

# Prospectus 2022

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**Kummissjoni Banda – December 2021**

GĦAQDA MUŻIKALI MARIJA BAMBINA, BANDA VITTORJA | NAXXAR  
A REGISTERED VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION – VO 0749

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# Foreword

From their inception, band clubs in Malta have been a means of providing free music education with the main aim of increasing the number of elements within the band. The emphasis was more likely to be on the quantity rather than on the quality which at the time was an important approach for the growth of such culture. For many years, this concept has worked, and many are the musicians who presently can boast of a musical career which kicked off from a local band club.

Nowadays, the general educational system has changed and qualifications, certifications and accreditations have become central. We are also witnessing a constant rise in popularity of the vocational approach of teaching and learning. Such approach involves students learning through doing, thus targeting the current industrial needs. This system fits perfectly the environment provided by the schools of music within the local band clubs. Therefore, with a little reorganization and restructuring of the systems currently in use within band clubs, this can easily become the way forward which will allow students to be also formally certified.

Based on this idea, this prospectus gives an outline of the system that will be provided to the students at the “George Vella School of Music” within the *Għaqda Muzikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. The objective of this system is to provide a holistic musical educational framework which will help students aim for quality. The formal course is six years long, providing a strong basis of musical rudiments with application, qualified tutors to teach both the practical and theoretical aspects, and an apprenticeship period, thus giving students a complete experience to learning music. Moreover, the structure will enable students to get certified through a recognized English music college – the Trinity College of Music. Most importantly, the structure also allows for students to continue their musical studies at higher level with the possibility of targeting a musical career.

This is all embedded within the conventional idea of a local band club: fees are kept at a minimum for accessibility to all, free loan of instruments is still provided and above all the family-feeling will still reign over all those involved. We therefore invite you to join us to keep Maltese traditions alive by making good music together!

# Course Overview

## Introductory Courses

	Age	Course Content	Assessment
<b>Music Explorers</b>	7-12 years	<p>Introduction to music notation and appreciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part 1 (January-June): 30-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor, covering rhythm and pitch through use of body percussion and percussion toys.</li> <li>- Part 2 (July-December): 20-minute weekly individual lesson with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</li> </ul>	Continuous assessment
<b>Introduction to Music</b>	13 years or more	<p>Theory of Music - Grade 1 Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 30-minute weekly group session with theory tutor</li> <li>- Students are exempted from these sessions if they hold a Grade 1 certificate in Theory of Music of one of the recognised foreign examination boards.</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to the instrument of choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuous assessment</p> <p>Final written assessment</p>

## Core Framework

	Course Content	Assessment	Notes
<b>Level 1</b>	<p><b>Music Practice – Grade 1</b> 30-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Group Solfège Session</b> 45-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment.</p> <p>Final practical assessment.</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite</b> Completion of either one of the Introductory courses described above <i>OR</i> Grade 1 certificate in Theory of Music of one of the recognised foreign examination boards.</p> <p><b>Junior Ensemble</b> The Junior Ensemble is made up of Level 1 and Level 2 students. Through this ensemble, students are provided with their first experience of playing in a wind band through frequent rehearsals aimed at teaching students the attitude, behaviour, and techniques of playing with other fellow musicians. The Junior Ensemble performs during school concerts.</p>

			<p><b>Chamber Music Sessions</b> Students are also engaged in sessions with the school accompanist in preparation for class/school concerts. This provides an introduction to performing chamber music.</p>
<p><b>Level 2</b></p>	<p><b>Music Practice – Grade 2</b> 30-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Group Solfège Session</b> 45-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment.</p> <p>Final practical assessment.</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite</b> Completion of either Level 1 <i>OR</i> Grade 1 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Junior Ensemble</b> The Junior Ensemble is made up of Level 1 and Level 2 students. Through this ensemble, students are given their first experience of playing in a wind band through frequent rehearsals aimed at teaching students the attitude, behaviour, and techniques of playing with other fellow musicians. The Junior Ensemble performs during school concerts.</p> <p><b>Chamber Music Sessions</b> Students are also engaged in sessions with the school accompanist in preparation for class/school concerts. This provides a training platform to performing chamber music.</p>
<p><b>Level 3</b></p>	<p><b>Music Practice – Grade 3</b> 30-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Group Solfège Session</b> 75-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment.</p> <p>Final practical assessment.</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite</b> Completion of either Level 2 <i>OR</i> Grade 2 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Youth Band – Banda Żgħazagħ Vittorja</b> The Youth Band is made up of students at Level 3 upwards and alumni. Through this ensemble, students are given training in playing with a full wind band. The youth band performs regularly during many of the society's activities.</p>

