



Tangara

MUSIC ACADEMY

2026 HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents
2. Welcome
3. Tangara Music Academy Overview and Framework
4. Staff
5. Junior School Ensembles
6. Secondary School Ensembles
7. Performance Opportunities
8. Instrumental / Voice Tuition
9. Junior School Ensemble Program
10. Ensemble Fees
11. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
12. Additional Information

Click on the links above to go directly to the relevant page



Welcome

Dear Students and Parents,

I am excited to extend a warm welcome to all students and their families who are joining or continuing the enriching musical journey at Tangara's Music Academy. At the heart of our academy lies a dedicated team of passionate and highly skilled music educators, committed to guiding students through an inspiring voyage of artistic growth and self-discovery.

Our mission at Tangara Music Academy is in harmony with Tangara School's overarching goals, guided by the school's ethos where we nurture each student's journey towards personal and collective excellence, fostering a profound sense of belonging and achievement.

In addition to the weekly instrumental lessons and ensemble rehearsals, our students will have the privilege of showcasing their talents at a variety of events throughout the year. These performances offer not only moments of joy but also opportunities for honing their musical skills and creativity.

I wish to extend my gratitude to parents for their encouragement and dedication to nurturing their child's musical potential. As we embark on this journey of musical exploration together, we eagerly anticipate the moments of inspiration, learning, and accomplishment that lie ahead.

Welcome to the Tangara Music Academy, where the love of music takes centre stage.

Warm regards,



Mr Joel Richardson
Head of Music, Tangara School for Girls

Tangara School for Girls: Music Academy



Tangara Music Academy Overview

The Tangara Music Academy is committed to providing a comprehensive music education program that encompasses both private music tuition and ensemble experiences. This overview outlines our structured approach to nurturing students' musical growth and fostering a deep appreciation for the art of music.

Our program offers private music tuition for voice and a range of instruments, including Woodwind, Brass, Strings and Percussion, conducted during school hours. These one-on-one sessions are designed to provide personalised instruction tailored to each student's skill level and musical interests.

In addition to private tuition, our program places significant emphasis on ensemble experiences that amplify students' musical growth. We offer a diverse array of ensemble options, including large and small instrumental ensembles, choirs, contemporary ensembles, and more. Active participation in the primary ensembles is compulsory and seamlessly integrated into our school day. And our Secondary ensembles are provided as an extracurricular option for students wanting to continue their musical experiences outside of the curriculum.

We aim to facilitate skill development and personal growth in students by providing a platform for them to cultivate their music skills. Weekly group lessons and daily practice sessions foster their growth as musicians and individuals.

Ensemble experiences within diverse groups encourage teamwork, creative expression, and a sense of unity among our students. These musical interactions complement and enrich our school's classroom music curriculum, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and community.

Through the combination of private music tuition and ensemble experiences, Tangara Music Academy strives to unlock the full potential of each student's musical journey. This framework ensures a structured and holistic approach to music education, promoting skill development, personal growth, and the embodiment of our core values.

Staff

Tangara Music Academy is proud to introduce you to our esteemed teaching and peripatetic staff – a team of dedicated and passionate music educators who will guide students on an exciting journey of artistic growth and self-discovery. With diverse backgrounds and expertise, they inspire the next generation through personalised instruction, mentorship, and a profound love for music: Access the [2026 Peripatetic Bio Page](#) list here.

