Prospectus 2021

George Vella School of Music

George Vella
School of Music

Kummisjoni Banda – September 2020

GĦAQDA MUŻIKALI MARIJA BAMBINA, BANDA VITTORJA | NAXXAR

A REGISTERED VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION – VO 0749

Table of Contents

Foreword 2

Course Overview 3

Calendar of Events 5

Terms and Conditions 6

- Registration Procedure 6
- Obligations 7
- School Procedures 7
  - Attendance 7
  - Commitment to Study 8
  - Assessments 8
  - Loan of Instruments 8
  - Annual School Donation 9
- External Examinations 9
- Other Services 10
  - Lessons in Pianoforte 11
- COVID-19 Procedures 11

Foreword

From their inception, band clubs in Malta have been a means of providing free music education with the main aim of increasing the number of elements within the band. The emphasis was more likely to be on the quantity rather than on the quality which at the time was an important approach for the growth of such culture. For many years, this concept has worked, and many are the musicians who presently can boast of a musical career which kicked off from a local band club.

Nowadays, the general educational system has changed and qualifications, certifications and accreditations have become central. We are also witnessing a constant rise in popularity of the vocational approach of teaching and learning. Such approach involves students learning through doing, thus targeting the current industrial needs. This system fits perfectly the environment provided by the schools of music within the local band clubs. Therefore, with a little reorganization and restructuring of the systems currently in use within band clubs, this can easily become the way forward which will allow students to be also formally certified.

Based on this idea, this prospectus gives an outline of the system that will be provided to the students at the "George Vella School of Music" within the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. The objective of this system is to provide a holistic musical educational framework which will help students aim for quality. The formal course is seven years long which will include the provision of a sound basis of musical rudiments with application, qualified tutors to teach both the practical and theoretical aspects, and an apprenticeship period which aims to provide a sound and safe basis of experience for the students. Moreover, the structure will enable students to get certified through a recognized English music college – the Trinity College of Music. Most importantly, the structure also allows for students to continue their musical studies at higher level with the possibility of targeting a musical career.

This is all embedded within the conventional idea of a local band club: fees are kept at a minimum for accessibility to all, free loan of instruments is still provided and above all the family-feeling will still reign over all those involved. We therefore invite you to join us to keep Maltese traditions alive by making good music together!

Course Overview

	Content	*Delivery*	*Assessment*
Initial Level	Introduction to music, concepts and rudiments.	45-minute weekly group lesson.	Continuous assessment throughout the year
Level 1	Introduction to the chosen instrument Music Theory – Grade 1	20-minute weekly individual lesson with respective instrumental tutor. 30-minute weekly group lesson with theory tutor.	Continuous assessment throughout the year Continuous assessment; Final written assessment in October.
Level 2	Music Practice – Grade 1 Music Theory – Grade 2 Additional activity – Participation in School Concerts, including joining the Junior Ensemble	20-minute weekly individual lesson with respective instrumental tutor. 30-minute weekly group lesson with theory tutor.	Continuous assessment; Final practical assessment in October. Continuous assessment; Final written assessment in October.
Level 3	Music Practice – Grade 2 Music Theory – Grade 3 Additional activity – Joining the youth band; participation in *Talent Zaghzugh* and Christmas Activities.	30-minute weekly individual lesson with respective instrumental tutor. 45-minute weekly group lesson with theory tutor.	Continuous assessment; Final practical assessment in October. Continuous assessment; Final written assessment in October.

Level 4	Music Practice – Grade 3 Music Theory – Grade 4 Additional activity – Joining senior band for marches held during the *Vittorja festa* in September, and all marches thereafter.	30-minute weekly individual lesson with respective instrumental tutor. 45-minute weekly group lesson with theory tutor.	Continuous assessment; Final practical assessment in October. Continuous assessment; Final written assessment in October.
Level 5	Music Practice – Grade 4 Music Theory – Grade 5 Additional activity – Joining in all the band services. Attendance and observation of senior band rehearsals is obligatory.	30-minute weekly individual lesson with respective instrumental tutor. 45-minute weekly group lesson with theory tutor.	Continuous assessment; Final practical assessment in October. Continuous assessment; Final written assessment in October.
Level 6	Music Practice – Grade 5 Additional activity – Full member of the senior band	45-minute weekly individual lesson with respective tutor.	Continuous assessment; Final practical assessment in October.

