



NT MUSIC SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL ENSEMBLE

PROGRAM POLICY

Responsibility of: Leadership Team, Instrumental Music Teachers
Effective date: September 2025
Next review date: Term 3, 2026

1. RATIONALE

To ensure fair and consistent practices for students wishing to join an NT Music School (NTMS) after-school combined-schools ensemble, conditions of enrolment and ensemble participation expectations.

2. POLICY

This policy outlines the process followed in relation to all NT Music School Ensembles.

- 2.1** All ensembles have a limited number of identified places, based on achieving a balanced ensemble. These places are reviewed at the end of each year by ensemble teachers and adjusted according to need.
- 2.2** Placement in ensembles is based on audition, taking into consideration available ensemble places.
- 2.3** Instrumental students are invited to audition for an ensemble once they have obtained the required NTMS Syllabus level. Syllabus level data is taken from Semester 2 reports to invite eligible students.
- 2.4** An audition is required for new choir members, but students are not required to have an NTMS syllabus level before enrolling. Continuing choral students in Singchronicity are not required to re-audition unless requested by the NT Music School ensemble leader. Continuing choral students in Pure Note are required to re-audition on an annual basis.
- 2.5** Annual intake occurs at the end of Term 4 with auditions conducted in Weeks 8 – 10 of Term 4 for all ensembles. Students from interstate, students who miss an audition in Term 4, or students who qualify for a place throughout the year may be auditioned at another time, as negotiated with ensemble teachers.
- 2.6** All students invited to become a member of an NT Music School Instrumental Ensemble are required to complete a 'Permission to Attend an NT Music School Ensemble' form annually. Choral students are not required to complete a 'Permission to Attend Ensembles' form as they will have completed an online enrolment and families will have read the terms and conditions for ensembles.
- 2.7** All students are expected to perform publicly as part of the ensemble.
- 2.8** All NT Music School ensemble students must have media permission and parents must agree to permit the recording, photographing and/or broadcasting of events involving their child. Students are unable to join an NT Music School ensemble without media permission.
- 2.9** The NT Music School is part of the Northern Territory public schools' (government schools) system and students from government schools have priority for ensemble placement. A minimum of 75% of places in

each ensemble are allocated to students currently enrolled in government schools. Entry for students not enrolled in a government school is provisional based upon places being available, after all public-school applicants who can fill the roles, have been placed.

- 2.10** An annual ensemble fee of \$100 is requested for each ensemble a student is enrolled in. This amount assists with ensemble costs, such as sheet music and musical equipment.
- 2.11** Uniforms at a cost of \$35 are compulsory for all NT Music School Ensemble participants for public performances. Badges to delineate ensembles are provided to students at no cost.
- 2.12** Students and teachers are to be at ensemble rehearsal 10 minutes prior to start time and picked up within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the rehearsal. Parents of students who are repeatedly picked up more than 15 minutes after the conclusion of a rehearsal will be contacted and advised that continued late pick up may result in the student being withdrawn from the ensemble as NTMS is unable to provide appropriate duty of care under these circumstances. Re-entry into the ensemble may be possible by negotiation with the ensemble teachers.
- 2.13** All ensemble students must comply with the NT Music School Attendance Policy. Students who miss three consecutive lessons may be withdrawn from the ensemble, due to the limited number of ensemble places available, and in fairness to students on waiting lists.
- 2.14** Parents of students in any age group may give permission for their child to walk home if they live nearby to the rehearsal space. Parents of students in Year 10, 11 or 12 may give written permission for their child to make their own way home by any/all means. Duty of care for students with these permissions cannot be provided at the conclusion of rehearsals, once the student has left the visual supervision of NTMS staff.
- 2.15** Student well-being and safety is a priority in all ensembles. Student behaviour which is inappropriate will be dealt with in accordance with the NT Music School Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy. Continued inappropriate behaviour may result in removal from the ensemble by the Principal.
- 2.16** Performance opportunities outside scheduled NT Music School events must be approved by the Principal. Personnel required and equipment lists are to be submitted to the NT Music School's Equipment Team Member no later than 2 working weeks prior to an event.
- 2.17** Ensemble teachers are required to keep accurate records of attendance for after school ensembles at all rehearsals and performances.
- 2.18** Ensemble teachers are required to maintain contact with ensemble parents & guardians regarding the general running and organisation of individual ensembles via email. All correspondence must be proof-read by the regional ST1 or a member of the leadership team. The Assistant Principal and admin team are to be cc'd into any correspondence sent to parents.
- 2.19** All ensembles are required to work towards performance outcomes and, where possible, should perform a minimum of 2 times per year.

3. BUSINESS NEED

Clear processes will ensure efficiency, consistency and equality of access across Northern Territory Music School ensembles and enable accurate data management of student enrolment and attendance in Ensemble Programs.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Compliance with this policy at the Northern Territory Music School is the responsibility of the Leadership Team and Ensemble Teachers.

5. DEFINITIONS

Ensembles:

Singchronicity – NT Music School Combined Schools Choir

Pure Note – NT Music School Combined Schools Advanced Choir

Da Capo – NT Music School Beginner Instrumental Ensemble

Con Moto – NT Music School Intermediate Instrumental Ensemble

Apogee – NT Music School Advanced Instrumental Ensemble

String Theory – NT Music School Guitar Ensemble

Rock School – NT Music School Rock Band

NTMS – NT Music School

Enrolled Student: is a student whose name appears on an NTMS roll once enrolment is complete.

Ensemble Teacher: is the person or persons assigned to an NT Music School ensemble.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

Additional policy references:

Financial Difficulty Policy

Attendance Policy

NTMS School Wide Positive Behaviour Policy

7. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Northern Territory Music School Leadership team in consultation with teacher and administration.

