



MUSIC TUITION 2027

For Abbotsleigh students, parents and
friends in the wider community



ABBOTSLEIGH



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MUSIC AT ABBOTSLEIGH

Abbotsleigh's Music programs are some of the most acclaimed, dynamic and vibrant programs in Sydney.

They comprise three core areas:

1. Classroom
2. Ensemble
3. Instrumental (private music tuition is available to Abbotsleigh students as well as adult and external students).

Why learn an instrument?

Studies show that learning an instrument has huge benefits to the development of children and adults.

Learning an instrument:

- Improves cognitive processes including recall, abstract reasoning and language decoding
- Fosters creativity in concrete and abstract forms
- Develops social skills and fosters friendships outside age-specific groups
- Helps regulate emotions, relieve stress and build self-confidence
- Teaches patience and long-term goal setting, discipline and time management
- Gives a voice to personal expression and aesthetic
- Is fun!

Why choose Abbotsleigh Music?

There are many pathways a student can take when deciding to learn an instrument. What is special about learning an instrument at Abbotsleigh?

- **Great teachers** who are world-class musicians and acclaimed experts in their field, who care deeply about the education of every music student.
- **Holistic programs** that develop music literacy, style and genre appreciation as well as solo and ensemble skills.
- **Integrated learning pathways and performance opportunities** that feed seamlessly into the ensemble and classroom programs.
- **Excellent outcomes** including top HSC Music and AMEB exam results
- **Convenience** of lessons during the school day (selected lessons can take place before school, after school or on Saturdays) and instrument hire.



MUSIC TUITION DATES

Term 1 1 February to 9 April

Term 2 28 April to 24 June

Term 3 20 July to 23 September

Term 4 12 October to 26 November

MUSIC TUITION PROGRAM

Lessons

1. Learning an instrument is a long-term goal. Students are expected to commit to lessons for the whole calendar year.
2. Lessons are taught throughout the day on a rotational basis to ensure that students do not miss the same classes each week.
3. Junior School students are offered 30-minute lessons only.
4. Senior School students may enrol in 30-minute, 45-minute or 60-minute lessons, depending on the student's level and teacher's recommendation.
5. Fixed lesson times must be approved by the Head of Junior School Music or the Head of Senior School Music and apply in the following circumstances:
 - When a student is learning multiple instruments, one instrument is scheduled during class time and the remaining lessons are fixed.
 - Junior School students approved for 45-minute lessons are scheduled at a fixed time outside school hours (only considered for students doing AMEB Grade 4 and above).
 - Senior School students approved for 60-minute lessons are scheduled at a fixed time outside of school hours.
 - Year 12 students are given a fixed lesson time.
 - In special circumstances the academic learning needs of a student requires music lessons to be scheduled outside class time.

- Fixed lessons take place before school, after school or at lunchtime.
- Fixed lessons are subject to teacher availability.

Fees

1. Lessons are charged in packages of eight per term. This allows music teachers the flexibility to schedule lessons around a student's timetable (excursions, school camps, assessments etc) as well as illness and medical appointments. As a result, students will sometimes not have a music lesson every week of the school term.
2. We aim for students to receive 32 lessons per year. After reaching a total of 32 lessons, there is an opportunity for extra lessons, if requested.
3. Fees are charged to your school account and must be paid at the start of each term.

Discontinuations

1. All discontinuations require email notification to the Music Administrator: musicadmin@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
2. Lessons automatically roll over from term to term and year to year.
3. To discontinue lessons, the Music Administrator must be notified by email at least four school weeks prior to lessons stopping. Please note this cancellation period does not include school holidays.
4. If notice is less than four weeks, a cancellation fee to the value of four lessons will be charged.

Absences

1. At least 24 hours' notice must be given to the music tutor if non-attendance at a lesson is to occur due to:
 - Illness
 - School activity or event
 - Assessment
2. Notice must be given via email.
3. Make-up lessons are not provided for any other absence or if notice was given within 24 hours.

