

Harp Handbook

Lever harp

- Recommended for beginners
- Usually have from 27-39 strings
- less expensive than a pedal harp- \$2000 and upwards
- sharps and flats (changing keys) are attained by using the levers at the top of the string
- smaller and more portable than a pedal harp
- floor harp (not lap harp) recommended
- Concert/ pedal harp tension recommended to train fingers with correct technique (not gut tension as this is a weaker/lighter tension string)
- May come fully levered (levers on all strings) or semi levered (levers on only some strings). Fully levered harps recommended (semi levered harps limit key changes)
- Semi levered harp may be suitable for the first 1-2 years of lessons



Pedal harp

- Suitable for intermediate-professional harpists
- This is the type of harp played in an orchestra
- usually has from 40-47 strings
- more expensive \$10000 and upwards
- sharps/flats are attained by using the pedals (can change keys faster with the feet)
- usually stand between 160-190cms high

Harp

- Playing the harp is quite similar to piano as it uses both hands but a little more difficult
- Like piano, both treble and bass clefs are used for reading music
- The earliest starting grade is Year 2 (must be mature enough to handle a delicate instrument with adult supervision)
- Piano or keyboard lessons/background would helpful for musical knowledge, but not essential
- Particular importance must be placed on posture (how to sit at the harp) and finger technique to achieve the best plucking sound
- Professional Harpists can perform as a solo performer, a wedding and event performer, an orchestral performer, or in a chamber string group
- Harps require frequent tuning which can be done by an adult or older student having lessons. It is recommended to tune your harp at least twice a week. Tuning the harp regularly helps it stay in tune and will avoid string breakage.

Individual Lesson one student - 30 minutes

- Standard format for instrumental lessons.
- Repertoire and rate of progress is specifically designed for each student.
- Care and attention is taken to establish sound musical and technical facility on the instrument.
- Preparation towards A.M.E.B. exams can be covered in these lessons.
- Exam Class is a requirement for exam students. This class includes aural tests, general knowledge and sight-reading practice together with performance practice. (See section on Exam Class)

Individual45 Lesson one student - 45 minutes

- Only for students who are preparing for grade 3 or beyond exams levels.

Lesson Calendar

- Students receive 32 weeks tuition over the course of the year, divided into 3 Cycles.
- For specific dates, please see current Guidelines and Payment Schedule which is a separate document and can be found on the school Website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Cycle 1 Mid Feb – Mid May	Cycle 2 Mid May – Mid Aug	Cycle 3 Mid Aug – Nov	Make-up Lessons Nov – Mid Dec
11 lessons	11 lessons	10 lessons	

- Lessons are timetabled throughout the School day.
- They are organized, whenever possible, not to clash with Specialist Class lessons.
- Initial commitment of at least one cycle.
- A student who attends lessons on time and comes fully equipped, benefits most during the total lesson time.
- Lessons may be grouped with other students prior to a performance, in order for small ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.

Ensemble

Harp Ensemble or Junior Strings

- Formation of a harp ensemble is subject to the number of students enrolled.
- For students who have been learning between 6 months and 2 years.
- Listening exercises, dynamics and part playing are introduced.
- Parts are arranged to cover the level a student is currently playing.
- Technique, posture and tone development are taught through group exercises.

Solo and Ensemble Performing

- Concerts encourage and motivate a student to focus on a goal.
- The experience develops the student's ability to feel comfortable when performing.
- It highlights the progress of a student from year to year.
- Two major performances are arranged each year.

String Concert – Term 2

- Solos and/or small group items.
- Larger ensembles.
- Students organize the concert; learn stage management and announcing of items.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- A notice is sent to students a few weeks before the concert.



"I just wanted to say thanks for all the incredible work you and the Music staff put into Showcase last Friday night, the standard seems to be getting higher every year! I enjoyed the arrangement of 'Trepak' by Tchaikovsky and am glad that my daughter was able to be part of it. I really enjoyed the whole night; the kids were great!!"

