



# ST JOSEPH'S

## CHORAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2024



*'Love is Service'*



# Welcome

To those families who are new to the Choral & Instrumental Music Program this year and to those who are returning, my warmest welcome to you all. For those of you who may not know me, my name is Adriana Di Bella and I am the Classroom Music Teacher and Choral & Instrumental Coordinator here at St Joseph's, Mundingburra. I am delighted that you have chosen to enrol your child into instrumental lessons and I look forward to working with them in order to foster their musical development and passion for music.

The following document will provide you with all of the necessary information that you will require for your child to be a part of the program. The first sections of this handbook contain information regarding the Instrumental Program and then towards the end, you will find information suggesting the opportunities available to students in Choral avenues. Please read through each section carefully so you are aware of the requirements and expectations as some areas may have changed from previous years.

If at anytime during the year you have any questions or concerns with anything outlined in this handbook, please don't hesitate to contact me via email. I'm more than happy to help and ensure your child's music learning experience is an enjoyable and positive one.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all throughout the year and working with your children.

Yours Musically,



*Miss Adriana Di Bella*  
Classroom Music Teacher  
Choral & Instrumental Coordinator



# Contents

Instrumental Tuition .....	4
Lesson Information .....	5
Equipment .....	7
Enrolment .....	10
Ensemble Groups .....	11
Tips for Student Support .....	12
Why Music? .....	14

*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,  
flight to the imagination and life to everything.”*

*- Plato*



# Instrumental Tuition

## Instruments Offered

Tuition in the following areas are on offer for students from Years 2 - 6 here at St. Joseph's Mundingburra.

<i>Instruments Offered</i>	<i>Group or Individual</i>	<i>Year Levels Offered</i>
Piano	Individual or Groups of 2 (siblings only)	Years 3-6
Violin	Individual or Groups of 2	Years 3-6
Cello	Individual or Groups of 2	Years 3-6
Recorder	Individual or Groups of 2-3	Years 2-6
Classical Guitar	Individual or Groups of 2	Years 4-6
Fife/Flute	Individual or Groups	Years 2-6
Clarinet	Individual or Groups	Years 2-6
Alto Saxophone	Individual or Groups	Years 3-6

Myself and the instrumental tutors work together to ensure that these groups are formed based on students' year levels and experience of the instrument so that each child has the opportunity to get the most out of the group-style lessons.

## Fees

Students will receive one 30 minute lesson per week for 8 weeks each term. The current fees for the Instrumental Music Program are as listed below (please note the groupings that are available for each instrument).

**\$120 per term for Groups of 3-4**

**\$180 per term for Groups of 2**

**\$360 per term for Individual lessons**

These fees will be added to your family statement at the start of each term. Please note, places **will not** be offered if last term's fees are outstanding.

# Lesson Information

Listed below are the contact details for all members of our Instrumental Teaching Team. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you have any questions or concerns. Should you have any general music and enrolment enquiries, please contact Miss Adriana Di Bella ([adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au)).

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
Miss Adriana Di Bella	Instrumental & Choral Coordinator Classroom Music Teacher Piano & Strings Teacher	<a href="mailto:adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au">adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au</a>
Mrs Joanne McCluskey	Classical Guitar	<a href="mailto:joannemmccluskey@gmail.com">joannemmccluskey@gmail.com</a>
Mrs Angelene Bourne	Recorder, Fife/Flute, Clarinet & Alto Saxophone	<a href="mailto:abourne2@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au">abourne2@music.tsv.catholic.edu.au</a>

## Timetabling

Students will receive one 30 minute lesson per week for 8 weeks of each term and these take place during school time. The instrumental coordinator will liaise with classroom teachers prior to each new term commencing to find the most suitable time for students to be out of class each week for their lesson. These timetables will then be sent home to families so you are aware when students require their necessary books and equipment for lessons. Tutors will call through to classrooms if a child has not arrived for their lesson, however, students are expected to remember these times, especially in the upper grades. All instrumental students will be provided with a desk tag that they are able to use as a reminder for the time and day of their lesson.

