



Elanora Heights Public School

RESPECT

ACHIEVEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY

www.elanorahts-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

EHPS

2021 Performing Ensembles Recruitment Booklet

Process:

Ensembles Info Night

Instrument Demonstrations

with Mr Hughes in Yr 2 music time

Instrument Suitability questionnaire

Summary Letter

via email with Instrument recommendation and Tutor information

Why Band?

Hear from the experts about the benefits of learning an instrument in an ensemble.



Dr Anita Collins

“How playing an instrument benefits your brain”

<http://www.anitacollinsmusic.com/resources/>



Richard Gill OAM

“The Value of Music Education”

<http://fourwinds.com.au/the-value-of-music-education-richard-gill/>

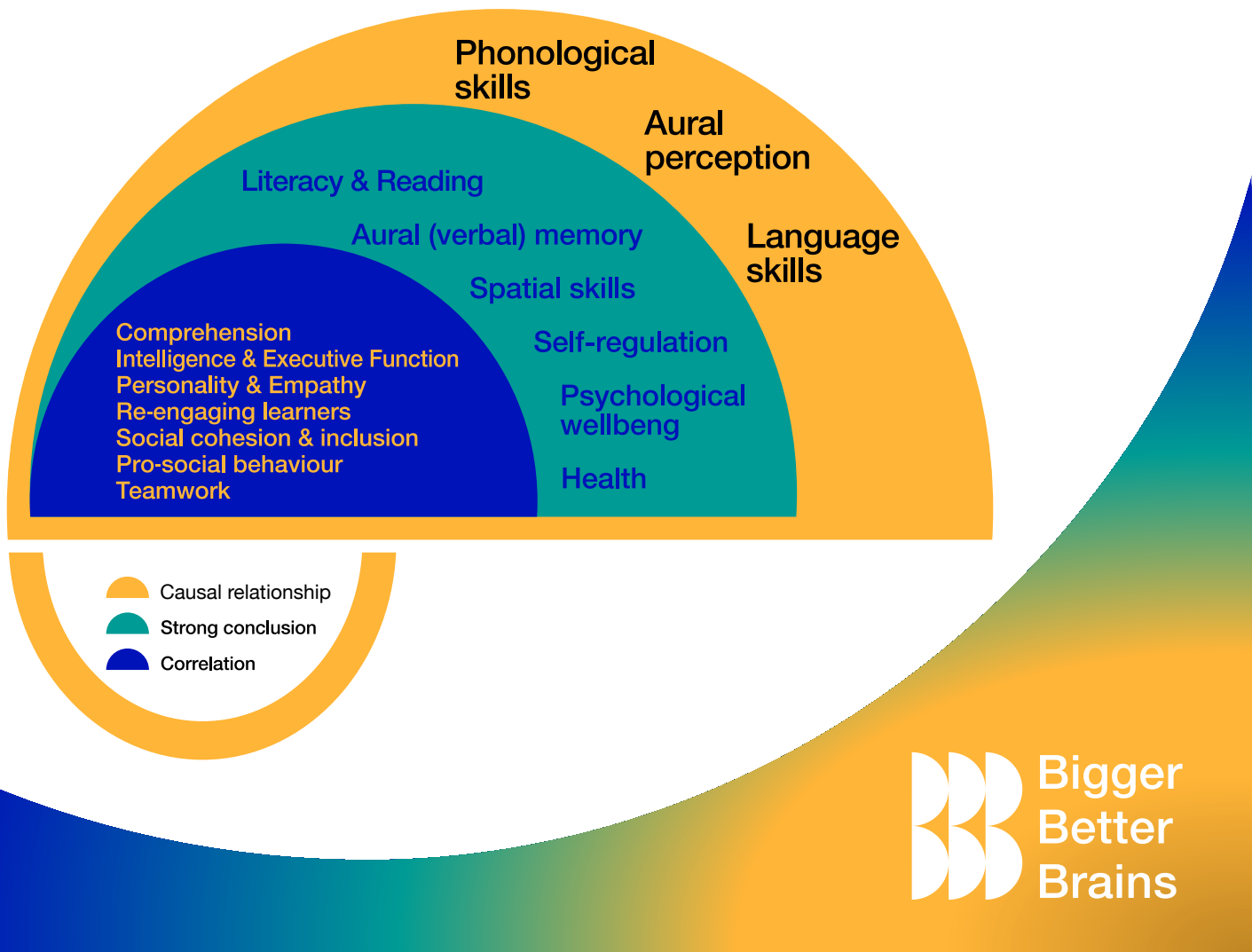


“Don't Stop The Music”

Brand new ABC documentary.

