

# MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

2023-24 Handbook



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT



At the Canadian School of Milan's Music Department, we believe that music is not just an academic subject but a profound expression of human emotion and creativity. Our dedicated faculty, diverse musical offerings, and commitment to fostering a love for music ensure that every student can find their rhythm and voice within our vibrant musical community. Whether they aspire to become virtuoso instrumentalists, accomplished vocalists, or simply passionate music enthusiasts, we are here to guide and support them on their musical journey. Join us in celebrating the power of music in our school's rich cultural tapestry.

Welcome to the Music Department of the Canadian School of Milan. Our department is committed to nurturing musical talent and fostering a lifelong appreciation for music. From Kindergarten through Grade 12, we provide a comprehensive music education. From Grade 6 and above, the music curriculum aligns with the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum (MYP and DP).

One of the hallmarks of our music department is our commitment to individualized learning. We understand that each student has unique musical aspirations, and that is why we have established connections with experienced instrumental teachers. These dedicated professionals offer private lessons on a variety of instruments, including piano, voice, drums, guitar, and violin.

For those who enjoy singing, our department also offers lunchtime choirs for students in Grade 3 and above. These choir sessions provide a fun and inclusive environment where students can explore their vocal talents, and experience the joy of making music together.



# CURRICULUM

The Canadian School of Milan's Music Department provides a comprehensive curriculum where students receive a well-rounded music education covering theory, performance, and composition.

They explore music theory, refine their instrumental and vocal skills through performances, and express their creativity with composition projects. From Grade 9 onwards music becomes an elective subject, offering students the chance to deepen their musical interests with advanced concepts and personalized learning. Whether pursuing a music career or exploring personal interests, music within the Upper School lets students tailor their musical journey to their goals, fostering creativity and growth.

Grade	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Kindergarten / Grade 1	Kinder Musik - Solfedge	Kinder Musik - note duration	Kinder Musik	Kinder Musik - music performance
Grade 2	Steady Beat	Basic Notation	The Orchestra	Performance
Grade 3	Singing	Rhythm - Xylophones	Recorders	Music Theatre
Grade 4	Singing	Ukulele	Around the World	Samba
Grade 5	Rock School	Film Music	Recycled Orchestra	Exhibition
Grade 6	Building Bricks	Building Bricks - part 2	All that Jazz	I've got rhythm
Grade 7	Hooks and Riffs	Sonority City	Sonority City - part 2	Folk Music
Grade 8	Form and Structure	Off Beat	Variations	Variations - part 2
Grade 9	Dance Music	Soundtracks	Soundtracks - part 2	Videogame
Grade 10	New Directions	Samba	What makes a good song	Performance
Grade 11/12	DP Project	DP Project	DP Project	DP Project



# INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

## Private lessons



Instrumental lessons hold significant importance in a child's developmental journey, offering a multitude of benefits. At the Canadian School of Milan, we provide an extensive range of musical instruction, encompassing piano, singing, guitar, drums, and violin, catering to diverse musical interests. What sets us apart is our commitment to excellence in music education, as these lessons are delivered by leading professional musicians who are proficient in both English and Italian. Our rolling timetable ensures flexibility, allowing students to tailor their learning experience to suit their individual preferences and schedules. Engaging with music not only nurtures discipline, concentration, and perseverance but also enhances cognitive skills, emotional expression, and creativity. In essence, these lessons not only teach students how to play an instrument but also unlock their potential for personal and academic growth, making music education an integral and enriching aspect of their holistic development.

In addition to this personalized approach, our music program also features instrumental concerts held in January and May, providing students with invaluable opportunities to showcase their talents and gain stage experience. Furthermore, we offer the possibility for students to take exams, promoting a strong practice ethic and setting clear milestones for their musical journey. These elements collectively contribute to a well-rounded music education that fosters both technical proficiency and artistic expression.



# OUR TEAM



## Suzanna Knuckey

### Director of Music

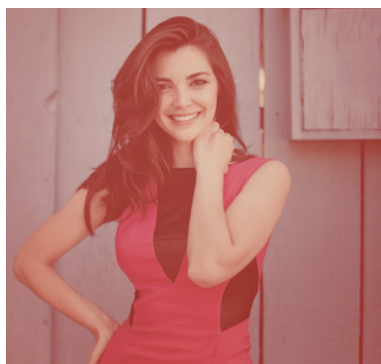
Suzanna Knuckey, the Director of Music at the Canadian School of Milan, is a professional violinist specialising in world and traditional music. She studied violin performance at the Conservatoire in Prague, music education at Exeter University, and furthered her musical education at Juilliard in New York. Suzanna regularly performs and records across Europe. As an educator, she shares her knowledge and passion, having previously taught at Stuttgart International School in Germany and Prague British International School in the Czech Republic, inspiring the next generation of musicians.



## Elena Gomez

### Kinder Music and Drama

Elena Gomez was born in Spain and graduated in London with a BA Degree in Musical Theatre and Dance in 2007. She spent 12 years working in the theatre, playing leading roles in many well-known musicals and theatrical productions such as High School Musical, Shrek and Follies. She's also worked as a choreographer and director of international musicals such as Medicus. She has always combined her theatrical work with teaching and now has more than 11 years' experience behind the scenes.



