Dear Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)

Congratulations on your child’s successful entry to the Vocal Tuition Program.

Mount Gravatt High School consistently gives students opportunities to develop their talent and artistry in the Performing Arts. In 2017 we are proud to continue the Vocal Tuition Program to assist students in finding their singing voice and to share their talents in the school community. This program was initiated in 2007 and makes Mount Gravatt High the only school in the district to offer specialised vocal training to students.

We are writing to inform you that _________________________________ has successfully auditioned for the Mount Gravatt High’s Vocal Tuition Program.

The lessons will occur throughout 2017 in H Block under the instruction of Ms Katie Simmons. Ms Simmons will be assisted by Ms Natalie Richards. Please refer to the attached information to confirm your child’s scheduled tuition times. We ask you to take particular note of the commitment required of participating students in the Vocal Tuition Program.

The Vocal Tuition Program is offered to successful applicants in 2017 at a cost of $180 for the year. Payment can be as per attached payment sheet. You will be invoiced towards the end of Term 1.

We look forward to your child’s participation in this unique program.

Yours faithfully

Mr Anthony Pirovich
HOD Performing Arts
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Ph: 32915251

Richard Usher BA, LLB, Dip Teach
Principal
VOICE LESSONS AT MOUNT GRAVATT

Learning how to really sing can take a long time, sometime even a lifetime to master and understand and attempting this process by yourself can be frustrating and even dangerous to your voice. There are some virtuosos out there who are able to naturally strike a key or a chord beautifully, but they may not have an understanding of what exactly what it is they are doing.

At Mount Gravatt High School we believe that it is essential for our students to have an educated understanding of the voice’s mechanics and its abilities to maintain a healthy voice. Our goal is to empower our students, to not ‘just be singers’ but to walk away with a confident understanding of their own individual voice as well as basic aural and theory skills, a broad range of explored musical styles and genres, performance experience and other elements which are essential in becoming an exceptional singer.

Some of the elements we explore in our lessons include:

- Breath management
- Body alignment
- Range extension
- Genre and Style
- Tension management
- Aural Training and General Musicianship
- Practice plan
- Tonal development
- Vocal agility
- Twang and belt
- Song study
- Harmony skills
- Performance

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1 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES.
Parents and/or students will be given a resource list at commencement of lessons and at times throughout the year. This list will contain the basic books and materials necessary for vocal lessons such as Music, Downloads, Theory Books, Notebooks, Accompaniments on C.D, iPod or Recording devices. We believe that all our students must develop a sense of responsibility, so all the listed tools MUST be brought to every lesson. Otherwise the student forgetting these requirements will be wasting their parents money and our time.

It compulsory for students who are receiving Vocal Group lessons to attend Vocal Ensemble and ALL performances which include PAN, Vocal Night and Presentation Night.

2 TIMETABLING OF LESSONS.
Lessons are held on a rotating basis and a new timetable will be distributed each term outside the Performing Arts office.

2.1 Lesson time changes / missed lessons / cancellations
Students must notify the tutor at the beginning of term or the week before if they are unable to attend their lesson. Any unexplained missed lesson will result in an absentee letter being sent home to parents.

3 PRACTICE.

“If I miss a day of practice, I know it. If I miss two days, my manager knows it. If I miss three days, my audience knows it.” ~ Andre Previn

Singing is an exercise, and to do it well requires practice, even professional singers have to practice every day to maintain their level of excellence.

Your tutor will guide you to understand what is needed in regards to practice quite early in the term. Each student will have a different practice routine designed for them due to factors such as timetable, extracurricular activities and vocal health. It is extremely important that in your household you have a designated area for practice. In this area you should have the following: a Mirror, a Music Stand, a Keyboard or Piano and a CD player or Music Device.

The standard amount of practice we expect from our students is at least 20 minutes, 3 days a week. Any amount less than this will mean that your progress will be very slow and as we want to encourage you to advance quickly a practice routine is essential. All teachers will expect that warm ups occur alongside song study. Also it is expected that students closer to a performance MUST give practice a high priority in their workload and view the exam as an extra subject.

4. COMMUNICATION.

Any queries about lesson times, performances or unavailability please contact Mr Pirovich in the Performing Arts Department. Students can also see Miss Simmons personally on Tuesdays when she is at school.

5. BOOKS AND MATERIALS.

The following list is the required items that must be brought to EVERY vocal lesson:
1. A tote to keep all Vocal equipment together
2. One plastic music folder for sheets and handouts
3. One exercise book with alternating manuscript and note pages
4. A USB
5. Any Music or Repertoire books. (Previously discussed and chosen with teacher)

These must be brought to classes, and treated with respect as we want to help build your library of music books you can treasure forever. It is illegal to photocopy some material. This is always done at your own risk.

Materials will not be lent overnight by tutors.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM LESSONS.

This is a year-long commitment. In the unusual circumstances that a student must withdraw from lessons the parent must contact Mr Pirovich directly.

10. VOCAL ENSEMBLES.

Students who have successfully auditioned for lessons must attend their Vocal Ensemble rehearsal. This is a mandatory requirement of the program.

Vocal Ensemble rehearsals are:

Junior Vocal Ensemble  Senior Vocal Ensemble
7:30-8:25am Tuesday  12:45-1:25pm Tuesday [Lunch]
Please return the consent form and payment to Ms Elms at the student payment window by 29 March, 2017. Where necessary, special arrangements for payment can be made in consultation with Mr Pirovich. Please return the permission slip (below) with payment to confirm your child’s place in the Vocal Tuition Program.

PERMISSION DETAILS

Student Name: ____________________________________ Year Level ________ Form _______

Excursion Details: VOCAL TUITION PAYMENT

I, ___________________________ as parent/caregiver give consent for ____________________________

to participate in the excursion to

_________________________________________  __________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature                  Date

PAYMENT DETAILS

Credit Card Authorisation

Student Name: ____________________________ Year Level ________ Form _______

Excursion Details: VOCAL TUITION PAYMENT

I hereby authorise Mount Gravatt High School to debit my:

Mastercard [ ] Visa [ ]

Card Number ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Expiry Date ____________ ____________ Amount: $180.00

Name of Cardholder: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

The following payment methods are also available:

- In person at Mount Gravatt High School at the Student Payment window [ ]
- Cheque payable to ‘Mount Gravatt State High School’ [ ]
- Direct deposit to school account: Please use STUDENT’S NAME as the reference BSB 064-118 Account No. 00090265 [ ]
- Please use my next available CentrePay deduction/s [ ]

Student Name: ____________________________ Year Level ________ Form _______

Excursion Details: VOCAL TUITION PAYMENT