MUSICIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM | MDP
Frequently Asked Questions

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KAMBRYA COLLEGE
MUSICIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

What is MDP?

The Musician Development Program (MDP) is Kambrya College's extra-curricular Instrumental Music and Ensemble Program.

How do I apply for MDP?

Simply go to the college website and under ***College Life*** there is all current information about MDP. Click on the applicable online form and fill in your application.

Is Music a classroom subject at Kambrya?

Yes. Music is a mainstream subject and will occur for all students in Year 8 for one semester before becoming an elective from Year 9 through to Year 12.

If I'm doing classroom music in Year 8 and onwards, is this the same as MDP?

No. MDP is separate and additional to the classroom program. You need apply separately for MDP. However, now that music mainstream classroom is no longer offered in Year 7, MDP is a great way to get a head start in Music training ahead of Year 8.

What are MDP Theory Certificates / Junior Musician program?

Due to mainstream music not running in Year 7 in the classroom and beginning at Year 8, the junior music theory certificates are available to Year 7 or any new MDP student. They cover the basics of music theory, all delivered through a self-paced and interactive resource document. Students can work at their own pace and have the support of their instrumental music teachers. A great way to bridge the gap in learning. All content and materials for the theory certificate are included in MDP fees.

If I'm doing classroom music in Year 8, do I need to do MDP?

Not necessarily, but if you are a musician, it's highly recommended as MDP focuses on developing crucial performance/technical skills on the instrument as well as general music theory. Win, win.

Do I need an MDP Polo Shirt?

YES. This is a compulsory performance uniform item moving forward. This will be added to your MDP fees. You can have a custom name on the back. You'll wear this Polo shirt for all MDP performances.

Can I wear the MDP Polo shirt instead of regular uniform?

No. The MDP Polo is only to be worn for performances – Ensemble Concert, for example.

How long is MDP enrolment expected for?

MDP enrolment is expected for at least the full year and can be continued once enrolled. Students who wish can exit the program if required at the conclusion of a term/semester however.

I'm a current MDP student. Does my enrolment roll over to the next year?

For current students, it will be assumed that they are continuing with MDP the next year and offers/communication will be sent.

How much does MDP cost?

Fees are tiered for students from Junior levels starting at ***$260p/a***. This allows for cheaper group tuition in junior years and more specialized individual instruction in later years. MDP fees work out to be very cost effective compared to private rates.

Our concert levy of $20 is also applied to any MDP student enrolment. Hire fees for Brass/Woodwind instruments is $200 if hiring from the college subject to availability. If Woodwind students choose, they can have a box of reeds included in their tuition fees. Students must also have an MDP Polo Shirt – one off payment of $37.

What are the different lesson categories for MDP?

Students are allocated to three key lesson categories based on their level/year/age. MDP applications/information are also used to influence allocation.

Junior (Year 7/8) – Training/Ensemble type tuition of up to 6 students per group, but usually smaller.

Intermediate (Year 8/9) – Small groups of up to 2 or 3 students per group

Senior (Year 10/11/12)– Individual Tuition

What instruments can I learn at Kambrya in MDP?

MDP currently offers lessons on Voice, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drumkit/Percussion and Piano.

How soon can lessons commence after I've paid?

As soon as a down payment has been received by the office, the Head of Music and instrumental music teacher will be notified. Lessons will then be scheduled on Compass. The instrumental music teacher will then make contact before the first lesson.

Are MDP fees refundable?

No. Any fees that require returning can be credited to your school account to be allocated to other fees in the event MDP membership is cancelled.

What happens if I can't get lessons on my desired instrument?

Places in MDP can be unfortunately, limited and from time to time, this can happen. You will be either offered a position on an available instrument or allocated to a waiting list.

I have lessons outside of the college, can I still be part of MDP?

Yes, absolutely. Depending on the instrument, you may be eligible to join an MDP ensemble and participate in concerts/performances.

I want to learn an instrument that MDP does not offer. Is this possible?

Unfortunately, only instruments offered by MDP can be learned at school.

How are MDP fees structured – why are there two different options?

The government subsidises fees for any instrumental music student who is in an ensemble. Therefore, lessons are cheaper for any student who is actively willing to be part of ensembles. If a student does not participate in ensembles, they can't be counted in funding submissions and therefore will attract a much higher fee in accordance with the Victorian Music Teachers' Association (VMTA) of $39.00 a lesson.