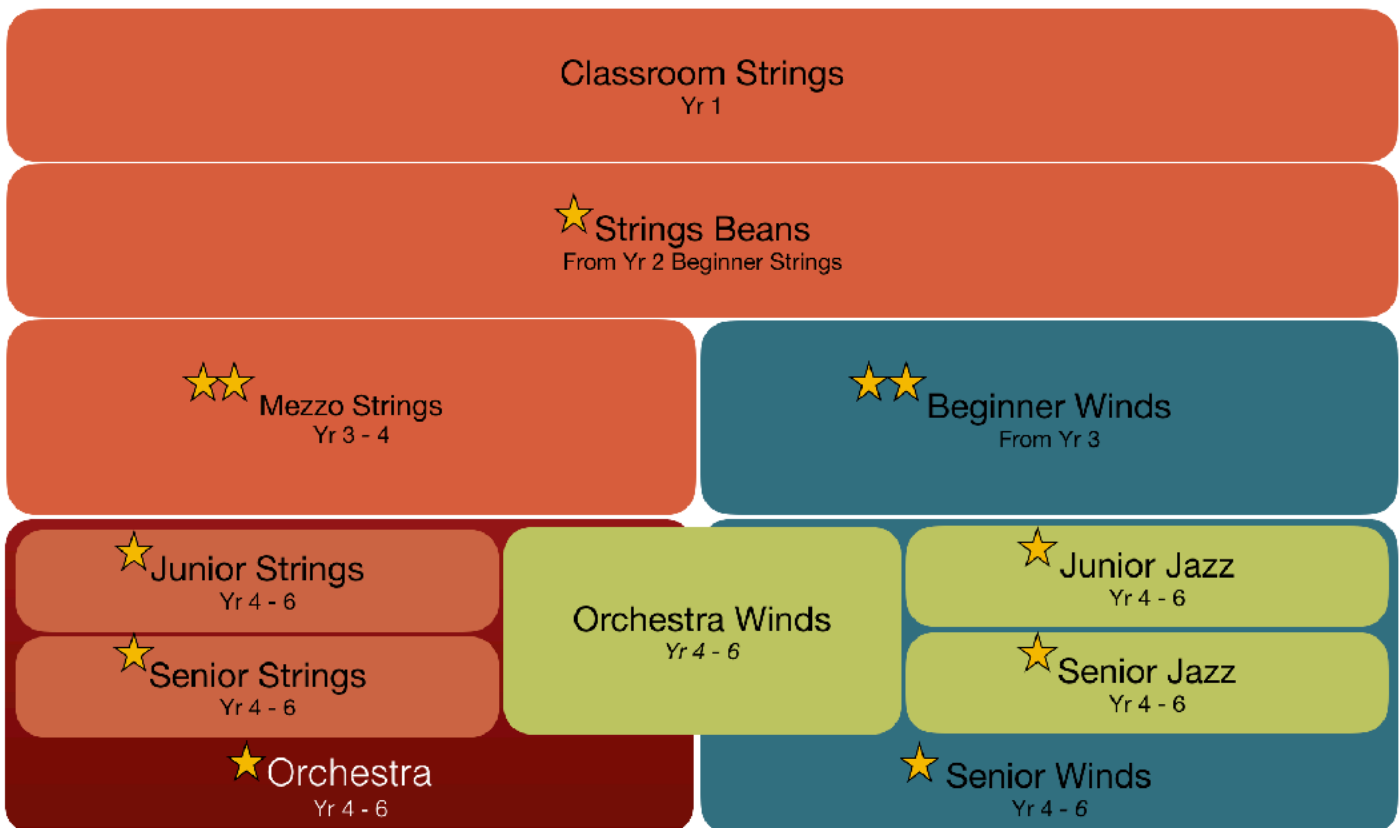
Airs Sunday, 11th of November, 7:40pm on ABC

<https://www.abc.net.au/events/dstm/dstm-tv-promo/10429282>





2021 EHPS Ensembles



The Vision for EHPS Ensembles

The 5 year plan

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
Before School	Mezzo Strings Yr 3 - 5	Senior Winds Yr 4 - 6	Beginner Winds From Yr 3	Senior Strings Yr 4 - 6	
Lunch Time		Group Brass Lessons	Group Brass Lessons	Group Brass Lessons	
After School		Strings Beans Yr 2 Beginner Strings	Combined String Orchestra Yr 3 - 6	Senior Winds Yr 4 - 6	Beginner Winds From Yr 3

2021 EHPS TimeTable



Beginner Wind Band

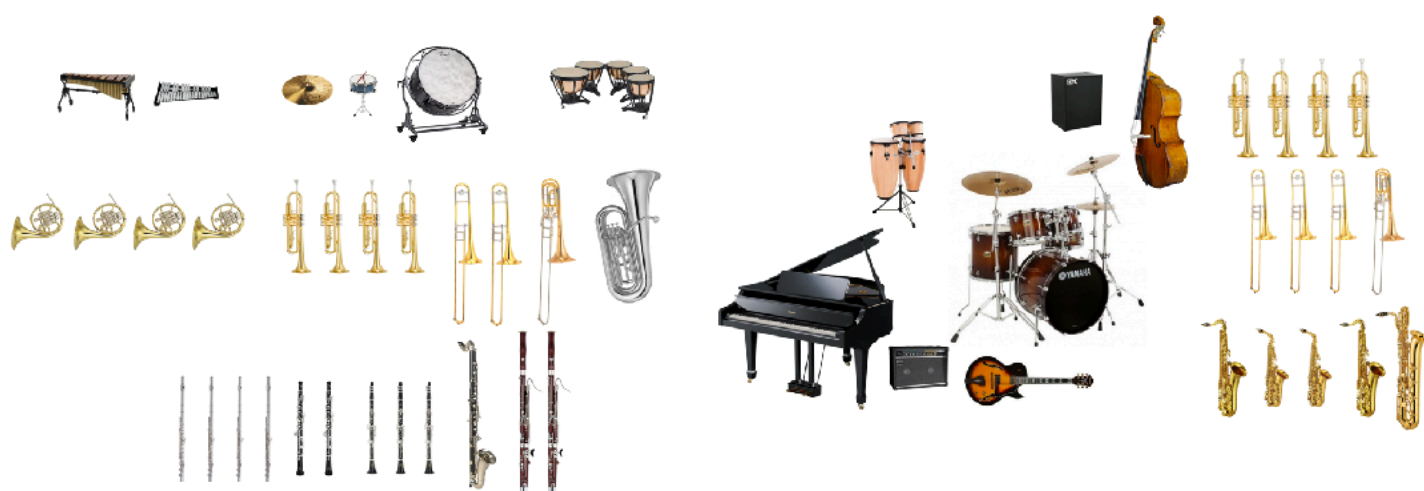
Ensemble size of 20 - 30

Instrument	Year 3	Year 4 - 6
Flute	2 - 4	4
Oboe		2
Bassoon		1
Clarinet	3 - 5	7
Bass Clarinet		1
Alto Sax	2 - 3	4
Tenor Sax		1
Bari Sax		1
Trumpet	3 - 4	9
Horn	2 - 3	6
Trombone	2 - 3	4
Bass Trombone		2
Euphonium / Baritone	1 - 2	2
Tuba	1	3
Bass Guitar / Double Bass	2	3
Percussion / Mallet Percussion	3	9



