voice (BA (Voice), MTeach (Music))

Jessica grew up in Bunbury and developed a love of music and singing through school choirs and instrumental programs and under the vocal tuition of Marguerite Monagle. She went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Music Studies and Specialist Music Studies) in Voice and a Master of Teaching (Music) at UWA, completing her final practicum at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School in 2019. Jessica has taught voice in both a Western Art and contemporary context at the Junior Music School at UWA and the Broome Academy of Music and has taught classroom music in Karratha and Capel since her graduation. Returning home to Bunbury to teach voice and classroom music, Jessica is excited to be involved in the thriving music scene in the South West.

Kathryn Rennie

Flute and Piano (BMusEd.)

Kathryn Rennie holds an honours degree in Music Education, specialising in woodwind instruments, classroom teaching and choral conducting. Kathryn has over 20 years' music teaching experience and she currently teaches flute, clarinet, saxophone and piano. Kathryn also conducts the BCGS Flute Ensemble and Secondary Choir. Kathryn founded and conducted the Dalyellup Sing Australia choir for eight years and she has conducted a community Good Friday Choir for over a decade. She has been actively involved with the South West Opera Company for over five years.

Matthew Cabala

Music Teacher BEd. (Secondary), Guitar

Matthew first started playing music in high school, which quickly led him to become involved in a number of music ensembles, including guitar ensemble, choir and concert band. In addition to music lessons at school, Matthew taught himself how to play the trumpet, going on to complete a double instrumental music course in high school. Matthew has always had a passion for music, stemming from his music teachers, and he understands the importance and impact The Arts have on a student's identity and wellbeing. Matthew achieved a Bachelor of Music Education at Edith Cowan University, where he worked alongside professional musicians and master educators. During this time, he played a number of different instruments for several local brass bands, concert bands and contemporary music groups. In his spare time, Matthew plays for the Bunbury City Brass Band, builds model aircraft and takes to the skies, utilising his private pilot's licence.



Neil Davies

Guitar and Bass Guitar (DipT, BEd, NCAE)

Neil has been teaching guitar at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School since 1996. He operates a project studio ('Touchwood Studios') providing music production services for local singer-songwriters and composers, as well as location recording and CD productions of concert performances. As a performer, he has worked with various musical duos and trios in the South West and has been involved in productions by the South West Opera Company. Neil is currently the resident musician/entertainer for the Busselton based Villa Carlotta Tour Company.

Saskia Coffey

Violin and Viola

Saskia began violin lessons at the age of six in South Africa and from a young age played in various youth orchestras. From her love of her music lessons and playing with others, she went on to play in community orchestras and ensembles. Saskia has been teaching violin in the South West of WA since 2017. She is a member of the South West Opera Company and enjoys rehearsing and performing in their productions. She loves all aspects of music and the arts and is passionate about teaching the next generation of musicians.

Sophie Collins

Cello (M.Teach, L.Mus.A, A.Mus.A)

Sophie began playing cello in a school strings program at the age of eight, after starting piano from the age of six. She has a Masters in Teaching Degree from The University of Sydney, and has attained two Diplomas in Music Performance from the AMEB (Associate A.Mus.A and Licentiate L.Mus.A). She also completed a Music/German Certificate at the Franz Schubert Conservatorium in Vienna. Sophie played and toured overseas with the SBS Youth Orchestra in Sydney whilst studying at university and freelanced with the Sydney Opera House Children's Proms orchestra. She has had vast experience as a music teacher, chamber musician and contemporary session cellist including studio recordings and performances for Australian artists and bands. Sophie is currently a regular performing member of Class Act Wedding Music, playing for weddings and functions, and she enjoys playing chamber music in local community events. She has a traditional classical approach to teaching, incorporating elements of the Kodaly/Colourstrings method, as well as using resources from the AMEB, ABRSM and ANZCA syllabuses.

**Tanya Kavanagh**

Voice (BSc. – A&HB, HM)

Tanya is a local Mezzo-Soprano who has taught in South West schools and her private music studio for over 26 years. Tanya completed 10 years of vocal training with the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music's Evelyn Thompson and Marguerite Monagle, the Director of Music at the South West Opera Company. Throughout her career Tanya has played several leading roles in operettas and musical theatre productions with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Perth and the South West Opera Company in Bunbury. Tanya currently performs as a soloist at festivals and events around Bunbury and in 2022 she performed with the Philharmonic South West Orchestra in their Family Proms Concert. She has also been the Musical Director of the Dalyellup Community Christmas Carols event for several years. At BCGS Tanya provides vocal lessons in classical, musical theatre and contemporary vocal techniques to students of all ages. In the past several of her students have gone on to WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts) to continue their vocal training.

Yvonne Carlson

Piano and Guitar (BMusEd, LTCL.)

A former student, Yvonne attained a Bachelor of Education (Classical Music) degree from WAAPA and she was accepted into the Golden Key National Honour Society upon graduation. Achieving the Licentiate in Piano Performance from Trinity College, London at the age of sixteen, Yvonne has performed on piano in a number of musical theatre productions. She has worked as both a classroom teacher and an instrumental specialist in several schools, including two years teaching on Christmas Island. Yvonne spent four years teaching English in Japan before returning to Australia to pursue her music teaching. Yvonne commenced her role at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School in 2008 where she has been a classroom teacher, instrumental tutor, musician for Eucharist services and accompanist for various choirs, vocal ensembles and soloists.

Kate Telchadder

Violin & Viola Teacher /Piano Accompanist

Kate is a multi-genre violinist specialising in Jazz and Baroque performance, and is newly experimenting with collaborating electronics into her playing. Kate has performed with the WA Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Australian Baroque Orchestra, as well as playing in European ensembles. More recently she has been playing with the Shirazz Gypsy Jazz band, as well as the Margaret River String Trio and the South West Philharmonic Orchestra. Kate's Violin Teaching is based on the Suzuki Method starting students as young as four-years-old. She also teaches the AMEB syllabus preparing students for exams and performances, and enjoys accompanying students on the piano.