## Attendance

In order for students to achieve success in their chosen instrument, prompt and regular attendance at weekly lessons is vital. As academic achievement is a high priority here at St. Joseph's, the instrumental coordinator will work with the classroom teacher to ensure that students do not miss out on important class events or tasks while at their instrumental lessons and variations to lesson times may occur throughout the term to accommodate this.

# Lesson Information cont.

Makeup lessons will be provided where the lesson is unable to be held due to teacher illness, public holidays or school events and where possible, parents will be notified of this prior to the lesson day. When a makeup lesson is provided and the student does not attend without a valid reason, the lesson will be considered forfeited. Students do not receive make-up lessons for when they are away sick.

Students who have numerous unexplained absences from lessons may, at the discretion of the instrumental tutor and in consultation with the Instrumental Coordinator and Principal, be required to forfeit their position in the Instrumental and Choral Programs. This includes students being poorly prepared for lessons each week and forgetting materials, instruments and not completing set work from the previous lesson.

## Withdrawal

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from the Instrumental Program must submit their intentions in writing to the Instrumental Coordinator 2 weeks prior to the end of term. There is a no refund policy if a student ceases lessons or stops attending during a term or does not give 2 weeks written notice in advance before the end of a term. Parents will be liable to pay the full amount for mid-semester or term withdrawals.

## Expectations

As a member of the St. Joseph's Instrumental Program, students are not only expected to attend weekly lessons, but also develop at home practice routines in between these lessons. These routines allow students to progress more rapidly with skills and repertoire throughout the term and will allow them to reconsolidate what they have learnt in the previous week. All instrumental students will be provided with a practice log at the beginning of each term which tutors will check and sign at each lesson. Parents are asked to sign the day that students practice and the amount of time students practiced for. 3 sessions of 15 minutes each would be the minimum amount students should be practicing their instrument/completing written work and the more time they spend, the better their overall achievement will be.



# Equipment

## Equipment

Each week, your child will need to bring their instrument (not Piano) to school with them on their allocated lesson day and they are more than welcome to leave this, along with their music bag, in the downstairs area of the music room in the shelves provided. They are able to then pick it up at the end of the day after the bell. It is important that all of the items listed below are **clearly named and labelled on the outside** with the student's name and class to avoid the risk of instruments and belongings going missing. Spot checks of labelled belongings in the storage area will take place and any instruments or bags that are found to not be clearly labelled will be taken into the Music Room and students will need to see Miss Di Bella to retrieve it.

Most, if not all, of the Music items on this list can be purchased locally from Arties Music Shop on Ross River Rd. If you mention St. Joseph's and the teacher being Adriana Di Bella, they will be able to assist with the correct books/equipment as the team are aware as to what is used here in the program.

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Equipment Required</i>
All students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A4 display folder</li><li>- Music stand for at home practice (except Piano)</li><li>- Pencil, ruler and eraser</li><li>- Clearly labelled bag to hold method books and stationary</li></ul>
Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Full size Piano or Keyboard with fully weighted keys, which can be purchased new (from Arties Music Shop or The Keyboard Shop) or sourced second hand</li><li>- Music Notebook - Miss Di Bella will provide this to students in their first lesson to note down practice requirements and new learning from the previous lesson</li><li>- <b>Method Books</b> - usually last the first 3 terms, if not the whole year<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Year 3-4 Beginner - <b>Alfred's Piano Prep Course Level A</b> (Lesson Book, Solo Book, Theory Book and Activity Book)</li><li>- Year 5-6 Beginner - <b>Alfred's Piano Library Level 1A</b> (Lesson Book, Recital Book and Theory Book)</li><li>- Continuing students from 2023 will advance where they finished in the previous year and I will notify parents when new books are required to be purchased</li></ul></li></ul>

