



MUSICAL ENSEMBLES 2018

APPLICATION FORM 2018

The Knox Ensembles Program has grown to become a prominent part of school life, contributing to and enriching the boys' experience at Knox and enhancing the School's profile within the local community. Developing musical skills and having the opportunity to perform for very appreciative audiences are priceless experiences for primary school boys. This experience gives boys a definite head start and a true appreciation of music when they reach high school and are involved in Music as a compulsory subject. Our Ensembles Program consists of three main programs: The Band Program, String Program and Choral Program.

Instruments

To achieve a relatively balanced ensemble, we aim to have the majority of instruments which are owned by the school available for hire by Junior Band members; however, as there is a limited number of instruments, to ensure your son is playing the instrument of his choice it is best for you to check with the School, or alternatively you can hire from Turrumurra Music. If you own your own instrument you have an immediate position in the band (except for the Keyboard, Percussion and Bass Guitar as there are limited positions in these sections). No experience is necessary. It also doesn't matter what age your son is as each band has a mixed age group. All students in band must have a private lesson as well as attend the weekly band rehearsals.

Knox Band Program

Junior Band

Junior Band rehearses every Friday morning from 7.10-8.20 am in Ensemble Room 1, in the Prep Music Building. Members in the Junior Band need no prior experience on their chosen instrument; however, if they have been learning for less than a year this is the band they will be placed in. Last year, Junior Band was awarded a Gold Award at the NSW Band Championships. Even though there is only one rehearsal for this band a week the boys have a lot of fun and progress very quickly at this beginner level of Grade 0 – 1½.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band caters for those boys who have been learning an instrument for more than a year and are at a Grade 1 to 2 level. This is usually the largest band in the program and is generally comprised of boys in Years 4 and 5. Intermediate Band rehearses twice a week on Tuesday morning from 7.10-8.20 am and Wednesday lunchtime at 12.40 in Ensemble Room 2 in the prep Music Building.

Senior Band

This band is for those talented students who have been in the program for at least two years. To join the Senior Band your son needs to be at a minimum of Grade 2.5 standard and working on Grade 3 repertoire. Senior Band rehearsals are on Wednesday mornings from 7.15-8.20am and Tuesday lunchtime from 12.40-1.30 pm in Ensemble Room 1, in the Prep Music Building.

Performance Ensemble

The Performance Ensemble is the highest grade musically in our band program and boys need to be at a minimum Grade 3 and working on Grade 4 repertoire. To gain entry into this band you need to be invited to audition and this is at the discretion of the conductor. Performance Ensemble rehearses twice a week on Wednesday at lunchtime at 12.40 and Tuesday morning from 7.15-8.20 am in Ensemble Room 1, in the Prep Music Building.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a select group of boys already in the program who wish to expand their repertoire and expertise. This band is of very high energy and the band charts are of Grade 3 level. The Jazz Band was in high demand last year for functions and local community concerts. They rehearse once a week during Thursday lunchtime from 12.40-1.30 pm, in Ensemble Room 1, in the Prep Music Building. This band is only available for the most experienced players.

Knox String Program

String Ensemble

This group is for our beginner String players. Most boys are in Years K – 3; however, some students that pick up a string instrument when they are older are also welcome to join. Students are required to have private lessons on their stringed instruments for about six months, or until they are able to use their fingers so that they can manage the repertoire. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday mornings in Ensemble Room 2, in the Prep Music Building. from 7.20-8.20am.

Concert Strings

This ensemble is for our advanced String players who have reached an appropriate standard on their instruments. Boys are invited to move up from the String Ensemble when they are capable, or new students to the school can audition for a place into this group. Most students tend to be in Years 4-6, however, Concert Strings is based on standard and there have been Year 3 students who have joined in the past. Rehearsals are held on Monday mornings in Ensemble Room 2, in the Prep Music Building. from 7.20-8.20am.

Prep Orchestra

This ensemble provides an opportunity for students to experience orchestral repertoire and is inclusive of all instrumental families performing together. The Prep Orchestra is an extension for String players and they must be members of the Concert Strings to join. Woodwind, Brass and Percussion players are invited to join based on their ability and commitment to the Band Program. Rehearsals are held on Friday mornings in Ensemble Room 2, in the Prep Music Building from 7.20-8.20am.

Knox Choral Program

The Choral Program at Knox caters for boys of all ages. With our tiered vocal ensemble program in place, boys are encouraged to participate and no audition is required. Research has proven that there are many benefits for boys singing. Singing fosters both confidence and focus and it is a whole lot of fun. Each of our choirs sings a wide variety of repertoire. Below is a list of the choirs we offer, which is tiered based on year groups.

1. K-2 (Little Lads) 7.45 Friday morning in Classroom 2, in the Prep Music Building.
2. 3 & 4 choir (Knoxapella) 7.30 Thursday mornings in Ensemble Room 2, in the Prep Music Building.
3. 5 & 6 choir (Senior Choir) 7.30 Thursday mornings in Classroom 1, in the Prep Music Building.
4. 5 to 12 Gallery Choir Tuesday afternoons 3.30 to 4.30 in Classroom 1, in the Prep Music Building.

Gallery Choir gives the more experienced chorister the opportunity to develop his voice with more traditional repertoire. To be part of this ensemble boys must audition and be a member of the Senior Choir.

Tutorials and Lessons

All students in the Band and String Programs are required to attend one private lesson per week. Tutors are available at school during school hours, however, if you would prefer to have your son learn outside of school that is totally fine.

Music Camp

Music Camp is a compulsory Band and String activity. It will be held in **Week 8 of Term 1 at school on the Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March, 2018**. It is an intensive weekend of band/string music practice culminating in a concert for parents on the Sunday afternoon.

What is Expected of a Band Member?

Boys are expected to attend weekly rehearsals and have weekly tuition in their chosen instrument. Boys who are not having a weekly lesson are not able to participate in the band. Boys are expected to be punctual to their rehearsals and attend all performances. If a boy cannot attend a rehearsal or performance they are required to inform the Conductor, Miss Rebeccah Morris beforehand.

Ensemble News

Our main avenue of communication is through the Knoxonian. Please read the Prep Music section each week. Email is also used for communication with individual bands.

If you have any queries about any of our ensembles or the information in this document please do not hesitate to contact Rebeccah Morris (morrisr@knox.nsw.edu.au).



Rebeccah Morris

Director of Instrumental Music | Music Teacher | **Knox Grammar Preparatory School**
T: 02 9473.9376 | F: 02 9487 6146 | 1 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga NSW 2076
morrisr@knox.nsw.edu.au



MUSICAL ENSEMBLES

APPLICATION FORM 2018

The Knox Prep Band Application form will be online this year. Below is a link to the form. This link will become active at 7am on the 8th November (Wednesday morning).

Please fill it out at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me at morrisr@knox.nsw.edu.au.

To apply for Junior Band 2018 please click on the below link.

<https://form.jotform.com/72987864979992>

It is always our intention to accept every boy who demonstrates commitment and to match him to his preferred instrument as far as possible. There are no auditions for boys in Year 2 to join the band; however, there are limited positions for certain instruments and these positions are given out in the fairest manner based on prompt return of paperwork to the Director of Instrumental Music.

Allocating instruments to children takes the following into account:

- Was the form filled in on time?
- The student's size (for example: are they tall enough to play the Tenor Sax)
- The student's preference.
- Band balance, as we need all instruments to be represented in proportion, as determined by the conductor and our Instrumental Program.

Rebecca Morris

Director of Instrumental Music | **Knox Grammar Preparatory School**