How many lessons a term do I get?

Lessons are attempted at a minimum of eight (8) lessons a term. But we try and do instrumental lessons every week of the term so in most cases, students will receive ten (10) lessons per term or one per week, whichever is closest.

How long are MDP instrumental lessons each week?

Instrumental music lessons are 30 minutes each week.

What materials do I need to bring to my instrumental music lessons?

I will vary from teacher to teacher but generally students will need to bring their instrument (sticks for drummers) and their lesson folder/books.

How are the MDP teachers different to my other teachers?

MDP teachers are instrumental specialists. They are qualified and experienced performers and as such, offer valuable and quality instruction on learning a music instrument. MDP teachers come to the college specifically each week for instrumental music lessons on a part time basis as they often teach at other colleges.

How will my instrumental music teacher communicate with me during the week?

MDP primary source of communication is through Compass, Email and Microsoft Teams.

When are MDP lessons scheduled to happen during the week?

MDP instrumental lessons occur during class time during the regular school week.

Will my instrumental music lesson be at the same time each week?

No. Lessons rotate so that students don't miss the same class every week.

What happens if my instrumental music teacher is sick?

In the event a teacher is sick, students will be notified through Compass, email or MS Teams and a note will be put on the door of the space they usually teach in. Lessons are automatically forfeited for that day.

What's the best way to communicate with my instrumental teacher?

Email through Compass or via Microsoft Teams general/private channels.

What happens if I'm sick on the day of a lesson?

In the event a student is sick, it is courteous to let the instrumental music teacher know in advance or with as much notice as possible via email, Compass or MS Teams. The lesson for that day is automatically forfeited.

Will lessons in MDP be individual or group?

This depends on ability and levels but generally, year 7 students will be allocated to a group lesson by default unless space in the teachers' timetable allows otherwise. Individual lessons are reserved for senior students first.

How do I exit MDP should I wish?

We'd be sad to see you go but this must be done in writing (email is acceptable) to the Head of Music or Arts Administrator.

What happens to my fees if I leave MDP or are exited from MDP?

Any overpaid fees will be credited to your account to be used for other college related expenses.

What happens if I miss a lesson?

Missing a lesson once without notice won't incur any follow up but the instrumental music teacher may contact home to inquire as to why the student was absent. It is courteous to let the instrumental teacher know why the absence occurred.

What happens if I miss more the two lessons in a row?

More than two lessons missed without notice will result in a Compass chronicle MDP attendance concern (yellow post), which alerts parents and school leaders of the absences. Subsequent concerns may result in meetings with the head of music to discuss why non-attendance is an issue.

What do I do if I know I can't come to a lesson?

If you know in advance you will be absent on the day of a lesson, contact the instrumental music teacher directly. In some cases, lesson times might be able to be swapped or moved. This isn't always possible on the day, however.

What happens if I have a CAT or SAC on the day/time of my lesson?

If you know about an assessment in advance, negotiate directly with the instrumental teacher about moving your lesson time. This is the responsibility of the student. MDP teachers do not know everyone's assessment dates/days. Lessons can be rescheduled in this case. If you leave till the day of the lesson, it's likely your lesson will not be able to be rescheduled in time, so good to be ahead of the game.

Where are lesson times posted?

Lessons are posted on Compass every week. MDP students are allocated to an MDP class – ***Voice1, Brass4, Drums2*** etc. These lessons will appear on students' timetables. In the event that Compass isn't available, MS Teams or email will be used. In some cases, MDP teachers like to email out the timetable for the week but Compass is always the primary checking point.

Will my instrumental music teacher collect me from class?

No. It is solely the responsibility of the student to attend their MDP instrumental music lessons. If a student forgets, the lesson is automatically forfeited.

What is an ensemble?

Ensemble is another term for musical group/band. MDP has ensembles as a means for group performance in the program.

What ensembles does Kambrya College offer?

We currently offer: **Choir, Stage Band, Junior/Intermediate/Senior Concert Bands, Guitar ensembles, Drumlines, Jazz Combo, Contemporary Bands, Senior/Junior Vocal Groups and MDP Songwriter.** There are also other (audition only) ensembles related to other performing arts projects such as the college production Cast Choir and Production Band. These aren't strictly MDP as such, but are available to interested students and are very beneficial opportunities.

