



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

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.

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 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 (lunch hour, after school, weekend)
- 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 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 in Years 8, 9 and 10 study music as a double subject. 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 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 DECD instrumental and vocal teachers on a second instrument (by negotiation with the Head of Music)
- Limited travel reimbursement may be available for students living more than 5kms from the school of choice
- 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 specially selected staff

Candidate Selection

Entry into the Special Music Program is by audition only. Application may be made either by completing the form included in this brochure or online at the following web addresses:

Brighton Secondary School
www.brightonss.sa.edu.au

Fremont-Elizabeth City High School
www.fechs.sa.edu.au

Marryatville High School
www.marryatvillehs.sa.edu.au

Woodville High School
www.woodvillehs.sa.edu.au

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

- Limitation of class sizes of each school
- Individual applicant abilities
- Special cause variations. (e.g. Negotiated Education Plan, Individual Education Plan, Individual Learning Plan)

SELECTION PROCESS

If more than 40 applicants

This process will be completed over TWO days for students who are successful at Part 1.

Selection Process - Part 1: Short-listing

The short-listing process consists of two parts:

- Practical musicianship test
- Short individual performance

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

Practical musicianship test

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

Short individual performance

Applicants are asked to present ONE piece of up to three minutes on their (main) instrument. No accompaniment is required. Applicants are advised to bring a copy of the printed music if available.

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

Part 2: Audition

The audition consists of two parts:

- Performance
- Interview

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

Performance

Applicants need to prepare 2 contrasting pieces (the piece presented in Part 1 may be presented again). If applicant plays more than one instrument they may choose to play one 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

Applicants are advised to bring a portfolio that includes:

- Most recent reports from their present school or relevant documentation
- References from Instrumental Teachers
- A list of musical, social and/or sporting activities to demonstrate the applicant's commitment and/or long term responsibilities. (e.g. 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. (e.g. compositions, creative work, past exam reports, etc.)

At the interview, panel members will outline the expectations of the Special Interest Music program and the whole school expectations. Applicants are asked to outline their musical interests and other relevant interests.

The Audition Panel consists of the Heads of Music (or representatives) of each of the Special Interest Music Centres for which your child is applying.





SELECTION PROCESS

If fewer than 40 applicants

This process will be completed in ONE day.

The selection process will consist of three or four parts:

- Practical musicianship test
- Performance
- Interview
- Theory test (applicant in years 8-10 only as per the descriptions previously stated in this brochure).

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

Assessment Criteria:

Practical musicianship test

- Rhythm
- Rhythmic co-ordination
- 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.
- Instrument played.
- Musical background.

Audition Dates

Auditions for Year 7 students for entry to Year 8 the following year will be held in May/June.

Auditions for Years 9-10 for entry the following year will be held in Semester 2.



Contact Information

Brighton Secondary School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8375 8215

Fax: +61 8 8296 0949

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

Fremont-Elizabeth City High School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8255 7566

Fax: +61 8 8287 1113

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

Marryatville High School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8304 8431

Fax: +61 8 8304 8488

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

Woodville High School

Head of Music

Music Centre Phone: +61 8 8445 6442

Fax: +61 8 8244 4095

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



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