			<p><b>Chamber Music Sessions</b> Students are also engaged in sessions with the school accompanist in preparation for class/school concerts. This provides a training platform to performing chamber music.</p>
<p><b>Level 4</b></p>	<p><b>Music Practice – Grade 4</b> 30-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Group Solfège Session</b> 75/90-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment.</p> <p>Final practical assessment.</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite</b> Completion of either Level 3 <i>OR</i> Grade 3 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Youth Band – Banda Żgħażaġh Vittorja</b> The Youth Band is made up of students at Level 3 upwards and alumni. Through this ensemble, students are trained in playing with a full wind band. The youth band performs regularly during many of the society's activities.</p> <p><b>Chamber Music Sessions</b> Students are also engaged in sessions with the school accompanist in preparation for class/school concerts. This provides a training platform to performing chamber music.</p> <p><b>Banda Vittorja</b> Students at Level 4 are introduced to the official wind band of the society by joining the band during marches. Students are also required to attend band rehearsals as observers.</p>
<p><b>Level 5</b></p>	<p><b>Music Practice – Grade 5</b> 45-minute weekly individual session with the respective tutor of the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Group Solfège Session</b> 75/90-minute weekly group session with solfège tutor.</p>	<p>Continuous assessment.</p> <p>Final practical assessment.</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite</b> Completion of either Level 4 <i>OR</i> Grade 4 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p><b>Youth Band – Banda Żgħażaġh Vittorja</b> The Youth Band is made up of students at Level 3 upwards and alumni. Through this</p>

		<p>ensemble, students are given training in playing with a full wind band. The youth band performs regularly during many of the society's activities.</p> <p><b>Chamber Music Sessions</b> Students are also engaged in sessions with the school accompanist in preparation for class/school concerts. This provides a training platform to performing chamber music.</p> <p><b>Banda Vittorja</b> Students at Level 5 become full members of the society's official wind band. Thus, they are required to attend marches and concerts as stipulated in the list of services issued at the beginning of the year. They are also required to attend all rehearsals in preparation for the concerts and other activities that might arise.</p>
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Students may opt to continue their studies at higher levels at the *George Vella School of Music*. However, lesson fees will be at commercial rates.

### Instrumental Classes

- Woodwind:** Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Brass:** Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba
- Percussion:** Untuned and Tuned Percussion, Drumkit

# School Calendar

<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10<sup>th</sup>: Start of Scholastic Year 2022, First Semester</li></ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Holidays</li><li>• 25<sup>th</sup> Start of Second Semester for Scholastic Year 2022</li></ul>
<b>August / September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> September: Summer Holidays</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13<sup>th</sup> September – Start of Third Term for Scholastic Year 2022</li></ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End-of-year Assessments</li></ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 17<sup>th</sup> December – End of scholastic year 2022</li></ul>

**Important:**

- *The above schedule is not final and events may be changed, removed or added.*
- *No lessons will be held during public holidays.*
- *There will be no lessons during the highlighted holidays. However, rehearsals, services and concerts can still take place*



# Terms and Conditions

The “George Vella School of Music” is the school of music within the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar*. The school provides high standard, holistic musical tuition, specializing in woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Within this text the term “the school” will refer to the “George Vella School of Music”. The term “student” or “students” will refer to a person or persons who have enrolled and are following/will be following the full course provided by the school as highlighted in *Course Overview* section.

