

Benefits of the Music Development Program

Why Study Music?

Families enroll their children in music lessons for many different reasons. Often a primary goal is the development of a lifelong love of music. The study of music also brings many advantages. Music inspires innovation, self-motivation, independence, responsibility, and empathy, and opens a world of infinite possibilities and positive solutions to children.

The study of music builds quantifiable skills, as well. The development of attention, memory, and spatial-temporal skills creates a solid foundation that children transfer to other areas. Researchers have discovered that children who receive music instruction score higher in verbal and nonverbal subtests on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale.

1. Joy of Music

Music fills people of every age with enthusiasm, fascination, and enjoyment in the world around them. It can be one of the most influential factors in an individual's life, and can be a catalyst for the passion and commitment that inspires people to meaningful contributions in the wider world.

2. Discipline

The Music Development Program's progressively leveled system cultivates discipline through its balanced, consistent, and comprehensive series of assessments. By managing their time and setting achievable goals, students learn how to assess their own needs for preparation and can work actively and effectively for success.

3. Focus

In learning to focus on the different aspects of their preparation in lessons and at home, students engage in a high level of concentration and understanding of how to consistently meet goals.

4. Working with Others

One of the greatest benefits of musical training and experience is learning how to work with others. Students respond to their teachers, the encouragement of their parents, and interactions with their peers. Through consistent preparation and assessment, the Music Development Program fosters listening and understanding.

5. Creativity

Students in the Music Development Program learn to generate original ideas and approaches, how to evaluate consequences, and to build on early experiences in their efforts to improve and realize their potential. The Music Development Program fosters creativity, innovation, and personal development.

6. Self-Awareness

As students prepare for Music Development Program assessments, they learn to monitor their thoughts and actions. The guidance offered by teachers and adjudicators helps participants to develop personal strategies for lifelong success.

7. Self-Confidence Through Achievement

The Music Development Program encourages students to take pride in their work and their achievements, and instills an appreciation of quality. Preparation for an assessment at any level requires students to follow directions, apply themselves, and celebrate personal excellence.

8. Self-Regulated Learning

Preparation for assessments through the Music Development Program promotes self-regulated learning and independent thought, which in turn nurtures inquiring and analytical minds that venture far beyond the world of music.

9. Experiential Knowledge

Students preparing for the Music Development Program learn to draw from previous experiences to solve problems and develop strategies for success. The assessment itself and the adjudicator's comments add to overall development and understanding.

10. Motivation Through Goal Setting

Students in the Music Development Program aspire to a high standard. This process of structured and goal-oriented study, recognized success, and ongoing growth is invaluable to students' continued motivation and participation.

11. Identity

The aspirational aspects of the Music Development Program allow students to feel connected to a larger network of people participating in music. Active student engagement from the very beginning instills a sense of responsibility for preparation, process, and purpose in their studies.

12. Excellence

The pursuit of continuous improvement and the recognition of achievement are the essence of the Music Development Program. Participation in assessments at any and all levels guarantees that students will have the tools they need to pursue, achieve, and uphold excellence in every area of their lives.

What are the advantages of the Music Development Program for students and families?

The Music Development Program . . .

. . . is a comprehensive system with built-in flexibility

- Students can progress at their own pace and move freely through the system.
- The program can be adapted for individual student interests while meeting the rigor and discipline of a national standard.
- Students will advance based on their personal learning achievements.
- The comprehensive nature of the Music Development Program supports the skills needed for innovation in a global world: creative process, problem solving, discipline, self-regulated learning, and focus.

. . . recognizes student achievement on a national level against a proven national standard

- Personal achievement is recognized, and excellence is rewarded.
- Student achievement is recognized through local, state, and national Certificates of Excellence and awards ceremonies.
- The ability to measure progress and achievement level by level leads to self-motivation and the pursuit of excellence.

. . . improves students' life skills and creativity

- Preparation for an assessment requires goal setting, time management, and self-discipline.
- Musical creativity, artistry, and a love of music are natural outcomes of the Music Development Program.

. . . assures that students will be measured fairly and impartially

- Assessments are conducted by professional adjudicators, who undergo rigorous training and continuous professional development.