Senior Wind Band

Year 4 - 6

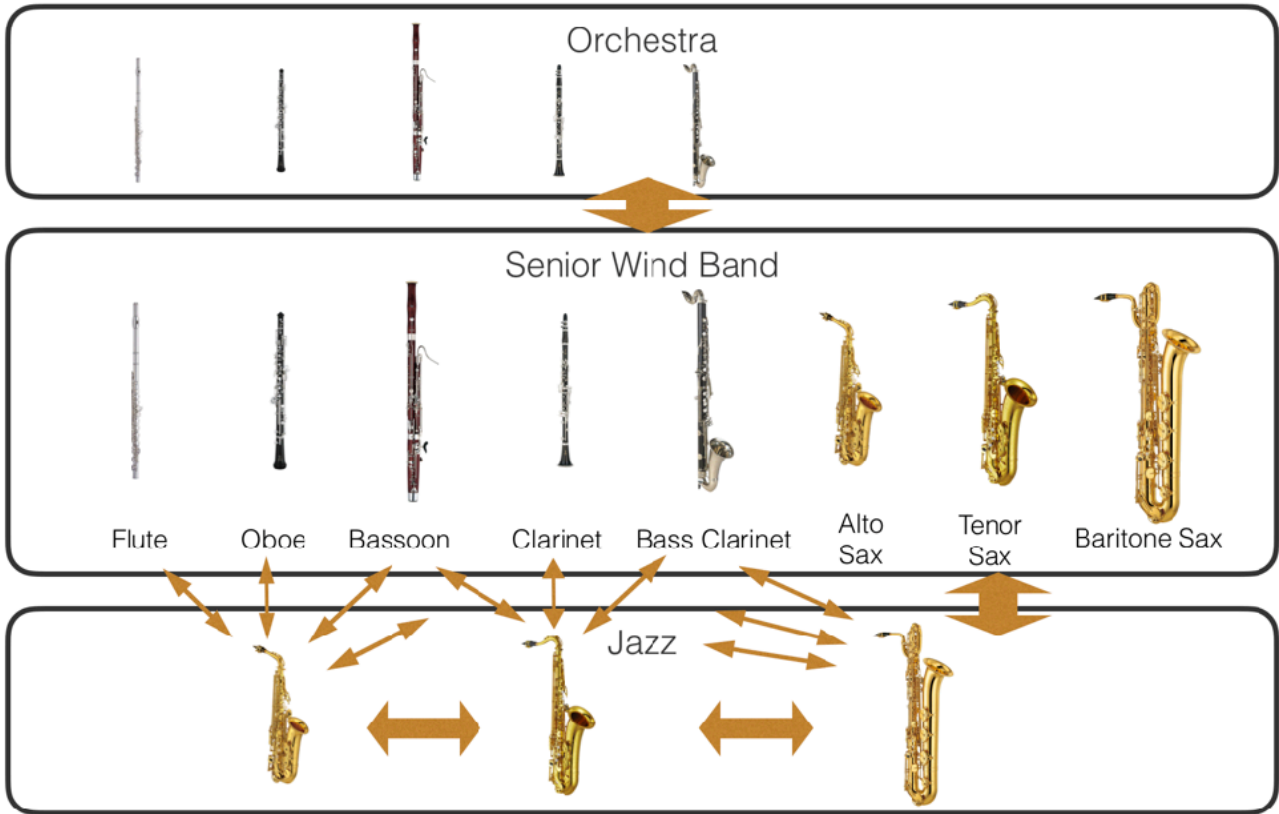


Orchestra Wind and Percussion

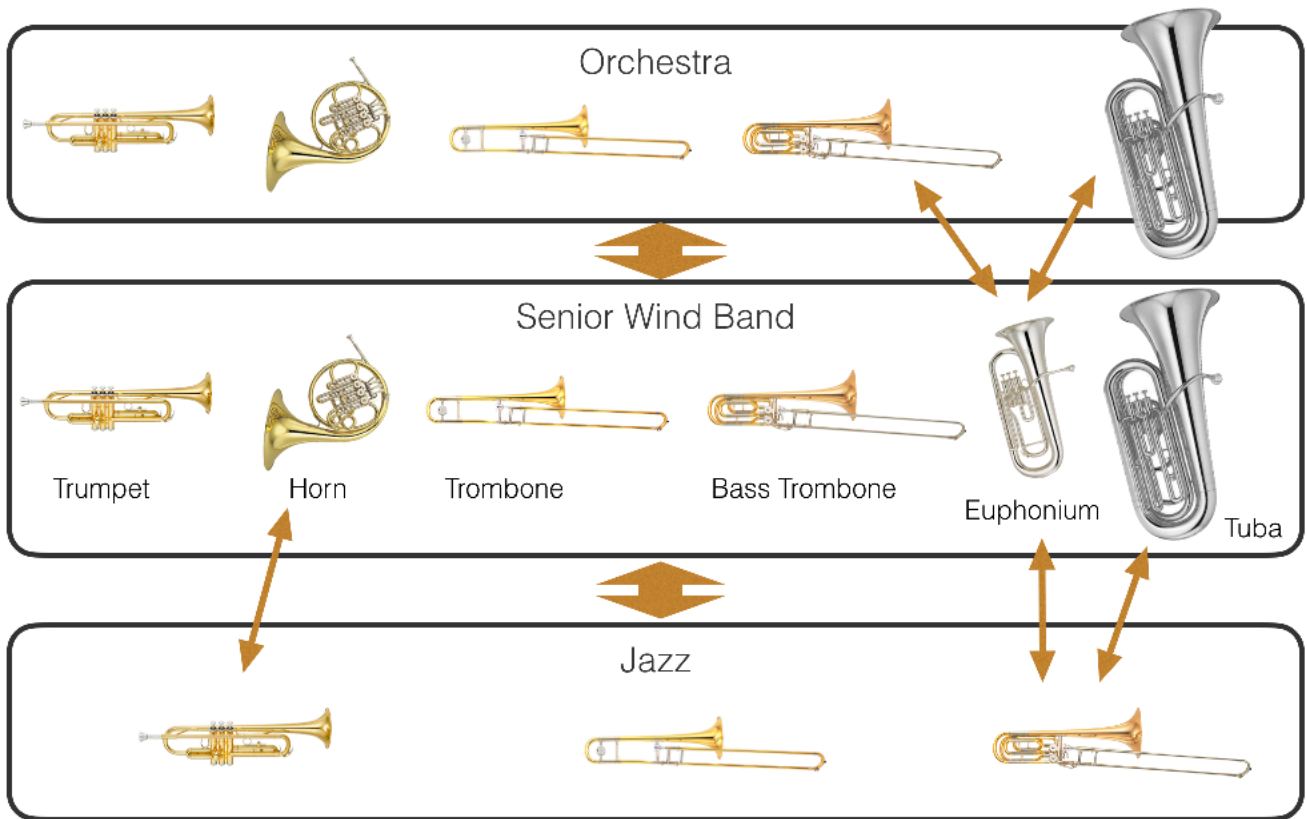
Year 4 - 6

Jazz Band

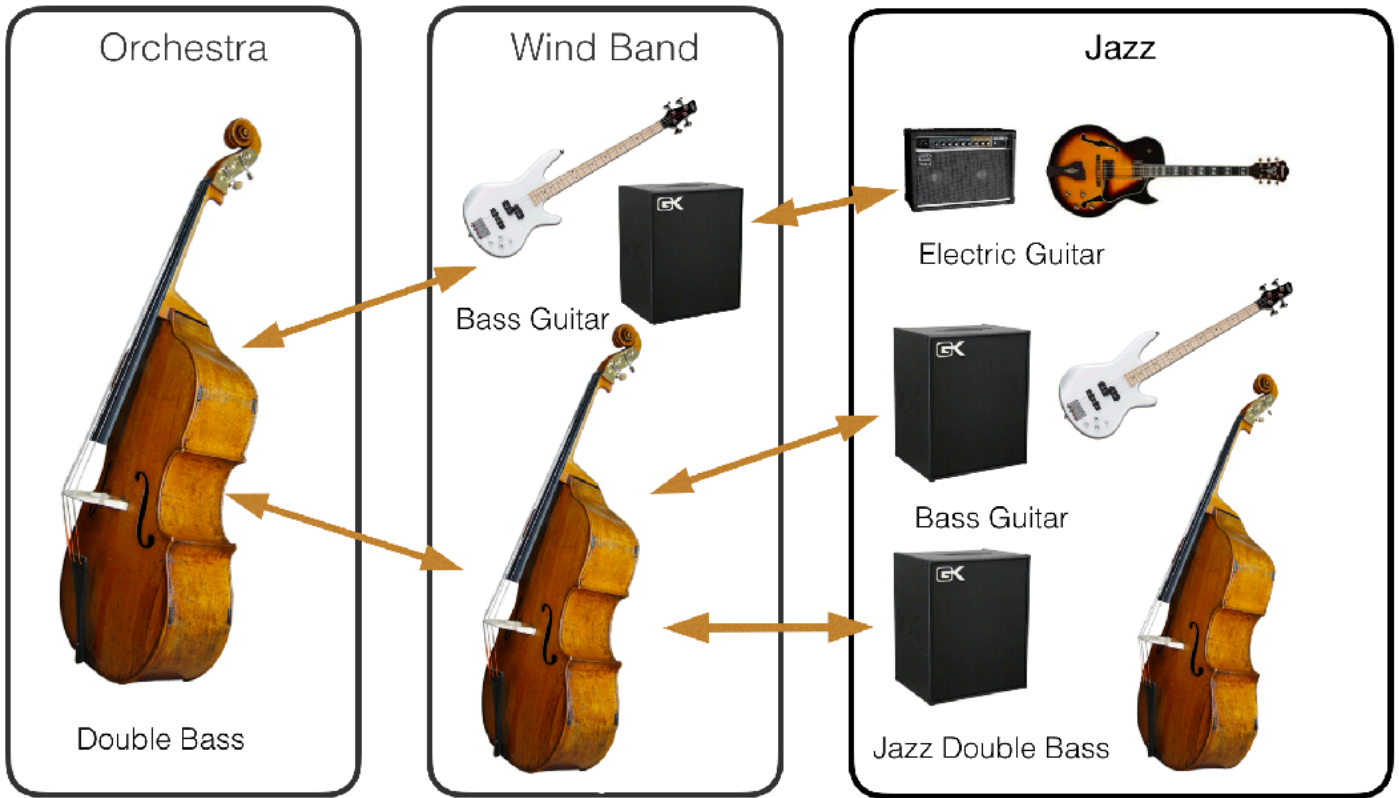
Also know as Big Band



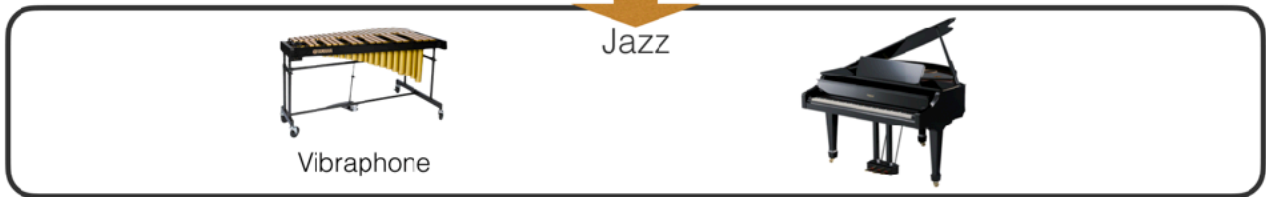
Woodwind



Brass



Bass / Guitar



Tuned Percussion



Percussion

FLUTE



Woodwind Family / Soprano Voice

Flute is a challenging instrument in the beginning.

It is not recommended students begin flute just because their friends, siblings or parents play it, or because Mum always wished she had learned flute.

Flute is an exquisite and beautiful instrument which requires commitment and passion to master. Students who love the flute and commit to the learning process will excel. It is not a good choice for the casually interested.

Physical Attributes

- Arms are long enough to hold the flute to the mouth and still cover keys correctly.
(A curved head joint can be bought at extra cost for students who cannot reach)
- Upper lip characteristics are conducive to proper embouchure.
(When smiling do the upper gums show? This indicates a short upper lip.
A short upper lip or a large triangle at the bottom centre of the upper lip make it difficult to form a good embouchure.)
- Closed teeth meet evenly.
- Good Finger co-ordination and dexterity
Hyper mobile fingers can be problematic

Academic Attributes

- Reading skills are above average
- Focused and patient learner

Character Attributes

- Strong work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently
- Does not give up easily
(The first 6 months on flute are especially challenging compared to other instruments.
Progress can feel slow and difficult. Once over this initial learning hump, confidence begins to lift and progress can accelerate swiftly. The required finger co-ordination and lip / breath control to create a good sound can take a while to acquire)