Name	Role	Ensemble and/or Tuition
Mr Joel Richardson	Head of Music	Concert Band, Stage Band and 3-4 Primary Band
Mrs Lucy Roh	Music Teacher	Secondary Chapel Choir, Primary Chapel Choir
Miss Gaia Fahed	Peripatetic and Ensemble Coordinator	Violin Small Groups
Ms Angelique Goldsworthy	Infant and Primary Music Teacher	N/A
Mrs Virginia Harrison	Peripatetic Staff	3-6 Choirs, Secondary Vocal Group, Voice Lessons (K-12)
Mrs Alexandra Quinn	Peripatetic Staff	3-6 String Ensembles, Secondary String Ensemble
Mr Ishaan Vellani	Peripatetic Staff	Woodwinds (Saxophone and Clarinet) 5-6 Band (Winds)
Mrs Lee Akinsanya	Peripatetic Staff	Piano
Mrs Julie Park	Peripatetic Staff	Piano
Ms Mandy Ng	Peripatetic Staff	Piano
Miss Amy Biniars	Peripatetic Staff	Guitar and Composition
Ms Teresa Gutierrez	Peripatetic Staff	Drums and Mallet Percussion
Mrs Jan Joyce	Peripatetic Staff	Piano, Flute and Musicianship
Miss Zara Vellani	Peripatetic Staff	Cello
Mrs Jacki Cooper	Peripatetic Staff	Voice (5-12)

2026 Junior School Ensembles

Every Thursday afternoon, years 3-6 students take part in one of six Junior School music ensembles:

- Years 3–4 Choir
- Years 5–6 Choir
- Years 3–4 Primary Training Band (beginner winds, brass, percussion)
- Years 5–6 Primary Concert Band (continuing winds, brass, percussion)
- Years 3–4 Primary Training Strings (beginner strings)
- Years 5–6 Primary String Ensemble (continuing strings)

To support the instrumental program, all students learning an instrument also attend a **weekly small group lesson** with a specialist teacher. These sessions focus on:

- Building strong technique and correct finger positions
- Developing tone quality and dynamic control
- Learning music theory and notation skills
- Performing expressively as part of an ensemble

Primary Choirs (Years 3–4 and Years 5–6)

The Primary Choirs give students the opportunity to develop their singing skills in a supportive and energetic environment. Weekly rehearsals focus on:

- Healthy vocal technique and breath control
- Pitch accuracy and harmony singing
- Expressive performance skills, including stage presence and confidence
- Basic music literacy and listening skills

Repertoire is selected to suit each age group, incorporating a variety of musical styles. Choir members also engage in elements of movement and presentation to enhance performances.

Primary Training Band (Years 3–4)

This ensemble is for beginner woodwind, brass, and percussion players. Students follow the *Sound Innovations – Book 1* method book, building strong foundations in tone, rhythm, note reading, and ensemble playing.

All students in this group are beginner players. Instrument options include flute, clarinet, and saxophone through our small group tuition program.

Other instruments (e.g. trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, tuned/untuned percussion) may only be played if the student also receives private tuition to build the required skills.

Piano students may be assigned parts covering treble clef, bass clef, or tuned percussion.

Primary Concert Band (Years 5–6)

Designed for continuing players, this ensemble performs a wider range of repertoire suited to intermediate skill levels. Students develop higher-level ensemble skills, musical expression, and performance confidence. New players in Years 5-6 may join only if they also commit to private peripatetic lessons to support accelerated learning.

Piano/Keyboard Positions

A limited number of piano/keyboard positions are available in the 5-6 Primary Concert Band to fill specific instrumental gaps (e.g. flute, oboe, bassoon, mallet percussion). These parts are written for other instruments and may involve single-hand treble clef or bass clef lines.

- **Minimum standard:** AMEB Grade 3 (or equivalent) recommended for reading fluency.
- Highly advanced pianists should note that parts are intentionally less technically demanding than standard piano repertoire. The focus is on ensemble playing, accuracy, and blend. The parts offered are either treble OR bass clef, not both.
- Placement is based on ensemble needs and may require a short trial or audition.
- Students not placed on piano will be encouraged to consider another band instrument or choir.

Primary Training String Ensemble (Years 3–4)

This ensemble is for beginner violin and cello players. Students follow the *Sound Innovations – Book 1* method book, learning core skills such as posture, bowing, intonation, and music reading, while gaining early ensemble experience.

