

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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Why be in the choral program?

Mental health:

- Boosts cognitive function
- Reduces stress & anxiety
- Increases self-confidence
- Combats loneliness & isolation
- Offers creative expression

Physical health:

- Improves breathing
- Regulates heart rate
- Reduces stress & depression
- Improves posture & muscle tone
- May alleviate symptoms of chronic diseases

Social benefits:

- Expands social network
- Strengthens sense of community
- Develops teamwork & communication
- Offers performance opportunities
- Can be fun & enjoyable

When can my child join a choir?

- **Years 1 and 2 – Sopraninos**
 - Starts Term 2 (after Easter holidays)
 - Wednesday mornings, MPB, 8:00 – 8:30
- **Years 3 and 4 - Junior Choir**
 - Has begun. Thursday mornings, MPB, 7:40 – 8:30
- **Years 5 and 6 – Senior Choir**
 - Has begun. Friday mornings, MPB, 7:40 – 8:30
- **Years 4, 5 and 6 – Girls' Choir**
 - Semester 1. Monday mornings, MPB, 7:40 – 8:30
- **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – Boys' Choir**
 - Semester 2. Monday mornings, Music Room, 7:40 – 8:30

What is different about the choirs at TGSS?

- Professional conductor and accompanist at every rehearsal
- Learn music that includes score reading building literacy – both musical and general
- An amazing Team of Music Educators who work together for the personal and musical development of your child.
- Every child in years 1 to 6 is welcome to be in the choral program.

How much will it cost?

The 2024 Music Program fees are as follows:

Invoices for students in the 2024 Instrumental Music Program will be generated by the school this week. Full payment is due by 24 November 2023, unless a payment plan is in place. Please contact school office staff if you would like to discuss a payment plan.

The school's Instrumental and Choral Music Program Information Booklet is available for viewing on the school website, with full information about the programs and Music Supporters' Group (<https://thegapss.eq.edu.au/curriculum/music>).

SRS instrument hire fee - Maintenance contribution for use of a school-owned instrument	\$125
MSG Contributions	
Contribution for all students in the instrumental program (includes trouser hire)	\$145
Contribution for all students in Junior or Senior Choir (includes trouser hire)	\$180
or	
Contribution for students participating in both instrumental & choral programs (includes trouser hire) (Cost includes \$145 Instrumental Music Program contribution + \$85 Choral Music Program contribution as a reduced fee for students who participate in both programs)	\$230
Contribution for students in Sopranino Choir (Year 1 and 2)	\$40
Contribution for students in Girls' Choir (Year 5 – 6 max 30 students) Auditioned choir Semester 1 only	\$55
Contribution for students in Boys' Choir (Year 3 – 6) Semester 2 only	\$55

You will also have to purchase a music uniform (*music uniform trousers are hired as part of program cost*).

What are the benefits of being a part of the Instrumental Music Program?

- Foster a sense of belonging
- Improve memory skills
- Improve hand eye coordination & fine motor skills
- Improve listening skills
- Cognitive development that can transfer to other subjects
- Develop auditory skills
- Encourage responsibility, perseverance and discipline
- Encourage self-expression
- Build self confidence
- Build physical strength and improve stamina
- Provide a constructive outlet for stress



What instruments do we offer?

Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, French horn, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba (Bass Guitar)

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Percussion: Tuned and auxiliary

Woodwind: Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Flute, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone

How are students selected ?

The following information is used to help us determine which students will be offered a place in our Instrumental Music Program. This is an on-balance collaborative judgement made by the school teaching staff. All offers are approved by the Principal.

Unfortunately we are always oversubscribed and are unable to accept all who apply.

Students will be ranked according to the following information:

- Aural Aptitude Test
- Progress and enthusiasm in Rainbow Rockets (Year 3 students – Band only) and Classroom Music Lessons
- Academic results, including Music, behaviour and effort achievement standards
- Assessment of suitability by Instrumental Music teachers

What does 'Ensemble Program' mean?

