



Mercy Catholic College

Music Information

2023



Music at Mercy is offered in two strands:

Classroom Music and Co – Curricular Music

Classroom Music

All girls study the mandatory course in Years 7 and 8. At the end of Year 8 students may choose Music as an elective subject for Years 9 and 10. Music is also offered in Year 11 and 12 including both the Music 1 and Music 2 courses.

The classroom Music Staff for 2023 consists of:

Mrs Emma McWade
Mr Matthew Robertson
Ms Joy Lee



Co – Curricular Music

Any interested students are encouraged to become involved in the wide range of optional musical activities at Mercy College. Girls who are studying Elective Music in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 are expected to be involved in at least one co-curricular music group.

Private Tuition

Many instruments are available for individual study. A list of these instruments is outlined on page 6.



Mercy College Co-curricular Music Program 2023

Small Ensembles Program



String Ensemble

Director: Mrs Wendy Vardouniotis

The String Ensemble rehearses every Thursday morning in C34 from 7.30am – 8.30am. Any student who plays violin, viola, cello or double bass is encouraged to join.



Guitar Ensemble

Director: Mr Jose Zarb

The Guitar Ensemble rehearses each Friday morning in C35 from 7.30am – 8.30am. Any student who plays guitar, bass or ukulele is encouraged to join.



Rock Band

Director: Mr Matthew Robertson

The Rock Band is a new ensemble that rehearses every Friday at lunch. The ensemble is only open to Elective Music students (Year 9 – 12) that plays an instrument appropriate for a rock/pop band i.e. voice, guitar, bass, drum kit, keyboard/piano/synth. There is no charge for this ensemble in 2023.



Flute Choir is being re-established in 2023. Please enquire with Music staff for more details.



Small Ensemble Fees:

Ensemble programs run for 9 weeks of every term. Ensemble fees cover the costs of external tutors who direct and manage the ensemble, sheet music, eisteddfod entry fees and external accompanists. **The 2023 fee for each ensemble is \$185 per Semester, paid using Qkr!** Fees are not refundable, as girls are expected to remain in their ensembles for the Semester.



Bands Program

Concert Band

Director: Mr Mark Strykowski

The College Concert Band rehearses each Tuesday morning at 7.30am in the Flex and represents the school at a variety of functions throughout the year. Girls in the Concert Band must be receiving lessons on their instrument (either through the College or outside the College). At Mercy, Band members have access to private tuition on a variety of instruments.



Stage Band – Director: Mrs Emma McWade



Stage Band rehearses at lunch each Wednesday in C35. The Stage Band consists of a rhythm section (drum kit, piano, bass, guitar) and melodic section (brass, saxophone & other woodwind). Members of the Stage Band must also be part of the Concert Band program.

Band Fees:

The annual fee for Bands is \$170, paid through Qkr!

NB The fee covers both Bands, should the students commit to both Ensembles.



Choral Program

Chamber Choir – Director: Mrs Emma McWade



The Chamber Choir is the flagship choir at Mercy. Any student who is confident reading music and singing in multiple parts is encouraged to audition. The Chamber Choir rehearses each Wednesday from 7.30am – 8.30am. The Chamber Choir performs at a range of competitions, school and community events.

Pop Choir – Director: Mr Matthew Robertson



The Pop Choir is a general choir that requires a brief audition to determine students' voice types. All students are encouraged to join. The Pop Choir rehearses each Monday at lunch in C35 and performs at a range of events throughout the year.

Choir Fees:

The Annual Choir fee is \$65 **NB** *The fee covers both Choirs, should the students commit to both.*

Music Camp 2023

The planning for Music Camp is underway for a mid-year camp. Details will be provided in Term 1.

Ensemble Commitment

Mercy offers students the opportunity to develop as a musician through a range of school-based ensembles. Some of these ensembles are directed by the music staff and others are co-ordinated by external music tutors which come into the college on a weekly basis.



