

# YAMAHA CLASSBAND



**METHOD - INSTRUMENTS - ORGANISATION - FINANCING**





## INTRODUCTION

What better way to achieve the comprehensive learning objective that exists in every textbook for the subject of music than through active music making, during music lessons and at home?

In the Class Band, every student learns to play his instrument from the very beginning. Every week the students play together in an orchestra and get to know the world of music. During the learning process the students develop into real musicians who participate in the cultural life. Music is an essential part of the life of young people. What could be better than offering them the opportunity to make music?

On the following pages we would like to introduce you to the system of the Yamaha Class Band:

- What is a Class Band and what advantages does it offer?
- Seminars and trainings - what are the possibilities?
- Essential Elements: the most used method of the Yamaha Class Band
- Learning Music Together - another Method for YCB
- The instruments: scoring, possibilities and specifications
- Class Band in the school: organisation and partners
- Class Band in the music society and for seniors
- How can you move on after two years?
- About Yamaha

The quality of a system can be recognised by the flexible solutions that are possible for each unique situation. No two Class Bands are the same: the individual circumstances and possibilities of each school are taken into account in the organisation and structure. We will be happy to help you with your personal concept and plans.

# MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER

The Class Band is a modern, motivating and effective way of teaching music. The pupils systematically learn to play on a wind instrument. Theory is taught in a playful way and the pupils remember it much better. The pupils together form an orchestra right from the start. The children can start in the Class Band without any prior knowledge.

The Class Band is in principle a two-year music course which can then continue as a school orchestra, Big Band or Symphonic Wind Orchestra.

## **Possible organizational forms of a Class Band:**

- In the school: in the classroom during school hours for everyone
- In the music society as a forerunner of the youth orchestra
- At the music school as an orchestra for all students

## **Advantages of participating in a Class Band:**

- Promoting motivation and self-awareness
- Developing team spirit and a sense of responsibility in a group
- Increase of the concentration
- Being responsible for a valuable instrument
- Joint concerts

## **Advantages of starting a Class Band:**

- All the learning objectives of established curricula are taught in practice.
- Learning an instrument goes hand in hand with learning in a playful way from other musical subjects such as history and basic knowledge.
- Regularly playing together in a class orchestra promotes conscious and multidimensional learning.



**FAQ:** Which Instruments are being used In the Class Band?

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone and Percussion

## SEMINARS AND TRAINING

You can't just give a Class Band - that's why we organise seminars and training courses for teachers who want to start the Class Band and seminars for teachers who are already experienced. Even after the start of a Class Band, we will continue to offer guidance. In this way not only the children learn with each other and from each other, but also the teachers!

About the content of the seminar: the following matters will be discussed:

- Knowledge of all instruments used in the Class Band including transpositions
- The ability to play at least five notes on each instrument.
- Group processes and didactic skills
- Going through the book Essential Elements teacher's book/partition and pupil's books and getting to know the pieces.
- Practical tips on the first lessons: appointments with the students, skills such as unpacking/packing, cleaning, etc.
- Practicing in real with other participants
- Preparing learning situations from a certain starting point
- self-composing polyphonic pieces with a five-tone scale
- and much more!

It is possible to organise a seminar 'on demand' of one day to ensure that the participants can start. A second seminar is then desirable. It may also be sufficient for the seminar teacher to visit a Class Band and then conduct an evaluation and give any necessary tips. During the seminar everything can be discussed according to the needs of the participants and the seminar teacher.





# MUSIC EDUCATION WITH ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

It takes a lot of knowledge to learn to play an instrument - at the same time - together in the classroom. The Essential Elements method was developed especially for this purpose in America and adapted for the European countries and translated into German, Dutch and French. Of course, the English books can also be used. The method contains lots for each instrument and a score/teacher's handbook for the teacher. There are CD's available to play along with.

The education is structured in such a way that the students learn their instrument in small steps. Extensions can be easily integrated. It is also possible to offer differentiated education in which the fast and the slow student are stimulated and challenged in order to be able to continue to follow the learning pace in the group.