Penny (Parent of a Year 6)

Showcase – Term 4

- Whole school event which includes choirs, marimba groups and all school instrumental ensembles.
- A combined strings ensemble is rehearsed and prepared for this concert.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.



"The two strings ensemble pieces were fantastic, now I see how my daughter's part fitted into the big picture. I will certainly

Australian Music Examinations Board

- The A.M.E.B. is the organization that delivers independent examination services.
- Exams are available for: Piano, Singing, Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Theory.
- The majority of exams are held at the AMEB studios, 259 Auburn Road, Hawthorn.

Exams for Harp

- Exams are available for all stringed instruments.
- An applicant must be approved by the Instrumental Teacher.
- It is a requirement of all students preparing for an exam to enroll in the Exam Class.
- It is expected that students preparing for a Grade 3 or above exam receive weekly 45 minute lessons.
- Students are required to have established a regular practice routine, independent learning skills and the listed technical standard before preparing for an exam.
- It is important a student be in command of the material presented at exams to make the most of the experience.

Exam Class

- A unique opportunity for participants to improve motivation and receive positive peer support whilst preparing for individual exams.
- Designed to cover additional exam requirements such as aural tests, general knowledge, and sight-reading.
- Performance practice is conducted parallel with preparation taught by the Instrumental Teacher.
- Exam Class is offered to students after approval from the Instrumental Teacher.

Information for Exam Class

- Classes commence the week beginning 22nd February and end 11th November.
- Classes may be streamed into levels and run before and/or after School.
- The maximum number of students per class is 5.
- Please mark all possible available times on the enrolment form found in the Exam Class Handbook or Theory Class Handbook.
- Make-up classes will not be provided.
- Written consent from a parent needs to be received to change to a different class time.

Theory Exam

- A group class designed to prepare students for A.M.E.B. Music Craft or Theory of Music Exams (Theory Exams).
- A pass in Theory Exams is a pre-requisite for higher level instrumental exams and VCE Music Units 1-4. However, an earlier start is favoured at most schools.
- Knowledge of Theory supports a student's understanding of notation, including intervals, rhythm, pitch and musical language for their instrument.
- Students are expected to complete set theory exercises during and outside class time.

Instrument

Hire through the school

- A school instrument will be available for lessons and practice during lunchtime. Initially this will be subject to the number of harp students enrolled.

Purchase of an instrument

- If you wish to rent an instrument, Harps Australia (harpsaustralia.com) located in Tecoma have a rental pool of harps suitable for beginners (subject to availability). They also have harps available to purchase and rent to buy options.
- Rental harp cost is approximately \$650 per 6 months. Equating to around \$27 per week.
- If you wish to purchase an instrument, recommended websites to consider are:
 - <http://harpsaustralia.com/>
 - <http://www.harps.com.au/>
 - www.harpcentre.com.au
 - <http://www.carterharpsaustralia.com.au/home>
- Quality second hand instruments may also be found on Ebay or Gumtree from time to time.
- Please consult the teacher or Instrumental Co-ordinator if you are considering purchasing a harp.

What you need

- An adjustable stool to be able to sit at the correct height to your harp! Very important.
- A harp tuner, a small tool for tuning the harp strings. (usually comes with the harp)
- Music stand
- Harp cover to protect the harp whilst moving
- A chromatic tuner – these can be purchased from music stores or downloaded as an app on a smart phone
- The harp must be stored in a safe location away from very small children/ pets that may knock over the instrument or cause damage to the instrument.
- It is also recommended that the harp be stored out of direct sunlight and between 10-30 degrees Celsius.
- Any extreme temperature variation may cause strings to break and damage to the wood.

Music Bag

- A bag used purely for your child's lessons is highly recommended to keep music books, scrapbook, ensemble folder and the Music Record Book together.
- The student's name should be written on the bag.
- Something similar to the picture below is recommended. However, any bag will work well.



