

QUESTION 8

OF THOSE HOURS, HOW MANY ARE DEVOTED TO CORE (MANDATORY, WHERE IT EXISTS) CURRICULUM AND HOW MANY TO MUSIC ELECTIVES?

8.1 Australian Capital Territory

There is no core music curriculum separate from the Arts Curriculum Framework, nor any mandatory music teaching requirement. As with the all stands of the ACF, there are three content areas: Creating, Making and Presenting, Arts Criticism and Aesthetics, and Past and Present Contexts. Consequently data is not centrally collected. In any case, the amount of elective music activities in ACT schools varies so widely as to make any quantitative summary impossible.

Additional curricular support

The School of Music operates the MuST program, a scholarship program for students at Government high schools. The program includes approximately 80 students. Each student travels to the School of Music once a week and receives 2 hours per week of classroom instruction and optional 1 hour per week of instrumental or voice tuition in groups of four students.

The School of Music also operates a similar program that exists for students in years 11 and 12 that is known as the Pre-Tertiary or Type 2 program. It is a full-fee paying course. Each student travels to the School of Music once a week and receives 2 hours per week of classroom instruction and 1 hour per week of instrumental or voice tuition. There is some optional extra ensemble instruction available.

8.2 New South Wales

In NSW primary schools, music activity includes performance, listening and organising sound. The *Education Reform Act* (1990) requires instruction in music in each year of primary school. In primary schools, no mandatory numbers of hours are specified in *NSW K-6 Syllabus in Creative Arts* (2000). There is no way of knowing how much time is devoted to either mandatory or optional music making in schools.

In NSW secondary schools 'mandatory' is a term applied in NSW to Stage 4 *Music Years 7-10* (Board of Studies, 1994, being revised in 2002). This syllabus explains there are 100 indicative hours for stage 4 (in practice years 7 and year 8). All music study in secondary schools other than the 'mandatory' course is elective. The Additional Course (Stage 5) from the same syllabus *Music Years 7-10* (Board of Studies, 1994) can be 100, 200, or 300 indicative hours (in practice years 9 and 10). *Music 1 Stage 6 Syllabus: Preliminary and HSC Courses* (Board of Studies, 1999a) and *Music 2 Stage 6 Syllabus: Preliminary and HSC Courses* (Board of Studies, 1999b) require 120 indicative hours per year (years 11 and 12). From the latter syllabus, *Music Extension* requires 60 indicative hours in the HSC year. In schools where music is not offered beyond the mandatory course, students have the option to

access the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN-DE) for music instruction in Stage 5 and Stage 6 courses.

Additional curricular support

There are opportunities for teachers and students in NSW to complement music curricular programs in schools with other learning opportunities which directly support music syllabuses. These enrichment programs are intended to be implemented in addition to school music curricula, although such programs sometimes are used in schools as a substitute for classroom music teaching. When these support programs are used in schools in addition to curricular programs, hours of instruction in music increase. A variety of agencies such as academic institutions, radio stations and commercial providers support schools with music programs. They are the Conservatorium Access Centre (Sydney Conservatorium of Music), radio station 2MBS FM, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra education program, Music Viva in Schools and the Australian Music Centre. Each of these agencies is discussed in more detail below.

The Conservatorium Access Centre (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) offers a variety of programs which support music in the curriculum. The 'Youth Access Program' provides enrichment activities in instrumental, solo, and chamber ensemble performance for students from ages 5 to 21. Although wide-ranging, this one semester program specifically targets students in HSC courses - *Music 1*, *Music 2* and *Music Extension*. In 2002, 280 students participated in this program. In addition, the Conservatorium Access Centre offers 'Music Link' and 'Video Link' workshops to country and regional teachers and students. 'Music Link' and 'Video Link' focus on curriculum areas of performance, composition, musicology and aural skills. A third Conservatorium Access Centre program occurs during summer and winter vacation periods. During these periods, intensive performance workshops are conducted in flute, saxophone, clarinet, brass and piano by Sydney Conservatorium of Music teachers. Over 1000 students participate in the vacation programs each year.

