



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dear Parents,

We have prepared this document to provide important information to you about the Centre and your children's participation. We hope that it answers many of the questions you may have but in case there is something specific, that is not covered here, please see the contact list at the end of the document.

GENERAL

Why is music education an important part of my child's education?

Playing music adds enjoyment to life. It can enhance the learner's school performance. It is good for spatial reasoning, studies indicate and can lead to a life-long pursuit and interest. Playing music makes areas of the brain develop faster. Research by Rauscher and her colleagues in 1994 showed that after eight months of keyboard lessons, preschoolers demonstrated a 46% boost in their spatial reasoning IQ, a skill important for certain types of mathematical reasoning.

In particular, it is early music training that appears to most strengthen the connections between brain neurons and perhaps even leads to the establishment of new pathways. But research shows music training has more than a causal relationship to the long-term development of specific parts of the brain too.

How often are my child's lessons?

Your child will receive the following lessons weekly:

- 30 minutes of individual instrument lesson
- 1 hour of an ensemble (group) lesson
- 1 hour of music theory lesson

Depending on the instrument your child plays, there may be additional ensemble or distance learning programmes that they are required to participate in. Please be aware that we do not close for normal school holidays and unless stipulated otherwise, classes continue throughout the year (with the exception of the Easter weekend, December holidays and public holidays).

If my child misses a lesson, can they make it up?

We request that you provide 24 hour's notice when your child is going to miss a lesson. You can do this by either phoning or smsing or Whats Apping the child's teacher.



What if my child hates lessons?

In this case, we would recommend discontinuing lessons until the child expresses interest in starting again. We do not think children should be pushed to the point they feel ill about taking lessons. But parents should encourage students to stick with it because without this commitment they cannot see the fruits of their work. They do not see that they accomplish anything.

My child or I do not seem to be progressing quickly enough. Why?

Learning occurs at different paces. There is no formula to determine whether this is too slow or too quickly. One cannot compare oneself to another. Some learners take more time than others. Recent research seems to support that become a master at anything requires a certain amount of time. This is a rather large number. 10,000 hours. But, progressing is not uniform or measurable or objective.

PRACTISE AND PARENTAL SUPPORT

What do I need to do, as a parent, to ensure that my child gets the most out of their lessons?

Encourage your child and help them maintain a practice schedule at home. Frequently check your child's homework diary so that you can help with any specific notes provided by the teacher.

How long does it take to get competent on the instrument?

This depends on the instrument. Some instruments can take a lifetime to master. In saying that, to get competent can take between 4-6 years.

How old does the student have to be to start?

We prefer that children start when they are younger, in order to provide them with the best possible opportunity. The Centre takes children from the age of 7.

When can I hear about my child's progress?

You will receive a report on your child's progress twice a year. In addition to this, we ask that you keep an eye on your child's homework diary for more specific feedback from the teacher.

How often should my child be practicing on their instrument at home?

He / She should follow their teacher's guidance OR doing between 30 minutes and 1 hour of practice daily. The more practice, the more they will progress and improve. However, we do not encourage parents to "force" their children to practice. Often times children will resist practicing and this is completely normal. When learning, children need to move at their own pace. By keeping them in lessons on a regular basis and keeping the atmosphere light and enjoyable, a time will come when they will begin to practice on their own.

How long can my child stay at the Center?

Children can stay at the Centre until they matriculate from school.

Should my child be doing exams?

We do not force children to write exams but are rather guided by the teachers in helping the children in their development path.

Will my child be asked to perform on behalf of the Centre?



Yes, we may ask your child to perform on behalf of the Centre. We strongly believe in giving your children the opportunity to present themselves to the wider world. This helps to build their self-confidence and understand their role in the team that they play in.

Do you hold recitals?

Yes, we hold a prize giving in the middle of the year along with a year end concert in December.

I have another child who wishes to receive lessons at the Centre, how can they apply?

Currently MICM is at its capacity. It cannot take any more children. We currently have a waiting list that you can put your child's name on. Auditions for this waiting list are usually held in November for placement at the Centre the following year. If you visit the Centre's Administration office, they will add your child's name to the list. We have a preference for children who are under the age of 12.

Late collection or non-collection?

Please ensure that you collection your child on completion of their lesson. We will not be held responsible for the safety of your child if they are left at the Centre after it closes. The Centre's office hours are:

Monday – Friday 10am to 5pm
Saturday 8am – 12pm

Will my child receive a meal on a Saturday?

The Centre does it's best to ensure that children who attend Saturday classes receive a meal. The meals change weekly. There may come a time when we are unable to do this and we will do our best to advise you of such.

What is the process around complaints?

If you have a complaint about a staff member or a teacher, please come and see either Chris or Sara in the Centre's Administration office or email the complaint to info@micm.org.za. We will then contact you to arrange for a meeting. We would prefer that all our parent's are happy with the service on offer and if there are any issues, we wish to know about them as soon as possible in order to address them.