Blow Test Achievements

- A clear tone is easily produced on the head joint.

Instrument Progression

Piccolo Flute (double on) - Year 5+

Oboe - Year 5+

Bassoon - from Year 5+

Saxophone - Alto / Tenor / Baritone - especially for playing in Jazz ensembles

Mallet Percussion

OBOE



Woodwind Family / Soprano Voice

Not usually encouraged as a beginning instrument, especially in Years 3 and 4. Oboe players generally begin on Clarinet, Flute or Saxophone and progress to Oboe when their hand stretch is big enough, their musical development has progressed well and their commitment to diligent practice has been proven.

Physical Attributes

- Hands are large enough to handle large stretches
- Teeth are smooth and free of sharp edges (which would dig into the lips)
- Closed teeth meet evenly. Braces can make playing the oboe extremely difficult and uncomfortable. A severe “underbite” would also be a problem

Academic Attributes

- Reading skills are above average
- Focused and patient learner

Character Attributes

- Strong self-confidence, as the oboe is often a solo instrument
- Strong work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently
- Does not give up easily
(The Oboe is a very challenging instrument, which is highly rewarding for dedicated students)
- Student and Parents enjoy classical music
- Desire to play oboe is unwavering
- Parental support is strong

Blow Test Achievements

- Not tested at Year 2 blow tests, however an individual assessment can be undertaken. A good sense of Pitch would need to be demonstrated.

Instrument Progression

Cor Anglais

Jazz Ensembles: Saxophone

BASSOON



Woodwind Family / Tenor and Bass Voice

Not usually encouraged as a beginning instrument, especially in Years 3 and 4. Bassoon players generally begin on Clarinet, Flute or Saxophone and progress to Bassoon when their hand stretch is big enough, their musical development has progressed well and their commitment to diligent practice has been proven.