Music education programs are provided by radio station 2MBS-FM (102.5MHz). Material relating to the syllabus for junior and senior secondary music classes is broadcast weekly in a one hour program. A half-hour music magazine on current issues, samples of resources and interviews for classes K-6 is presented each month.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) provides education resources for teachers and performances for students at both primary and secondary levels. Primary concerts are subdivided into occasions for years K-2, years 3-4 and years 5-6. Secondary concerts are subdivided into year 7-8, and music elective students. Students are also offered the opportunity to attend dress rehearsals of concerts in the main concert program. *Meet the Music* (an orchestral concert series held in the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House) includes, in each program, an Australian work which meets syllabus requirements for NSW students. There are concerts in regional centres for access by country students. The SSO also conducts a 'Player-Link' program for support of instrumental students in regional secondary schools.

Music Viva in Schools offers live performances in diverse musical styles and genres in primary and secondary schools. The program also provides comprehensive

teaching resources, books, recordings, and professional development courses for teachers. In 2002, approximately 1500 concerts will be presented in 600 schools throughout NSW (expected participation in excess of 200,000 students). A special secondary school program is available within the Sydney metropolitan area. This program consists of performances and workshops that are supported by resource material designed specifically to complement the music syllabuses for years 7-12.

The Australian Music Centre (AMC), which is funded federally, is a valuable resource for NSW music teachers and music students. NSW junior and senior secondary music syllabuses require students to study Australian music. In year 12, *Music 2* candidates are required to present a recent Australian piece for performance and to study music written in the last 25 years (Australian focus) in musicology. An outcome of these mandatory requirements is a need to access suitable materials for use in performance and musicology areas of the curriculum. In an academic year, the AMC hosts between 40 to 50 visits from schools. Each school party consists of 20 to 30 students and one or two music teachers, and is for the purpose of acquiring resources for school music purposes. From the 1980s to the present, the study of recent Australian music has been a major and significant change in music education in NSW. Since the early 1990s, the AMC has produced teaching kits designed for both junior and senior secondary school use on a variety of Australian topics, including popular, contemporary aboriginal, and art music.

8.3 Northern Territory

The following tables which were included in the previous chapter also include information about the number of hours devoted to core curricular music studies, co-curricular studies/experiences and extra-curricular music activities.

Table 8.1

*Northern Territory Government System: Primary schools with a music specialist—
Average hours per week*

	'Core' / class music	Co-curricular music	Extra curricular
Years T - 3	1hr 15 mins	40 mins—usually junior choir, sometimes in lunch hour, but often in class time	Nil
Years 4-5	50 mins	1hr 45 mins—usually 45 mins middle primary choir, 30mins instrumental lesson within the timetable, and 30mins junior band.	On a needs basis, usually related to events (eisteddfod, School concert etc.)
Years 6-7	50 mins, but sometimes discontinued.	1hr 45 mins # 45 mins choir—often the BEAT* choir, 30mins instrumental lesson within the timetable, and 30mins band.	On a needs basis, usually related to events (eisteddfod, School concert etc.)

Most choral and instrumental instruction in this column is by visiting teachers from the NT Music School (free of charge).

*The BEAT is the NT’s version of a combined schools choral festival or ‘Schools Spectacular’

Table 8.2

*Northern Territory Government System: High schools with a music specialist—
Average hours per week*

	Mandatory/ ‘Core’ Music	Elective Music	Co curricular	Extra-curricular
Yrs 8-10	Nil	3.5 hrs pw only for 1 or 2 semesters	30 mins instrumental lesson for selecting students	1 hr – band, but not in all high schools.
Yrs 11-12	Nil	4.5 hrs pw all year - stage 1 & 2 courses	1hr - instrumental lesson and ensemble activity	0.5 hr rehearsal for recital or performance

Table 8.3

*Northern Territory Government System: Primary schools without music specialist—
Average hours per week*

	‘Core’ / class music	Co-curricular music	Extra curricular
Years T - 3	30 mins in most schools	Nil	Nil
Years 4-5	40 mins in some schools, eg those in the Music Viva in schools program.	30 mins instrumental lesson for selecting students	By need, usually related to events (eisteddfod, School concert etc.)
Years 6-7	Nil	1hr 15 mins # 45 m choir—often the BEAT* choir, 30mins instrumental lesson for selecting students	By need, usually related to events (eisteddfod, School concert etc.)

Most choral and instrumental instruction in this column is by visiting teachers from the NT Music School (free of charge).

*The BEAT. is the NT’s version of a combined schools choral festival or ‘Schools Spectacular’.