Primary String Ensemble (Years 5–6)

For continuing string players, this ensemble works on more challenging repertoire, refining technique, musical interpretation, and ensemble performance. New string players in Years 5–6 must also undertake private peripatetic lessons to support their progress.

Small Group Singing Class (K-2)

Small group singing classes are available for students in Kindergarten, Year 1, and Year 2. The lessons are fun-filled and action-packed, providing an opportunity for students to learn all aspects of safe singing, including movement, presentation, and basic music theory.

2026 Secondary School Ensembles

Tangara offers a range of co-curricular music ensembles for Secondary students, providing opportunities to develop advanced ensemble skills and perform regularly throughout the year. Rehearsals are held at lunchtime, with multiple performance opportunities at school and community events.

Secondary Vocal Group

The Secondary Vocal Group performs across a variety of styles, including pop, musical theatre, and choral works. Members build skills in harmony singing, vocal technique, and stage presentation. Most students progress into this group from the Year 6 Choir, although entry is open to other experienced singers.

Concert Band

The Concert Band (formerly the Secondary Instrumental Ensemble) is open to all students in Years 7–12. It welcomes all brass, woodwind, and percussion players performing a broad repertoire from classical arrangements to contemporary works. Members develop ensemble balance, sight-reading, and performance confidence.

Stage Band

The Stage Band is a smaller, auditioned ensemble specialising in jazz and related styles. It features traditional jazz instrumentation, including brass, woodwind, and a rhythm section. Students explore swing, bebop, modern jazz, and fusion, with opportunities to develop improvisation skills and perform in an engaging, high-energy setting.

Secondary String Ensemble *(New in 2026)*

The Secondary String Ensemble is open to violin, viola, cello, and double bass players in Years 7–12. The group performs a varied repertoire from classical works to contemporary string arrangements, with a focus on ensemble blend, intonation, and expressive playing. Members refine advanced techniques, sight-reading, and performance skills, and have opportunities to perform at school events and external festivals.

Access the [2026 ENSEMBLE TIMETABLE](#) here.

Performance Opportunities

Tangara School Events:

- Recital Evening
- School Assemblies
- Presentation Evening
- Lunchtime Concert Series
- Live At The Library
- Biannual Twilight Markets
- Redfield Carols on the Green

Other Events:

- Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival
- Sydney Eisteddfod
- Ryde Eisteddfod
- IPSHA Performing Arts Festival
- Australian Music Theatre Festival

....more to come soon!

Recent Awards:

The Tangara Secondary Concert Band has received a Gold Award (2024) and Silver Award (2025) at the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival.

Instrument and Voice Tuition

Tangara Music Academy is proud to present a diverse range of individual private music lessons, encompassing violin, cello, piano, clarinet, voice, flute, alto saxophone, and tenor saxophone and percussion. Additionally, we offer Musicianship lessons and AMEB preparation (see [FAQ](#) for more information).

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Peripatetic Music lessons at Tangara are conducted during school hours, as well as before and after school (based on availability). The cost for these sessions varies from \$45 to \$57.50 per week for a half-hour session. Senior students have the option to extend their lesson duration, subject to consultation with their instructor. Group lessons may be available and the cost will be determined by the tutor.

Small group singing lessons are available for students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. The lessons are fun-filled, action packed and an opportunity for students to learn all aspects of safe singing, including movement, presentation and basic music theory. These group classes have limited numbers and are \$25 per lesson, per week.

Enrolment Process

Enrolments for Private Instrumental and Voice Lessons open in Term 4 of the previous year. Follow these steps for enrolling in the lessons:

Access the Tangara Parents Portal

Navigate to Daybook > Pupil Daybook

Add a New Entry

Select the Private Music Tuition Form

Proceed by choosing your desired instrument, detailing relevant experience, desired outcomes and selecting a tutor. To finalise the process you will be required to confirm that you have read, understood and agree to comply with the terms of the [Peripatetic Teaching Policy](#)

