



Macleod College Music Academy

NEWSLETTER

TERM 2, 2020



PRACTICE TIPS

1. Set goals for your practice time
2. Keep a practice journal
3. Break up your practice time into smaller increments
4. Remember that practicing is NOT just about playing through your music
5. Repetition is key
6. Make sure your practice room is set up for effective practicing
7. Warm up mindfully
8. Record yourself
9. Keep your instrument somewhere where you can see it, set up and ready to go
10. Practice something EVERY DAY

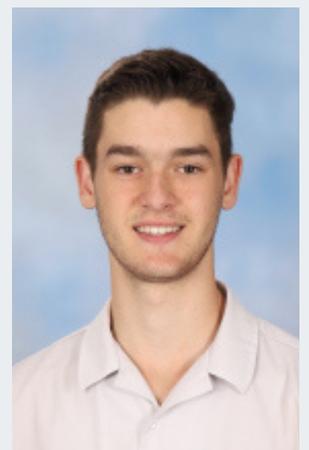
“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” — Plato



CAPTAINS CORNER

BY THOMAS PICTON

As music captain I often get asked why I do music. Music is a universal language and it also has so much history, but for me, I play music to have fun with my friends, to forget about everything else and enjoy. I also see learning an instrument as a lifelong challenge, and see great achievement when looking back to see how far I have come. Stay safe and keep making music.





GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER

It has been fantastic to welcome back our students and to start making music together again.

Unfortunately Music Camp is not going ahead this year, and there will be no excursions in Term 3. It has been a tough year with our two favourite events, Generations in Jazz and Music Camp both being cancelled, but we are working hard to provide performance opportunities and fun, authentic learning experiences for our students.

This week we had the first of our Lunchtime Concert Series, and the Chamber Strings Ensemble played wonderfully. These will occur in the school yard at lunchtime (weather permitting) and the first one was very well-received. Have a look at the Macleod College Music Academy Instagram page, [@macleodcollegemusicacademy](https://www.instagram.com/macleodcollegemusicacademy) to see some video footage. These lunchtime concerts will be a regular occurrence throughout next term, and it is a joy to see and hear our students playing together again.

We are looking forward to our Spring Arts Gala on the 21st of October. With luck, it will be with an audience, but if that isn't a possibility it will still be going ahead. We are currently looking into the option of a live stream, so parents and our wider school community will still be able to enjoy the music.

- Wind Symphony and Big Band are entering the Victorian School Music Festival, which will be done via video submission.
- Big Band are also entering into the Senior Jazz Ensemble Section, which includes a visit to Macleod by an expert clinician who will conduct a workshop.

Choir will also be starting up next term, (with appropriate precautions) please let Mr Flanagan know if you would like to be involved.

Music Support Group

Our amazing Music Support Group consists of parents who are passionate about the importance of Music education. Recently they fundraised money that has allowed us to purchase; Timpani, a Vibraphone, and some much-needed Music Stands. They are pivotal parts of organising and running our wonderful Music events such as Groovin' at the Austrian Club and the Spring Arts Gala (Oct 21st). They are also currently organising an Instrument Drive to support the implementation of our Year 7 Music Program next year. If you have a once loved instrument that is gathering dust in we would love to give it a new life!

Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Music Leadership

Now that school is returning we will be continuing our Music Leadership Course. We count on these extraordinary young people to offer their time and energy to the ongoing growth and development of our programs. This year our leadership team are concentrating on two main areas, to help make us better musicians and to foster our family culture. It is not too late to be a part of it! If any students would like to learn leadership skills and to help create the Music Program that you would like to be a part of please see Mr Griffiths.

COVID-19

The latest advice from the Department of Education states:

"Strict hand hygiene should be followed before and after use of shared equipment in art and music classes. There is no requirement to clean every shared item between use.

Where practical, high touch shared items can be cleaned with soapy water or wiped down with a detergent/disinfectant wipe.

Interschool music activities should not take place.

Specific considerations

Sharing of musical instruments, that are placed in the mouth, such as brass (sic) or woodwind instruments, should be avoided. Where used, these must be cleaned and disinfected between use. Choir and other group music practice, including orchestra, is safe to continue".

That being said we are still erring on the side of caution at Macleod.

- Students must stay home if they or a family member are unwell.
- If a student is showing symptoms they will be immediately sent to the office.
- Hands are to be washed/sanitised before and after entering the room.
- Shared equipment (instruments, music stands etc.) are to be wiped down with disinfectant wipes before and after use.
- Disinfectant wipes, hand sanitiser and paper towel will be provided in each learning area.
- 2 metres between students in ensembles and lessons; the conductor should stand as far back from the ensemble as practicable. Singers should face forward and not sing in a circle formation.
- Rehearsals will run for a maximum of 1.5 hours to limit exposure.
- Condensation from an instrument must be collected in absorbent paper and disposed of in the bin. Liquid from the instrument must not drip on the floor or otherwise disperse in the room. Practice hand hygiene before and after.
- When inside, doors and windows will be opened to provide ventilation as much as possible.
- Students are to bring their device with their music on it to ensembles. In the event that this isn't possible ensemble members are not to pass around music or folders. If music needs to be distributed it should be done by one or two people who use hand sanitiser before and after.
- Should you choose to absent your child from their music lesson (i.e. voluntarily not attending school), please know that these lessons will not be credited or made-up.

Instrument Cleaning

It is always important, but even more so at this time to keep your instrument clean. Please take a look at this resource for instrument specific advice.

https://www.amuse.vic.edu.au/images/www.nfhs.org_-_instrument_cleaning_guidelines.pdf

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Jim Griffiths
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Macleod College Music Academy
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DONATE YOUR INSTRUMENTS!

Old instruments cluttering up your cupboards? Collecting dust in the corner? Let us find them a loving home!

We are seeking good quality instrument donations to support our Yr 7 Music Program.

Our wish list includes:

- Trumpets
- Trombones
- Flutes
- Clarinets
- Saxophones
- Violins
- Violas

To donate any of these or any other instruments, please email Jim Griffiths to organise - gri@macleod.vic.edu.au