Smaller Bassoons are available for young students, known as the Quart and Quint Bassoon. These are becoming increasingly popular in Northern Sydney at the moment. The difficulty being that the band music does not include transposed parts for the Quart and Quint, so all parts need to be individually written out for them.

Physical Attributes

- Hands are large enough to handle large stretches
- Teeth are smooth and free of sharp edges (which would dig into the lips)
- Closed teeth meet evenly or have a slight overbite

Academic Attributes

- Reading skills are above average
- Focused and patient learner

Character Attributes

- Perseverance and level of confidence are high
- Strong work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently
- Student and Parents enjoy classical music
- Desire to play bassoon is unwavering
- Parental support is strong

Blow Test Achievements

- Not tested at Year 2 blow tests, however an individual assessment can be undertaken. A good sense of Pitch would need to be demonstrated.

Instrument Progression

Contra Bassoon

Jazz Ensembles: Saxophone

THE CLARINET FAMILY

Woodwind Family

Clarinet is to band as the Violin is to the orchestra.

A great sounding band will have twice as many Clarinets as any other instrument. Clarinet is a wonderful and rewarding instrument for young beginners, providing learners with a great balance of physical challenge but fairly quick progress for those who practice consistently.

Bass Clarinet is an exciting bonus which can easily be played by any clarinet student who has the necessary finger stretch. Many clarinet players will play some Bass Clarinet from time to time in their band journey. Bass Clarinet is especially exciting for Clarinet players who enjoy that rich resonant deep tone.

