



DENMARK  
SENIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL

*Strive to Achieve*

# 2023 MUSIC PROGRAM



# Contemporary Band Performances



# OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

## YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Music at Denmark SHS is taught in three different contexts. These are **Class Music**, **Specialist Music** and **Instrumental Music (IMSS)**. It is formed with the philosophy that music is a practical performing arts subject, albeit built on complex theoretical and technical understanding and skills. Evaluation, exploration and innovation are key aspects of the strong reputation our program has developed amongst current music education theorists and emerging specialists in Western Australia.

Our program is sequenced from years 7-12 embedding the current curriculum, where students accumulate skill development, theoretical understanding, the evolution or creativity alongside the more holistic development of social skills, personal confidence and ultimately, independent learning. The practical program design equips our students with a knowledge of the current industry practices, a wide range of skills and experiences that will enable them to lead lives enriched by 'making' music.

The program is designed to start from the early stages of musicianship, learning the instrument, singing techniques, aural development, to graduating with a comprehensive musical foundation that will open up further pathways and opportunities.

### **Class Music**

Every student in Year 7 does Class Music for one term. In this term, they learn the basics of guitar technique, keyboard and drum skills and ensemble performance during one double-period each week. Students work on creative tasks such as lyric writing using songs as references. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in listening, analysis and score reading activities, focusing on the use of the elements of music and key stylistic features of the songs. Students do not need to enrol in this class; they will automatically be placed on a one-term rotation.

### **Specialist Music**

Specialist Music is a 3 year-long course from years 7-9 that is taught in three single periods per week. In Specialist Music, students are exposed to more in-depth performance, theoretical and aural concepts. Learning an instrument is a prerequisite for enrolment in Specialist Music. All students who are learning an instrument through IMSS are automatically enrolled in Specialist Music, as the two learning areas complement each other.

### **Instrumental Music (IMSS)**

Students at Denmark SHS are able to learn an instrument through the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS). In these lessons, they are taken out of their scheduled classes on a rotating timetable for 30 minutes a week. They are taught a specific instrument by a sessional teacher.

# OUR CURRICULUM

Our Year 7- 10 Specialist Music Contemporary Music students participate in a range of practical, theory and IMSS sessions providing extensive musical knowledge and skills, whilst allowing opportunity to extend those with a greater passion for music. With a focus on both live performance as soloists and performers in ensembles, composition and music production, students are introduced to a range of pathways and opportunities within the music industry. Students learn the value of singing and making music, and the connection with wellbeing and training the musical ear. We collaborate with other local industry performers, the TAFE and other industry bodies.

	Semester 1 Focus Areas	Semester 2 Focus Areas
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First ensemble skills- how to rehearse effectively</li><li>Basic theory, rhythms, notes and triads</li><li>Pentatonic scale</li><li>Simple song writing- Binary form</li><li>World music- roots and culture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First principles of music software</li><li>Basic improvising</li><li>Blues- history, 12 bar blues melodies</li><li>Pentatonic scale to blues</li><li>More aural and theory development</li></ul>
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jazz- Roots, history and culture and analysis</li><li>Musical arrangements</li><li>Improvisation</li><li>Sibelius</li><li>Circle of Fifths- key centres</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ice cream chord progressions</li><li>Contemporary 1960s and 1970s analysis, rock n roll, teen culture and interpretations of songs</li><li>Melody composition</li></ul>
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Film Music- composers and analysis, film music medleys</li><li>Original lead sheet compositions- creation and interpretations of a song</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Motown, RnB, Soul, Funk, Hip Hop music culture and analysis</li><li>Sequencing</li><li>Theme and Variation-creation and interpretations of a song</li></ul>
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensemble skills- focus on texture, form, harmony, rhythm, word setting and compositional devices</li><li>Modes and advanced harmony</li><li>Original songs- live recording 101</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Music Industry pathways</li><li>Sonata Form composition</li><li>Analysis of Western Art Music versus Analysis of Contemporary Music</li></ul>

## **Specialist Music pathways**

In Year 11 and 12 music students are able to study general music but prepare for many performance opportunities in the community. This enables a highly flexible program that caters to a range of needs. There is a strong emphasis on our students becoming independent learners, establishing their own focus areas and preparing for music beyond the classroom. Students have a chance to showcase their works in outside venues and learn what tertiary pathways are available.

## **Our enrichment programs/ensembles**

Our Enrichment programs are available to all students of Denmark SHS who are able to play an instrument. The audition process for the below is not restricted to our Specialist Contemporary Music students.

### **John Clark Memorial Band**

Led by the IMSS staff, this ensemble provides the opportunity for our students to participate in a more traditional musical experience, working from a fully arranged score, reading notation and following the direction from a conductor. The ensemble is primarily the Instrumental music School Services (IMSS Program), but open to all students to audition. With the knowledge that students who play in an ensemble are far more likely to progress faster on their instrument, this band creates an opportunity for students to develop their instrumental skills and experience of working in an orchestra environment.