## Registration Procedure

Registration is open to all adults and children of any gender, nationality and musical level who would like to learn a band instrument and who comply by the following criteria:

- ✓ Be at least 7 years of age (i.e. born by the end of December 2015) or older
- ✓ Be a paying member of the named society. In the case of minors, at least one of the legal guardians must be a paying member of the society. Registration for Membership can be done at the time of application.

Registration can be carried out by applying online through our website on <https://gvsom.bandavittorjanaxxar.org>

Given that the number of students in each instrumental class is limited, a waiting list will be created when that class exceeds its number of students.

Prospective students may be asked to sit for an audition.

## Obligations

Students who make use of the main services of the school as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section agree to the following conditions:

- Students are not allowed to give their musical service to other musical entities before finishing Level 4.
- In return for the highly discounted price for the lessons covering the whole course, students and alumni who use or have made use of the services of the school are obliged to give their musical services to the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja, Naxxar* without any financial return. They should also give priority to the named band over other musical commitments that the student or alumnus/alumna might have.

Prospective students who are not willing to fulfil these obligations should reconsider their decision to enrol in the school. Students who fail to abide by these obligations will be immediately suspended from the school.

## School Procedures

A scholastic year starts from January and ends in December, with a total of not less than 35 weekly lessons annually, approximately carried out as highlighted in the *School Calendar* on page 6.

Each new student should begin his musical tuition through one of the Introductory Course, unless equivalent certifications are presented at the time of application as highlighted in the prerequisites for each level.

## Attendance

Students are required to attend all sessions pertaining to the level being followed, as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section. No exceptions will be made. Attendance will be recorded.

*Automatic Dismissal* - Students who miss three consecutive practical or solfège lessons are considered to have resigned from the course, unless a blue certificate is presented for the missed dates.

*Attendance Percentage* - Students who do not attend at least 80% of the required lessons, rehearsals, band services and concerts will not be allowed to sit for the annual assessments at the end of the year, and therefore will not progress to the next level.

## Commitment to Study

All the students attending the school should show commitment towards their studies and the society under which the school operates. Students should prepare the requested work diligently and constantly to achieve the best results. A tutor may curtail the lesson if a student is found to not have prepared the assigned work diligently.

## Assessments

Students will have two kinds of assessments:

1. A continuous assessment which will be done by the respective tutor during the weekly lessons. These assessments aim at providing guidance on areas of improvement as well as highlight the achievements. These assessments will also have a weight in the final internal annual assessment.
2. An annual assessment which will be held towards the end of the scholastic year. The Practical assessment will include scales or technical work, two accompanied pieces, a study and a sight-reading test. Practical annual assessments will only be held for students in Level 1 to Level 5.
3. Students following the *Introduction to Music* course or theory lessons (page 11) are required to sit for a final written exam covering the syllabus of the respective level.

## Loan of Instruments

The school provides the service of instrument-loaning to students as from the Introductory Courses such that students are given the opportunity to be sure of their choice of instrument before incurring the actual expense of a new instrument. Students might be asked to return the instrument back to the school by the end of Level 2, whereupon the student will be expected to buy his/her own instrument.

During the period of the instrument loan, the student is responsible for the care and frequent services of the loaned instrument. All fees made by the student in relation to general upkeep and/or maintenance and/or repairs during the loan-period should be paid in full by the student.

At the commencement of the loaning period, the student should pay a €50 deposit which will be returned in full at the end of the loan if the instrument is in good condition. If the instrument requires any repairs, the deposit will be retained by the school to be used to pay for such.

### Annual School Donation

The provision of lessons as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section are free of charge. However, an annual non-refundable school donation of €100 is kindly suggested from all students using the school's main services as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section to cover additional running costs that are incurred during the academic year. If possible, the donation is made on registration.

The donation will cover the following services and expenses:

- ✓ All lessons and activity sessions as highlighted in the *Course Overview*.
- ✓ The organization of annual musical activities directly targeting students.
- ✓ The provision of an accompanist for preparation for the internal examinations, including two piano accompaniment rehearsals and accompaniment on the day of the practical internal examination.

