

MUSIC EVERYDAY PROGRAM EXPANDS

BRISBANE BOYS' COLLEGE HAS ADOPTED A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF CLASSROOM MUSIC TO OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS. STUDENTS IN PREP, YEARS 1 AND NOW YEAR 2 BENEFIT FROM CLASS MUSIC LESSONS EVERY SCHOOL DAY.

Inspired by the philosophies of the Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály, the Music Every Day Program aims to foster a love of music in BBC students and for music to become a part of their everyday life.

Kodály advocated that every person has musical aptitude and music education should begin as early and often as possible. He argued that singing should be the foundation of music education as the voice is the most accessible and humanising of all instruments.

BBC's Prep students who were first introduced to the Music Every Day Program in 2011 are now in Year 2. Today, these seven and eight year olds exhibit developed musicianship comparable to a typical Year 4 standard.

For the past three years, these students have engaged in daily song, movement and play. Music elements, concepts and thinking are carefully presented sequentially enabling students to successfully perform, read, write and create music.

According to Academic Music Teacher, Mr Jason Goopy, students are taught to be 'musicians'.

"Emphasis is placed on developing the person as the musician. Instruments later become an extension of the musician."

The current Year 2 cohort are putting their skills into practice by learning to play recorder. It is through this process they are reinforcing previously learned concepts and preparing for future instrumental studies.

Mr Goopy says it is evident that music has become a part of their everyday lives. "I hear boys singing and playing games in the playground using variants of songs we've sung in class – they substitute lyrics themselves without teacher assistance and confidently sing in the playground surrounded by their peers."

Music is of such significance to the boys in Year 2 that over half of the cohort have elected to study piano and voice privately.

In addition, Mr Goopy says the Music Every Day Program nurtures the whole person.

"The program crosses subject boundaries, helping boys learn language, numeracy, social sciences and human behaviour. Habits of

Mind and common ways of thinking are strengthened through musical activities."

The BBC Music Every Day Program is the only all boys class daily music program that we're aware of in Australia. It is comparable to the infamous Music Primary Schools established in Hungary.

At the beginning of Term 3, Mr Jason Goopy studied and presented at the International Kodály Seminar and Symposium hosted by the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary. The small picturesque town is also home to the first Hungarian Music Primary School which began in 1950. Mr Goopy observed the outstanding results of daily primary and secondary music education firsthand and the possibilities that lay ahead for students at BBC. ■