Instruments

1. Students receiving private music lessons at school and/or playing in a school ensemble are eligible to hire an instrument from the school.
2. Requests for a hired instrument are to be emailed to the Music Administrator: musicadmin@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
3. The school's instrument loan agreement form must be signed and returned to the Music Administrator before an instrument can be released.
4. After two years of instrument hire, parents are expected to purchase an instrument for their daughter.



Junior School lessons and instrument hire

Instrument	Years	Lesson fees	Instrument hire
Cello	Years K-6	\$520 per term Eight 30 minute lessons	\$122.50 per term Instruments with a tick ✓ are available for hire <i>The instrument hire fee does not apply to girls in Years 2 and 3 as their instruments are allocated through the classroom instrumental program</i>
Clarinet	Years 3-6		
Double Bass	Years 3-6		
Euphonium	Years 3-6		
Flute	Years 2-6		
French Horn	Years 3-6		
Oboe	Years 4-6		
Percussion	Years K-6		
Piano	Years K-6		
Saxophone	Years 3-6		
Trombone	Years 3-6		
Trumpet	Years 3-6		
Viola	Years 1-6		
Violin	Years K-6		

Senior School lessons and instrument hire

Instrument	Lesson fees			Instrument hire
Bassoon	\$520 per term Eight 30 minute lessons	\$776 per term Eight 45 minute lessons	\$1,040 per term Eight 60 minute lessons	\$122.50 per term Instruments with a tick ✓ are available for hire
Cello				
Clarinet				
Double Bass				
Euphonium				
Flute				
French Horn				
Guitar				
Oboe				
Percussion				
Piano				
Recorder				
Saxophone				
Singing				
Trombone				
Trumpet				
Tuba				
Viola				
Violin				

MUSICIANSHIP

1. Musicianship lessons are offered to students in Senior School and are recommended to those playing an instrument.
2. Both group and private lessons are offered.
3. Group lessons comprise 3-6 students. If the minimum number is not reached to form a class, students will need to have private lessons.
4. Students wishing to enrol midway through a term may not be accommodated into group lessons and will need to enrol in private lessons.
5. To enrol in Grade 1 musicianship, the student must be preparing for Grade 3 (or above) in their practical work.
6. To enrol for Grades 2-6 musicianship lessons, students must provide evidence of completion of the previous grade as a prerequisite of enrolment.
7. Musicianship courses generally run in packages of 16 lessons (two eight-lesson blocks per semester).
8. Students sit the AMEB examination online. Please note that examination

fees incur a separate charge as per the AMEB guidelines/fees.

9. In the case of non-attendance at a scheduled group lesson, it is the responsibility of the student to cover the missed content in their own time. There are no catch-up lessons offered for a missed group lesson.

The following Musicianship grades are required to receive an AMEB certificate:

Grade 6 Practical - Grade 2 Musicianship

Grade 7 Practical - Grade 3 Musicianship

Grade 8 Practical - Grade 4 Musicianship

AMusA Practical - Grade 5 Musicianship

LMusA Practical - Grade 6 Musicianship

Musicianship grade	Group 8 lessons per term	Private 8 lessons per term
Grade 1	\$264 (30 minutes)	\$520 (30 minutes)
Grade 2	\$264 (30 minutes)	\$520 (30 minutes)
Grade 3	\$276 (45 minutes)	\$520 (30 minutes)
Grade 4	\$420 (60 minutes)	\$776 (45 minutes)
Grade 5	\$420 (60 minutes)	\$776 (45 minutes)
Grade 6	\$420 (60 minutes)	\$776 (45 minutes)



ENROLMENTS

1. To enrol your daughter in private music lessons, email your request to musicadmin@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
 2. Your enrolment request will be assessed by the Music Administrator and a tutor will be allocated according to availability and the best fit for your daughter. You will be notified by email if your daughter has been placed on a waiting list.
 3. Your child's instrumental tutor will contact you to arrange lesson times.
 4. Hire instruments will be distributed at the first lesson with your tutor.
 5. Ongoing lessons are timetabled by the instrumental tutor each week. Timetables are emailed to students (or parents in Junior School), written in the student's Gold Book and posted on the Music Department noticeboard.
- Students are expected to:**
- Bring their instrument, music and Gold Book to each lesson
 - Check their lesson time against their school commitments (excursions, assessments etc)
 - Email their instrumental tutor if there are any issues with their weekly lesson time.



