Prospectus 2018

George Vella
School of Music

Kummisjoni Banda – November 2018

GĦAQDA MUŻIKALI MARIJA BAMBINA, BANDA VITTORJA | NAXXAR

A REGISTERED VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION – VO 0749

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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 will aim at producing dependable musicians. 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 tutor. 40-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 Easter Monday Concert, including joining the Junior Ensemble	20-minute weekly individual lesson with respective tutor. 40-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 tutor. 40-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 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.	40-minute weekly individual lesson with respective 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	Commencement of scholastic year
February	Preparations for Easter Monday Concert begin
March / April	• Preparations for Holy week activities • Friday, 30th March - Good Friday procession • Monday, 2nd April - Easter Monday Concert *Easter Holidays: Two weeks starting from Easter Monday*
May	External band services commence
July	• Assignment of exam pieces • Start of preparations for feast concerts • *Week starting Monday, 23rd July – Students should inform respective tutors if interested in sitting for external examinations*
August	• 5th August - Closing day of application to sit for external exams • Final rehearsals for feast concert *Summer holidays: 4 weeks starting from Santa Marija week*
September	• 1st - 8th - Festa Activities • Final preparations for assessments • Aural training lessons for students sitting for Trinity College of Music exams • Piano accompaniment rehearsals
October	• End-of-year Assessments
November	• Trinity College of London exams • Talent Żagħżugħ
December	• 13th December - Closing date of registration for new students • Resits • Christmas Activities • Induction meetings with new applicants *Christmas Holidays: Two weeks starting from day after Christmas Concerts*

Important:

- *Actual rehearsal and service dates will be announced during the year*
- *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 2009) 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 can be carried out by:

- Filling in the application form on page 17 and email it to georgevellasom@gmail.com. Application forms can also be sent by post to "Director School of Music, Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, 41-43, St. Lucy Street, Naxxar"
- Applying online by filling in the application form on https://gvsom.bandavittorjanaxxar.org/

Applications should be sent by 13th December, prior the start of the official scholastic year as highlighted in the calendar of events on page 6. A meeting for students and their guardians will be held after this date whereby prospective students are formally registered and the annual school donation should be paid.

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 37 weekly lessons annually, approximately carried out as highlighted in the *Calendar of Events* on page 4.

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.

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* section.
- ✓ Students at Level 2 and higher should also attend the required rehearsals, besides the weekly practical and theoretical lessons.
- ✓ Students at Level 3 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 at least a month before the start of the scholastic year, 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.

Automatic Dismissal - Students who miss three consecutive lessons are considered to have resigned from the course, unless a formal letter is presented to the respective tutor. The letter should be signed by at least one of the guardians of the student if the student is younger than 18 years. The letter should outline the reason for the absence and the interest to continue the course.

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 written assignments under time constraints. These assessments will also serve as mock assessments for students sitting for external examinations (refer to *External Examinations* section).

Students who fail the internal October assessments will retake the assessment in December of the same scholastic year unless a positive result is obtained from the equivalent external examination.

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 €85 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 settled by the last lesson of the previous scholastic year (continuing students) or on registration (new students).

The donation will cover the following services and expenses:

- ✓ The organization of annual musical activities directly targeting students, including but not only, Talent Żagħżugħ and the Easter Monday Concert;
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Photocopies and other stationary required during lessons and rehearsals.

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.

Sponsorships

One of the school's objectives is to push each of its students to the limit of their abilities to achieve the best out of their musical career. It will therefore award the student or students who would have strived and improved constantly throughout the year. A high mark in examinations does not automatically entail that the student will be awarded with a sponsorship, but rather commitment, effort and consistency will be the factors that will be taken into consideration. A committee made up of the tutors within the school will discuss and choose the student or students who should be awarded a sponsorship for the following year. Their decision is final and cannot be appealed. The committee may decide to not award the scholarship.

The sponsorship will consist of paid costs covering the annual school donation for the scholastic year in process. Other benefits in kind can also be included in the sponsorship. The chosen student or students will be informed of such during the Christmas Activities. Students who would have opted to continue their studies at the school after finishing the whole course are not eligible to be granted a sponsorship within this scheme. However, from time to time new schemes may be introduced of which all students will be informed.

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 by the end of July. 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 August 15. *Appendix A* provides an indication of the prices of these examinations as issued in 2016. These prices may change without prior notice from the college's end.

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 (see *Tutors* section).

Students who opt to sit for external examinations should pay the relative fee for the Exam Support Package when applying for the respective examination.

