

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

The Pizzicato Effect FAQs

1. How will my child get to Meadows Primary School?

It is your responsibility to transport your child to and from Meadows Primary School. It is hoped that parents/guardians will develop relationships with other parents/guardians that will open up avenues for support. At present, we are working on supporting parents/guardians of children who attend the same school to find shared transport solutions.

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2. What time does my child need to arrive at Meadows Primary School?

Children can arrive at Meadows Primary School any time during the period of 3.30-3.45pm.

3. Does my child have to attend the two days (Monday and Wednesday)?

Yes. Attendance on Monday and Wednesday is requirement of participating in *The Pizzicato Effect*.

4. Do we need to buy an instrument for our child?

No. All instruments are provided to your child on a loan basis free of charge. At the point when your child demonstrates an appropriate level of enthusiasm and responsibility for their instrument, the child will be issued with a take-home instrument; this means the instrument can be taken off-site for practice. It is the child and the family's responsibility to care appropriately for the instrument while it is offsite. You may be charged for any damages/loss. A separate *Take-Home Instrument Care Form* will be distributed when necessary.

5. My child attends Meadows Primary School. What will they do between the end of school (3.15pm) and the start of *The Pizzicato Effect* program (3.30pm)?

Pizzicato Effect students who attend Meadows Primary School should arrive in the welcome area (reception area) at School as soon as they finish class at 3:15pm. Under supervision by program staff, children will gather together and share a snack of fresh fruit provided by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and partner program, SecondBite. All other children will arrive between 3.30-3.45pm.

6. What is the process for drop-off and pick-up of my child?

The safety of program participants is paramount to *The Pizzicato Effect*. To ensure the safety of all, *The Pizzicato Effect* maintains a strict Drop-off and Pick-up Policy. Please refer to point no.1 in the program *Terms and Conditions*. If you require an additional copy, please request from staff.

7. How will instruments be taught?

Aligned with the program aims and purpose, most instrumental tuition is undertaken in a collaborative group environment. When students enrol in the program, they are placed in learning group according to skill level (beginner; intermediate, senior). All students will have the

opportunity to participate in musicianship classes and group singing workshops in order to further develop their skills.

8. We sing or play musical instruments at home. How can we be involved in supporting the program?

We welcome children and parents/guardians to bring songs and elements of your culture to *The Pizzicato Effect*. If you are interested in being involved in this way, please send an email to pizzi@mso.com.au, or phone/text 0429 545 289.

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9. I am keen to support the program. How can I help?

The Pizzicato Effect welcomes parents, guardians and family members who are interested in helping in a range of different ways to support the program.

There are many ways you may be able to help, including:

- Assisting with afternoon tea
- Teaching children a song from your culture

If you are interested in volunteering some time to support *The Pizzicato Effect*, please send an email to pizzi@mso.com.au.

Please note: all Pizzicato Volunteers require a Volunteer Working with Children Check (WWCC). If you do not already have a WWCC, please speak with program staff who will be able to assist you in securing one.

10. What is El Sistema?

El Sistema was established by its current leader, the Venezuelan musician and economist José Antonio Abreu, based on his clear and powerful vision of music's life-transformative potential for children. *The Pizzicato Effect* is linked in with a network of Sistema-aligned programs around the world.

11. Why is The Pizzicato Effect inspired by El Sistema?

The Pizzicato Effect operates on the premise that the orchestra is a metaphor for community. The program is Sistema-aligned because it immerses children in a joyous, collaborative environment where they have a deep sense of belonging to a community in which they are needed and valued. It is this shared belief in the importance of collaborative music-making that is at the heart of *The Pizzicato Effect*.