1 February 2016

Year 7 CoCurricular Music Program

Dear Parents

If your son has elected CoCurricular Music for Year 7, he will have had the opportunity to hear all the instruments on offer on Thursday 4 February. On this day, he chose his top three instruments from all of those heard. After taking into account these preferences and the spread of instruments across the cohort, the Music Department has assigned each boy an instrument to learn for 2016.

Each Thursday, from 3:15pm to 5:00pm our beginner musicians will meet in the Music Department and will enjoy group tutorials with professional musicians as well as full ensemble rehearsals.

Learning an orchestral instrument as part of a musical ensemble teaches instrumental technique and musicianship though, more importantly, participation in these groups also engages boys’ creativity. Further, as with any sports team, a musical ensemble relies on teamwork while teaching life skills such as self-discipline and organization, and promotes the development of interpersonal skills, and personal expression.

Interestingly, research has consistently shown that students participating in instrumental music learning experiences also achieve better results than their non-musician counterparts across the academic spectrum. The significance of these many positive factors notwithstanding, at Scots we primarily teach music for its inherent value, growing boys’ appreciation of varied musical styles and promoting a lifelong love of the arts, and of learning.

Over the course of the next few weeks, your son will learn all that is required of him in instrument care and correct handling of their instrument. Each child has been allocated an instrument and its respective accessories, which they will be allowed to take home as soon as the accompanying contract is signed and returned to the Music Department. Students who are taking up Double Bass will not be permitted to take instruments home, but rather will be able to undertake practice in the Centenary Centre during the school week at their leisure.
This program makes up 35 per cent of the boys’ Year 7 academic music assessment. Marks come from performance assessments undertaken during class time on the instruments the boys learn as part of this program. As such, dedicated and regular practice is expected of all boys including one practice session per week in the Music Department called a Drop-In Session. Election of a Drop-In session should be done at the bottom of the instrument user agreement.

The Year 7 Co-Curricular music program for beginner musicians is structured into a tier system, allowing boys to work at their own level and see the progress they are making throughout the year. Boys will have an opportunity to complete Bronze, Silver and Gold levels throughout the year by performing set pieces for the Director of Music or the Director of their ensemble. Achievement by a beginner musician of Gold level and commencement of private lessons will allow the student to move into the advanced Monday Co-Curricular Program.

Private instrumental lessons with a member of College’s impressive instrumental faculty are available for all boys at any time to assist with their progress and motivation. An enrolment form for these lessons is available at music.tsc.nsw.edu.au

Please find attached two copies of the Scots Musical Instrument Use Agreement. Please fill out one copy and return to the Senior School Music office or to Rebecca Lowe by Thursday 11 February 2015 so that your son can receive an instrument to take home on that day. You may also scan in your signed form and email it to r.lowe@tsc.nsw.edu.au

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above address.

Kind regards

Rebecca Lowe
MIC Year 7 CoCurricular Music
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is expected of boys in Year 7 CoCurricular Music?

Students are required to treat this program as an extension of their Year 7 music classes. Students are required to:

- Care for and maintain their instrument
- Bring their instruments and books to each CoCurricular session (Thursdays 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm)
- Practice at least FIVE times per week for 15 minutes (this includes the Drop In Session)
- Attend one 30 minute drop in practice session per week in the Music Department (this will be marked off as part of the attendance). The days and times available are: Monday to Thursday from 7:45am to 8:15am, or Tuesday/Wednesday at 3:15 to 3:45 pm.
- To be respectful of their tutors and peers, and strive to progress through the three tiers of the Year 7 program.
- To maintain an open mind and take full advantage of the program
- To arrive on time to every CoCurricular session

2. How does the Year 7 Music Curriculum align with this program?

The CoCurricular Program has been designed to fulfil the BOS outcome of performance. In addition, other learning areas of the Stage 4 Music Syllabus are addressed, including the composing and listening outcomes. Every week, students will not only learn about their particular instruments and how to play them, but will also engage in musicianship activities to improve their music reading skills, their understanding of ensemble playing and to develop their knowledge of the families of instruments.

Additionally, a performance assessment for Year 7 Music will be conducted on boys’ chosen instrument during Co-Curricular time in front of Instrumental Head Teachers or classroom teachers. These results will go towards their Year 7 Class Music marks.
3. What equipment do we need?