## The most important pedagogical content of the method:

- simple start with a five-tone scale
- clear preparation of theoretical knowledge and content
- Learning Goal (ontrol: The Essential Elements Quiz
- Motivate attractive pieces to play - even in unisone games
- clear layout of new learning objectives
- systematic use of rhythmic models
- daily rehearsal exercises in increasing difficulty
- etudes for tone formation, technique, rhythm and ensemble playing (sound)
- separate pages on the history of the instruments
- tips on maintenance, tone formation and use
- polyphonic arranged pieces ascending in difficulty
- systematic practice of the change of register in the clarinet by means of special exercises
- Interesting batches for percussion: mallet batches included
- scale exercises according to Rubank (c), rhythm exercises
- Introduction to creative use of music: improvisation and composition
- piano accompaniment with good sounding and varied harmonization



There are also digital applications such as the books as eBook on the iPad and website based software such as Essential Elements Interactive.

The screenshot shows a digital music application interface. At the top, there is a 'Natural' sign explanation: 'A natural sign cancels a flat (or sharp) and remains in effect for the rest of the measure.' Below this, there are several musical exercises with their titles and annotations:

- 92. RAZOR'S EDGE - New Note**: Includes a 'B' annotation and a 'C' annotation.
- 93. THE MUSIC BOX**: Includes a 'B' annotation.
- 94. EZRAKEL SAW THE WHEEL**: Includes a 'B' annotation.

There are also several smaller exercises with annotations like 'A. A NEW NOTE', 'A. FIND A TEAM', 'A. HEADING DOWN', and 'A. MOVING UP'.

The music teacher/conductor is the 'boss' of the orchestra and decides on all learning objectives in orchestral education. Instrumental education is best given by teachers in close cooperation with the conductor.

Music teachers (whether from the music school or private or from the music society) are the most important partners of the Class Band. With a good targeted lesson on the instruments, the Class Band can function in optimized way.

Instrumental education in the Class Band requires a great deal of adaptability on the part of the music teachers. Instrumental education is given in the group and is based on the system of brass instruments. This means most of the music in the first year is in Bflat. Flutes and Oboes has to adapt to this key. Which is not impossible but doable as we know since many years.

One of the most important tasks of the music teacher is to advise and observe the pupils during the choice of their instrument.

The instrumental teachers ensure that the orchestral lessons can take place properly and that the conductor does not have to concern himself as much as possible with grips, fingering and posture.

Of course, this also depends on the number of hours that the students can take lessons per week. If there is only one hour, the teacher can take a group out of the rehearsal during the orchestra and teach them separately.

There are many possibilities and you can always rely on our help and ideas.





## INSTRUMENTS OF THE CLASS BAND

The Class Band follows the scoring of the symphonic wind orchestra with a good balance between woodwind and brass instruments. When choosing the instrument that the student will play his or her whole time in the Class Band, the students must be well accompanied by a teacher.

In the Class Band we use the following instruments in an average instrumentation:

- 5 flutes
- 6 clarinets
- 4 saxophones
- 4 trumpets
- 2 horns
- 4 trombones
- 2 euphoniums
- 1 tuba



If one chooses to use percussion as well, this should be done from the very beginning and as a fixed part of the teaching concept.

Percussion is a real part of the symphonic wind orchestra and must have students who can also play melodie percussion and timpani.