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

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 2018, 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

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

Tutors

Roderick Buġeja – Band Leader

Currently principal trombonist with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Roderick Buġeja, started his music studies at the Johann Strauss School of Music in Valletta and also attended classes at the Pinto Band Club, Qormi. He continued to study brass instruments under the expert guidance of Paul Borġ specializing in the euphonium and later in the trombone. In 1997 Roderick obtained his FLCM diploma, in 2009 LTCL diploma and in 2013 A.MUS.LCM Diploma. While studying harmony and counterpoint with Lawrence Borġ and conducting under Joseph Sammut, former conductor of the National Orchestra and the Manoel Theatre Orchestra, Roderick also took up the viola. Currently he is furthering his studies in music composition and orchestration with Ronnie Debattista.

In November 2000, Roderick was appointed Band Master with the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*, for whom he has directed several music programmes some of which have been recorded on CD. One particularly memorable occasion that he directed with this same band club was the Cantata 'Bi Twelidek Rebbaħtna' composed by Raymond Sciberras, dedicated to the feast of Marija Bambina. 2008 sees Roderick appointed Band Master with the Duke of Connaught Own Band, Birkirkara. In this same year, he directed the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in recording two songs with the group Sixth Sinfoni. Later at the end of July he conducted again the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in a pop concert named 'Pop Fever' which was a great success.

He is a founder member of the KRAB Brass Quartet that later expanded to become the Versatile Brass Ensemble. Recently Roderick has been appointed as a K & G artist after spending the last two years refining Trombone and Euphonium mouthpieces with the same company. In July 2012 Roderick has been invited by the International Trombone Association to attend the International Trombone Festival in Paris which led him to meet international artists and took part in both clinics and Trombone Choir conducted by Irvin L. Wagner. In the same year Roderick joined the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble playing the sackbut accompanying Dame Emma Kirkbey.

He enjoys composing and has so far written several marches, a waltz and a Tone Poem based on a poem written by Mario F. Bezzina, which consists in 3 movements. This piece was commissioned by the Pinto Band Club Committee where he occupies the role of assistant conductor, to celebrate the arrival of the new bells for the Church of St. Sebastian in Qormi.

Christine Dimech – Assistant Music Director & Initial Level Coordinator / Saxophone Tutor

Christine Dimech started her musical studies at the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar* Subsequently she continued her studies with Noel Beck, Lawrence Borġ and Yvette Maria Galea under whose tutelage she achieved the Fellowship of the London College of Music (FLCM) and the Advanced Certificate of the ABRSM. Currently she is studying under the tutelage of Paris-based saxophonist Antonino Mollica, under whose guidance she achieved the Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music (LTCL) with distinction in 2015. Throughout the years, she has also attended a number of international saxophone workshops and masterclasses with numerous other international saxophonists.

Christine is very active in the local musical scene. She has played with various artists and orchestras including the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and the Big Band Brothers with which she is lead saxophonist. She has also performed in England, Italy, France and Tunisia. During the last three years, Christine has also been at the helm of the organization of numerous music educational workshops and masterclasses held in Malta and abroad.

Christine has been frequently supported by the Malta Arts Fund and Cimetta Fund in both mobility projects and event projects.

Daniel Vella – Tutor for Brass Instruments

Daniel Vella started his musical studies at the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. Subsequently he continued his studies with Joe Aġius, Ray Cremona, Lawrence Borġ and Paul Borġ. He also attended various masterclasses with international musicians, including world-renowned trumpet player Reinhold Friedrich. In 2007 Daniel achieved the ATCL diploma in trumpet.

Daniel is very active in the local musical scene. He has played with various artists and orchestras in musicals and concerts including the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and the Big Band Brothers. Many times he has performed as a virtuosic soloist with a number of Maltese wind bands. He has also performed in various band albums and album launches including the renowned band *The Riffs* and the group *No Snow No Alps*. On an international level, Daniel has performed in music festivals held in England, Sicily, Portugal and Tunisia.

Daniel is also the composer of various band marches, funeral marches and other works as well as a music arranger.

Nathalie Cachia Bonavia – Clarinet Tutor

Nathalie Cachia Bonavia started her musical studies with Maltese clarinettist Lino Pirotta. Subsequently she continued her clarinet studies with Freddie Mizzi, Michael Pirotta, Noel Borġ as well as theoretical studies with Lawrence Borġ and Ronnie Debattista. She has also participated in various workshops and masterclasses led by world-renowned musicians organized both locally and abroad.