Important Note: To ensure your tuition place for the upcoming year, please complete the online enrolment within a fortnight of enrolments opening. *For any other inquiries or clarifications, contact us at musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au*

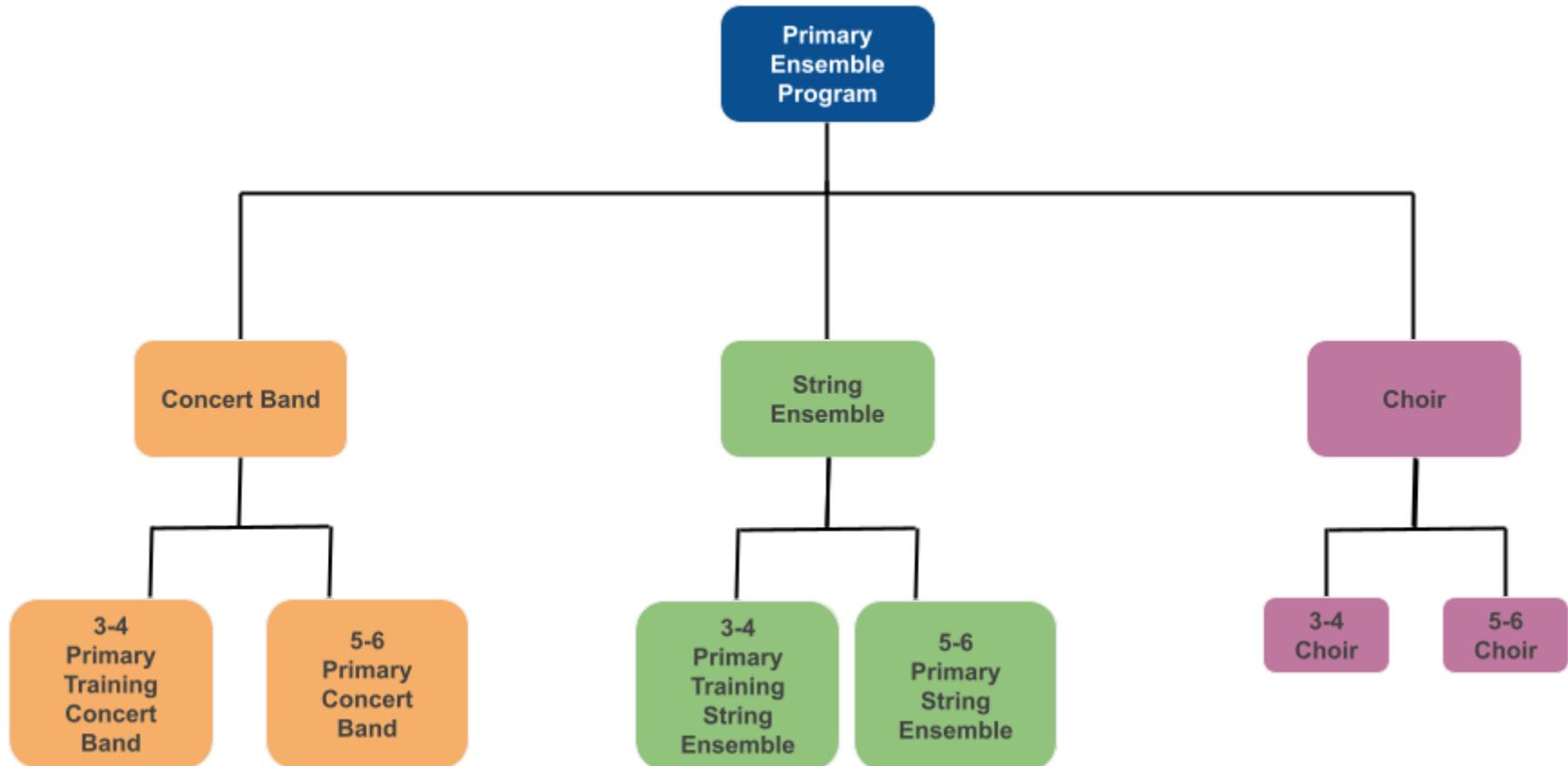
Junior School Ensemble Program

As part of Tangara's Junior School Music Program, all students from Years 3 to 6 take part in either a String Ensemble, Concert Band, or Choir.