Table 8.4

*Northern Territory Government System: High schools without music specialist—
Average hours per week*

	Mandatory/ 'Core' Music	Elective music	Co curricular	Extra- curricular
Yrs 8-10	Nil	Nil	30 mins instrumental lesson for selecting students	Nil
Yrs 11-12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

8.4 Queensland

While classroom music education in primary schools is mandatory (about 40 hours per year), instrumental music is widely available but not compulsory. The new Arts Syllabi being introduced in stages between 2002 and 2005 suggest two-and-a-half hours per week to study five (5) Art Forms (including Music). The 2001 policy document—the Years 1 to 10 Curriculum Framework—requires the school to provide each student with the opportunity to achieve the required core outcomes in each of the five arts strands. These opportunities may be integrated with other learning areas. In this climate of school choice, some schools are allocating additional time to music teaching.

In Year 8, Music is still part of the core curriculum. The time allocated may vary depending on the length of class periods and may consist of one or two lessons. However, there is no guarantee that music will be offered as it competes for time with the other visual and performing arts. In practice music offerings in year 8 are common but offerings in later years are widely variable depending mainly on the quality and enthusiasm of the music staff and ethos of each school. For most secondary schools, music is an elective subject from Year 9 to Year 12. Again, the time allocated may vary depending on the length of school periods. For Years 9 and 10, a total of 180 hours of study over two years is required for a major study and 90 hours for a minor study. For Years 11 and 12, a minimum of 55 hours per semester is required for a semester unit to be recorded in the results on the Senior Certificate.

8.5 South Australia

Again, answers to the present question were included in the previous chapter. Nevertheless, this material is replicated here to provide information on the number of hours devoted to core curricular music studies, co-curricular studies/experiences and extra-curricular music activities.

Primary Schools: Where classroom music instruction is provided, one lesson per week appears to be the general consensus regarding R to 7 classes across all systems,

except in the case of wealthier private schools (estimated at 10%¹⁰) which may have as many as 3 per week. Instrumental music lessons are half an hour in duration generally. Choir rehearsals are generally one hour in length; in the public system they are held during class time and within Independent schools they take place out-of-school hours.

Secondary Schools: Jenny Rosevear and Barbara Sedgeley have provided estimates of class time spent in music instruction.

Year 8: Music is generally compulsory for all school categories. In government schools, the compulsory component may take the form of five 40 minute lessons per week for a term. In other schools, it may be an all-year activity, but with fewer lessons during the week. The Special Interest Music Schools offer two and a half 45 minute sessions for General Music, five lessons for Elective Music and 10 lessons for Special Interest Music students¹¹. In Independent and Catholic schools, a general music course would be given to all students in year 8 for an estimated 90-120 minutes of music per week throughout the year.

Year 9: For all school categories, most students start to specialise during this year. An estimated 30 to 40% of the student population would continue with classroom music at this level. Time spent in classroom music would be between 160 to 220 minutes a week. Special Interest Music students undertake ten 40 minute lessons a week.

Year 10: For all school categories, music is elective at this level. Barbara Sedgeley estimated that 25 to 30% of the student population in independent schools would continue with music. Lessons would vary from 160 to 220 minutes of music per week. Time allocated is in keeping with other subjects in the student timetable. Special Interest Music students have 10 lessons a week.

Years 11-12: Time allocated for music is consistent with other subjects taken.

8.6 Tasmania

The indication of hours of instruction at primary school in question 7 is a minimum involvement. Many students at primary level also participate in choirs and instrumental ensembles—e.g. recorder, guitar, percussion etc. Sometimes these activities occur in lunchtimes, but most often these groups rehearse in class time. Thus it can be seen that elective participation is often timetabled at this level and core curriculum and electives have little meaning.

At secondary level, electives usually constitute some form of ensemble work such as choir or bands. These could be considered extra-curricular activities rather than electives and will be discussed in the next question.

¹⁰ Estimate is from Barbara Sedgeley.

¹¹ Neville Hannaford, Brighton Secondary School, provided lesson details for the Special Interest Music Centres in Adelaide.

8.7 Victoria

Government Schools

It is difficult to ascertain how many hours are devoted to core curricular music studies, co-curricular studies/experiences and extra-curricular music activities, as Music is has been located within The Art's KLA block and is not treated as separate 'subject'. The CSF brings together Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Media, and Graphic Communication under one Arts 'umbrella'.

Independent schools

Core curriculum in music ranges from nil to 1.5 hours, with music electives ranging from 1.5 hours to 4 hours of instruction per week.