Nathalie joined the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja* in 2004, with which she is the band leader. In several occasions she has featured as a soloist playing highly demanding works. She is member of various local band clubs and other ensembles, and thus has had the opportunity to play in various prestigious venues in Malta. She has played with renowned Maltese artists including pianists Ramona Formosa, Esmeralda Galea Camilleri and Andrew Buġeja, and soprano Claire Caruana.

Kristen Borg – Percussion Tutor

Kristen started his musical journey at the age of 7 at the George Vella School of Music under the tuition of Roderick Bugeja. The talented percussion player was then encouraged to further his studies and did that under the guidance of the acclaimed musician Joe Camilleri (il-Bibi). Kristen played with most of the Maltese wind band clubs and is also well known for his energetic performances. Apart from being a resident musician with our band club, he is also one of the founder members of the Big Friends Guggen Musik Band. He performed in various countries including Cyprus, Italy, Tunisia, and Dubai.

Graziella Vella – Theory of Music Tutor

Graziella Vella commenced her clarinet musical education with the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. She continued her clarinet and music theory studies Christine Dimech, Yvette Galea and Noel Beck under whose guidance she has obtained the A.L.C.M and L.L.C.M. in clarinet performance with a distinction. Graziella has furthered her musical studies in conducting and piano under the guidance Joseph Sammut and Yvette Galea. Presently Graziella is also furthering her musical studies in composition under the guidance of Dr. Reuben Pace. She has also attended clarinet lessons and masterclasses in the United Kingdom, Austria and Malta led by world-renowned musicians.

Graziella performs regularly with various village bands, also as a soloist during various occasions. She has also performed in various concerts with pianist Yvette Maria Galea including Platform performers' concerts organised by St James Cavalier and Malta Cultural institute. In 2013 Graziella has performed with a chamber group in Malta International Spring festival including Clarinet, Double Bass and piano works by Maltese composer Dr. Reuben Pace. She was also part of the Malta Youth orchestra.

Lara Scerri – Pianoforte Tutor / Official School Accompanist

Lara Scerri is 22 years old and started studying the piano at the age of seven with Monica Anastasi under whose guidance she has obtained the DipABRSM and LLCM. She continued her music studies with Ms. Yvette Galea. Under the guidance of her mother Maryrose Scerri as well as Joseph Vella, Lara studied and now holds all eight theory grades of the Royal Schools of Music. Lara also plays the alto saxophone which she studied under the guidance of Christine Dimech at the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. Besides, she also took part and performed in several masterclasses led by the internationally acclaimed pianists.

Lara has performed in a variety of concerts and events, both locally and abroad. She has played with the Junior College Orchestra with Manuel Pirotta and also the University Wind Ensemble with Philip Ciantar. Lara has also performed together with the orchestra of the Liceo Musicale di Modica. Some of the venues that she has performed in include the Manoel Theatre, St. James Cavalier, St. John's Co-Cathedral and the President's Palace, Casino Maltese and the residence of the US ambassador in Malta; Teatro Garibaldi in Sicily and Pacioli Sede Concert Hall in Crema, Italy.

Nowadays Lara perseveres her love for music by passing on her knowledge to new students as well as performing with her own music group Voce e Piano in several occasions.

Application Form – Scholastic Year 2018

APPLICANT NAME AND SURNAME	
APPLICANT DATE OF BIRTH AND PRESENT AGE	
APPLICANT IDENTITY CARD NUMBER	
HOME ADDRESS*	
MOBILE NUMBER*	
E-MAIL ADDRESS*	

I/WE HAVE READ THE PROSPECTUS WELL. BY SIGNING HEREUNDER, I/WE AM/ARE ACCEPTING ALL THE CONDITIONS, OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF THE *GEORGE VELLA SCHOOL OF MUSIC* AND THUS WILL FOLLOW THEM AS EXPECTED.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:	**NAME, SURNAME, IDENTITY CARD NUMBER AND SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN** ***(If applicant is under 18 years old):***
DATE OF APPLICATION	

** If the applicant is under 18 years old, the contact details should be of the named guardian.*
All fields are required.

Appendix A

Trinity College London - Fees for Grade Music Exams

Malta (Nov/Dec 2017 and May/June 2018)

Grades	*Practical €*	*Theory €*
Grade 1	70	46
Grade 2	73	48
Grade 3	79	52
Grade 4	93	53
Grade 5	102	58

George Vella
School of Music

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