

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Where is the Australian Keyboard Academy (AKA) located?

17A Hume Drive Delahey (500 metres from Watergardens Shopping Centre).
Between Kings Road and Sydenham Road. Melref: 13F4

2) At what age does the AKA start to teach a musical instrument?

The AKA start teaching piano-keyboard and violin from the age of 3 and guitar from the age of 6.

3) What are the tuition fees?

Group \$18.90 incl. GST 30 minutes duration
Paired \$25.00 incl. GST 30 minutes duration
*Individual \$25.90 incl. GST 20 minutes duration
Individual \$40.00 incl. GST 30 minutes duration

Causal Group \$26.00 incl. GST 30 minute duration
Causal individual \$48.00 incl. GST 30 minutes duration

*Children aged between 3-5 years have 20 minute individual lessons.

Piano-keyboard Student Do Not bring their instrument to class, all student have an 88 weighted digital piano to learn on in class.

Guitar and violin students are required to bring their own instrument at each lesson.

4) How many students are in a group class?

Group classes have a maximum of 4 students.

5) Are piano, guitar and violin classes the same prices?

Yes, all instrumental classes cost the same.

6) When are classes held?

Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm and Saturday/Sunday (8am to 4pm)

7) How many classes do students attend per week?

Students attend one class per-week.
Each term is between 9-10 weeks and coincides with the Victorian School Calendar.

8) Can parents sit in on their Child's lesson?

Yes, the AKA strongly encourage parents to sit-in and take an active interest in their child's music lesson.

9) How long does it take to learn to play a musical instrument?

Students start playing and learning to read music at their first lesson. However, learning a musical instrument is a long term commitment and is similar to attending primary and secondary school for 13 years.
Depending on students out-put and practice habits, students can expect to be performing at their first public event after as little as 4 lessons and undertaking their first music exam within their second or third year. Exam preparations are not compulsory, but highly recommended at the appropriate time of the student's development.

10) How often do music students need to practice?

Ideally, it is recommended that students get into the habit of practicing everyday. We understand this is not always possible but if students are able to commit 3 to 4 practice sessions a week, students will gain more out of each class and learning music will more rewarding for both student and parent.

11) How long should music students practice?

For beginner students a good rule is to double their age. If your 8 years old then 8 to 16 minutes practice. As their skills develop students need to increase the time.

12) Do students need to have music books?

Yes, the AKA provide a structured music curriculum program.

All beginner students are required to purchase two books, depending on program, instrument and age. The cost of the two books range from \$31.00 to \$45.00. (All books can be purchased through the AKA).

On average students will require a new book every two terms or six months.

13) How does the program work?

Music tuition is offered from 3 years of age through to our adult education program.

Program 1: Piano – Violin for Little Mozart's (3 to 5 years of age)

Program 2: Piano-Keyboards, Guitar, & Violin Classes (6 to 17 years of age)

Program 3: Piano-Keyboards, Guitar, & Violin Classes Adult Education

Program 4: Students preparing for exams have the option of Music Theory Classes.

14) Can my child learn more than one instrument?

Yes, many students learn more than one instrument. However, students will need to attend different classes for each instrument.

15) What are the advantages of group classes?

The AKA recommend group classes for all beginner students and up to grade 3 exam level.

1 Group classes teach students how to practice what students are learning in class and ensures student understand how to practice correctly at home.

2 Group classes are motivating and more engaging for students. Student is able to learn their instrument in the company of their peers and to belong to a group learning dynamic while under the leadership of their teacher (identical to a sport team).

3 Students develop personal, social and academic skills that are directly transferable to mainstream schooling. These skills involve multi-tasking, team-player, interpersonal communication, memory recall skills, public communication skills, goal setting and self-confidence.

4 In group class's student's aural perception develops faster and students learn to listen to each other and themselves and as a result are more confident when performing individually and in a band or orchestra setting.

5 Group classes prepare students for tutor-style school learning environment that occurs throughout primary, secondary and tertiary schooling.

6 Group classes provide student with a solid foundation in music comprehension, creativity, ensemble performing, preparing student to be young musicians, and setting the foundation for the rest of their music education.

7) Group classes provide students with opportunity to learn experience and engage in music making both individually and in a group. The teacher conducts group classes on levels, individual learning tasks and group learning tasks. Group class environment is identical to how children undertake all other areas of academic learning in schools and other extra-curriculum activities.

16) How does it work with group classes? What happens if my child learns slower or faster?

Teachers employ multi-skilling techniques to accommodate for different levels and when students are at different level of the curriculum. Students are trained to be self-learners and teacher incorporate self-centred learning approach, allowing students to progress at their own pace.

If a child is experiencing learning slower or faster for that matter, it does not affect the running of the class; in fact it enhances the teaching process because students learn more when a concept is repeated for the benefit of the class. Typically students address "catching-up" during individual study sessions, which generally goes unnoticed by their peers.

17) Can my children all learn together in the same class?

Yes, this is also another key advantage of group classes, group classes are also convenient, siblings, family friend, cousins, best friend from a school, can all learn together regardless of age and ability. Children learn more and enjoy learning with their friends and family.

18) What performance opportunities are available for my child?

The AKA strongly believe music is a performing and creative art-form and students that participate in performing and creating music together gain a stronger understanding in what they are learning and provides students with a greater perspective towards their music education.

The AKA hold two fundraising concerts per year.

- 1) At the end of term 1, The Good Friday Appeal
- 2) At the end of term 3, The Smith Family

There is a performance fee for students to participate in each concert of \$25.00. The performance fee covers venue hire, public liability insurance, trophies and medals, students also receive McDonald vouchers and certificates and other prizes, both concerts are the key feature of the Academy annual events. There is also a \$5.00 entry fee for parents and other family members to attend the concerts. The money raised from the entry fee is donated to the above two respected charities.

The AKA are also founders of Australia's Youngest Children's Orchestra the Mozartini Orchestra providing additional performance opportunities for students to perform at various metropolitan shopping centres and public places of interest (no fee is required for students to participate in the Mozartini Orchestra).

Students partake in public performances, live recordings, and various media publishing items such as school magazine/newsletter, community newspapers and television media. Such items include the Good Friday Appeal, the Smith Family Fund Raiser, Children's music shows at Sunshine Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital. Students are provided with opportunities for photos, video, trophy and speech presentations.

19) Do I need to have an instrument at home?

Yes, all students must have an instrument to practice on at home.

Piano: A small keyboard is ideal for children starting; educational keyboards starting price is around \$280.00.

Guitar: Acoustic guitar is recommended by our guitar teachers because the nylon strings are softer on the finger tips as opposed to the steel string on electric guitars. Once students have the foundation, student can also purchase an electric guitar. Acoustic guitars start from \$100.00 and Electric Guitar from \$400.00

Violins start from \$275.00 depending on student size.

The AKA can assist you with purchasing music instruments, in addition to our music programs the Academy also sell music books and piano, guitars and violins.

20) What happens when my child is not able to attend their weekly lesson?

Due primarily to legal and practical matters the Australian Keyboard Academy does not make-up or reschedule classes that students cannot attend. All cancelled and missed classes are forfeited. Students do have access to free benefits in exchange for missed classes.

FREE BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Mozartini Orchestra
- Students of Excellence Performance Program
- Free Ensemble Workshops
- Unique Performance opportunities
- Free First-Grade Music Theory Course

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