Clarinet is also a great choice for progression onto other instruments including Saxophone for Jazz Bands and Oboe / Bassoon for Orchestra and School Bands from year 5 onward.

The Clarinet Family covers a large range of instruments which are used in Bands at the top level. Most of these won't be seen in Primary or High School bands, but it's useful to know they exist and are an exciting opportunity for Clarinet players.



CLARINET



Woodwind Family / Soprano and Alto Voice

Physical Attributes

- Hands are large enough to reach all keys and fingertips are large enough to cover the tone holes
- Good Finger co-ordination and dexterity
Double jointed or hyper mobile thumbs make supporting the clarinet correctly very difficult
Hyper mobile fingers can also be problematic

Character Attributes

- Willing to practice

Blow Test Achievements

- A clear tone is easily produced on the mouth piece

Instrument Progression

Bass Clarinet (double on)

Oboe - Year 5+

Bassoon - Year 5+

Jazz Ensembles: Saxophone

BASS CLARINET



Woodwind Family / Bass Voice

Physical Attributes

- Hands are large enough to reach all keys and fingertips are large enough to cover the tone holes. Larger requirement than Clarinet
- Tall enough
- Good Finger co-ordination and dexterity
Double jointed or hyper mobile thumbs make supporting the clarinet correctly very difficult
Hyper mobile fingers can also be problematic

SAXOPHONE

Woodwind Family / Alto Voice, Tenor Voice, Bass Voice

Saxophone is considered by many to be the easiest band instrument to learn in the first year. Sax players who practice consistently tend to progress well ahead of the rest of the band in the first 6 months.

Saxophones in Band come in 3 sizes, from smallest to largest:

Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax.



(Soprano Sax and Bass Sax are only used occasionally by top professional wind ensembles)

The note reading, fingering and technique are all the same meaning Sax players can move easily between the different sizes. It can take a small adjustment in lip tension and quantity of air, but students adapt very quickly. The bigger the saxophone, the lower in pitch it sounds. Students who love that deeper rich sound will often begin on Alto Sax and progress onto Tenor and Baritone as their size and finger stretch permits.

Physical Attributes

- Hands are large enough to reach all keys
- Good Finger co-ordination and dexterity

Character Attributes

- Willing to practice

Blow Test Achievements

- A clear tone is easily produced on the mouth piece

Instrument Progression

The rest of the saxophone family

Clarinet / Bass Clarinet

Oboe - Year 5+

Bassoon - Year 5+

Flute - for Jazz solos

TRUMPET / CORNET



Brass Family / Soprano and Alto Voice

Trumpet is a somewhat difficult instrument in the beginning, especially if good technique is not taught and followed.

It is the highest pitched instrument of the Brass family. It has an energetic sound which rewards confident playing.

Trumpet is in the **Cylindrical / Directional** Brass family, along with Trombone and Bass Trombone. This family provides the power, punch and brilliance in a band sound.

Cornet is more **Conical** than Trumpet, so has a more rich and mellow tone. It is a really great for beginners as the centre of gravity is closer to the student making it easier to hold. It tends to reward playing with good technique. Many of the best Trumpeters began on Cornet.

Physical Attributes

- Lips are thin to medium - thicker lips can make for amazing trumpet players, but dedication to good technique is critical to achieve the higher notes
- Front 4 adult teeth all present (2 top, 2 bottom)
- Front teeth are straight and even, closed teeth meet evenly
Large overbites can make things tricky, other Brass family instruments may suit better
- For smaller students, the Cornet is a possible alternative which is less tiring to hold up

Character Attributes

- Strong work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently

Blow Test Achievements

- Demonstrate good lip control with the “flutter” and “fly” exercises

Instrument Progression

The rest of the Brass family:

French Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba

Brass Band - Cornet and Flugelhorn

Jazz - Flugelhorn

(Moving onto Euphonium is easy, most band pieces have a Baritone T.C part which a trumpeter can read and play on Eupho exactly as they would on trumpet, only it sounds an octave lower.

Moving onto French Horn is fairly straight forward also, although the Horn is definitely a more difficult instrument to master.

If switching to Horn from trumpet, get a single Horn in F or use the F side of a double horn. The fingering is Left Handed, but the same as the upper octave of the trumpet)

HORN

Brass Family / Alto Voice

Horn is a very challenging instrument in the beginning.

Students who thrive on Horn are often high achievers and have a focused determination to master difficult skills.

Horn is in the **Conical / Non-directional** Brass Family, along with Euphonium and Tuba. This family provides the warmth and depth in a band sound.



Physical Attributes

- Lips are thin to medium - thicker lips can make for amazing French Horn players, but dedication to good technique is critical to achieve the higher notes
- Front 4 adult teeth all present (2 top, 2 bottom)
- Front teeth are straight and even, closed teeth meet evenly
Large overbites can work more easily on French Horn than on Trumpet

Academic Attributes

- Reading skills are above average
- Focused and patient learner

Character Attributes

- Strong self-confidence, as the horn is often a solo or independent instrument
- Strong work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently
- Does not give up easily
(The French Horn is a very challenging instrument, which is highly rewarding for dedicated students. The first 6 months are especially challenging compared to other instruments. Progress can feel slow and difficult. Once over this initial learning hump, confidence begins to lift and progress can accelerate swiftly. The required lip control to accurately hit the right notes can take a while to acquire, especially the high notes)
- Desire to play French Horn is unwavering
- Parental support is strong

Blow Test Achievements

- Demonstrate good lip control with the “flutter” and “fly” exercises
- Aural - sense of pitch is exceptional
(They sing beautifully and in tune)

Instrument Progression

The rest of the brass family
Trumpet or Trombone for Jazz Ensembles

TROMBONE



Brass Family / Tenor Voice

Trombone is a powerful and fun instrument, it has an energetic sound which rewards confident playing.