LESSONS FOR ADULTS AND EXTERNAL STUDENTS

Are you an adult who has always wanted to learn an instrument? Now is the time to take the plunge!

Research has shown that learning an instrument as a mature student has significant benefits, including:

- Improved reaction time
- Enhanced short-term memory
- Increased grey matter and brain functionality
- Stress relief
- Energy boost
- Release of endorphins
- Social interaction.

Learning an instrument as a mature or external student at Abbotsleigh offers many opportunities, including:

- Lessons are available at fixed times on weekdays or Saturday; however, they cannot be scheduled during Abbotsleigh class times
- If the music tutor agrees, you can opt to learn with a buddy, which shares the costs and is a great motivator
- Instrument hire is available.



TUTORS AND INSTRUMENTS

Brass

French horn

- Tina Brain (JS and SS)

Trombone, tuba and euphonium

- Merrilyn Vardouniotis (JS and SS)

Trumpet

- Shannon Taplin (JS and SS)

Guitar

- Peter de Monchaux (SS)

Musicianship

- Jimin Lim (SS)
- Shannon Taplin (SS)

Organ

- Kurt Ison (SS)

Percussion

- Kaylie Dunstan (JS and SS)
- Chris Haigh, drum kit (JS and SS)

Piano

- Sarah Jeffrey (JS and SS)
- Jimin Lim (JS and SS)
- Genia McDonald (JS and SS)
- Amy Putt (JS and SS)
- Joshua Tsai (SS)

Singing

- Josephine Brereton (SS)
- Sam Walton (SS)

Strings

Cello

- Charlotte He (JS and SS)
- Sarah Jeffrey (JS and SS)

Double bass

- Jenny Druery (JS and SS)

Viola

- Nicole Forsyth (JS and SS)
- Olena Zaporozhets (JS and SS)

Violin

- Sophie Longmuir (JS)
- Genia McDonald (JS and SS)
- Kerry Martin (JS and SS)
- Anthea Taylor (JS)
- Olena Zaporozhets (JS and SS)

Woodwind

Bassoon

- Jennifer Yeh (SS)

Clarinet

- Mark Cropton (JS and SS)
- Emma Hosogoe (JS and SS)

Flute

- Melissa Hoile (JS and SS)
- Jude Huxtable (JS and SS)
- Jessica Lee (SS)

Oboe

- Rie Tamaru (SS)

Saxophone

- Mark Cropton (JS and SS)
- Emma Hosogoe (JS and SS)



MEET SOME OF OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are graduates from conservatoires and are all highly experienced teachers and performers. Read about some of our teachers here.



Violin and viola Olena Zaporozhets

- Born in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Attended Pyryatyns'ka Shkola Estetychnoho Vykhovannya (formerly Pyryatyn Music School)
- Followed by Kyiv's'kyi Derzhavnyi Muzychnyy Litsey imeni M.V.Lysenka (formerly Kiev Secondary Special Music School)
- Graduated from Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music with triple degree: Orchestra Performance Artist, Chamber Music Performance Artist, Teacher
- Completed postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne, graduating with Master's in Music Performance by Research (VCA)
- Attended short courses and masterclasses by prominent European teachers and performers from Italy, Germany and France
- At 19 became full-time employee of Ukrainian National Symphony Orchestra
- Performed extensively in Europe and Australia as a soloist, orchestra and ensemble artist
- Teaching positions include Melbourne University (VCA), Australian Institute of Music and University of Newcastle
- Fully accredited Proficient Teacher (NSW Education Standards Authority)