8. APPENDIX A – NTMS Enrolment & Audition Processes for all After School Ensembles



Audition Process for After School Ensembles

Concert Band Ensembles

Apogee

New students are required to audition (existing students are not required to re-audition annually).

Places are reviewed according to the Apogee instrumentation plan.

All students who have completed Level 3 of the NTMS Syllabus and are working at Level 4 or above are invited annually to audition in WEEK 7, Term 4. (NTMS sends an email home to all students at Syllabus Level 4).

Auditions take place in Week 8 and 9 of Term 4, on weekday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm, as negotiated with ensemble teachers. Additional auditions may be offered in Week 10 if required.

Auditions are 10 minutes in duration, with only 1 student per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare a piece for performance of 2-3 minutes duration, 3 scales of their choice and be prepared to sight read examples of appropriate difficulty.

Students are notified of results by the end of the year.

Con Moto

New students are required to audition (existing students are not required to re-audition annually).

Places are reviewed according to the Con Moto instrumentation plan.

Darwin: All students who have completed Level 2 of the NTMS syllabus and are working at Level 3 are invited annually to audition in Week 7, Term 4 (NTMS sends an email home to all students at Syllabus Level 3).

Auditions take place in Week 8 and 9 of Term 4, on weekday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm, as negotiated with ensemble teachers. Additional auditions may be offered in Week 10 if required.

Auditions are 10 minutes in duration, with only 1 student per audition.

Darwin: For the audition, students must prepare a piece for performance showing legato, staccato and dynamic range, 2 scales of their choice and be prepared to sight read examples of appropriate difficulty.

Students are notified of results by the end of Term 4.

Da Capo

New students are required to audition (existing students are not required to re-audition annually).

Places are reviewed according to Da Capo instrumentation plan.

All students who have completed Level 1 of the NTMS syllabus and are working at Level 2 are invited annually to audition in Week 7, Term 4 (NTMS sends an email home to all students at Syllabus Level 2).

Auditions take place in Week 8 and 9 of Term 4, on weekday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm, as negotiated with ensemble teachers. Additional auditions may be offered in Week 10 if required.

Auditions are 10 minutes in duration, with only 1 student per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare a piece for performance, 1 scale of their choice and be prepared to sight read examples of appropriate difficulty.

Students are notified of results by the end of Term 4.

Choral Ensembles

Singchronicity

Students are eligible to enroll from Year 4 onwards, via the NTMS website.

New students are required to audition.

Once enrolled students are sent an invitation to book an audition in Week 7.

Auditions are in weeks 8, 9 and 10, on weekday afternoons from 3.30 – 5.00pm, as negotiated with ensemble teachers.

Auditions are 30 minutes in duration, with up to 6 students per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare a piece for performance, a major scale, a natural minor scale, and be prepared to complete some echo, harmonization and sight singing tasks.

If places are available a small round of auditions takes place in Term 1 of the following year, or on a needs basis throughout the year.

Students are notified of results by the end of Term 4.

Numbers are capped at 60 in Darwin and 30 in Palmerston.

Students are on probation for their first term in the choir.

Pure Note

Students are required to complete an audition. Some experience in choir is expected prior to auditioning (e.g. Singchronicity).

All students are required to audition annually.

All students are required to enroll through the NTMS website annually to be invited to audition.

Enrolled students are sent an invitation to book an audition in Week 7.

Auditions are in weeks 8 and 9 on Mondays 3:30-5pm (continuing students are in Week 8, new students in week 9). An additional audition may be run in Week 10 if required (Mon 3:30-5pm).

Auditions are 90 minutes long with up to 16 students per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare a piece for performance, a major scale, a natural minor scale, a harmonic minor scale and be prepared to complete some echo, harmonization and sight singing tasks.

Students are notified of results by the end of Term 4.

Numbers are capped at 18 and the first term is considered a probation period.

Other After School Ensembles

String Theory – Guitar Ensemble

All students who have completed Level 2 of the NTMS syllabus and are working at **Level 3** or above are invited annually to audition in Week 7, Term 4 (NTMS sends an email home to all students at syllabus Level 3 or above).

Auditions take place in Week 8 and 9 of Term 4. Additional auditions may be offered in Week 10 only if required. Auditions are Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm.

Auditions are 10 minutes in duration, with 2 students per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare:

- 3 scales: G Major, D Major and A minor.
- A strummed chord sequence from any song (except smoke on the water).
- A melody or motif of minimum 8 bars.

Students are notified of results by the end of the year.

Numbers are capped at 24.

Rock School

New students are required to audition (existing students are not required to re-audition annually).

Places are reviewed according to the Rock School instrumentation plan.

All students who are currently working on Level 3 of the NTMS Syllabus are to be notified of available places.

Students are required to enrol through the NTMS website to be invited to audition.

Enrolled students are sent an invitation to book an audition in Week 8.

Auditions are 10 minutes in duration, with only 1 student per audition.

For the audition, students must prepare:

- A piece for performance of 1-2 minutes duration
- Scales associated with level 3
- A short improvisation using scales and or arpeggios – instructions will be given in audition

Students are notified of results by the end of the year.

Numbers are capped at 12.

Regional Ensembles

Please note, entry level for regional ensembles is different to the Darwin Region. Ensemble entry levels are:

String Theory Alice – Completed Level One & working at Level Two or above

Apogee Alice - Completed Level Three & working at Level Four or above

Con Moto Alice - Completed Level One & working at Level Two or above.

For the audition, students must prepare a song for performance, 1 scale of their choice and be prepared to sight read examples of appropriate difficulty. This differs from Con Moto Darwin requirements.

Da Capo Katherine – Working at Level One and above

Singchronicity Alice – Working at Level One or above