Trombone is in the **Cylindrical / Directional** Brass family, along with Trumpet and Bass Trombone. This family provides the power, punch and brilliance in a band sound.

The tricky part of trombone playing is that the slide has no marked note positions, so the young student must learn to aurally locate the correct placement for each note.

Physical Attributes

- Lips are medium to thick
- Front 4 adult teeth all present (2 top, 2 bottom)
- Front teeth are straight and even, closed teeth meet evenly
Large overbites are more forgiving on trombone, however the instrument will tend to point down making projection difficult
- Arm length at least 50cm, armpit to finger tip
- For smaller students, starting on the Baritone or Euphonium is recommended. The note reading and lip control are identical to Trombone, but don't require a long arm. The Baritone can also be more comfortable and less tiring to hold for smaller students

Character Attributes

- Good work habits - willing to practice diligently and consistently

Blow Test Achievements

- Demonstrate good lip control with the "flutter" and "fly" exercises
- Aural - sense of pitch is good
(They sing confidently and in tune)

Instrument Progression

Lower Brass - Bass Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium
Trumpet, French Horn

BASS TROMBONE

The Bass Trombone is the same length of tubing, but usually includes 2 valves adding extra tubing to make the low register possible. It provides a lot of punch and volume for the Brass Section of the band. The bell, bore and mouthpiece are a larger diameter.

Bass Trombone is used in Wind Bands, Orchestras and Jazz Bands.



EUPHONIUM / BARITONE



Brass Family / Tenor Voice

The Baritone is essentially just a more compact version of the Euphonium, which sounds a little closer to a trombone.

The Baritone and Euphonium are for most students, the easiest brass instrument's to play. Their sound is deep, rich and warm.

Euphonium is in the **Conical / Non-directional** Brass Family, along with French Horn and Tuba. This family provides the warmth and depth in a band sound.

Physical Attributes

- Lips are medium to thick
- Front 4 adult teeth all present (2 top, 2 bottom)
- Front teeth are straight and even, closed teeth meet evenly
Large overbites can be accommodated

Blow Test Achievements

- Demonstrate good lip control with the “flutter” exercise

Instrument Progression

The rest of the brass family

Tuba once big enough

Trombone / Bass Trombone for playing in a Jazz Ensemble

Trumpet, French Horn

EUPHONIUM FAMILY

The Euphonium can be a little confusing as there are multiple names and a variety of different looking designs. They all play the same part and role in Band Music.

The Baritone Horn is smaller and more compact, but has the same length of tubing.

Intermediate and Professional Baritones and Euphoniums usually add a 4th valve.



TUBA

Brass Family / Bass Voice

The Tuba is the lowest sounding instrument in the Brass Family.

It is in the **Conical / Non-directional** Brass Family, along with French Horn and Euphonium. This family provides the warmth and depth in a band sound.



The Tuba is an easy instrument for most beginners, the hardest challenge being to transport it to and from school which is why at EHPS we provide one to keep at home and one to play at school.

Tuba stands are used to hold the tuba partially or fully, so the weight isn't supported by the student.

Physical Attributes

- Lips are medium to thick
- Front 4 adult teeth all present (2 top, 2 bottom)
- Front teeth are straight and even, closed teeth meet evenly
Large overbites can be accommodated

Blow Test Achievements

- Demonstrate good lip control with the “flutter” exercise

Instrument Progression

Bass Trombone or Trombone for playing in a Jazz Ensemble

Euphonium

Trumpet, French Horn

TUBA FAMILY

Tubas come in an amazing array of styles.

At EHPS we begin our students on 3/4 Bb or Eb Tubas, which are easy to play and handle for smaller students.

As students progress up and into high school, they will onto larger Tubas with more valves. Here are some examples of what different Tubas can look like.



DOUBLE BASS / BASS GUITAR



Bass Voice

The Bass Guitar is a fairly easy instrument to learn. It provides depth and foundation to the band, especially for Pop / Rock songs.

Bass Guitar is especially important when a band is lacking a sufficient Tuba section.

Bass Guitarists are encouraged to progress onto the Double Bass for Jazz, Wind Band and Orchestra.

Physical Attributes

- Hand stretch is sufficient to reach the required notes
 - Arm is long enough to comfortably reach the neck with good posture
- A 3/4 Bass Guitar can be used for smaller students

Character Attributes

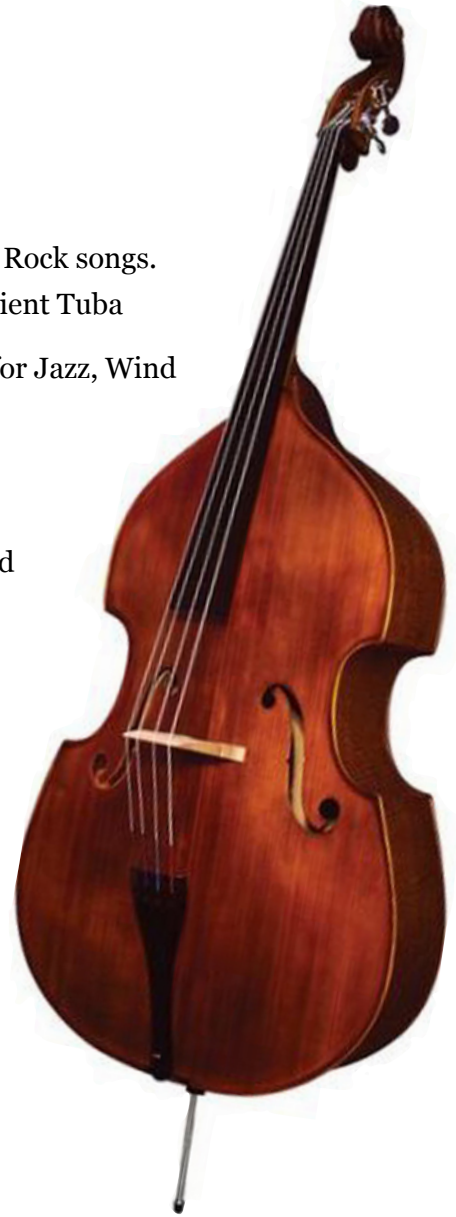
- Ability to sit still and not fidget

Blow Test Achievements

- Steadiness of Beat

Instrument Progression

Double Bass for Orchestra, Wind Band and Jazz Bands.