Students may opt to continue their studies at higher levels at the *George Vella School of Music*. However, lesson fees will be at commercial rates.

Calendar of Events

January	• 11th: Start of Scholastic Year 2021, First Semester
April	• 29th March – 11th April: Easter Holidays • 12th: Start of Second Semester for Scholastic Year 2021
August / September	• 9th August – 12th September: Summer Holidays
September	• 13th September – Start of Third Term for Scholastic Year 2021
October	• End-of-year Assessments
December	• *18th December – End of scholastic year 2021*

Important:

- *The above schedule is not final and events may be changed, removed or added.*
- *No lessons will be held during public holidays.*
- *There will be no lessons during the highlighted holidays. However, rehearsals, services and concerts can still take place*

Terms and Conditions

The “George Vella School of Music” is the school of music within the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. The school provides high standard, holistic musical tuition, specializing in woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Within this text the term “the school” will refer to the “George Vella School of Music”. The term “student” or “students” will refer to a person or persons who have enrolled and are following/will be following the full course provided by the school as highlighted in *Course Overview* section.

Registration Procedure

Registration is open to all adults and children of any gender, nationality and musical level who would like to learn a band instrument and who comply by the following criteria:

- ✓ Be at least 7 years of age (i.e. born by the end of December 2014) or older
- ✓ Be a paying member of the named society. In the case of minors, at least one of the legal guardians must be a paying member of the society. Registration for Membership can be done at the time of application.

Registration can be carried out by applying online through our website on https://gvsom.bandavittorjanaxxar.org

Given that the number of students in each instrumental class is limited, a waiting list will be created when that class exceeds its number of students.

Prospective students may be asked to sit for an audition.

Obligations

Students who make use of the main services of the school as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section agree to the following conditions:

- Students are not allowed to give their musical service to other musical entities before finishing Level 4.
- In return for the highly-discounted price for the lessons covering the whole course, students and alumni who use or have made use of the services of the school are obliged to give their musical services to the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar* without any financial return. They should also give priority to the named band over other musical commitments that the student or alumnus/alumna might have.

Prospective students who are not willing to fulfil these obligations should reconsider their decision to enrol in the school. Students who fail to abide by these obligations will be immediately suspended from the school.

School Procedures

A scholastic year starts from January and ends in December, with a total of not less than 35 weekly lessons annually, approximately carried out as highlighted in the *Calendar of Events* on page 5.

Each new student starts at the Initial Level, unless equivalent certifications are presented at the time of application. In this case, the tutors will discuss with the student which level is most beneficial during an interview that will be held after the closing date of registration.

Attendance

- ✓ Students at the Initial Level should attend a weekly session, whereby they will be introduced to rhythm, basic musical rudiments, styles and instruments.
- ✓ Students at Level 1 and higher should attend both practical and theoretical lessons, as highlighted in the *Course Overview* (page 3) section.
- ✓ Students at Level 2 and higher should also attend the required rehearsals, besides the weekly practical and theoretical lessons.
- ✓ Students at Level 4 and higher should also attend the set band services as required by their level, besides the required rehearsals and lessons.

Theory lessons - Theory lessons are compulsory. Students are only granted an exemption from theory lessons if an equivalent qualification is presented. If students opt to take theory lessons with a private tutor instead of the provided service a signed letter from their tutor should be presented during registration, highlighting the level which the student will be studying. However, one should note that in such circumstances the annual scholastic donation should still be paid in full. Theory lessons start in January and finish October. Students sitting for the Trinity College London theory examinations will have extra lessons between October and the actual examination.

Automatic Dismissal - Students who miss three consecutive theory or practical lessons are considered to have resigned from the course, unless a blue certificate is presented for the missed dates.

Attendance Percentage - Students who do not attend at least 80% of the required lessons, rehearsals, band services and concerts will not be allowed to sit for the annual exams in October, and therefore will not progress to the next level.

Commitment to Study

All the students attending the school should show commitment towards their studies and the society under which the school operates. Students should prepare the requested work diligently and constantly to achieve the best results. A tutor may curtail the lesson if a student is found to not have prepared the assigned work diligently.