Research shows that learning an instrument or singing in a choir enhances children's cognitive processing skills, language development, socio-emotional skills, and overall wellbeing. Tangara is proud to offer this program to enrich the development of the whole child.

Year 2 Information: Each year in Term 4, Year 2 students participate in the *Instrumental Discovery Program*. This program allows students to explore a variety of instruments and, in some cases, try playing them. It is an excellent opportunity for your daughter to discover new instruments and consider learning one privately in the following year. Parents are encouraged to discuss these options with their child. Information about the Junior School Ensemble Program enrolment process will be communicated via email.

Junior School Ensemble Program Structure



While ensembles are organised by year group for timetabling purposes, there are occasions when Years 3–4 students may be invited to join Years 5–6 performances. In some cases, Primary students demonstrating exceptional skill may also be invited to participate in Secondary ensemble performances, subject to director approval. These opportunities provide valuable extension and performance experiences.

Junior School Ensemble Program Components

Ensemble	Large Ensemble Lesson	Small Group Instruction with Instrument Specialist	Instrument Hire & Servicing Provided	Ensemble Sheet Music Provided	Additional Resources	Levy	Spaces
Primary Training Concert Band Years 3–4 beginner (winds/brass/percussion)	Weekly (50 minutes)	Weekly (25 minutes)	Yes	Yes	<i>Sound Innovations – Book 1</i> (purchased through school, charged to Term 1 fees)	\$310 + Method Book	30 spaces
Primary Concert Band Years 5–6 – continuing (winds/brass/percussion)	Weekly (50 minutes)	Weekly (25 minutes)	Yes	Yes	–	\$310	No limit
Primary Training String Ensemble Years 3–4 (beginner strings)	Weekly (50 minutes)	Weekly (25 minutes)	Yes	Yes	<i>Sound Innovations – Book 1</i> (purchased through school, charged to Term 1 fees)	\$310 + Method Book	30 spaces
Primary String Ensemble Years 5–6 (continuing strings)	Weekly (50 minutes)	Weekly (25 minutes)	Yes	Yes	–	\$310	30 spaces
Primary Choirs (Years 3–4 and Years 5–6)	Weekly (50 minutes)	–	–	Yes	–	\$60	No limit

Important Note: To ensure your ensemble place for the upcoming year, please complete the online enrolment within a fortnight of enrolments opening.

More information about the Junior School Ensemble Program can be found in the [FAQ](#).

Additional information:

- Levy for the school year charged to the Term 1 school fees for the annual program
- All Junior School Ensembles – including Primary Training Concert Band, Primary Concert Band, Primary Training String Ensemble, Primary String Ensemble, and Primary Choirs – are a year-long commitment.
- **Enrolment in select ensembles is restricted to 30 students** and is therefore on a first come, first served basis.
- Small Group lessons are scheduled for a minimum of eight weeks during a standard ten-week term. The total number of lessons may vary with changes in the term length.
- Costs for costume items for your child as well as ticketed events outside of the school community may be required
- Refer to the following, for home practice support and advice:

[Tangara Music Academy – Practice Guidelines for Students and Parents](#)

This document, the 'Tangara Music Academy Handbook', outlines the Terms and Conditions for the Junior School Ensemble Program. Please read the [FAQ](#) and [Additional Information](#) sections found at the end of this handbook for the relevant information.