### **Choir**

Our vocal group provides students with voice lessons and builds our singers abilities to sing in harmony, balance with other voice and learn to read music notation and cues on the score.





## Jam Session

Wednesday mornings. Just for Fun! This period 0 session is open to all and takes whatever form suits those who attend. These sessions range from made up groove to focused work on a song students attending are working on and want to experiment with. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend particularly gifted and or passionate music students.

## Contemporary Rock Band

This is an elite ensemble, extended to our advanced players or students who wish to perform advanced rhythms, riffs and melodies whilst learning to improvise and read music notation and complex chord charts. The band works on a combination of traditionl, chart based repertoire and groove ensembles- collaborative compositions with a focus on improvisation.

## Opportunities for students

Music students come from a range of diverse backgrounds and may require additional support, both academically and socially/emotionally, in order to flourish and reach their potential. To complement the formal music curriculum, students in the program will have access to opportunities that include;

- Weekly IMSS lessons
- Opportunities to perform at events such as music showcases, lunchtime concerts, assemblies, recitals
- Learning from visting artists, industry professionl master classes and workshops
- Attending incursions and excursions
- Guidance and opportunity to perform at public festivals, community events, markets busking and competitions
- Camps or tours, building on musical development, new experiences and cultural awareness, and aid in social bonds
- IMSS Festivals
- Mentoring opportunitiesfor our senior students, with our junior students, receiving regular focussed support tailored to their needs

## Denmark SHS Staff

Staff teaching students in the music program are excellent classroom practitioners who have demonstrated a high level of content skill within the music realm and form positive and respectful relationships with their students.

- The Classroom Music teachers create a culture of excellence, respect and built on shared and agreed goals, and embed the Denmark SHS priorities of health and wellbeing, teaching excellence and supporting student success to enhance their learning environment.
- The IMSS teachers are experienced and highly regarded IMSS teachers in Western Australia. The Classroom Music and IMSS teachers work in collaboration to best benefit the music students and program.



## DENMARK SHS MUSIC Q&A

### **I do not want to enrol my child in Specialist Music or IMSS. What do I do?**

You do not need to do anything. Your child will do one term of Class Music during their yearly Arts rotation.

### **How do I get my child enrolled into the IMSS Programme at Denmark SHS?**

Whether your child is a beginner instrumental student, or a continuing instrumental student from primary school, please fill in the Music registration of interest form attached to this document. This will register your child's interest in our Music program. *If you do not register your child's interest in the Music program at this point, there may not be another opportunity to enrol as a Beginner Instrumental Student.*

All new instrumental students are required to sit a Musical Aptitude Indicator Test and an interview which is held at DSHS by our music staff. You will be notified in due course of the dates of this testing.

# DENMARK SHS MUSIC Q&A

## What instruments can my child learn through the IMSS program?

Instruments available for continuing students through the IMSS program at DSHS include clarinet, flute, trumpet, baritone, trombone, and percussion.

Students who are not currently learning one of these instruments through IMSS in Primary School can request an interview to enrol in Year 7 beginner lessons. Year 7 beginner positions are offered for **voice, contemporary guitar, bass guitar, low brass and saxophone**.

The program only offers lessons for one instrument to each student. To avoid conflicts in teaching methodology, students must not receive private lessons for the same instrument. Students can choose to get private lessons for a different instrument and should consider how they can balance the demands of learning multiple instruments.

## My child was previously involved with the IMSS program in Year 6 at Primary School. Is the enrolment into High School IMSS automatic?

Your child's information will be forwarded from IMSS to DSHS. However, please complete the Music registration of interest form attached to this document to ensure their interest in continuing with the program is registered with DSHS and they are enrolled in specialist music.

If your child was previously enrolled in the IMSS program in Year 6, and wishes NOT to continue with the IMSS program in high school, please ensure the Primary School music teacher is aware of this. We ask that you also bring this to our attention by marking your intentions on our registration form (attached).

## Can my child enrol in Specialist Music, but not be part of the IMSS program?

Yes. It is recommended, however, that your child studies or has studied an instrument privately to manage the challenges of specialist music. Priority for enrolment in Specialist Music is given to IMSS students.

## How often do IMSS classes take place and where does my child go for their lessons?

Students take part in a timetabled IMSS class with their teacher once a week. Students are notified of their IMSS timetable and the room where their lessons will take place at the beginning of each term. This works on a rotation so that students don't miss the same class every time when attending their IMSS class.

## What are the compulsory out-of-school-hours requirements, and when are they held?

There are various rehearsal sessions that IMSS and Specialist Music students are required to be involved in once they reach the expected level. For example, in 2022, ensemble rehearsals were held as below. 2023 times will be confirmed at a later date.

