



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Special Interest Music Centres



Centres of Excellence in Music



History

History of Special Interest Music Centres

In the years 1976 through 1978 the Special Interest Music Centres were established across Adelaide at Brighton Secondary School, Marryatville High School, Woodville High School and Fremont-Elizabeth City High School (now Playford International College).

The concept embraced by the music centres was to foster the development of the musically gifted by sharing music with others of like mind without being separate from the mainstream education of a secondary school.





Student commitment

It is expected that all successful students in the Special Interest Music program will:

- intend to study music to SACE Stage 2 (year 12)
- participate in the school's co-curricular instrumental and choral ensembles
- give full commitment to the total school philosophy and expectations
- attend co-curricular rehearsals and performances as required (out-of-hours)
- give priority to school music activities where a conflict with outside activities occurs
- wear correct uniform for all performances.

Features of Special Interest Music Centres

The music centres function in a spirit of dedication, cooperation, integrity and the pursuit of excellence. Quality music performance is a major focus of the program and we seek to offer a wide variety of performance opportunities for all students. Performance ensembles are involved in various public performances including competitions, eisteddfods and festivals, as well as annual school functions, concerts and intrastate, interstate and international touring opportunities. Each Special Interest Music Centre offers a range of choral and instrumental ensembles such as:

- orchestras
- concert bands
- stage bands/big bands
- percussion ensembles
- string ensembles
- choirs
- small ensembles.

Courses and curriculum

Special Interest Music Centres have special staffing and resource allocations and as such are able to offer unique opportunities for the study of music at secondary level. The Special Interest Music program is available for students who are currently learning an instrument or show musical potential, and wish to study music at greater depth. In addition to Special Interest Music a large number of students from the school participate in Elective Music and other music programs. Special Interest Music students study music as a double subject up to and including year 10. The following aspects form the basis of these courses:

- solo performance
- musicianship
- music in context
- music technology
- composition/arranging
- ensemble performance
- choral performance
- instrumental/vocal studies.

Benefits for applicants

Benefits for students selected into the Special Interest Music program include:

- entry to your school of choice from out of zone
- partial reimbursement of fees for private tuition on one instrument (conditions apply)
- individual/group tuition with Department for Education instrumental and vocal teachers on a second instrument (by negotiation with the Head of Music)
- the opportunity to study music with students who have similar interests and abilities
- the experience of performing in one or more of the school's performing ensembles
- the opportunity to work with specialist music staff.

SELECTION PROCESS

For more than 40 applicants

School's will confirm details for information collection and outline timelines for the selection process after receipt of the Application to Audition form.

Part 1: Short-listing

The short-listing process consists of 3 parts:

- practical musicianship test
- short individual performance (video recording)
- portfolio (please see below for a detailed list of documents to include).

The allocated time for this process is approximately 90-120 minutes.

Practical musicianship test

Applicants are divided into groups of 10 to 14 and taken through a series of musical games and activities during which their musical aptitude is assessed by a panel consisting of 3 music teachers. Applicants will also complete a short, written aural test. These tests do not require any knowledge of musical notation.

Short individual performance

Applicants are asked to submit video recordings of **2** pieces of up to 3 minutes each (either on the same instrument or 1 piece on each instrument). Accompaniment is not required.

Portfolio

Applicants are advised to submit a portfolio that includes (where possible):

- most recent reports from their present school or relevant documentation
- contact details of referees including classroom music teacher(s) and instrumental teacher(s)
- a list of musical, social and/or sporting activities to demonstrate the applicant's commitment and/or long term responsibilities (eg participation in school or extra-curricular music ensembles/choirs, team sports, student leadership, community service, a particular interest, etc)
- any other information or documentation to help highlight the applicant's musical background and experience (eg compositions, creative work, past exam reports, etc).

If successful at Part 1, applicants will proceed to Part 2 in a subsequent week.

Part 2: Audition

The audition consists of 2 parts:

- performance
- interview.

The allocated time for this process is 15 minutes. Parents/guardians **are required** to be present.

Performance

Applicants are required to prepare **2** contrasting pieces (the piece presented in Part 1 may be presented again). If the applicant plays more than 1 instrument they may choose to play 1 work on each instrument. Applicants are asked to bring an accompanist or backing tracks if the works require them. Accompanists may be available with prior request. Applicants are advised to bring copies of printed music (if available) for the audition panel.

Interview

At the interview, panel members will outline the expectations of the Special Interest Music program and whole school expectations. Applicants are asked to outline their musical and other relevant interests, and discuss why they would like to be part of the Special Interest Music program.

The Audition Panel consists of 2 representatives from the Special Interest Music Centres.





SELECTION PROCESS

If fewer than 40 applicants

This process will be completed in 1 day.

The selection process will consist of 3 or 4 parts:

- practical musicianship test
- performance
- interview
- theory test (applicants currently in secondary school only).

The allocated time for this process is 60 minutes. Parents/guardians **are required** to be present.

Assessment criteria

Practical musicianship test

- rhythm
- rhythmic coordination
- pitch discrimination
- intonation
- melodic memory
- creativity.

Performance

- tone quality
- rhythm
- articulation
- note accuracy
- pitch/intonation
- musicianship.

Interview

- demonstrated commitment to a long-term activity
- demonstrated work and time management skills
- academic background
- musical background.

Candidate selection

Entry into the Special Interest Music program is by audition only. To apply please complete the online application form located on the school's website.

The number of places offered in a particular year is dependant upon:

- limitation of class sizes
- individual applicant abilities
- special cause variations (eg One Plan).

Audition dates

Please contact the Special Interest Music Centres for details.



Contact information

Brighton Secondary School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8375 8215

Email: dl.0803.music@schools.sa.edu.au

Web: www.brightonss.sa.edu.au/special-interest-programs/music

Playford International College

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8255 7566

Email: dl.0910.music@schools.sa.edu.au

Web: www.playford.sa.edu.au/study-special-interest-music/

Marryatville High School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8304 8431

Email: dl.0817.music@schools.sa.edu.au

Web: www.marryatvillehs.sa.edu.au/programs/special-interest/music-general-information

Woodville High School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8445 6442

Email: dl.0801.music@schools.sa.edu.au

Web: www.woodvillehigh.sa.edu.au/special-interest-music-program



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