Music Stand

- A music stand for practice at home is essential for each student.
- To practice without a music stand involves the use of incorrect muscles and can result in playing becoming painful.
- Compact fold-up metal stands, available at most music shops, cost \$30-40.

Music Record Book

- Each student is required to use the Music Record Book supplied by the School at the first lesson, with a \$10 charge per book on your School statement.
- Sometimes called a "Little Green Book" or "Music Diary"
- This is the main communication tool between teachers, parents and the student.
 - Teachers write weekly goals to be achieved, progressive lesson count and urgent messages.
 - Students should place it on the **music stand** and read before each practice session, and complete the practice register on each page.
 - Parents are encouraged to sign the practice chart before each lesson.
 - It should be kept with the student's music books and be brought to each lesson.
- Replacement books can be requested from the Instrumental Teacher and will be charged on your School statement.
- When a student fails to bring their Music Record Book to 4 consecutive lessons, a new book will automatically be provided and charged on the School statement.

Practice

- Parents should encourage their child to establish a regular practice routine.
- Practice should be in a room with:
 - limited distractions,
 - a door that can be closed,
 - an area where a music stand can remain assembled.
- A student should aim to practise for 10 minutes for a minimum 4 days a week, with an increase in time as the student progresses. Regular practice is important for both the development of general music skills, muscle memory and co-ordination.
- Beginner students should play the exercises and pieces covered in the lessons 3-5 times and count aloud at all times whilst playing.

Helpful Hints

- A student should enquire at the Music Office when a Teacher cannot be located.
- The night before a lesson, a student should place the instrument, music and Music Record Book alongside the school bag.
- A student may wear a watch or bring an alarm clock as a reminder to go to a lesson. Please do not bring mobile phones to school.
- Occasionally a student loses interest in learning their instrument. These may be momentary lapses of enjoyment and with the right encouragement a student can persevere through these times. If you are concerned, contact the Instrumental Teacher to talk over how best to support your child.
- A student's progress may slow for a short time because they are facing a difficult technique or concept that takes more effort to achieve. Extra support during these times will enable your child to overcome and work through these moments. Please contact the instrumental teacher for specific advice. Or the following points may help:
 - Make an agreement with your child about how many days a week they will practice.
 - For a regular practice routine, it's best to set a specific time of the day when one reminder from a parent should help.
 - A practice chart on a wall that your child can see often, using stickers or stars, and having short, medium and long term rewards.
 - Opening the instrument case and getting ready for "practice later" often inspires the "pick up the instrument and play straight away".

Instrumental Music Guidelines

Payment Structure and Schedule

In the parent portal on Compass in School Documentation, EHPS parents/guardians can access the current "Instrumental Update" which includes:

- Cycle dates
- Guidelines
- Payment structure and schedule



Enrolment for Harp Lessons

Student

Class

1 Select your Instrument

☒

Harp

2 Have you had lessons before?

☐
☐

No, go to question 5

Yes, go to question 3

3 How long have you been learning?

Years/terms

4 Have you done an Exam on your instrument?

☐
☐

No, go to question 5

Yes. Please complete an Exam history form.

5 Select the Type of Lesson

☐
☐

Individual (1 student, 30 minutes)

Individual45 (only AMEB Gr3 or above)

☒

Enrolment in String Ensemble

6 Do you have an instrument?

☐
☐

Yes, go to question 8

No, go to question 7

7 Do you need to hire from School?

☐
☐

Yes

No

8 Special requests:

Parent/Guardian Authorization

- I agree with the current Guidelines & Payment Schedule and conditions set out in the Harp Handbook.
- I have discussed the conditions with my child and the responsibilities are understood.
- The enrolment is ongoing until the School receives a withdrawal in writing or my child leaves the school.
- I agree to my contact details being available to the Instrumental Teacher.

Name

Phone

Mobile

Email

Name	
Home:	Work:
Mobile	
Email	

Signature

/ /20

Office Use:	Date received	MM	Scan	Notes	TT	MPSlip	Hire	Ensemble
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