. . . assures that students will receive meaningful assessment

- Detailed assessments of progress are balanced with constructive observations and suggestions for future musical development.

Recognizing Achievement

Recognition of Achievement Through Assessment

The Assessment Experience

The Music Development Program includes two different types of assessment: practical (performance) and theoretical. Both create an opportunity to recognize achievement and receive meaningful feedback.

Performance Assessments

- A practical (performance) assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of a student's current abilities on their chosen instrument, including voice.
- The assessment is designed to be a warm and welcoming experience, one-on-one with a professional, program-certified adjudicator.
- The adjudicator's comments and marking breakdown are available online within four to six weeks of the assessment.
- Practical (performance) assessments are held three times per year, with all scheduling and location arrangements made by The Music Development Program.

What Can a Student Expect in a Performance Assessment?

Performance assessments evaluate the following areas of a student's musical development:

- Performance of three to five pieces of repertoire depending on level
- Performance of one or two études that focus on an aspect of performance skill appropriate for the level
- Performance of technical skills such as scales, chords, and arpeggios, which progress in difficulty from level to level in a manner consistent with the technical demands of the repertoire. An assessment includes a representative sampling from the published list of requirements.
- An evaluation of musicianship skills, appropriate for the level, through aural identification of intervals, chord qualities, cadences, and ear-to-hand playbacks of rhythms and melodies. A demonstration of rhythmic reading and sight playing ability further supports music literacy.

Academic Assessments

- Students complete a written assessment of their theoretical and/or historical knowledge in a classroom setting.
- Academic assessments are held three times per year, with all scheduling and location arrangements made by the Music Development Program.

Certificates of Achievement

The Comprehensive Certificate is awarded to students who have completed both the performance and academic assessments for a specific level, beginning in Level 5. No application is necessary.

Certificates of Excellence

Center Certificates of Excellence are awarded in each Assessment Center to the student in Preparatory A, Preparatory B, and Levels 1 to 10 who receives the highest marks for the respective Performance Assessment. To be eligible, a student must receive a minimum of 80 percent in the Performance Assessment and have completed the Academic (Theory) Assessment co-requisite for the respective level.

State Certificates of Excellence are awarded in each State to the student in Preparatory A, Preparatory B, and Levels 1 to 10 who receives the highest marks for the respective Performance Assessment. To be eligible, a student must receive a minimum of 80 percent in the Performance Assessment and have completed the Academic (Theory) Assessment co-requisite for the respective level.

National Gold Medals

National Gold Medals are awarded to students achieving the highest mark in the country on their Music Development Program assessment and who have also completed the theory co-requisites for their respective level and discipline.

Fees & Services

Piano and Non-Piano Assessment Fees

Level	Fee
Introductory (Non-Piano Assessments)	\$72
Preparatory A	\$72
Preparatory B	\$72
Level 1	\$99
Level 2	\$99
Level 3	\$109
Level 4	\$109
Level 5	\$119
Level 6	\$119
Level 7	\$139
Level 8	\$179
Level 9	\$189
Level 10	\$371
Level 10 Split: Repertoire Only	\$225
Level 10 Split: Ear Tests, Technique, and Sight Reading	\$225

Theory (Academic) Assessment Fees

Level	Fee
Preparatory Rudiments (Preparatory Theory (Academic))	\$62
Basic Rudiments (Preliminary Rudiments)	\$92
Intermediate Rudiments (Level 1 Rudiments)	\$99

Advanced Rudiments (Level 2 Rudiments)	\$101
Introductory Harmony	\$129
Basic Harmony (Level 3 Harmony)	\$104
History 1: An Overview (Level 3 History)	\$108
Intermediate Harmony (Level 4 Harmony)	\$129
History 2: Middle Ages to Classical (Level 4 History)	\$129
Counterpoint (Level 4 Counterpoint)	\$206
Advanced Harmony (Level 5 Harmony & Counterpoint)	\$206
History 3: 19th Century to Present (Level 5 History)	\$206
Analysis (Level 5 Analysis)	\$206