The donation excludes:

- ✗ Books required during the scholastic year.
- ✗ Theory lessons, excluding the theory sessions provided to students following the *Introduction to Music* course
- ✗ Application fees and extra services (such as rehearsals with the piano accompanist) for external examinations.
- ✗ Instrument loan deposit.
- ✗ Workshops, masterclasses and other activities that might be organized during the year which are not highlighted in the *Course Overview*.
- ✗ The annual club membership fee.

## External Examinations

The school will follow the syllabus provided by the Trinity College of London (TCL)<sup>1</sup>, whose qualifications are officially accredited by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta. Given so, the students who complete a given level can sit for the official grade provided by the highlighted college for the respective level in the November/December examination period held in Malta.

If a student would like to sit for the relevant external examinations provided by the TCL, the student should inform the respective tutor immediately. Students who choose to sit for these external examinations should pay the fees as requested by the college and supply the required personal information by a date that will be announced in due course.

Currently, such examinations are being held in digital format. At the time of printing, digital examinations consist of a non-stop recording of the main pieces and scales and technical studies.

In order to give further support to students who choose to also sit for external examinations, the school will provide the Exam Support Package. This package will include the following:

GRADES	PACKAGE SERVICES	PRICE
GRADES 1 - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 accompaniment sessions (in addition to accompaniment sessions included in the annual school donation)</li><li>• Accompaniment during the recording of the digital examination</li></ul>	€50
GRADES 4 - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 accompaniment sessions (in addition to accompaniment sessions included in the annual school donation)</li><li>• Accompaniment during the recording of the digital examination</li></ul>	€60

The *Exam Support Package* will be delivered by the school's official accompanist.

Students who opt to sit for external examinations should pay the relative fee for the Exam Support Package directly to the school's official accompanist during the first rehearsal.

## Lessons in Theory of Music

As from the scholastic year 2022, theory lessons will no longer be compulsory. Instead, solfège sessions are being introduced. However, the school will still provide such lessons to help students who would like to take up music in a more professional light.

Theory sessions will be delivered during weekly class sessions of 40 minutes and will follow the Trinity College of London syllabus. Theory lessons start in January and finish in October with an internal written, time-constraint assessment.

Students may opt to sit for the Trinity College London theory examinations held at the beginning of November. Such students will have extra lessons between the internal assessment and the actual external examination.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.trinitycollege.com/>

Students who wish to follow theory lessons should apply through the school website during the official registration period. An annual donation of €50 is being suggested for this service.

Theory lessons are only provided to enrolled students at the George Vella School of Music. Classes are limited to not more than 5 students. Students will be accepted on a first come first served basis. However, priority will be given to students who have been attending theory classes regularly.

### Other Services

From year to year, the school will provide several other services apart from those already highlighted. The fees of such services should be paid directly to the person providing the service. The annual school donation does not include such services. For the scholastic year 2020, the following services will be provided:

### Lessons in Pianoforte

The school will provide weekly pianoforte lessons which will be directed by Ms. Lara Scerri. Application to enrol in this course should be done by contacting Ms. Scerri on 99613757 or scerrilara@hotmail.com

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>FEE PER LESSON</b>	<b>DISCOUNTED FEE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>DURATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>1 - 3</b>	€10	€9	45 minutes	Practical and Theory exercises
<b>4 - 5</b>	€15	€13	1 hour	Practical exercises
<b>6 UPWARDS</b>	€20		1 hour	Practical exercises

### COVID-19 Procedures

The school will be following guidelines as issued by the Health Department. Principles of social distancing and other precautions will be strictly adhered to during all lessons. It is very important that students who are unwell do not attend lessons at the school premises. Online options will be provided.

### Għaqda Kazini tal-Banda

Enrolled students of the George Vella School of Music are automatically registered with the Għaqda Kazini tal-Banda as official musicians. The GħKB is the entity that represents all band clubs in Malta.

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<sup>2</sup> Discounted fees apply to students who are taking the full course provided by the school as highlighted in the *Course Overview* section