Below is an idea of what may be expected (but is not limited to) and when:

- Senior Band – Thursdays 7:45 – 8:45 am
- Choir- Tuesday 8.00am- 8:50am
- Contemporary Ensemble

Students who do not attend ensemble rehearsals or performances must contact their teacher as their attendance is a compulsory component of the IMSS program.

# DENMARK SHS MUSIC Q&A

## **Can I join the Band or Choir even if I'm not an IMSS student?**

Yes! All Denmark SHS students are welcome to join the choir. All Band students must be having regular lessons with a teacher of suitable quality to play in the band.

## **What happens if my child is not able to attend a compulsory event out of school?**

A performance night is used to assess students' practical skills once per semester. Any student who cannot attend the performance night must make their teacher aware as soon as possible so an alternative assessment can be constructed and other students can plan group pieces with confidence that all members will attend.

Ensembles will often have out of school hours performances such as the Denmark Festival of Voice, Albany Eisteddfod, State Music Festival, and the IMSS end of year concert. Advance notice will be given for these events and attendance is compulsory.

## **What are the costs involved to Parents/Carers?**

The costs involved to participate in Specialist and Instrumental Music are considered a 'Compulsory Charge'. The total compulsory charge for participating in these programs for the year is \$50. These are additional charges to their voluntary contributions.

A breakdown of these charges are as follow:

- Instrumental Music (Music Amenities Fee) charge \$40 per year;
- Specialist Music charge \$5 per Semester, totalling \$10 per year.

These fees are payable to DSHS accounts office in Term 1 of the school year. If you require the hire of an instrument for your child, this is an additional Compulsory Charge of \$110. It is compulsory for students enrolled in Instrumental Music to enrol in the Specialist Music program.

## **What process is involved if my child doesn't want to be involved anymore and would like to return to mainstream lessons?**

Initially, your child will need to have this discussion with their Instrumental and Class Music teachers. If it is mutually agreed between parent, student and staff that they discontinue their IMSS enrolment there is a form that will need to be filled in and signed by the student's parent to support this. Once this has been confirmed, the student will need to meet with their Deputy Principal to timetable them back into mainstream lessons.

Withdrawal from class music will occur at a time that best suits the educational needs of the student, usually at the start of the next semester. If applicable, Specialist Music Class costs will be credited to the parent's account.

*If you have any further queries relating to the Denmark SHS Music program,  
please don't hesitate to contact the school on 9848 0100.*

Email: Denmark.shs@education.wa.edu.au

# MUSIC AT DENMARK SHS

## YEAR 7 REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

**This form is to be returned with your Part B Enrolment Form  
to be considered for the Music Program.**

Complete this form if:

- ✓ You would like to interview for a beginner place in the IMSS program.
- ✓ If you are a current IMSS student (whether you are continuing or not in 2023).
- ✓ You learn an instrument privately and would like to be considered for the Specialist Music Class.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Parent/Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Taking part in IMSS instrumental lessons will involve enrolling in Specialist Music and participating in the appropriate musical ensemble rehearsals outside of school time. Students should consider this when choosing to apply/continue.

### **Beginner Instrumental Student?**

Students are able to start studying Music as a beginner Instrumental Student in Year 7. Interested students are required to complete the IMSS Musical Aptitude Indicator (MAI) test and will be interviewed by DSHS Music staff in order to be considered for these classes. Students who don't attend the MAI and/or interview may not be considered for selection. Test dates and more information will be forwarded to students who register their interest on this form.

**If you do not register your interest at this point, there may not be another opportunity to enrol as a beginner instrumental student.** IMSS only offers beginner classes in year 7 and students are expected to continue with the instrument they are offered until at least the end of year 10.

Is your child interested in studying Specialist Music at DSHS and sitting the MAI test/interview? (Please circle)

**Yes**

**No**

*If YES, Circle the instrument/s your child is interested in trying out for:*

Voice

Contemporary guitar

Bass guitar

Low Brass (trombone/baritone/tuba)

Saxophone

*Students previously/currently learning an instrument through the IMSS program are not eligible to swap into these beginner classes, with the exception of saxophone and tuba.*

## **Current IMSS Student?**

Is your child intending to continue with the Instrumental Music program at High School? **Yes or No**

If YES: IMSS Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Current IMSS teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

If NO: If your child is currently studying through IMSS at Primary School, and wishes NOT to continue with the IMSS program in High School, please ensure the Primary School Music/IMSS teacher is aware of this. There is a notification of withdrawal form which will need to be filled out and returned to them.

## **Learning an Instrument Privately?**

Is your child learning an instrument privately and would like to enrol in Specialist Music? **Yes or No**

If YES, Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that priority is given to IMSS students in the enrolment of Specialist Class Music.*