Why do I have to be an MDP ensemble?

The government/region gives us funding for MDP but only students that are in ensembles are counted. Ensembles, however, offer amazing opportunities to develop and apply musical skills learned in lessons. It makes you a better musician! If you are on the subsidised fee schedule, you have to be in an ensemble.

When do the MDP ensembles rehearse?

Ensemble rehearsals can occur before school, after school or at lunchtime.

Do I need to practice ensemble pieces between rehearsals?

It is expected that all ensemble members practice their parts between rehearsals. That way, rehearsals are more efficient and effective.

Do I have to perform on my instrument in MDP?

MDP strives to develop better musicians. Part of this is performance. It is expected that all MDP students demonstrate performance in some capacity – either via solo performances or in ensembles. It's a great wellbeing boost too!

What performances can I expect in MDP?

By default, we have one Studio Concert a term and one Ensemble Concert a semester. There may be other performances such as feeder primary school tours, assemblies, transition evenings and other school events.

What's the difference between an Ensemble Concert and a Studio Concert?

A Studio Concert features solo performances – a chance to perform in front of a live audience and a chance for parents to see what's being learned in lessons. These are optional.

An Ensemble concert is where all college bands come together for one big performance night. These are compulsory events for MDP.

So, Ensemble Concerts are compulsory? What happens if I don't attend?

Yes. The Ensemble Concerts are a mandatory performance event for all MDP members and at attendance is expected in accordance with the terms and conditions of enrolment and the contract, which parents will sign. Failure to attend this event will result in an additional fee for tuition (non-subsidised) because the student is no longer meeting the ensemble requirement from the region to qualify for subsidised fees/funding.

What are the non-subsidised fees that will be charged for non-attendance at an Ensemble Concert?

Parents will be invoiced remaining amounts to meet our non-subsidised fee schedule for that semester (less any fees already paid). These totals are: $450 – training groups / $600 – small group / $810 – individual.

Can I learn more than one instrument in MDP?

Yes. Students, who are capable and have good organisation skills can sign up to receive lessons on more than one instrument in MDP. This may however, mean that they perform in multiple ensembles and do more performances.

Do I need to practice my instrument between lessons?

It is expected that all MDP members practice their instrument between lessons. To get good value for money, practice on the instrument is a vital part of developing skills. Progress will be significantly halted if the student does not practice. It's super important.

How much should I practice?

This does vary from younger students to older ones but Year 7s should aim for 15 mins a day whereas senior students should be aiming for goal focused practice or at least 1 hour a day. This depends on what the student is required to practice and how long it may take. Goal focused practice is the best – however long it takes to achieve that goal.

Do I need to buy my own instrument, or can I hire one?

It is advised that students invest in their own quality instrument, but hire is available for woodwind/brass instruments for Year 7 and 8 students. Regardless, it is expected that MDP students have access to an instrument and practice space at home. Students who hire an instrument should really look to purchase after their first or second year of learning if they wish to continue. Hire is only available for brass/woodwind instruments.

What is the Songwriter Class?

This initiative allows students to focus on song writing and composition. The class runs like any other ensemble – after school rehearsal but also features one (1) 30 min rotating session through the week. It is in additional to the students' regular MDP tuition and ensemble participation and is optional to participate in.

What happens if I wish to hire an instrument, but Kambrya's allocation of instruments are full?

A recommended strategy is to do a **Rent To Buy** package through one of our trusted retailer outlets for instruments such as **Ozwinds - *www.ozwinds.com.au*** or **The Music Place - *www.musicplace.com.au.*** These packages allow you to rent an instrument, but the rental fee goes towards paying it off allowing for ownership sooner.

Do I need to bring my instrument to school?

If you are learning guitar, woodwind or brass instruments would need to be brought to school, yes.

Where do I store my instrument if I bring it to school?

Instruments can be stored in the practice rooms in the music building. Any music staff member can assist here.

Can I leave my instrument overnight at school?

It's recommended that students always take their instruments home with them. Besides, if instruments are at school overnight or over the holidays for example, how are you doing any practice?!

Am I responsible for damage to hire or school instrument/s?