Assessments

Students will have two kinds of assessments:

1. A continuous assessment which will be done by the respective tutor during the weekly lessons. These assessments aim at providing guidance on areas of improvement as well as highlight the achievements. These assessments will also have a weight in the final internal annual assessment.
2. An annual assessment which will be held in October. The Practical assessment (from Level 2 upwards) will include scales or technical work, two accompanied pieces, a study and a sight-reading test. Theoretical exams (from Level 1 upwards) will be a time-constraint assignment. These assessments will also serve as mock assessments for students sitting for external examinations (refer to *External Examinations* section, page 9).

Loan of Instruments

The school provides the service of instrument-loaning to students at Level 1 such that students are given the opportunity to be sure of their choice of instrument before incurring the actual expense of a new instrument. Students should return the instrument back to the school by the end of Level 2, whereupon the student will be expected to buy his/her own instrument.

During the period of the instrument loan, the student is responsible for the care and frequent services of the loaned instrument. All fees made by the student in relation to general upkeep and/or maintenance and/or repairs during the loan-period should be paid in full by the student.

At the commencement of the loaning period, the student should pay a €50 deposit which will be returned in full at the end of the loan if the instrument is in good condition. If the instrument requires any repairs, the deposit will be retained by the school to be used to pay for such.

Annual School Donation

The provision of lessons as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section are free of charge. However, an annual non-refundable school donation of €100 is kindly requested from all students using the school's main services as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section to cover additional running costs that are incurred during the academic year. If possible, the donation is made on registration.

The donation will cover the following services and expenses:

- ✓ Theoretical and practical lessons as highlighted in the *Course Overview.*
- ✓ The organization of annual musical activities directly targeting students;
- ✓ The provision of an accompanist for preparation for the internal examinations, including two piano accompaniment rehearsals and accompaniment on the day of the practical internal examination.

NB: Students who are exempted from theory lessons are kindly requested to still pay the annual school donation in full.

The donation excludes:

- × Books required during the scholastic year;
- × Application fees and extra services for external examinations;
- × Instrument loan deposit;
- × Workshops, masterclasses and other activities that might be organized during the year which are not highlighted in the *Course Overview*;
- × The annual club membership fee.

External Examinations

The school will follow on the syllabus provided by the Trinity College of London (TCL)[1], whose qualifications are officially accredited by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta. Given so, the students who complete a given level are able to sit for the official grade provided by the highlighted college for the respective level in the November/December examination period held in Malta.

If a student would like to sit for the relevant external examinations provided by the TCL, the student should inform the respective tutor immediately. Students who choose to sit for these external examinations should pay the fees as requested by the college and supply the required personal information by a date that will be announced in due course.

[1] http://www.trinitycollege.com/

In order to give further support to students who choose to also sit for external examinations, the school will provide the Exam Support Package. This package will include the following:

GRADES	PACKAGE SERVICES	PRICE
GRADES 1 - 3	• 2 accompaniment sessions (in addition to accompaniment sessions included in the annual school fee) • 4 aural training sessions • Accompaniment during the external examination	€50
GRADES 4 - 5	• 3 accompaniment sessions (in addition to accompaniment sessions included in the annual school fee) • 5 aural training sessions • Accompaniment during the external examination	€60

The Exam Support Package will be delivered by the school's official accompanist.

Students who opt to sit for external examinations should pay the relative fee for the Exam Support Package directly to the school's official accompanist during the first rehearsal.

Other Services

From year to year, the school will provide several other services apart from those already highlighted. The fees of such services should be paid directly to the person providing the service. The annual school donation does not include such services. For the scholastic year 2020, the following services will be provided:

Lessons in Pianoforte

The school will provide weekly pianoforte lessons which will be directed by Ms. Lara Scerri. Application to enrol in this course should be done by contacting Ms. Scerri on 99613757 or scerrilara@hotmail.com

GRADE	FEE PER LESSON	DISCOUNTED FEE[2]	DURATION	DESCRIPTION
1 - 3	€10	€9	45 minutes	Practical and Theory exercises
4 - 5	€15	€13	1 hour	Practical exercises
6 UPWARDS	€20		1 hour	Practical exercises

COVID-19 Procedures

The school will be following guidelines as issued by the Health Department. Principles of social distancing and other precautious will be strictly adhered to during all lessons. It is very important that students who are unwell do not attend lessons at the school premises. Online options will be provided.

[2] Discounted fees apply to students who are taking the full course provided by the school as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section

George Vella
School of Music

Aġenzija
Żgħażagħ