The Co-Curricular Music Staff for 2023 consists of:

Ms Emma McWade **Music Teacher, Stage Band & Chamber Choir Director**

Mr Matthew Robertson **Music Teacher, Pop Choir & Rock Band Director**

Ms Joy Lee **Music Teacher & Liturgical Ensemble Director**

Tutors:

Mrs Wendy Vardouniotis **String Ensemble – Violin & Viola Tutor**

Mr Joseph Zarb **Guitar Ensemble – Guitar & Bass Tutor**

Mr Mark Strykowski **Concert Band Director & Brass Tutor**

Ms Patricia Amphlett **Singing Tutor**

Ms Reena Oh **Cello Tutor**

Mr Mark Cropton **Clarinet & Saxophone Tutor**

Ms Mari Matsuda **Piano Tutor**

Mrs Donna Greig **Flute Tutor**

TBA **Drum/Percussion Tutor**



Private Instrumental Program

It is the school policy to facilitate private music lessons.

All financial arrangements are made between the tutors, the students, and their parents.

The following instruments are available for private tuition (subject to demand)

Piano	Flute	Clarinet
Voice	Trumpet/Brass	Saxophone
Guitar/Bass	Drum kit/Percussion	Violin/Viola/Cello

Lessons Fees:

Lessons are offered 1 x 30 minute lesson per week - the cost is \$45. Accounts for private music lessons will be issued by the tutor by Week 4 of each term.

Fees must be paid within 4 weeks of receiving the account. If fees have not been paid by the end of the term, students will not be allowed to continue lessons the following term. Lessons can be recommenced once the amount owed for the previous term has been paid.



The music tutor will sometimes order music books, etc. for the students. These costs are to be met by the parents and paid directly to the music tutor. Any students entering for practical examinations pay an entrance fee directly to the tutor who will organise details with the various Examinations Boards.

Please Note:

In the event of withdrawal before the examination, fees are not refundable from the Examination Boards. Music tuition fees are non-refundable.



Lesson Structure:

Lesson times are outlined to students at the commencement of term from the tutor. Tutors will email or message parents of the weekly lesson times. Weekly timetables of student lessons are also posted on the music notice board. It is the responsibility of students to check these times each week. Where possible seniors will be given lesson times outside of class time. For all other students, the tutor will rotate lesson times each week throughout the term so that students do not consistently miss the same classes. It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on any missed class work. All students must take their school diaries to every music lesson so that the tutor can sign the date and time of every lesson.

Missed Lessons

Students are required to give their music tutor ample notice (minimum of 48 hours) should they need to **reschedule a lesson – this includes school events e.g. excursions, exams, sports carnivals etc.** Students are responsible for informing their individual instrumental tutor. If the appropriate notice is received the lesson will be re-scheduled.

In the event of illness, parents are required to give the tutor as much notice as possible. If a student is absent from a lesson due to illness they will be expected to contact the tutor directly no later than 7.00am on the day of the lesson.

If a student leaves her instrument at home on the day of her lesson she must still attend the lesson. No student is to borrow another students' instrument.

Where a lesson is **missed with no explanation, the lesson will not be made up and the lesson fee will be charged.** Music tutors will contact parents informing them when lessons have been missed with no explanation.

Withdrawal from Program

If a student decides to withdraw from lessons, 4 weeks' notice must be given in writing to the tutor and to Mr Matthew Robertson (Co-curricular co-ordinator). Failure to do so will result in 4 weeks fees being payable.



For any further information and enquiries please contact Matthew Robertson

matthew.robertson@dbb.catholic.edu.au or (02) 9419 2890

Weekly Ensemble Rehearsals and Lesson Times

NB Lesson times are approximate. Ensembles may occasionally need to change day due to school events, public holidays etc. Students will be notified by Compass for any changes to rehearsal times.

Day	Ensemble and Lessons
Monday	<p>Singing lessons – from 8am</p> <p>Pop Choir – lunch in C35</p> <p>Cello lessons – from 9am</p> <p>Drum lessons – TBA</p>
Tuesday	<p>Concert Band from 7:30am – 8:30am in the Flex</p> <p>Brass lessons – from 9am</p> <p>Piano lessons – from 9am</p> <p>Flute lessons – from 10am</p>
Wednesday	<p>Chamber Choir from 7:30am – 8:30am in C34</p> <p>Clarinet/Saxophone lessons – from 10am</p> <p>Stage Band – lunch in C35</p>
Thursday	<p>String Ensemble from 7:30am – 8:30am in C35</p> <p>Violin/Viola lessons – from 9am</p>
Friday	<p>Guitar Ensemble from 7:30am – 8:30am in C35</p> <p>Guitar/Bass lessons from 9am</p> <p>Rock Band (Elective Music only) – lunch in C35</p>