Yes. Students and parents are solely responsible/liable for any damages caused to school instruments though neglect or misuse – be it through hiring or use during music related activities.

What are MDP Masterclasses?

MDP Masterclasses are live sessions where industry professionals visit the college to deliver a talk/performance to the MDP students in the theatre. It's an opportunity for students to see and hear professional musicians up close and personal, ask questions etc.

Are MDP Masterclasses compulsory?

No. All MDP members are encouraged to attend Masterclasses as these sessions provide an amazing musical learning opportunity but as they are an additional cost, these are no longer compulsory. They're great sessions though, so highly recommend!

Is MDP the same as the Production?

No. Whilst some MDP students are in the College Production, this is a separate extra-curricular undertaking to MDP. Production is a very worthwhile endeavor though!

Is MDP compulsory for Senior/VCE Music students?

Yes. All students completing Year 10 or Units 1-4 VCE Music Performance are expected to be having lessons on their instrument either at school or outside of school. If students choose to have lessons outside of the college, they will still be required to participate in ensembles to demonstrate group performance, meet VCE Outcomes and develop musicianship. It is also expected that our senior students are setting a good example for the junior students.

How does MDP support VCE Music?

VCE Music is primarily about performing and demonstrating instrumental skills. The masterclasses, direct instruction from instrumental music professionals combined with unique performance opportunities (in both Solo and Group contexts) all build and develop vital skills for Outcome 1 VCE Music Performance.

Where can I pay MDP fees?

Fees will be available to access through the parent Compass portal (action centre/events) but can also be paid over the phone or direct by contacting reception the College front office. Payment plans and options to pay in instalments can be arranged via this platform or by contacting accounts. A reminder that a down payment of some kind is required to commence lessons in MDP

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN MDP | KEY INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Being a member of MDP is a great opportunity for students to further their musicianship skills and become a better musician. It is certainly our goal to provide students with as many opportunities to maximise their potential, and to get the most of from your participation. Here are some tips from the Music Staff.

PRACTICE REGULARLY & CONSISTENTLY – THE KEY TO SUCCESS | BE ON YOUR INSTRUMENT

Students should be aiming to be on and practice their instrument daily. Below is a guide to recommended practice times and whilst practicing every day cannot always be achieved, it's best to aim to do so to maximise results. Students that practice regularly will always progress faster and if every day isn't achieved, at least some practice was still achieved. Think of practice as homework for MDP or Music Class!

YEAR 7	15 mins per day	**YEAR 8**	20 mins per day
YEAR 9	30-40 mins per day	**YEAR 10**	45 - 60 mins per day
YEAR 11 (VCE Units 1 & 2)	1-1.5 hours per day	**YEAR 12 (VCE Units 3 & 4)**	1-2 hours a day

BE AN ORGANISED MUSICIAN

Lessons are posted on Compass every week. Get into the habit of checking Compass and making note of your lesson time every week. Make certain that you always arrive ready to learn with all required materials including your lesson folder. Then, take your instrument home so you can practice!

ALWAYS HAVE AN OPEN MIND

Students may not always love ***every*** piece of music they play but remember the music staff at Kambrya are aiming to make better musicians and this means making well-rounded and versatile musicians! Learning/studying different styles, learning to read music and participating in as many ensembles as possible is a critical component to achieving this goal. Have an open mind and a positive attitude and watch how you grow each week!

MAKE SURE YOU'RE AT ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS EVERY WEEK – BE A TEAM PLAYER!

Ensembles are a critical part of our program at Kambrya and the opportunities and experiences that can be had by solid participation is second to none. However, by being in an ensemble, you are part of a team and inconsistent attendance to rehearsals lets the team down and makes it hard for everyone to move forward and achieve their best. Be a team player, be there for rehearsal every week and get ready for a really fun and awesome experience!

LISTEN TO MUSIC AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

Good musicians listen to music for inspiration and to learn. Get into the habit of listening as much as you can. AND, listen to as much different music as you can - Jazz, Classical, Latin, Pop, Rock, Funk, Fusion, Hard Rock, Reggae, Dance, Metal - you just never know where the next inspiration can come from and listening to the masters opens your mind to what's possible. Check out YouTube for great videos too! Just make sure you're watching the right stuff!

Need clarification/more information?

Consult our **Frequently Asked Questions** page or get in touch –

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