# Equipment cont.

Recorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A <b>Yamaha</b> Descant Recorder. This should be named with either permanent pen or an adhesive label.</li> <li>- Music Notebook - Miss Di Bella will provide this to students in their first lesson to note down practice requirements and new learning from the previous lesson</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Black Belt Recorder Book 1 (Yellow) - these can be purchased from the school office.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Violin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instrument and bow (sized correctly) - this can be purchased and sized at Arties Music Shop</li> <li>- Shoulder Rest (Everest)</li> <li>- Rosin</li> <li>- Soft cloth for cleaning instrument</li> <li>- Music Notebook - Miss Di Bella will provide this to students in their first lesson to note down practice requirements and new learning from the previous lesson</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encore on Strings Book 1 (Blue) - clearly named</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Clarinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarinet (email tutor for recommendations)</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Beginners</b> - Sound Innovations - Book 1 for Clarinet</li> <li>- <b>Continuing Students</b> - TBC with tutor</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Cork grease (La Tromba brand - available from Arties Music Shop)</li> <li>- Pull through and polishing cloth</li> <li>- Mouthpiece protector</li> <li>- Thumb rest</li> <li>- 3 or 4 Reeds size 1.5 (constant supply required as they wear out)</li> </ul>
Alto Saxophone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saxophone (email tutor for recommendations)</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sound Innovations - Book 1 for Alto Saxophone</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Cork grease (La Tromba brand - available from Arties Music)</li> <li>- Pull through body and neck cloth and polishing cloth</li> <li>- Mouthpiece protector</li> <li>- 3 or 4 Reeds size 1.5 (constant supply required as they wear out)</li> <li>- Neotech Neck Strap - ergonomically designed to reduce the weight of the instrument on shoulders - the most comfortable one available</li> </ul>



# Equipment cont.

Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nuvo Toot 2.0, Mini-Flute</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Fife Book by Liz Goodwin</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Flute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flute (email tutor for recommendations)</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Beginners</b> - Sound Innovations - Book 1 for Flute</li> <li>- <b>Continuing Students</b> - TBC with tutor</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Jupiter Polishing cloth or cloth suitable for musical instruments from Music Shop (NOT cleaning cloth from laundry dept as they are often too rough), and large handkerchief (no chemical or jewellery cleaning cloths)</li> </ul>
Cello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instrument and bow (sized correctly) - this can be purchased and sized at Arties Music Shop</li> <li>- Donut/Endpin stopper</li> <li>- Rosin</li> <li>- Soft cleaning cloth for instrument</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> - TBC with tutor</li> </ul>
Guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yamaha nylon string classical guitar (correctly sized, usually 3/4 for beginners)</li> <li>- Footstool</li> <li>- <b>Method Book</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Beginners</b> - Progressive Guitar for Young Beginners Book 1</li> <li>- <b>Continuing Students</b> - TBC with tutor</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Clip on Guitar tuner</li> </ul>

If you have any questions about the above information, please don't hesitate to contact each specialist instrumental tutor directly as they will be the best person to help when it comes to instrument specific questions.

To avoid disappointment, please do not go out and purchase any of the equipment until you have received notification that your child has been accepted into the program. As there are only limited spots available, you will be notified in early January if your child has been enrolled in their chosen instrument. Just by putting an enrolment form in does not guarantee a spot in the program.



# Enrolment

## How to Enrol

Parents can enrol **new** students to be a part of the Instrumental Program in 2023 by completing the **Online Enrolment Form** which can be accessed via the link below. To avoid disappointment and your child missing out on the limited spots that are available, please complete this form as soon as possible. Students who do miss out on a spot can be put on a waitlist and in the case of any withdrawals throughout the year, parents will be contacted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Instrumental Coordinator Adriana Di Bella via email: [adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:adibella7@sjmbtsv.catholic.edu.au)

Please complete the **Online Enrolment Form** by **Friday 8th December**. After this date, applications for enrolment will not be accepted. This allows the Instrumental Team to begin planning and preparing groups and timetables for 2024. **Parents who have re-enrolled their child/children from 2023 will not need to complete the following form.**

