

Prospectus 2025

Kirkop Music Academy – September 2025
G#AQDA MUŻIKALI SAN LEONARDU | #AL KIRKOP
A REGISTERED VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION – VO 0266

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Foreword

Music tuition and wind band music have been integral to Maltese culture for approximately 200 years. This tradition has been sustained through the dedication of voluntary organisations with support from patrons, and more recently the government and also through EU funds. Throughout its history, Għaqda Muzikali San Leonardu (hereinafter referred to as the '**Għaqda**'), has consistently delivered this service to its community through Banda San Leonardo with passion and commitment, ensuring alignment with the evolving cultural and musical landscape.

With the establishment of the Kirkop Music Academy (hereinafter referred to as the '**Academy**') as an offshoot of Banda San Leonardo, the Għaqda is now committed more than ever to providing not just a service, but a structured academy designed to enhance our professionalism and deliver the highest level of musicianship. Our Academy offers a series of self-paced levels, allowing each student to progress at their own pace and ultimately achieve an MQF Level 3 (O-Level standard) in music by completing the Core Framework.

Currently, our Academy provides these services at a partly or fully subsidized rate, including free instrument loans (subject to availability).

At the Academy, we strive to offer our students a holistic and enjoyable approach to music, fostering the ability to pursue further studies in the art of music-making.

1. Our Classes

The Academy provides specialised tuition for the following instruments:

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

Instrumental classes are complemented and supported by the Academy's Students Ensemble, referred to in Section 3. Attendance to these ensembles is compulsory. The framework that leads students to join Banda San Leonardo is described in the next section.

The Academy also provides music theory lessons to enrolled students. Theory music lessons are obligatory throughout the course for as long as the student is attending instrumental classes, and attendance is therefore mandatory.

2. Courses

2.1 Introductory Framework

Ages: 6 – 9 years

	Age	Course Content
Musical Munchkins	6 – 9 years	<p>Introduction to music notation and appreciation. Lessons held approximately once every 2 weeks. Schedule of dates will be given beforehand. 8-sessions. Duration per session: approximately 45 minutes. Duration of course: 6 Months.</p> <p>A graduation concert will be held at the end of the course – participation in the graduation concert is mandatory.</p> <p>Students are automatically deemed as having completed this Musical Munchkins module if they hold a Grade 1 certificate in Theory of Music of one of the recognised foreign examination boards.</p> <p>Students will be assigned to a tutor according to the instrument which they would have chosen on completion of the Musical Munchkins course and after completing a set of music reading criteria.</p>
Introductory	10 years and over	<p>Theory of Music - Grade 1 Level. 30-minute weekly group session with theory tutor.</p> <p>Students are automatically deemed as having completed this Introductory Level if they hold a Grade 1 certificate in Theory of Music of one of the recognised foreign examination boards.</p> <p>Students will be assigned to a tutor according to the instrument which they would have chosen on completion of the Introductory Level and after completing a set of music reading criteria.</p>

2.2 Core Framework

Course Content		Notes
Level 1	<p>Music Practice Maximum of 20-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either the Musical Munchkins course or the Introductory Level course within the Introductory Framework OR Grade 1 certificate in Theory of Music of one of the recognised foreign examination boards.</p>
Level 2	<p>Music Practice Maximum of 20-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Academy Students' Ensemble Not more than 1-hour weekly group session, emphasising on ensemble techniques and solfeggio.</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either Level 1 OR Introductory level certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensemble Music Sessions.
Level 3	<p>Music Practice Maximum of 25-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Academy Students' Ensemble Not more than 1-hour weekly group session, emphasising on ensemble techniques and solfeggio.</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either Level 2 OR Grade 1 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensemble Music Sessions.