2026 Junior School Ensemble Program Fees

Ensemble	Annual Fee
3-4 Primary Training Strings (instrument Included)	\$310
3-4 Primary Training Strings (instrument NOT Included)	\$180
5-6 Primary String Ensemble (instrument Included)	\$310
5-6 Primary String Ensemble (instrument NOT Included)	\$180
3-4 Primary Training Band (instrument Included)	\$310
3-4 Primary Training Concert Band (instrument NOT Included)	\$180
5-6 Primary Concert Band (instrument Included)	\$310
5-6 Primary Concert Band (instrument NOT Included)	\$180
Violin Small Groups	(included in above fee)
Cello Small Groups	(included in above fee)
Flute Small Groups	(included in above fee)
Wind (Clarinet/Saxophone) Small Groups	(included in above fee)
Trumpet Small Groups	(included in above fee)
3-4 Choir	\$60
5-6 Choir	\$60

Important: Instrumental students in Years 3–4, and beginner instrumental students in Years 5–6, will be issued a method book at a cost of \$28. This book will belong to the student and may be kept for ongoing use.

Please note that speciality instruments (upon request), may incur additional fees.

2026 Secondary Music Ensembles

Concert Band

Stage Band

String Ensemble

Secondary Vocal Group

Secondary Chapel Choir



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I hire an instrument for my daughter through Tangara?

Yes, instruments can be hired from Tangara School on an annual basis. Secondary students may need to hire an instrument, as this is not included in instrument ensemble participation.

Hire Fees (Instrument only)

Tangara Music Academy uses an external provider to support its program. All hire prices are subject to change and may be dependent on availability. Students who start in Term 1 will be required to pay the full annual amount. Students starting after Term 1 may be able to access a pro-rata hire rate.

What instruments are available?

Most instruments are available through our external provider. Common instruments include Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin and Cello. For information on other instruments, please contact joel.richardson@tangara.nsw.edu.au

How will I be charged for the hire of an instrument?

Parents will be billed in Term 1 for the hire of instruments (or as part of the Junior School Ensemble Program) as an additional item on their PARED School Fees. Instruments are locked into a one year contract through our external provider.

What if I am incorrectly charged?

Mistakes do happen. We apologise if you are charged the incorrect amount. Please contact the PARED Finance team at fees@pared.edu.au, or the Tangara Music Department at musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au and we will be happy to rectify the issue.

Can my daughter change ensembles?

Annually in Term 4, parents will be asked to indicate whether or not their daughter will continue or change ensembles in the new year.

Fees are determined during Term 4 of the previous year. If a student switches after the initial commitment from choir to an instrumental ensemble, there may be an additional fee. Unfortunately, refunds are not available for students changing from an Instrument Ensemble to Choir due to our hiring commitments. In the case of a mid-year change,

students should notify us at least two weeks before the end of the term, as any changes will be implemented at the start of the new term.

How do I hire an instrument for my daughter?

Instruments may be included as part of the Junior School Ensemble Program, and can be assigned once you have registered through Engage. Hiring an instrument only, can be completed through Engage.

What happens if my hired instrument is damaged or needs any repairs?

Part of the hire fee includes 'wear and tear' repairs such as broken strings, bows, cases, sticky keys, worn key pads, broken pegs and/or bridges. Tangara will arrange repairs. While an instrument is being repaired the school will do its best to provide students with a spare instrument.

What happens if my hired instrument is lost or damaged beyond repair?

If an instrument is lost or significantly damaged, parents will be required to pay for the instrument to be replaced. Missing/damaged instruments must be reported to ***musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au*** within 24 hours of the event. Once an instrument has been reported missing, a period of four weeks will be given for the instrument to be found before a replacement fee is charged. See [Damaged or Lost Instruments](#) for further detail.

Does Tangara provide reeds, strings and other consumables?

While Tangara Music Academy does maintain a limited supply of spare consumables, such as strings and reeds, please be aware that these extras are subject to availability. Families are encouraged to procure additional consumables as needed.

If my daughter is continuing lessons in 2027 do I return my hired instrument at the end of 2026?