## Tamara

### Piano and voice

Tamara is a singer songwriter, pianist and voice/piano teacher for children and adults, from beginners to advanced levels, from classical music to jazz. She gained a bachelor's degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston USA. She has released 4 original albums and has played at some of the biggest events and venues in the United States such as Billboard Hot 100 Music Festival, Silvana Club and BB Kings Club. She now shares her music experience with students in Milan.



## Alexandra

### Piano

Alexandra has a rich history of performing in diverse settings, accompanying singers, solo and chamber music performances, as well as orchestral concerts. She studied a master's degree from the Milan Conservatory, where she specialized in chamber music and 20th-century/contemporary composition. She excels in coordinating auditions, promoting events, selecting concert programs, and more. She often collaborates with management teams on artistic projects. Above all, Alexandra has a profound passion for collaborating with talented musicians across various genres, always eagerly seeking new projects and opportunities.



## Matteo

### Drums

Matteo Rebullà, a Milanese drummer began his musical exploration as a pianist before transitioning to drums under the tutelage of Mario Zanisi. His passion for jazz took root in 2003, honing his skills at the Civic Jazz Courses in Milan, graduating with top honors in 2009. His dedication to jazz led him to Siena Jazz seminars and winning the Billy Sechi scholarship. Matteo embarked on a transformative journey to the United States, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz Performance from the City College of New York. Rebullà continued his prolific career, collaborating with an impressive roster of artists. He contributed to numerous album recordings and released his own quartet album, "Forced Perspectives," in 2015. Today, he balances his vibrant concert schedule with drum instruction at various schools, including his private studio, Groovity Drums School, in Pero (MI).



## Davide

### Guitar

Davide Benecchi is a highly accomplished guitar teacher with a wealth of experience in the world of jazz guitar. Holding a prestigious Masters degree in Jazz Guitar from the renowned Conservatoire Giuseppe Verdi, he brings a deep understanding of the genre to his students. He has performed alongside notable artists such as Silva Fortes, Cocida, Muzikanti di Balval, and the Mada Duo. His passion for music has also taken him to some of the most prestigious festivals, including JazzMi, Break in Jazz, Area Sanremo, and Lugano Jazz. Davide Benecchi is not only an accomplished performer but also a dedicated educator, inspiring the next generation of guitarists to explore the rich world of jazz.

# FAQ

## How do I book instrumental lessons?

To book instrumental music lessons, please fill out the form which is available on the Canadian school Website.

## What is the cancellation procedure in case of illness or school trip?

In an emergency in case of illness please call the instrumental teacher before 8am on the day of the lesson , however if it is a pre-planned absence such as a school trip notice needs to be given 24 hours in advance via email or call to the music teacher . if notice is not given and the child is absent the full cost of the lesson will apply.

## How do I hire instruments?

We recommend that students buy their own instrument so that they are able to practice and reach their full musical potential. However if buying an instrument is not possible we have good connections with these music stores in Milan which have instruments available for short time hire .

## Are there any concerts?

Yes , we hold concerts for instrumental students who wish to perform in January and May , exact dates will be communicated via newsletter and through the instrumental teacher. Performance is a fantastic way to promote music and support the pupils musical journey.

## What about exams?

Yes , students if they wish can be entered into grade exams we are currently working with both ABRSM and TRINITY. Both are prolific exam boards in the UK and completing an exam from both grants university points for the pupil for application in the future. However these exam boards are suited for different musical learners , if the pupils has a more practical learning style Trinity will be best , however if the pupil shows a more theoretical approach Trinity will be best. Grade exams can either be taken face to face or as a digital exam.

# FAQ

## Are there any music extracurricular clubs my child can join?

Currently the school offers lunchtime choirs , Grades 3 to 5 Tuesday, Grades 6 - 8 Wednesday and Grades 9 to 12 Friday. Musical theatre is also offered culminating in the annual school musical.

## If my child's instrument is broken how do I fix it?

If its a simple problem such as broken string we recommend that the parent ask the teacher for advice - in this case it would be to buy a new string and the teacher will be able to put it on . if its a more serious matter such as a crack in the wood or broken keys , we recommend contact the teacher for advice or take the instrument to some of the renowned luthiers ( instrument fixers) in Milan.

## How do I help with Practice?

its a well known phrase practice makes perfect and sadly it is true . however the time, patience and concentration is often hard to obtain. We ask students to try and practice at least 4 times a week for 30 to 40 minutes to improve. We also ask for the support of parents to help achieve this . this is why we have put together a practice book to monitor students progress , once a student has practised they tick a box and the parent signs to acknowledge practice . this book needs to be taken to all lessons as it is also a communication tool between the teacher parent and student. A practice book is given to the student at the start of thier lessons.

## What if the instrument my child wants to play is not currently offered?

Currently the instruments offered are violin, singing, piano, drums and guitar. However if your child wishes to learn another instrument, such as the flute, cello or saxophone, a teacher can be found, please contact the director of music, Ms Knuckey, for the next steps.