Brass (Lower) **Merrilyn Vardouniotis**

- Graduate of Queensland Conservatorium of Music Grad Dip Mus(Perf) – Trombone
- Has run a successful private studio and taught in both private and public schools for 30 years, regularly providing piano accompaniment for exams
- Performs with Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, Penrith Symphony Orchestra and numerous musicals around Sydney
- Brass tutor at Penrith Conservatorium and Penrith Youth Orchestra
- Toured to Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand with Queensland Symphonic Winds
- Performed with Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra
- Multiple performances with Armidale Music Foundation Choral/Orchestral events
- Performance of Mozart's Requiem (Alto Trombone) at Sydney Opera House with Centenary College Choir, Louisiana
- Has been teaching and mentoring brass students at Abbotsleigh since 2024



French horn **Tina Brain**

- Has been playing the horn and teaching brass instruments for more than 30 years in England, Hong Kong and Australia
- Fifth member of her family to play horn professionally, a tradition started by her great grandfather in the 1890s
- Performed with Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for 11 years
- Passionate about teaching the French horn and helping her students to excel on the instrument
- AMEB examiner since 2003
- Recipient of the AMEB Teaching Excellence award for Preliminary to Grade 6 for 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2025



Guitar and electric bass Peter de Monchaux

- Studied with Peter Andrews and Don Andrews, who wrote the first Guitar syllabus for the AMEB
- Graduated from Sydney Teachers College and studied at the Academy of Guitar
- Has been teaching and performing with guitar, electric bass and ukulele across Sydney for many years
- Original compositions include *Matchbox Chinatown* and *Waterfalls*
- Teaches all levels, from beginner to advanced, in a wide range of styles: classical/Spanish, blues, jazz, popular songs, rock, folk and Hawaiian music



Viola Dr Nicole Forsyth

- Passionate about music education as vital for everyone for an enriched Australian society and culture
- PhD; BMus (Performance, Viola), Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The University of Sydney
- Part-time lecturer in Historical Performance and Strings at Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Orchestral tutor for NSW Department of Education, The Arts Unit; Sydney Youth Orchestras, Australian Youth Orchestra
- Assisted in developing research-led junior string program for ACO Foundations in Suzuki, Kodaly and Orff pedagogies based in trauma-informed practice for schools and communities in low socio-economic areas
- Students have gained various private school music/academic scholarships, and university (BMus) students have graduated to post graduate specialisms in the UK, Netherlands, Germany and France
- 30 year freelance career in performance as Principal Viola with leading historical performance organisations, in addition to new music works and modern viola orchestral performances with Sydney and Queensland Symphonies, Opera Australia Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria



Double bass Jennifer Druery

- Graduate of NSW Conservatorium of Music
- Teaches double bass at private and public schools across Sydney, and tutors the Sydney Youth Orchestra
- Held rank and file position in Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for 10 years, Acting Associate Principal for 18 months of this time
- Former member of Australian Chamber Soloists, a chamber music group comprising principals from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
- Has toured internationally, supporting artists such as Elton John, John Farnham and Frank Sinatra
- Currently a freelance musician, working with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Halcyon, the Australian Baroque Brass and the Sydney Philharmonia
- Has recorded for movie/television/video game soundtracks



Flute and recorder Jude Huxtable

- BA, AMusA, LTCL (flute), ATCL (recorder)
- One of Sydney's most experienced flute teachers, guiding students from beginner through to diploma level.
- AMEB examiner
- Repeat guest presenter on pedagogy at the Australian Flute Festival and co-author, with Jocelyn Fazzone, of a book on flute teaching
- Regular tutor, master teacher and adjudicator for the Flute Society of NSW, The Sydney Society of Recorder Players and the Canberra Recorder and Early Music Society
- Currently performs with Consort 8, one of Sydney's wonderful Early Music Ensembles
- Jude is a passionate believer in lifelong learning and is currently continuing to study Baroque flute and historical performance with Hans Dieter Michatz. She also studies Alexander Technique with Michael and Jane Shellshear.