**[Click here to complete the Online Enrolment Form](#)**





# Ensemble Groups

Here at St Joseph's, students are provided with the opportunity to be a member of the Choral and Instrumental Ensemble Groups that are on offer. Taking part in any of these groups will open students up to a range of performance experiences, encouraging team spirit and fostering a greater love of music. Please note, there are no extra costs for your child to be a part of any of these groups. The 3 ensemble groups that will be on offer next year are:

- Guitar Ensemble
- Combined Choir (Grades 3 - 6)
- Auditioned Vocal Ensemble (Grades TBC)

## Guitar Ensemble

Students who are part of the Guitar program or learn the guitar at a proficient level are invited to join our Guitar Ensemble, at the recommendation of their instrumental tutor based on their skill level and potential. This group of students rehearse one lunchtime per week, preparing repertoire to perform at school assemblies and various events throughout the year, with the Townsville Eisteddfod being the highlight.

## Choral Groups

Next year will see the return of the Combined Choir, which is open for Grade 3 - 6 students who enjoy singing, performing with a group and making music with friends. We will also see the introduction of an auditioned vocal ensemble in which students are able to audition to be a part of as an extension to the general choir. Students will be informed about the process of joining these groups and the expectations that come with being involved in early Term 1. Students in both choirs have the opportunity to perform at various school events, liturgies and masses and also enter in the Townsville Eisteddfod.



# Tips for Student Support

## Practice

In order for your child to get the most out of learning an instrument, it is important that they are supported in establishing effective and maintainable practice routines. All students will receive a practice log at the commencement of each term where parents are asked to sign and write in when practice was completed and for how long. This allows the instrumental tutors to hold students accountable and will provide insight as to the reasons why students may not be progressing at the rate they should be each week. This practice log also acts as a form of communication between tutors and families, as well as emails. Below is a recommendation of how long students should be practicing for between lessons to ensure that they are able to make regular progress with their technique development and knowledge of repertoire. As the year progresses and students abilities develop, an increase in these practice times would be required to allow students to progress with more difficult techniques and repertoire.

**Grades 3/4 - 10 - 15 minutes daily**

**Grades 5 /6 - 15 - 20 minutes daily**

Some tips are listed below for ways in which you as parents can positively support your child to achieve success in their chosen instrument.

- **Encourage children not to just practice but also encourage them to play.**
- **Provide a daily time to practice in a quiet place with no distractions**
- **Listen to your child's playing - your support plays a huge part in your child's success, especially at this young age**
- **Remember that achievement requires effort over a period of time**
- **Encourage students to listen to themselves playing**
- **Expose your child to a wide variety of music**
- **Encourage your child to talk with you about their music classes and what they learnt that week. The best way to reconsolidate knowledge is to teach it to someone else.**
- **Encourage your child to make a commitment to their music studies.**
- **Encourage practicing by using positive praise- rewards and showcasing to family and friends**



# Tips for Student Support

## Reporting

All students in the Instrumental Music Program will receive a Semester Report at the end of Terms 2 and 4 and these are distributed at the same time as their academic reports. Parents and carers are more than welcome to contact the Instrumental Coordinator or Instrumental Tutors at anytime to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress in the program.