<p>Level 4</p>	<p>Music Practice Maximum of 30-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Academy Students' Ensemble Not more than 1-hour weekly group session, emphasising on ensemble techniques and solfeggio.</p> <p>Wind Band Students at Level 4 are introduced to Banda San Leonardo and will take part in marches. Students are also encouraged to attend band rehearsals as observers.</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either Level 3 OR Grade 2 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensemble Music Sessions.
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<p>Level 5</p>	<p>Music Practice A maximum of 40-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Academy Students' Ensemble Not more than 1-hour weekly group session, emphasising on ensemble techniques and solfeggio.</p> <p>Banda San Leonardo Students at Level 5 are required to participate in marches and concerts as may be stipulated from time to time (an indicative list shall be provided in January of each year). They must also participate in all rehearsals in preparation for the concerts and other activities that might arise (excluding the Annual Feast Concert and other main concerts).</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either Level 4 OR Grade 3 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensemble Music Sessions.
<p>Level 6</p>	<p>Music Practice A maximum of 40-minute weekly individual session on the instrument of choice.</p>	<p>Prerequisite Completion of either Level 5 OR</p>

	<p>Academy Students' Ensemble Not more than 1-hour weekly group session, emphasising on ensemble techniques and solfeggio.</p> <p>Banda San Leonardo Students at Level 6 are required to participate in marches and concerts as may be stipulated from time to time (an indicative list shall be provided in January of each year). They must also participate in all rehearsals in preparation for the concerts and other activities that might arise.</p>	<p>Grade 4 certificate of one of the recognised foreign examination boards in the instrument of choice.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensemble Music Sessions.
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2.3 Level 7+

Students may opt to continue their studies at higher levels at the Academy through our special Level 7+ practical classes. These will consist of 45-minute individual lessons whereby students are prepared for practical foreign board examinations, at Grade 6 level and upwards.

Students are required to pay a partly subsidised fee of €10 per lesson (pre-paid in non-refundable packages of 10 lessons amounting to €100 bundle) directly to the respective tutors. The said partly subsidized fee does not include the services of an accompanist; or external examination fees. Students are responsible to engage their own accompanist for examinations and other performances.

Students are required to continue participating in the Academy and Banda San Leonardo activities as laid down under Level 6 of the Core Framework, otherwise they might be expelled.

Only students who have followed the Core Framework with the Academy can register for Level 7+. Students who fail to honour their participation obligations under the Core Framework will not be allowed to progress to Level 7+.

3. Academy Students' Ensembles

Academy Student's Ensemble

All the students studying at Level 2 to 6 are required to attend weekly sessions and participate in the Academy Student's Ensemble. Through this ensemble, students are given their first experience of playing in a wind band, and guided on the attitude, behaviour, and techniques of playing with other fellow musicians.

The weekly approximately 1-hour group session will consist of ensemble work, solfeggio sessions and other practical activities, leading to one or more concerts throughout the year.

4. Banda San Leonardo

Banda San Leonardo is the core element of our Għaqda. Banda San Leonardo is currently directed by its musical director and conductor Daniel Vella. It performs marches and concerts in various events.

Level 4 students join Banda San Leonardo as trainees and thereby become official band members. Throughout the year they must play during marches and regularly attend rehearsals that are held in preparation for concerts. At Level 6, students will be able to join Banda San Leonardo during the Annual Feast Concert and other main concerts, at the discretion of the band director.

The Academy is currently managed and administered by the Għaqda's Central Committee together with its musical director and conductor Daniel Vella.

5. Academy Calendar

January	<p>Parents Month – During this month, parents/guardians will meet all the teachers and discuss the progress of the student.</p> <p>Weekly rehearsals for annual Holy Week Concert - Level 5 & above.</p>
February	<p>Weekly rehearsals for annual Holy Week Concert - Level 5 & above.</p> <p>Preparation for Easter Concert: All levels up to Level 5.</p>
March	<p>Weekly rehearsals for annual Holy Week Concert - Level 5 & above.</p> <p>Preparation for Easter Concert: All levels up to Level 5.</p>
April	<p>Annual Holy Week Concert (held on Wednesday prior to Palm Sunday).</p> <p>Easter Concert (held during the week after Easter).</p>
May-August	<p>Weekly rehearsals for Annual Feast Concert and other smaller concerts - Level 5 & above.</p> <p>Rehearsals in preparation for performance during Kids Feast Party - Level 1 to Level 5.</p>
September	<p>Performance during Kids Feast Party - Level 1 till Level 5</p> <p>Annual Feast Concert Level - 6 & above.</p>
November	<p>Foreign Board Examinations.</p> <p>Christmas Concert Rehearsal – All levels.</p>
December	<p>Christmas Concert - All Levels.</p>

