

## Early Childhood Music Education

Welcome to early childhood music lessons at School of Fine Music.

We believe it is never too early to start your child's music education. Our early childhood courses provide a safe and fun way for your child to develop the confidence and skills to participate in music making.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What level of involvement can I expect from my child?

Every child is different and each child's confidence and social skills will normally be at a different stage. Children with lots of confidence often get involved very quickly whereas shy children may not participate in all of the class to begin with. This is very normal. Over time each child, with the help of their parent, the teacher and others in the class, will develop the confidence to participate more fully.

Besides learning about music, one of the major benefits of these classes is that it boosts each child's confidence levels.

#### What 'method' do we use?

School of Fine Music has produced a unique method that has been influenced by the teachings of Zoltan Kodaly, Shinichi Suzuki and Karl Orff.

Kodaly understood that music is a language and that this was best learnt when a child was young – just like they learn their native language. Kodaly believed that music should be learnt through song, which is available to all through the gift of the voice.

He developed a comprehensive method in Hungary in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that transformed music education in that country. Every person received a music education from a very young age through the use of song. This facilitated easy transition to instruments at the age of 7, with outstanding results. Since the Kodaly-trained children understood the 'language of music', they excelled further and faster than children who had no prior experience with music. Children learnt to socialise through

music, interacted in groups singing and playing together and developed a strong connection to the folk music of Hungary.

Shinichi Suzuki, the inventor of the famous 'Suzuki Method' of string instrument teaching, believed that music provided an opportunity for bonding between a parent and their child. A parent's involvement in their child's music education helped encourage the child to do their best. The child was, in his words, "Nurtured through Music".

Carl Orff developed a theory of music education based around music and movement. The children learn to respond physically to different aspects of music: to its pitch, rhythm, harmony, loudness and softness, speed and so on. By physically *feeling* the music, the children develop an innate sense of musicality and intuition when they play music.

Our method draws inspiration from each of these great music educators. If you would like more information or resources on any of these educators, please contact the Director, Anthony van den Broek.

#### Why is there repetition in the classes?

No matter what age or what activity children do, children learn best through repetition. This is particularly the case for languages, and music can be considered a language.

#### Does the School offer 'trial' classes?

Yes. Our trial lessons are completely free at the studio. You can participate for a whole class and see if the course is for you. Class sizes are strictly limited, so bookings are essential.

Contact the school on 9386 5677 or [info@sofm.com.au](mailto:info@sofm.com.au) to book your place in the class.

#### Why do I have to enrol for a whole term?

We run small classes (5-7 children) which we believe provide a better learning experience for children and the program has been designed to run for 10 weeks. In order for these classes to run in this way we require at least a term's commitment for the class to be successful. We also believe that this is an ideal time period in which to assess whether your child has made progress and enjoying the class sufficiently enough to continue.



### How much do the classes cost?

A term's (10 weeks) lessons cost \$220.00 plus \$5.00 for the song book. If you join us in the middle of the term you will only be liable for fees for the remaining period. This can be paid in one lump sum or in installments. Once enrolled for the term, you will be liable for the term's fees irrespective of whether you attend the lessons or not.

### What payment options are available?

We have three payment options:

- In full, prior to the course starting (attracts a 5% discount)
- A four week deposit, followed monthly credit card deductions
- A four week deposit, followed by monthly cash payment for lessons in advance

### What happens if we have to miss a lesson?

Obviously it is your child's best interests to attend to all of the lessons however we understand that sometimes not being able to come is unavoidable. This will not affect the fees payable; however you are welcome to join any of the other classes that week to make up for the lost lesson with prior arrangement with the School. If you are unable to attend a lesson we would like to ask you to please let us know. You can either let the teacher know in advance or call us on 02 9386 5677 and leave a message on our answer phone.