Flute Melissa Hoile

- Graduate of Sydney Conservatorium of Music BMusPerf
- Received a BBM Youth Scholarship to the UK at the Royal College and the Guildhall
- Recipient of Helen Myers Scholarship
- AMEB examiner, awarded AMEB Shield for excellence in teaching
- Teaching spans young children to diploma and tertiary level plus UNSW Performance Majors in the BMus program
- Recital soloist, freelance orchestral and chamber musician in Sydney and regional NSW
- Television appearances on ABC Arts program as soloist, including a televised masterclass with James Galway
- Conductor and director of primary school bands, flute ensembles, state music camps, and Performing Arts Unit orchestral tutor for NSW Department of Education
- Recipient of the AMEB Teaching Excellence award for Preliminary to Grade 6, and Grade 7 to Licentiate for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025



Piano
Joshua Tsai

- Trained as a concert pianist at the Peabody Institute of John Hopkins University, USA
- Collaborations as solo pianist with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Cologne Academy Orchestra and SYO
- Performs widely as a chamber musician with recordings for ABC Classic
- Performs with his award-winning son, Bennet Tsai, at world-leading venues such as Sydney City Recital Hall and Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre
- Highly respected teacher at Abbotsleigh and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for more than 30 years
- Fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese



Piano
Jimin Lim

- Graduate of Bachelor and Masters of Music Performance (Piano) at University of NSW
- Worked as official accompanist for the Ryde Eisteddfod for 15 years
- Associate Artist at private schools across Sydney
- Awarded numerous prizes in eisteddfods and competitions
- Awarded Distinction for LMusA with solo performance at AMEB diploma graduation
- Toured in Korea and Japan as the accompanist for the Korean Philharmonic Choir and the Children's Choir
- Choral performances at the Sydney Town Hall, with CD recordings and live performances for annual Christmas concerts
- Participated in local and international masterclasses with internationally renowned pianists
- Teaches students from beginner through to diploma level
- Highly sought after accompanist for exams, auditions, competitions and concerts



Percussion **Kaylie Dunstan**

- BMus Performance at both the Sydney Conservatorium and the School of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, Performance diploma at the School of Music in Detmold, Germany, and MMus research in Sydney
- Author of age-specific percussion method books
- Has studied percussion pedagogy and teaching techniques
- AMEB Examiner
- Percussionist in *The Lion King* 2026 Sydney production at Capitol Theatre
- Specialising in mallet percussion, having participated in local and international masterclasses held by world-renowned artists
- Marimba Professor at AMPA tertiary school
- Performed with artists such as TwoSet Violin, The Whitlams, Caroline O'Connor, Ensemble Offspring
- Experience in musicals include *The Addams Family*, *The Prom*, *High School Musical*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
- Composes and performs numerous compositions and arrangements for solo and percussion ensemble



Voice **Sam Walton**

- Holds a Bachelor of Music (Contemporary Performance – Voice) and Graduate Certificate in Music from the Australian Institute of Music, Sydney
- An experienced and versatile singer, keyboardist, arranger and composer
- Mentored in London by vocal coach Joshua Alamu (Little Mix, Joss Stone, The Voice UK)
- Has performed at numerous venues across the UK and Europe and was invited by Combined Services Entertainment (CSE) to entertain military personnel in Cyprus, Oman, Dubai, Jordan, Belize, Germany and Afghanistan
- Presented with an Operational Service Medal by Her Majesty's Armed Forces in 2014
- Worked as a primary Academic Lecturer at AIM Sydney for 10 years, leading elite vocal ensembles and mentoring voice graduates as they prepare for their transition into the global music industry
- Founding member of vocal group Lyhra – composes, arranges and sings music that celebrates vocal harmony and delivers choir workshops across Australia





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