8.8 Western Australia

As stated in the previous questions (4, 5 and 7), there is no mandatory curriculum allocation for music in Western Australia in years other than 11 and 12, and there is a wide range of delivery models. The system is decentralized and consequently school principals make individual school decisions about the provision of the music curriculum. Students in primary schools and lower secondary schools need only study one of The Arts (music, dance, visual arts, drama, media). Therefore, there is no requirement for schools to report on this to a central office.

Supplementary Enrichment Activities offered by Professional Music Organisations

There are three main professional organisations in Western Australia who have dedicated music education programs that are offered to music teachers in schools (primary and secondary, government and non-government) to aid the enrichment of their programs.

Musica Viva in Schools offers a diverse range of concerts (supported by teacher resource notes and recordings) to schools state-wide. In 2001, approximately 31,075 students attended 188 concerts given in 168 schools. A total of 225 teachers attended 17 professional development courses which complement the schools' concerts.

During 2001, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra's Youth Education and Development Program organised pre-primary and primary schools' concerts presented by EChO (Educational Chamber Orchestra) and primary and secondary schools' concerts were presented by the whole orchestra. In previous years, the program has also supported teachers' work in teaching the TEE Set Works—this was reintroduced in 2001.

Also during 2001, the West Australian Opera Company's education program was revitalised with the appointment of a part-time Education and Artform Officer. Efforts were made to attract secondary school students into main house season performances through discounted student tickets as well as supporting one of the

productions by a ‘miniature highlights’ version of one of the main house productions. Resource notes were produced as an aid for teachers.

The Australian Opera Studio (opened in 2002) provided training support to young singers attempting to bridge the gap between tertiary studies and joining a professional opera company. In their inaugural the Studio toured Perth metropolitan primary schools with a children’s opera (‘The Dryblower’) especially commissioned from Perth composer, Iain Grandage.

8.9 Summary of State Findings and Indication of State and/or National Trends

The following table indicates the situation in each state in relation to the number of hours of classroom music instruction (mandated or average estimates) and elective music studies in government schools. The table also allows for comparisons to be made between states.

Table 8.8
Hours allocated for Music Instruction in Government Schools in Australian States and Territories, 2002

Level	Primary	Years 7/8	Years 9/10	Years 11/12
State				
ACT	No prescribed time requirement	Elective Music	Elective Music	Elective Music
NSW	Although no prescribed time requirement, 1990 legislation mandates music instruction in each years of primary school.	Mandated course in yrs 7/8 requires 100 indicative hrs for School Cert.	Elective Music as 100/200/300 indicative hrs.	Prelim and HSC Music courses require 120 indicative hours each.
NT	Av. weekly 1.25 hrs or 50 min lessons p.w. for core music with additional co- and extra-curricular music if specialist; less if no specialist	Year 8—No core Music, but 3.5 hrs p.w. if Elective Music plus additional time for co- and extra-curricular music.	No core Music, but 3.5 hrs p.w. if Elective Music plus additional time for co- and extra-curricular music.	No core Music, but 3.5 hrs p.w. if Elective Music plus additional time for co- and extra-curricular music.
QLD	Recommended 1.5 hrs p.w. but c.87% of students receive 0.5 hrs p.w.	In Yr 8 students typically receive 4 hrs p.w. for one semester.	Music Elective—typically 4 hrs p.w. for one semester.	SSABSA Music subjects require 55 hrs p.w. for each semester.
SA	Av. of one lesson p.w.	In Yr 8 students receive 5 x 40 min lessons in Music for one term of the school year.	Elective Music between 160 and 220 mins per week.	Music allocation consistent with other subjects at this level.
TAS	Av. of 30 to 60 mins p.w.	Estimated 1 to 2 hrs p.w. when offered	TASSAB Music courses offered; A course = 25 hrs, B courses = 100 hrs, C courses = 150 hrs.	TASSAB Music courses offered; A course = 25 hrs, B courses = 100 hrs, C courses = 150 hrs.
VIC	No mandated hours of music instruction—will	No mandated hours of music instruction—will	No mandated hours of music instruction—	VCE Music units (2 required in Yr 12 for

	depend on staffing.	depend on staffing.	will depend on staffing.	each subject) each requires 50 hrs of classroom instruction
WA	No prescribed time requirement.	No prescribed time requirement.	No prescribed time requirement.	Prescribed time requirement as for other subjects taken for TEE or non-TEE music subjects.

The situation in independent and Catholic schools is impossible to ascertain due to lack of data.