What happens if my child is ill while at the Centre?

We have a trained first aid officer at the Centre BUT if something happens to your child, we will first get a hold of the parent or legal guardian. It is imperative that we have the correct telephone details on file in order to do this.

What happens if I am worried about my child?

If you have concerns about your child, please make an arrangement to meet Sara or Lungile at the Centre's administration office. Depending on the problem, we will see what we can do to assist. The Centre is partnering with the South African Council of Applied Psychology in 2019 to provide our children with career, leadership and psychological support. This is a new service aimed at helping the children at the Centre achieve greater heights.

How can parents get involved at the Centre?

2019 will see the reformation of the Friends of MICM group which will allow you to get more involved in this community project.

BACKGROUND TO THE CENTRE

What is the background to the Centre?

The MICM is a joint collaboration between the late, philanthropist and Cape Gate chairman Mendel Kaplan and Robert Brooks (CEO of MIAGI – Music is a Great Investment). In 2008, Mendel Kaplan, agreed to fund the



construction of a music centre on the premises of the Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto through his foundation, the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation. The Cape Gate MIAGI Centre for Music (CMCM) building, the first of its kind in any South African township was inaugurated in May 2011. Full operations started at the beginning of 2012. In 2018, the Centre decided to re-brand itself and is now called the Morris Isaacson Centre for Music (MICM). We currently teach 112 children

How does the Centre support itself financially?

The Centre is a non-profit organization and as such fundraises to support itself financially. The administration fees charged to the parents go some way to contributing to the costs at the Centre.

Where do the teachers come from and what experience do they have?

Our teachers are all highly experienced, full time practicing musicians that have been specifically sort out to provide the highest level of teaching to your child.

Name Change

The Centre is going through a process of re-branding itself and ***changing its name***. As of January 2019, the Centre will now be known as the ***Morris Isaacson Centre for Music (MICM for short)***. We also have a new logo that will come into effect.

New Telephone & Email address

Part of this transition means that we have also changed our telephone number and our main email address and we have opened a new facebook page. The new details are:

Telephone: 087 131 1358

Email: info@micm.org.za

Facebook: @MICentreForMusic

Instagram: micm_music_centre

FEES & PAYMENT

What are the fees?

The Centre charges an annual administration fee of R480 and an assessment fee of R120.

Why do I need to pay an administration fee?

The administration fee is a small contribution to the cost of your child's music education. It costs R26 000 a year to provide your child with their instrument and 4 hours of teaching a week. We are strong believers in a small commitment by the parents to their child's education. The fee represents this commitment.

Admin Fees Payment

Fees must be paid twice a year with the first payment in January and a second payment in July. There is also an assessment fee payable around August. The Centre accepts fee payment by cash, card and EFT's. We request that parents **DO NOT** do a cash deposit as the bank fees for such transactions have become very high. Either send your child or bring the money yourselves to the admin office or do an EFT using your child's name and surname as the reference number. The banking details are as follows:

Bank Account: Standard Bank

Branch: Braamfontein 004805

Account: 200364855

Account type: Business Cheque Account

Reference: Students name & surname



Term 1 & 2's administration fees are payable by latest **09 February 2019**.
The Assessment fee is payable by latest **01 June 2019**.
Term 3 & 4s administration fees are payable by latest **01 August 2019**.

Please be aware that there will be a strict fee payment requirement at the Centre. If parents do not apply for the bursary and do not pay their school fees, Children will be asked to leave the Centre.

Bursaries

Should a parent be unable to contribute to the cost of the fees, they are able to apply for a bursary position which, if successful, will entitle the child to attend classes, free of charge, for a 12 month period. Bursaries are provided based on the child's performance and dedication to their lessons and are offered at the Centre's discretion. Parents must apply annually for their child's bursary. This process requires the parent to complete an application form in January and parents must be aware that:

- that it will take 1 calendar month to process the application
- the parent will be advised on the outcome of the application in writing
- success of the applicant is based on their performance at the Centre
- a successful applicant will be subject to regular assessment and is expected to attend instrument and theory class as well as choir practice regularly.
- that children who do not meet the necessary performance requirements will lose their bursary position
- If their application is not successful you will be able to pay off the administration fee over the course of the year but there will be a strict fee payment requirement. If parents do not pay their administration fees, Children will be asked to leave the Centre.

What if there are outstanding fees?

If you visit the administration office, we can help create a payment plan for you. If you have outstanding fees and you do not visit the office to sign a loan commitment form, your child will be removed from teaching.

OTHER

Lost Property

If your child has lost something at the Centre, please come and visit the Administration Office. We have a lost property box. Items will be kept for 2 months before being donated. The Centre does not take any responsibility for items that are stolen while at the Centre and we request that children keep a close eye on their items.

We very much have an open door and would ***love to hear your feedback***. Any thoughts or suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Please come and see us at the office and let us know what your ideas are.