

MUSIC CLASSES FOR
TODDLERS, PRESCHOOLERS & ENSEMBLES

The department of Music for Toddlers and Preschoolers and Children's Music Ensembles operates under the responsibility of music educator Mrs. Elli Rousi, since 2012, offering music lessons to children of ages 6 months old to 8 years old. The program is based on the work of some of the greatest music educators such as **Orff, Kodaly and Dalcroze**, as well as other modern day music educators. Researches have showed **that the most crucial ages for the children's musical development is during the first stage of development at the ages of 0-3 years old, and then at the ages of 3-5 years old. That is why it is important that children come in contact with music education at an early age.**

The classes in our department are taught in an innovative way, in order for the children to take their first steps in music, combining basic knowledge in music with fun. Our aim is for the children to experience empirically the basic characteristics of music through a creative teaching environment which will later on lead them to apply this knowledge at an older age on their own.

Through the classes of music for toddlers and preschoolers, children are developing socially, emotionally, spiritually, as well as cultivate their imagination, creativity and strengthen their memory. At the same time, they develop their vocal and social abilities. At the very early ages, the help and support of the parents is essential and necessary, while at a later stage, children are able to attend the lessons on their own.

**The children who will participate in the music for toddlers and preschoolers and children's musical ensembles will receive a course attendance certificate at the end of each academic year. Additionally, children will have the opportunity to participate (optional) in events/ concerts during the year.*

Detailed description of each taught group

➤ **6-15 months (Future Jazzy Babies) [Level 1]**

Music education during early childhood plays an important role in the development of infants and toddlers. Music stimuli has a crucial role in the psycho-emotional and brain development of infants. This class is offered to infants of 6-18 months old, along with the active participation of parents. Through a series of fun and interactive activities combined with songs, music and movement and the use of percussion instruments, parents and children will have the opportunity to learn together and cooperate with other parents in the group.

Through this class children will feel safe in the presence of their parents, as well as learn songs together and activities that they can later use at home.

➤ **16 - 24 months (Future Melody Babies) [Level 2]**

The aim of this class is the development of multiple senses at the same time, through musical and fun interactive activities. Parents can be present at the lesson with their children, helping them to develop both musically and socially. Just like in the previous class, parents can learn a series of activities and songs they can use at home.

➤ **2 - 3 years old (Future Melody Bears) [Level 3]**

Children aged 2-3 years are now capable of responding to the lesson on their own without the full guidance of their parents. Now parents play a different role in the lesson than children, they participate in the activities and the songs with the aim of the gradual independence of the children from the parents. Audio exploration and sound production by the children begins, without the need for full parental guidance.

➤ **3 - 4 years old (Future Little Beethovens) [Level 4]**

Children of this age are now ready to participate in the lesson on their own without parents. The course is designed to introduce music through age appropriate developmental skills activities.

Through collaboration and fun musical activities, children develop their personality, senses (such as hearing, sight, and touch), articulation, proper breathing, speech, imagination, creativity and self-confidence.

➤ **4 - 5 years old (Future Music Travellers) [Level 5]**

Children of this age have now mastered the first musical skills and have developed their musical perception. Musical listening, musical interactive stories, virtual sheet music, songs, music, and movement are the activities included in this group's lesson.

Children are now able to play the classroom percussion instruments and begin reading virtual sheet music which introduces and prepares them for the world of music learning. They also begin to create and combine sounds with their own judgment and imagination.

➤ **5 – 6 years old Little Stars Orchestra [Level 6]**

Children are now ready to learn time values and reproduce rhythmic patterns. This group works like a small orchestra where the children play songs together, accompanying sometimes rhythmically and sometimes melodically with instruments such as vibraphones, classroom percussion instruments, boomwhackers, bells and buckets (bucket drumming).

In this group, notes and the staff are introduced. Also, the children get to know the world of musical instruments and are now able to experience practically what they learned empirically in previous years. They also now learn musical definitions and can name and understand everything referring to musical vocabulary.

➤ **6- 8 years old Little Piano Stars [Level 7]**

The aim of this group is to learn notes in the staff, but also to introduce the children to the piano and recorder. Children in this group can learn in a fun and innovative way to play their first songs on the piano and recorder. It is also possible to take exams in both instruments.

➤ **6- 8 years old Ukulele Stars [Level 7]**

Through the ukulele group lesson, children learn their first stringed musical instrument. A musical instrument easy and enjoyable to learn for young children. The aim of the course is to develop the children's musical skills, the feeling of teamwork, self-confidence and musical expression by participating in a musical ensemble. Children will learn notes, chords, musical symbols, learn to perform songs, etc., thus building the foundations for stringed instruments through a fun way of learning.

** All pre-mentioned ages should be valid in September 2024*