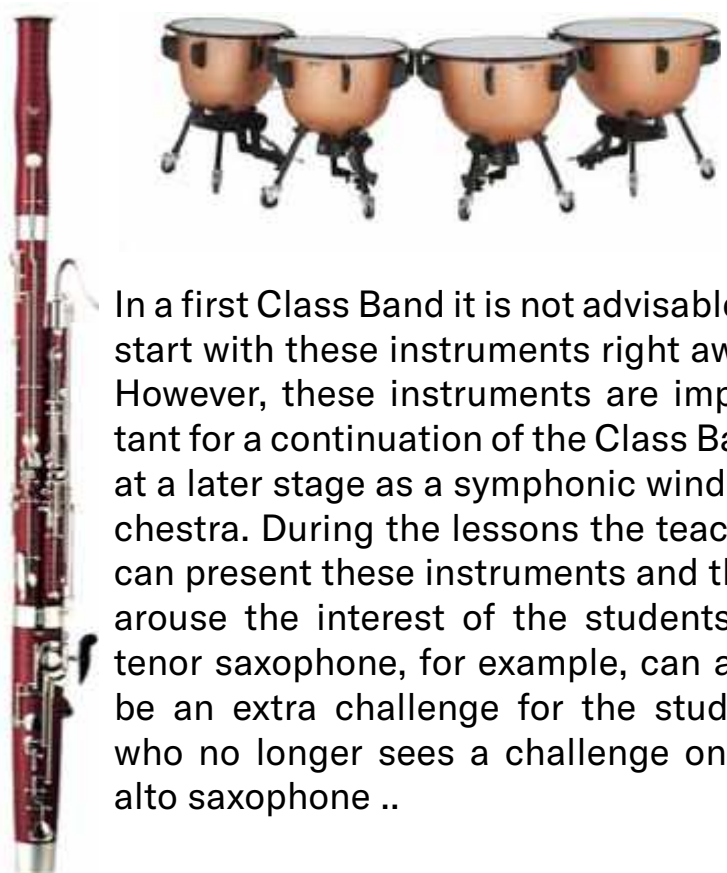
## OTHER INSTRUMENTS

The method also provides for the use of other instruments in the Class Band:

- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Bass clarinet
- Tenor saxophone
- Baritone saxophone
- E-bass
- Piano

The use of these instruments in the Class Band has some consequences for the conductor and the rehearsals of the orchestra. Some instruments such as oboe and tenor saxophone can of course be added from the very beginning, provided that a number of conditions are met: for example, an oboe must have a doublereed player in front of the orchestra and a tenor sax (or soprano sax) must have a student who can handle this. The sound of the orchestra will change for the better with the addition of (some of) these instruments and it is a whole new challenge for the teacher and the students.

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In a first Class Band it is not advisable to start with these instruments right away. However, these instruments are important for a continuation of the Class Band at a later stage as a symphonic wind orchestra. During the lessons the teacher can present these instruments and thus arouse the interest of the students. A tenor saxophone, for example, can also be an extra challenge for the student who no longer sees a challenge on an alto saxophone ..



## **YAMAHA STUDY INSTRUMENTS: PERFECT FOR THE YAMAHA CLASS BAND!**

Learning to play an instrument can change life completely. It creates new possibilities and gives the feeling that you have really achieved something when you can play an instrument. The relationship between a musician and his instrument is very personal. The musician can express himself through his instrument.

The first step is to choose an instrument. Not just any instrument but one that really suits you. The instrument must do what the musician wants. Yamaha has developed a series of study instruments especially for the novice player that fit in perfectly with the needs of the beginner. They play lightly and have a very good price/quality ratio. For the first musical steps you have made the right slogan with Yamaha.

Our wood and brass instruments stand for first class quality. With perfect intonation and light playability, the instruments of the study line are ideal for the students of the Class Band.

- **Ergonomics - playing comfort**
- **Excellent sound and intonation - musicality and interplay**
- **Easy playability - optimally developed for the beginner**
- **Long service life - decades of play**
- **Specifications as with a Professional instrument**
- **Good investment - high residual value because Yamaha has been a high quality brand for decades.**

## WHY CLASS BAND?



*With the Class Band, the school creates a learning environment in which the pupil is emotionally and socially educated.*

*The school has a clear musical and artistic profile.*

*A Class Band is a sign /or the school that distinguishes from other schools.*

*A Class Band is a first step towards a real school orchestra.*

*The responsibility for an instrument gives the child a sense of value.*

*The group thing in the classroom creates a band, making music in an orchestra is also a lot of fun!*

*Learning a musical instrument promotes concentration and endurance, this also affects other subjects at school.*

*Many - usually more than half- of all the students in the Class Band still play their instruments after the first two years.*

*In the Class Band, the student learns something that can also be used outside the school.*

*The Class Band is possible for everyone, including those who would otherwise have no chance or opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument.*

*Music lessons with the Class Band are more attractive, the children have more fun going to the class.*

*All theoretical knowledge is literally offered in a playable manner.*

*Music associations that provide the Class Band at a school can also recruit new members for the association.*

*The pupils learn to listen to each other literally  
All students start on an instrument without any prior knowledge.*

*From the very first lesson the students 'play' together*



## CLASS BAND PARTNERS

**Having the right partners is essential at the start of a Class Band.**

- Similar people within the school: the school management, fellow teachers, parents' council. Organisation of, for example, planning, space, storage space for the instruments and costs are very important for a flawless start of the Class Band.
- Music school/ music association / private music school subject teachers are important partners for the specific instrument-oriented education.
- Specialist dealers in the area for the rental, purchase and maintenance of the instruments.
- Sponsors
- Subsidiaries



# YAMAHA CLASSBAND



LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!