Instruments may be collected at the end of each school year to allow for assessment, repairs and cleaning. However, we strongly encourage students who are continuing lessons the following school year to practise over the summer break. If this is the case for your child, they may either keep their instrument in the holidays or use a Tangara School spare. This will be decided in consultation with the Tangara music staff. Please also be aware that it is very common for younger students to be given a different instrument in the new school year as students' have often grown and require a larger sized instrument.

If you have any further questions about instrumental hire at Tangara School, please do not hesitate to contact our Music Department at musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au

What is involved in the cancellation of Instrument Hire?

Instruments are loaned for a one-year period, and since we acquire instruments from an external provider, Tangara is committed to paying for the full year. After instrument allocations are confirmed for the new calendar year, families are required to fulfil their initial financial commitment, regardless of any change of preference. If you still wish to return your instrument, please contact us first at: musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au for us to arrange a collection meeting.

Can my daughter continue extracurricular music into Secondary school?

Yes. Although the Junior School Ensemble Program ends at the completion of Year 6, Secondary students have the option to hire an instrument, receive private peripatetic lessons and join a variety of ensembles.

I have heard about students completing AMEB music exams. What is the AMEB?

The Australian Music Examinations Board, is an organisation that conducts music examinations and provides a standardised system for assessing and accrediting musical performance and theory skills. It offers a wide range of music exams, including piano, violin, singing, and various other instruments, as well as music theory exams. The AMEB is widely recognised and respected for its contribution to music education and assessment in Australia.

Can my daughter complete the AMEB examinations through Tangara?

Yes. Some of our peripatetic staff facilitate preparation for AMEB examinations.

Why would I consider AMEB examinations?

Completing regular AMEB examinations alongside school music classes and private lessons offers school students a structured path for musical progression, clear goals, valuable feedback, and nationally recognised certification. These exams provide performance experience, enhance music theory and aural skills, and contribute to lifelong learning, fostering a lifelong love for music. They can also be a competitive advantage for those considering working towards their HSC.



Additional Information

Purchasing An Instrument

Should you decide to purchase your own instrument, there are many factors to consider. We advise you shop around for the best price for both new and second hand instruments. Many stores have various payment plans on all instruments.

For further information and advice, please contact joel.richardson@tangara.nsw.edu.au

Damaged Or Lost Instruments

Students and parents are kindly reminded that the care and maintenance of musical instruments are of utmost importance. Unfortunately in some cases, an instrument may be lost or damaged beyond repair. While Tangara Music Academy covers standard wear and tear repairs, any significant damage to instruments or their loss is the responsibility of the student or parent. In such cases an instrument will be assessed and the cost of repairs or complete cost of replacement will be borne by the responsible party. We encourage all students to handle their instruments with care to ensure their longevity and the enjoyment of music for all.

It is important to note that the replacement costs for damaged or lost instruments may vary significantly depending on the type of the instrument. Different instruments come with different price tags, and these costs can vary greatly. 2026 replacement prices vary between \$500 to \$1500. Therefore, it is advisable for students and parents to be aware of the potential financial implications and to take necessary precautions to safeguard the instruments entrusted to them.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding instrument replacement costs, please feel free to reach out to musicacademy@tangara.nsw.edu.au for guidance and clarification.

We are here to assist you in ensuring the best musical experience for all our students.



Tangara

MUSIC ACADEMY

Version History

Version 1.1.1	6.2.24: 2024 Links updated
Version 1.1.1	1.3.24: Peripatetic Tutor Staff Update
Version 1.1.2	21.5.24: Peripatetic Tutor Staff Update
Version 1.1.3	28.6.24 Peripatetic Tutor Staff Update
Version 1.1.4	16.7.24 Updated wording in Secondary Ensembles
Version 1.1.5	6.8.24 Updated Logos, photo edits and rate correction
Version 1.1.6	10.9.24 and 15.9.24 Updated Information for 2025
Version 1.1.7	30.01.25 Updated Information for 2025
Version 2.1	15.10.25- Updated Information for 2026
Version 2.1.1	10.2.26- Updated 2026 Tutor and Tuition rate information