- **Instrument** – The instrument is provided by the school and should be kept at home for practice. Your son is responsible for bringing it to school for Thursday afternoon CoCurricular and his drop in sessions. On those days, the instrument can be kept in the instrument lockers in the Centenary Building.
- **Reeds/ Valve Oil** – These are specific to each instrument. Each clarinet is initially given two reeds and brass players will receive valve oil. Any further reeds or valve oil that is needed can be provided by the Music Department but will be charged to your school account.
- **Books** – Textbook and Practice record book will be provided at a cost of $30 (charged to your school account) and need to be brought to CoCurricular and Drop in sessions.
- **Music Stand** – To ensure good posture, a music stand should be used at home for practice sessions. These are available from the music department and can be charged to your school account.

4. What are the recommended practice requirements?

To ensure your son gains the most value from his experience as an instrumentalist, please encourage his regular home practice. The marks allocated from the CoCurricular program contribute one third of boys' final Music marks for Year 7. Therefore, practice is in fact homework, and not an optional extra.

Time spent practicing is much more effective when done regularly. The same amount of practice time spread over daily sessions rather than once or twice per week will yield much greater results. Year 7 boys should be setting aside five x 15 minute practice sessions/week in addition to their Thursday rehearsal.

Our Thursday group and ensemble sessions will be most productive if spent focused on ensemble skills. This is only achievable if boys have learned their notes and rhythms at home. We make clear to the boys the difference between practice and rehearsal by saying that practice is the focus on learning one’s own part whereas rehearsal is the focus on learning how that part fits with others.
The following points regarding practice are worthy of consideration:

- Avoid distractions – have a practice space that encourages focus.
- Ensure all equipment needed is ready for practice including instrument, music stand and pencil … ten minutes spent cleaning one’s instrument does not improve one’s sound!
- Using a firm chair or stool and a music stand to encourage best posture and therefore greater results.
- Set goals for each session before starting to practice e.g. “To learn my D Major scale by memory and play bars 24 to 32 of my new piece up to speed.”
- Focus always on quality of tone. Anyone can learn all the available notes, they might play fast, loud, high, low etc. but each person’s individual tone is unique and must be continually developed. Our tone is our identity as an instrumentalist.

Please contact Ms Rebecca Lowe (r.lowe@tsc.nsw.edu.au) with any further questions.

The Music Department is very excited about this opportunity for our boys and we look forward to aiding your sons’ musical development.
Musical Instrument Use Agreement –
Year 7 CoCurricular Music

The student of The Scots College Secondary School named below, has been supplied an instrument for the Year 7 CoCurricular Music Program from the Senior Music Department. All instruments come equipped with necessary accessories, which are listed below:

- Strings: a bow, rosin and a shoulder rest
- Woodwind: two single or double reeds and cleaning cloth
- Brass: a cleaning cloth and valve/slide oil

There will be no cost for the hire of the instrument for the duration of the year, however you will be charged for reeds/strings/other care products as they are required. There will be a cost of $30 for the practise journal and tuition book that will include a CD for use in practise sessions at home.

The parent of this student accepts the instrument on the following terms and conditions:

1. Their son must endeavour to keep the instrument in good condition and repair, and be responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the instrument whilst on loan from the College.

2. The parent will pay for any repairs necessary to the instrument considered to be beyond normal wear and tear. This will be decided upon by the MIC of CoCurricular Music.

3. The parent will replace, at their cost, any instrument that is lost, stolen or destroyed (in or out of school), regardless of the cause of damage.
We agree to the terms set out above and acknowledge that an instrument will only be allocated to the student once this form has been signed and delivered to the MIC of CoCurricular Music.

We understand that the instrument must be returned to The Scots College Music Department on request at the conclusion of the school year or on leaving the College and that all obligations will be met accordingly.

Student Name: ____________________________________________

Parent Name(s): ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________

Please circle preferred 30 minute drop in practice session.
This is a mandatory requirement of the program.

Tues 7:45am  Wed 7:45am  Thurs 7:45am
Tues 3:15pm  Wed 3:15pm

-------------------------------------------------FOR OFFICE USE ONLY-------------------------------------------------

NAME:_____________________________ INSTRUMENT: __________________________

MAKE:_____________________________ MODEL: __________________________

SERIAL NO:_________________________ PROVIDER: __________________________