 **YAMAHA**  
*Make Waves*

- Advertising: at the Open Day in high school you can present the concept of the Class Band. Yamaha can offer help with this. An information point with instruments is then recommended. The potential new students can then get acquainted with the Class Band and the instruments of the Class Band.
- Flyers: Together with Yamaha you can make a special Flyer that you can use.
- Delivery of the instruments: the specialist dealer will deliver the instruments to the school in time.
- Labels on the cases of the instruments are recommended and can also be requested.
- Certificate: after two years in the Class Band, the students can receive a certificate of participation, for which designs are also available.
- And many more ...



Find Yamaha Class  
Band on Facebook!  
Scan QR code below:



## CLASS BAND FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS

A Class Band is not only suitable for use at a school but can also be used within the music society as an alternative to the youth orchestra. Particularly important is the fact that within the Class Band the students learn to play simultaneously and in an orchestral setting. This is attractive for the students and the music society can attract many more new members. In addition, it is also possible to have different ages mixed up. The Essential Elements method can simply be followed and here, too, teachers from the association or possibly the music school can be involved in the group lessons for each instrument..

After the Class Band, the students can then move on to the youth orchestra and develop themselves further within the association.

In the meantime, a number of adult and senior Class Bands have started in Europe! Sometimes it is the parents of children in the Class Band who want to play and sometimes retired people with time (and money).

Regardless of age: anyone can learn to play an instrument! And also for adults: learning to play together in a group is much more fun and motivating than alone. The social aspect also plays an important role. The Class Band is also a place where people can meet each other.

"I've always wanted to play the saxophone before, but it didn't work out. Too busy with work and family. And at a certain moment the thought disappears from your memory. Until I heard of an adult Class Band! Then I realized that you are never too old to learn and that I was now offered a second chance. I have signed up and have been playing my saxophone for some time now. An old dream has come true. I also get to know a lot of new people through the Class Band'.

Mrs. Janssen, playing in the Senior Class Band in Dutch city Roermond









## INSTRUMENTS AND FINANCING

### **The situation:**

You want to buy instruments for the Class Band. The dealer has given you a nice offer but the money is missing.

### **The solution:**

we will help you with ideas and tips. Many of the classes of wind instruments have preceded you by experience which we can use for your specific situation.

- Hire of instruments: this is usually possible at a local dealer. One does not need a large investment to do it all at once.
- Buying instruments: always the best, a Yamaha instrument is a good investment and because of its long life even cheaper in the long run than any other instrument. We mediate for you at your dealer and support the purchase.
- Sponsorship and recruitment: we have a manual with tips and ideas on how to get money. There are many possibilities to think of.

We also have a calculation model available - this way you can get a global insight into the costs of a variable staffing and deployment of teachers, etc.

### **How much does a Class Band cost?**



That depends on the occupation and the number of students. The costs of any subject teachers must also be taken into account. Every situation is unique.

**Creed: There is money enough, you only have to find it!**

# YAMAHA IS THE PARTNER FOR CLASS BAND

## History

The Yamaha Company was founded in 1887 by Torakusu Yamaha.

## Research and development

Worldwide, Yamaha is the only manufacturer that has its own product specialists for each instrument, who work together with an international network of workshops on the research and development of the instruments.

## Quality and value

Intonation, construction and sound of Yamaha instruments are the standard in the world. For more than decades, the instruments have been recognized as high quality and very stable in value.

## Health and environment

Health is very important for Yamaha. Yamaha is the only manufacturer to use lead-free solder. The production processes are all set up in an environmentally friendly way.

## Solutions in one hand

we can help you with all your questions. For both the method, the instruments and the knowledge you have come to the right place at Yamaha.

## Yamaha seminars

We offer the teachers seminars. This is essential for the proper functioning of a Class Band. In addition, we also supervise the teachers after the start. The seminars can be given on demand on site and are in principle free of charge.

## Essential Elements

Financial support for the purchase of the boeking method. When you buy Yamaha instruments you get a set of books from YAMAHA as a gift with the very first class.

## Image flyer

We have special flyers for the Class Band and can help to create a unique flyer for the school



## ADVICE AND INFORMATION

For all your questions you can contact us. You can also mail us for material such as advertising, recruitment, photos and a handbook with tips and ideas:

send an email to: [classband@yamaha-europe.com](mailto:classband@yamaha-europe.com)

We have also Yamaha Strings Class as new project at schools.

For more information about the YSC you can read our [Brochure](#):