Your child **MUST** be part of an ensemble. You cannot choose to only have a lesson and not be part of the ensemble. This is mandated by the Department of Education.

We need to recruit for 'balanced ensembles'. That means a range of instruments to allow for the group experience to be successful.

What does the Department of Education Queensland provide?

Instrumental lessons are funded by The Department of Education Queensland (partially funded by The Gap State School). DoE funds Strings from Year 3 and Woodwind, Brass and Percussion from Year 4.

ALL Year 3 Students are learning a Woodwind Instrument (recorder) and Tuned Percussion (Glockenspiel and Xylophone). This Initiative, Rainbow Rockets, will be used to help inform the Instrumental music selection process for Band Students.

What is the **2025** intake?

String intake Year 3

Band intake Year 4

The Expression of Interest for **2024 Year 2 Students** will give you the option of Strings for 2025 or Band (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) for 2026. If your child really wants a band instrument, please do not nominate for strings this year.

The Expression of Interest for **2024 Year 3 Students** will only have the option of Band (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion) for 2025.

We will be taking a similar number of students as previous years.

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You will also have to purchase a music uniform (*music uniform trousers are hired as part of program cost*).

Tell me about buying an instrument.

Your child uses a school instrument for one year. After that year, you purchase your own instrument. This is a considerable financial commitment that we need you to consider before applying for the program. There are more affordable options like buying a good second-hand instrument, or hiring to buy. (approximate costs new: Violin – \$300 Trumpet – \$600 Trombone - \$1,000)
Double Bass, French Horn and Euphonium are loaned for the duration of primary school. Cellos are a two year loan.

How is my contribution used?

- Ensemble Music (\$100 - \$200 each)
- Equipment (music stands, percussion gear, teacher resources...)
- Trouser hire
- Purchase of school instruments
- Maintenance and servicing of school instruments for hire and shared use e.g. percussion
- Competition entry fees
- Some bus journeys

When do the lessons occur?

Once a week, for half an hour, in a small group, in school time.

Ensembles rehearse before school once a week starting at 7.30 from their second year of learning for Strings, and later in their first year for Band.

Do we have to attend all the rehearsals and performances?



You sure do!

Performances are a vital part of our instrumental program, with learnings that go well beyond musical development.

Can my child try for a while to see if they like it?



In short – No.

We expect students to remain in the program unless mutually agreed that it is no longer in the best interests of the child to continue.

Can my child learn the instrument we already have at home?

That is possible, and considered, dependant on the information gathered in the selection process.
List that information on your application.
As far as possible, if your child is successful, we try to offer their first or second preference.

Will my child have a better chance of selection if they already learn another instrument?

Yes and No.

If your child has been learning an instrument for some time, and this has improved their general music knowledge, built practice habits, developed discipline...and this has all transferred to the classroom and has created better results on all those listed aspects we consider in the selection process, then no doubt it helps.

If you put your child in lessons on an instrument for a few months with the express purpose of increasing their chances of selection, then that will NOT help.

If my child enters the Instrumental Program, should they stay in the choir?