Important:

- The above schedule is not final, and events may be changed, removed or added at the Academy's discretion.
- No lessons will be held on public holidays and during customary school holidays e.g. Christmas, Carnival and Easter holidays (excluding Summer holidays). Having said so, rehearsals, marches and concerts might still take place on such days.

6. Terms and Conditions

The Academy provides high standard, holistic musical tuition, specialising in woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Within this text the term "student" or "students" will refer to a person or persons who have enrolled and are following/will be following one of the courses or levels provided by the Academy.

6.1 Registration Procedure

Registration is open to all persons of any gender, nationality and musical knowledge who would like to learn a wind band instrument and who comply with the following criteria:

- Be at least 6 years of age;
- Be a paying member of the Għaqda. In the case of minors, at least one of the legal guardians must be a paying member of the Għaqda. Registration for membership can be done at the time of application.

Registration can be conducted by applying online through our website: <https://www.kirkopmusicacademy.com/>

Given that the number of students in each class is limited, a waiting list will be created when that particular class exceeds its number of students. The limit of the number of students in each class is determined by the Academy at its discretion.

Prospective students may be asked to sit for an audition or an interview.

6.2 Obligations

Students of the Academy agree to the following conditions:

- Students are not allowed to give their musical service to other musical entities before finishing Level 5 unless written consent is obtained from the Academy.
- In return for the subsidised price (whether in full or in part) for the lessons offered by the Academy, students who use or have made use of the services of the Academy are obliged to give their musical services to Banda San Leonardo without any financial return. They are also obliged to give priority to Banda San Leonardo over other musical commitments that the student might have, unless written consent is obtained from the Academy.

Prospective students who are not willing to fulfil these obligations should reconsider their decision to enrol in the Academy. Students who do not abide by these obligations may be suspended from the Academy with immediate effect.

6.3 Academy Procedures

There is no commencement day or a school year, as the Academy caters for walk-in students subject to adherence to this Prospectus.

New students under the age of 10 will start their musical journey with the Musical Munchkins course. Students who are 10 years or over will start from the Introductory Level and make their way to the Core Framework unless equivalent certifications are presented at the time of application as highlighted in the prerequisites for each level.

6.3.1 Attendance

Students are required to attend all sessions pertaining to the level being followed. No exceptions will be made. Attendance will be recorded.

Automatic Dismissal - Students who miss 3 consecutive sessions (whether theory, instrument or ensemble sessions) are considered to have resigned from the course, unless a blue medical certificate is presented for the missed dates.

Attendance Percentage - Students who do not attend at least 70% (calculated on the basis of a calendar year) of the required lessons, rehearsals, band services and concerts will not be allowed to sit for assessments, and therefore will not progress to the next level. In addition, such students may be expelled from the Academy.

6.3.2 Commitment to Study

All the students attending the Academy must show commitment towards their studies and the Għaqda. Students should prepare the requested work diligently and constantly to achieve the best results possible. A tutor may withhold one or more lessons if a student is found not to have prepared the assigned work diligently.

6.3.3 Lessons in Theory of Music

Theory lessons are compulsory for as long as the student is attending instrumental classes.

Theory sessions will be delivered in the form of weekly class sessions of around 40 minutes and will follow the syllabus of one of the foreign examination boards.

Students may opt to sit for the theory examinations of one of the foreign examination boards, subject to the consent of the relevant tutor.

Theory lessons are only provided to students enrolled at the Academy and who are attending instrumental classes.

