



## **NEW STUDENT INFORMATION**

Welcome to Creative Souls Studio Pakenham,

We are so excited that you have chosen to become a part of our musical family or are continuing your journey with us. We are a dedicated team and passionate about growing a new generation of musicians.

As the parent/guardian of a child commencing or continuing music lessons you will play a vital role even if you don't believe you are musical yourself! You can help them develop a practice routine at home that fits comfortably around their school and other extra-curricular activities. It is important for you and your child to understand that although we want our students to have fun and enjoy their lesson sometimes lessons can appear slow to begin with. A student will develop quicker the more practice that is put in outside lesson time.

For our mature-aged students we will work with you to achieve whatever goal you have in mind. We provide notes each lesson and we like to see you practice as much as possible before your next lesson.

### **How much do you charge and how do I pay?**

\$35.00 for half-hour lesson (Plus GST) (First trial lesson free)

\$70.00 for 60 minutes (Plus GST)

Payment is due within seven days of receipt of invoice and the full term must be paid advance. Payments are accepted by bank deposit, Stripe online payment or Square at the studio. If you have any issues with payment we encourage you to contact us and we will endeavour to assist you any way we can. We will cancel any arrangement if the payments are not adhered to, and all payments must be made in advance of lessons.

## **Could you tell me what ages you teach?**

The youngest we would teach is four (dependent on trial) through to mature-aged students. For our younger students, parents must be willing to assist their child and help them to learn the lyrics/notes/chords as at this age it is unusual for them to read.

## **How long is a lesson?**

Most students benefit from a 30-minute private lesson.

If a student needs extra lesson time we offer 60-minute lessons. The teachers will discuss this during your trial or lesson as it is based on individual needs.

## **What happens in a lesson?**

### **VOICE:**

Students are required to arrive only a few minutes prior to the lesson. The teacher will collect you from the waiting room. When operating online we will need you to be ready for the time the lesson is scheduled.

The first few minutes of a lesson will concentrate on vocal warm-ups and technical aspects of singing, i.e. placement, tone, pitch, rhythm, notation, sight reading etc. and then begin to learn a song. The student sings it through and once they are comfortable the teacher expands on rhythm, pitch, vowel placement, tone, how they relate to the song and explore in detail the meaning of the song allowing us to look further into dynamics and how the song is structured. These techniques encourage the student to explore their own interpretation of the song. Once the song is mastered we focus on stage presence, microphone techniques, and confidence in the delivery of the song for public viewing.

Lessons may appear slow at first but it is our intention to build muscle-memory through posture, warm-ups and breathing exercises which will then become second-nature to the student.

## **PIANO:**

Students are required to arrive a few minutes prior to the lesson.

The lessons will be catered according to the student's current level. The teacher will discuss with you what you hope to achieve from your lessons, for example, playing for fun or studying for AMEB examinations. Our piano teachers will usually suggest a music book which the studio can provide and add to your invoice.

## **GUITAR:**

Students are required to arrive a few minutes prior to the lesson.

Your teacher will show you the names of the guitar strings, different parts of the guitar and ensure it is tuned correctly. You will have a conversation regarding what you hope to achieve with your playing.

## **DRUMS:**

Students are required to arrive a few minutes prior to the lesson. Beginner drum lessons cover the fundamentals of drumming including how to hold the sticks, hand and feet coordination, learning beats and going through performance techniques.

### **What are the available lesson times?**

Monday to Friday between 3.00pm and 8.30pm and Saturday between 9.00am 11.30am. All classes are dependent on teacher availability. We can be more flexible with online lessons.

### **What if I can't make a lesson due to ill-health?**

We require notice of absence by midday on the day of your lesson. The studio does NOT PROVIDE MAKEUP LESSONS, and if appropriate notice is given, the teachers can either take the lesson online, try and move to another day in the same week, or provide a video lesson that will be sent online through the performance. If late notice is given, the lesson is charged and the teacher is not required to provide any other options.

### **Do you have a refund policy?**

Refunds are given only in extenuating circumstances and if a student discontinues their lessons mid-term, no refund will be provided, as the place could have been taken by another student.

### **How long should I practice for at home?**

#### **Voice:**

We suggest that you practice at least 20 to 30 minutes a day but do have a break or day off if you are unwell or run-down. Parents will ultimately be responsible for practice times for their child. Remember, the more you practice the better you will become. Practicing in the car on the way to the car really isn't practice. Teachers always know when someone has put in practice time. Younger children will be guided by their teacher with regard to length of practice time.

#### **Piano/Guitar/Drums**

Practice time for piano and guitar should be discussed with the teacher and will be dependent on the level and age of the student.

The teacher may provide the student with an exercise book which will outline what the student is required to focus on. The book is to be brought to class weekly. Parents are encouraged to make comments or suggestions. We also welcome any feedback even if it is negative as all feedback ultimately has a positive outcome. We are approachable and willing to listen. We also encourage our teachers to add lesson comments on the portal.

### **Do you have an online presence?**

We have a Facebook page, Instagram and website. We also have a staff/student/parent portal which includes timetables, upcoming events, invoicing, student progress reports, and teacher comments. You will be given access to the portal once a decision is made to take up lessons.

### **Are there any performance opportunities throughout the year?**

Creative Souls Studio has performed at both Cardinia and Casey Relays for Life, Music on the Grass, Karaoke Family Night, Recording Studio, Maryknoll Market, End of Year Concert, and New Year. After the Covid lockdown, we returned singing at Pakenham Australia Day and Summer Sounds.

Unfortunately Casey Relay for Life, Maryknoll Market and the Yakkerboo Festival were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Creative Souls continues to perform at Australia Day, Maryknoll Market and Walk to D'Feet MND.

We do try our very best to have all of our students participate in outside performances, however, this is not always possible. Younger and newer students should not expect to have solo performances at every event. There will be opportunities for group performances which offer newer students the chance to perform without undue pressure.

We look forward to working with you. If you have any further queries or would like to contact us for a free trial please phone 0479 115 147 or visit our Facebook page or website.