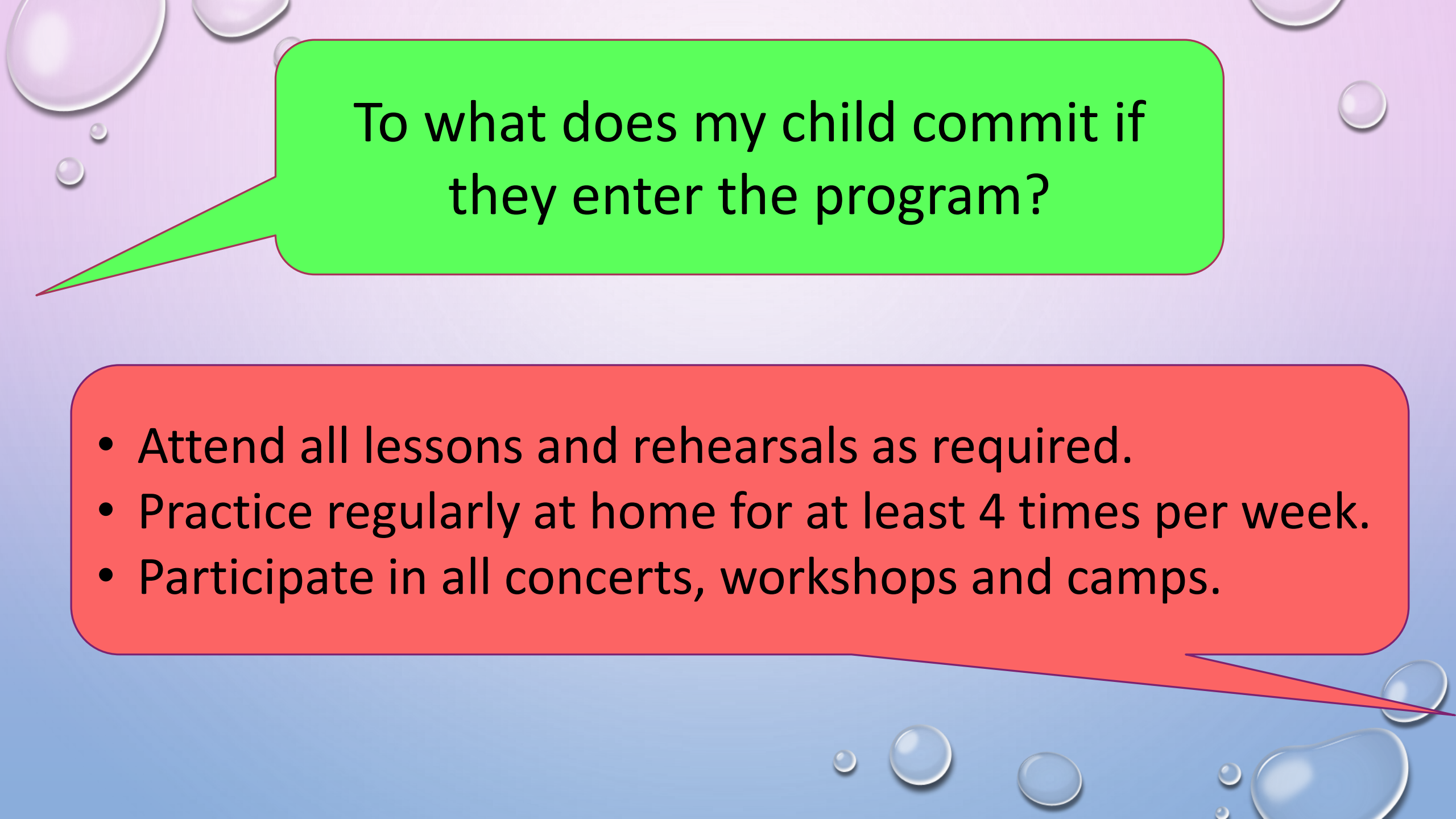
Please – YES! ✓



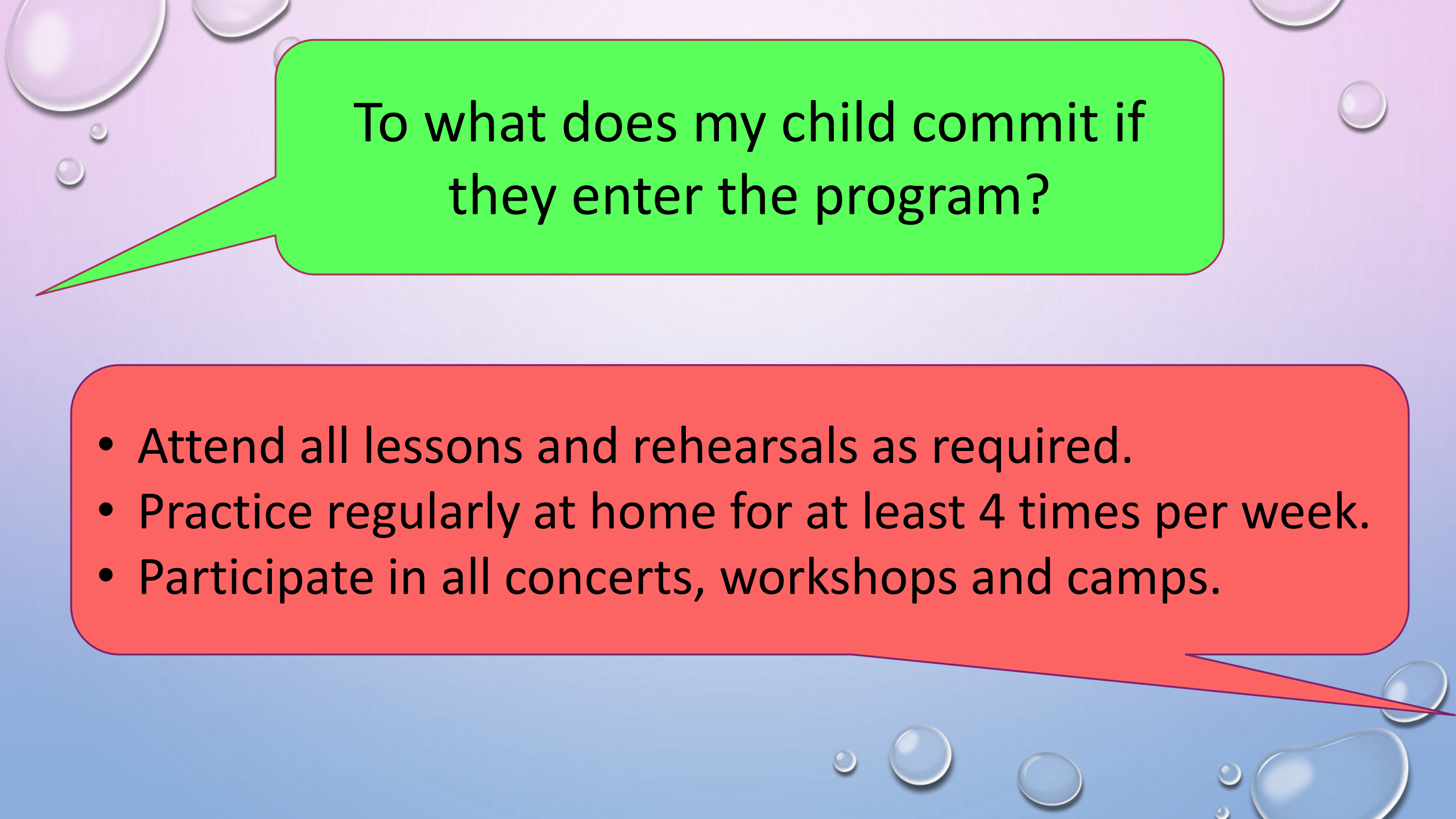
The work in the choral program supports and enhances the music knowledge needed for instrumental work. It creates a better understanding of music and score reading, sensitivity to working within an ensemble, as well as the music literacy components encountered.

What is my commitment if my child enters the program?

- Provide your child with a suitable instrument after 12 months tuition. (Except for large instruments)
- Maintain an interest in your child's music study, including practice and attendance at lessons and rehearsals.
- Provide a safe place in which to store the instrument, keeping it clean and in working order.



To what does my child commit if they enter the program?

- 
- Attend all lessons and rehearsals as required.
 - Practice regularly at home for at least 4 times per week.
 - Participate in all concerts, workshops and camps.

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