ELECTRIC GUITAR - JAZZ



Jazz Electric Guitar is an exciting addition to our program for year 5 & 6 in our Jazz Bands. We have had the most success moving students onto Jazz Guitar from Electric Bass.

Guitar is not offered in wind band, as there simply aren't suitable parts for them to play in the music. Building a foundation for ensembles skills on another instrument and then beginning private lessons with a Jazz Guitar teacher can setup our students to thrive on Electric Guitar and be sought after and valued members of their high school Jazz programs.

PERCUSSION



Rhythm Section

Percussionists learn to play multiple instruments. Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Timpani, Cymbals, Auxiliary Percussion (Triangle, Tambourine etc) and Drum Kit. Good Percussionists also learn Mallet Percussion (Xylophone, Glockenspiel etc)

Physical Attributes

- Good hand-eye coordination

Character Attributes

- Ability to sit still and not fidget
- Strong Focus
- Independent learner - often holding down a part all by themselves
- Strong reading skills

Blow Test Achievements

- Strong Rhythm Skills
- Steadiness of Beat

Instrument Progression

Mallet Percussion

Genre Development into Orchestral, Jazz, Rock, Funk, Latin, etc



MALLET PERCUSSION



Rhythm Section

Includes Xylophone, Glockenspiel and eventually Marimba, Tubular Bells, Vibraphone, Timpani and sometimes Piano.

Mallet players often also cover Bass Drum, Cymbals and Auxiliary parts when needed.

Instrument Progression

Piano playing from Chords for Jazz Ensembles / Vibraphone for Jazz Ensembles



Estimated Costs - First Year

Category	per Year
Yr 2 fees (String Beans) 1 rehearsal per week	\$320
Ensemble Fees Yr 3-6 2 rehearsals per week	\$480
Lessons: (30 min per week) Group (beginners only \$ 15 - 25) Individual (\$ 40)	\$600 - \$1,600 \$600 - 1,000 \$1,600
Instrument Hire	\$250
Accessories (grease, oil, cloth, tuner, sticks and mallets, maintenance kits etc)	~\$50
Music Bag (First year incl folder, and band book)	\$50
Band Camp	\$TBA
Total	\$1,400 - \$2,500

Time Commitment

Category	per Week
Rehearsals Tues 2:50pm - 4:10pm Fri 7:30am - 8:45am	2 x 60 mins (plus setup and pack up)
Lessons	30 mins
Home practice	100 mins per week (20 mins x 5 days)
Total	250 mins
Instrument Workshop	A Training Band workshop where students will receive their hire instrument and be taught how to assembly it and take of it.
Concerts / festivals	1 or 2 per term (could be a week night or weekend)
Band Camp TBA	1 x Weekend

WHICH TUTOR SHOULD I CHOOSE, AND GROUP VS PRIVATE?

You and your child have made the exciting decision to join "Training Band". Now it's time to book a tutor. I'd like to share my insight in weighing up the pros and cons of the various options, as well as some general considerations worth thinking about.

OPTION 1 - INDIVIDUAL LESSONS WITH A TOP LEVEL TUTOR

(\$35 - \$45 per 30 min lesson)

This gives your child the very best opportunity to fall in love with their instrument and thrive.

Pros

- Best possible foundation laid
- Paced to your child's development
- Adapted to your child's learning style

Cons

- Expensive
- Less social and/or competitive motivation

OPTION 2 - GROUP LESSONS WITH A TOP LEVEL TUTOR

(\$15 - \$25 per 30 min lesson)

This gives your child access to the very best fundamental technique right from the beginning, but at a significantly lower cost.

Pros

- Good foundation laid from the best tutors.
- Great for socially or competitively motivated students.
- Excellent for learning listening, blending, tone and intonation development.
- Cheaper

Cons

- Group pacing, if parents aren't insisting on regular home practice, a large gap can emerge. This is due to practice quantity and not "innate talent".
- While top tutors will incorporate a range of learning styles within lessons, group lessons necessitate less customisation and adaption for individual students.

OPTION 3 - INDIVIDUAL LESSONS WITH A LESS EXPERIENCED TUTOR

(\$15 - \$25 per 30 min lesson)

Parents often think "we'll just start with the cheap option and see if my child loves it and wants to continue, then we'll move to a more experienced tutor." In my opinion, this is a big mistake. The first year of learning is when all the really important technique and habits are laid.

Students do much better in a similar priced group lesson with a top tutor. They can then switch to individual lessons with a cheaper tutor once the foundation has been laid.

Remember, being able to play an instrument is a completely different skill to being able to teach it well. There are many top level professional players who make for awful teachers. Some of the best teachers no longer perform at all.

Pros

- Cheaper
- Paced to your child's development

Cons

- Lack of experience and track record
- Bad habits and technique can form which are very hard to correct later.

more information can be found at www.NorthernBeachesBrass.com/whichtutor