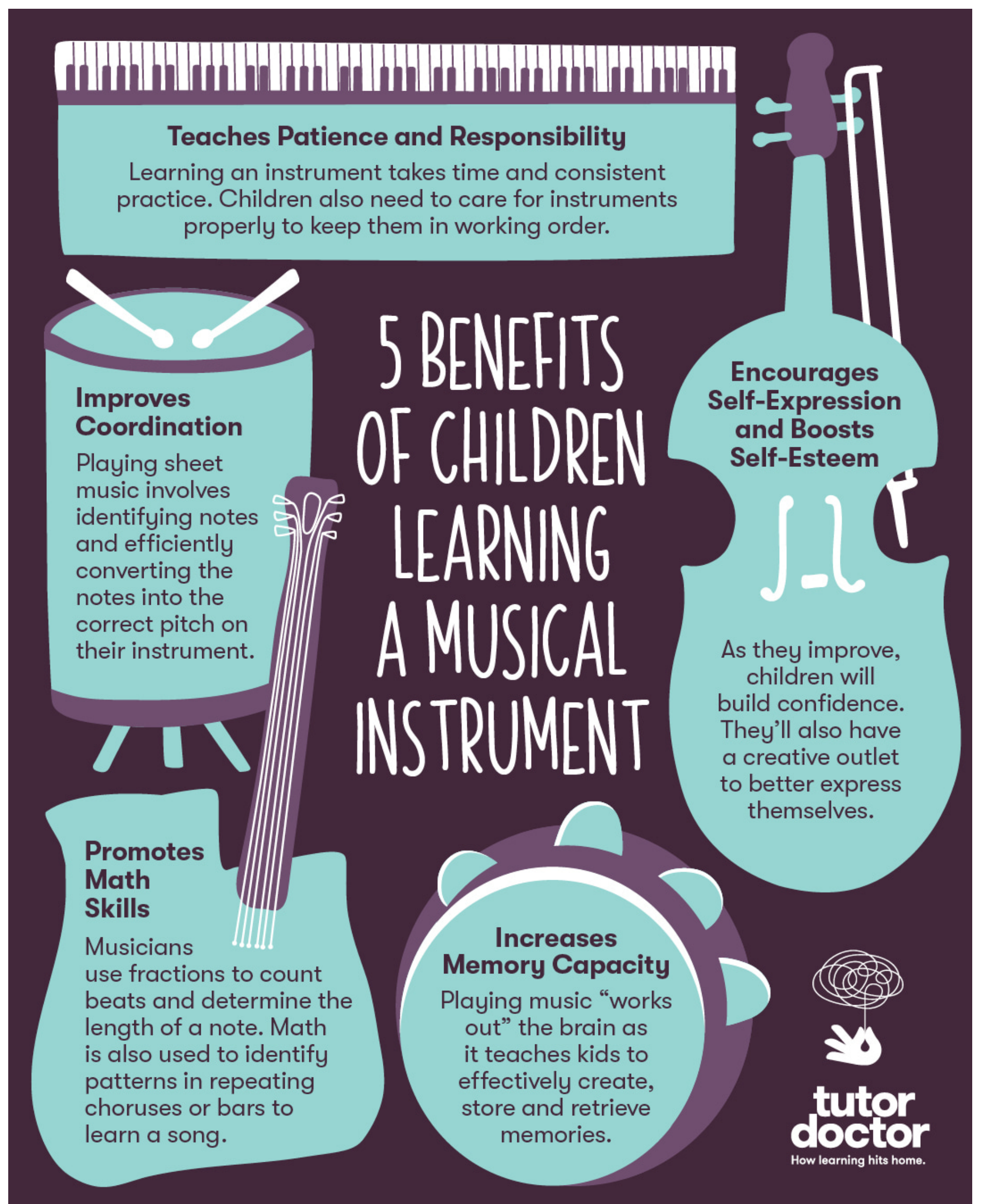


# Why Music?

## Benefits of Learning Music

At St Joseph's, we recognise that learning to play a musical instrument is a valuable activity in any student's development. Extensive research shows it is beneficial in the areas of:

- Reasoning ability
- Problem-solving skills
- Maths and language performance
- Memory capacity
- Self-confidence and self-discipline
- Social and teamwork skills



Through supporting your child in their music learning journey, you are helping to develop a well-rounded student who will be equipped with many skills to tackle life's challenges when they move onto highschool and also beyond.





With music, one's whole future life is brightened. This is such a treasure in life that it helps us over many troubles and difficulties. Music is nourishment, a comforting elixir. Music multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.

- Zoltan Kodaly