

MUSIC PROGRAM



The Music Program is seen as an integral part of the curriculum and development of the whole child at Plenty Valley International Montessori School. It is recognised as a program of outstanding quality providing excellence in ensemble performance as well as solo opportunities.

The goal of Montessori education is to develop to the fullest the three aspects of the child's nature – body, mind and spirit. Learning music happily involves all three of these dimensions and can, therefore, be a highly integrating force in the development of the child's personality. Music making involves a physical activity (moving, singing, playing), produced by mental direction (matching a pitch or rhythmic pattern), to convey a sentiment or idea.

The classroom Music Program is based on the Kodály, Orff and Dalcroze approach to music education with consideration for the Montessori tradition; focusing on skill development through singing, speech, body percussion, improvisation, movement and instrumental work. The broad aims of the Music Program are to develop musical skills in the areas of pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, form and music literacy among many other aspects of music. These skills are addressed through a variety of musical activities, games and projects as well as age appropriate music repertoire from various cultures and genres.

Our music extension program consists of an instrumental music program, recorder program and choral program. Each of these programs offers students the opportunity to extend their musical skills beyond the classroom program and allows them to experience many rewarding musical opportunities.

The core aims of the Music Program are to nurture and encourage a lifelong love and appreciation of a wide variety of music, equip students with fundamental musical skills and knowledge and to develop self-confidence through performing.

Why Study Music?

The Music Program at PVIMS offers children excellent opportunities to develop their musical skills, the skills of co-operative learning and ensemble skills, and to provide an enriching social environment in which to rehearse, perform and share music with others. It teaches children that to succeed in any activity requires perseverance and encourages the skills of concentration and co-operation.

It has been widely shown that learning music can make significant differences to children's abilities. Children who are active music-makers are more likely to have improved maths and language performance, better reasoning capacity and problem-solving skills. Their memory is more likely to improve, as are their social and team skills. Learning music can even help children develop healthy decision-making patterns, for life.

“We teach music to children because it is good and because of its immeasurable capacity and potency to act on the heart, mind, spirit and soul of humanity. We teach music to children because in so doing we acknowledge that there is almost no civilisation on earth without music somewhere at the heart of its existence. We teach music because through it we can learn many skills associated with social inclusion and social interaction. We teach children music because it is unique and has its own integrity as a subject or discipline.”

(Richard Gill is one of Australia’s pre-eminent and most admired conductors and is internationally respected as a music educator, specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training.)

Music Extension Program

A range of music extension programs are offered to enhance the classroom music program. These aim to develop students’ music skills in a group-learning environment. Each of these programs offers students the opportunity to extend their musical skills beyond the classroom program and allows them to experience many rewarding musical opportunities.

The music extension program consists of three elements:

- Instrumental Music Program – Open to students in their third year of Cycle Two onwards
 - Instrumental lessons delivered by qualified music specialists
 - Plenty Valley International Montessori School Concert Band – Open to instrumental students
 - Small Ensembles – Optional for instrumental students

- Recorder Program – Open to students in their second year of Cycle Two onwards
 - Recorder Consort – Open to advanced recorder students

- Choral Program – Open to students in Foundation onwards
 - Senior Choir – Cycle Three
 - Junior Choir – Foundation and Cycle Two
 - Singing Lessons – Open to students in Cycle Two onwards