6.3.4 Assessments

In order to proceed to the next level, students will be able to choose from two kinds of assessments:

1. A continuous assessment – this will be conducted by all the tutors that each student will be learning with. This assessment aims at providing guidance on areas of improvement as well as highlighting the relevant achievements. Once all the objectives of a level have been achieved, students will progress to the next level; OR
2. Undergo a foreign board examination process. The foreign board examination will generally include scales and/or technical work, two accompanied pieces, a study and a sight-reading test. Students that would like to sit for such an exam would be required to discuss with their relevant instrument tutor in order to guide them as to what needs to be done. All fees need to be incurred by the students. Such fees include, but are not limited to, books, exam fees, accompanist fees and recording fees.

If a pass is not obtained, the student will not be allowed to progress to the next level.

6.3.5 Attire & Lessons Behaviour

To maintain a respectful and focused learning environment, all students are expected to wear appropriate attire that does not cause a distraction to others or staff while on the Academy's premises.

Professional behaviour is essential during all sessions. Disruptive conduct or actions that interfere with other students' learning will not be tolerated.

Legal guardians are kindly requested to ensure that students arrive at least 5 minutes before the session begins and are present to collect them no later than 10 minutes before the session ends. This is to ensure the safety and smooth operation of all activities.

Please note that the Academy is not responsible for any incidents occurring outside its premises before or after the scheduled session times.

6.4 Academy Fees and Sponsorships

6.4.1 Annual Academy fee

All students following the Introductory Framework courses are required to pay a partly subsidized fee of €25. The fee should be settled within one week of registration and before the lessons start (whichever is the earlier).

Core Framework students are not expected to pay any fee but an annual donation of any value is highly appreciated. The cost of all the sessions of the Core Framework are fully subsidised by the Għaqda.

The fees and donations will partly cover the following services and expenses:

- ✓ All lessons and activity sessions as highlighted in the Courses section.
- ✓ The organisation of one or more musical activities directly targeting students.

The fees and donations exclude:

- ✘ Books required during the scholastic year.
- ✘ Application fees and extra services (such as rehearsals with the piano accompanist) for external examinations.
- ✘ Instrument loan deposit in the amount of 25% of the value of the instrument.
- ✘ Workshops, masterclasses, and other activities that might be organised during the year.
- ✘ The annual Għaqda membership fee.

The fee/donation is important for the continued provision of quality musical tuition. However, the Academy is aware that social circumstances can make it difficult to make such financial contributions. In this regard, following discussion of the pertinent circumstances, the Academy may exempt a student from paying the fee (in whole or in part).

Students following *Level 7+* classes are exempt from the fees indicated in this section 6.4.1, and instead are required to pay the fees indicated in section 2.3.

6.4.2 Loan of Instruments (subject to availability)

The Academy provides the service of loaning instruments to students in order that students are given the opportunity to experiment with and experience their chosen instrument before incurring the actual expense of purchasing a new instrument. Students might be asked to return the instrument back to the Academy by the end of Level 3, whereupon the student will be expected to buy his/her own instrument.

During the loan period, the student is responsible for the care, repair and frequent maintenance (and in any case not less than once yearly) of the loaned instrument. All expenses incurred 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 loan period, the student must pay a deposit (in the amount of 25% of the value of the instrument) which will be returned in full at the end of the loan if the instrument is found to be in good condition. If the instrument requires any repairs or maintenance, the deposit will be kept by the Academy to be used to pay for such, without prejudice to the obligation of the student to make good for any shortfall.

6.5 External Examinations

The Academy follows the syllabus provided by one of the foreign examination boards, currently the London College of Music (LCM). Students who complete a given level at the Academy can sit for the official grade provided by the foreign examination board for the respective level.

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

Currently, foreign board examinations in practical subjects 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, but this may change at the discretion of the relevant foreign examination board.

Students who choose to sit for practical external examinations, will also need to pay for the required accompanist. Tutors will be guiding the student to choose the right fit for the accompanist.

6.6 Għaqda Nazzjonali Kazini tal-Banda

Students enrolled with the Academy are automatically registered with the Għaqda Nazzjonali Kazini tal-Banda (GħNKB) as official musicians of the Academy. The GħNKB is the entity that represents all band clubs in Malta.