

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Musicianship Guide 2024-25

Learning an instrument is very individualized, depending on the type of music you want to play. This guide is a sampling of things you will encounter over time depending on your age and experience. Your teacher will work with you to choose the appropriate topics for practice & skills, performing opportunities and make suggestions for participation based on your musical goals. Parent involvement in the early years is highly recommended and beneficial for a young musician's musical development.

PRACTICE & SKILLS

HOW TO PRACTICE

- Developing A Practice Routine
- Setting Short And Long Term Goals
- Recording A Practice Session
- Mock Performance/Audition Prep
- Practicing With Accompaniment
- Setting Up An Appropriate Practice Space
- Ensemble Rehearsal
- Preparation for Graded Performance Programs

MUSICAL SKILLS

- Sound Production, Listening Technique,
- Sight Reading, Phrasing & Expression
- Rhythmic Awareness

MATERIALS

- Metronome, Tuner, Music Stand
- Music, Music Notebooks & Pencils
- Instrument Care

PERFORMING

PERFORMANCE + AUDITION

- Visualization & Mental Preparation
- Memorization Techniques
- Positive Mindset

STAGE PRESENCE

- Acknowledgement of the Audience
- Communication with Collaborators
- Enjoyment & Confidence In Performing

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

- Timely Attendance
- Ready With Your Instrument & Music
- Appropriate Performing Attire

BODY AWARENESS

- Posture
- Stamina
- Relaxation

PARTICIPATION

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Masterclass & Feedback Sessions
- Recitals & Music Shares
- Community Events
- Studio Class

ENSEMBLES & CLASSES

- Instrumental Ensemble
- Vocal Ensemble
- Chamber Music
- Jazz Program

COLLABORATIONS

- Reading Session
- Warmup Session
- Audition Preparation
- Practice Challenge
- Listening Session
- Duets, Trios and Bands

Piano Musicianship Guide

Our world-class piano faculty are experienced in teaching a wide range of styles from classical to jazz to pop and have experience working with students at all levels and ages. Students learn to read and interpret music and develop their technical ability and listening skills. Students perform repertoire that is suitably challenging that follows their interests from a variety of method books, songs and composers – and all on our 19 beautiful Steinway pianos.

TECHNIQUE

- Posture at the Piano
- Two hand independence
- Scales & Fingering
- Hand position
- Finger technique
- Pedaling
- Coordinating Eye, Ear and Hand
- Feeling Pulse

EXPRESSION

- Improvisation
- Phrasing & Dynamics
- Articulation & Tone
- Understanding the character of the music

READING & THEORY

- Sight reading & Note Names
- Clef Reading
- Repetition & Variation
- Listening Skills
- Ear Training & Solfege
- Listening for Musical Elements & Exposure
- Music Vocabulary
- Chords and Arpeggios
- Navigating the piano keyboard
- Composition
- Reading Rhythmic Notation

REPERTOIRE

- Technique & Scale Books
- Leveled Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced Repertoire Books & Series.
- Etudes
- Classical Piano Repertoire
- Jazz Standards and Songs
- Pop, Rock & Contemporary
- Lead Sheet & Chord Charts

Guitar Musicianship Guide

ACOUSTIC GUITAR, ELECTRIC GUITAR, ELECTRIC BASS, BANJO, UKULELE

From rock, pop, country, folk and blues to classical and jazz, students learn the relationship of the guitar to their body and how to properly coordinate their left and right hands. Students also learn how to properly care for and tune the guitar, pick melodies and strum chords. As students advance they begin to read and interpret standard notation and tablature as well as advanced chords and finger patterns. Students refine their tone quality, improve their sight-reading and learn how to improvise solos and build chords and patterns for any style of music. In addition to acoustic and electric guitar, our faculty teach students on a variety of guitar-like instruments, including ukulele, banjo and electric bass.

TECHNIQUE

- Posture & Holding the Guitar
- Coordination of Left and Right Hands
- Fret hand clarity
 - Fretboard knowledge
 - Finger accuracy, independence and dexterity
 - Chords
 - Chord switching
 - Slurring Techniques
 - Muting strings
- Picking Hand Clarity
 - Finger Technique
 - Picking Technique
 - Strumming
- Instrument Care
- Tuning
- Harmonizing in position
- Extended Technique

EXPRESSION

- Dynamics & Articulation
- Tone quality
- Ornamentation
- Phrasing
- Soloing & Improvisation

READING & THEORY

- Scales (Partial List)
 - Chromatic
 - Major/minor
 - Modes
 - Pentatonic
- Building triads, inversions and Intervals
- Horizontal and Vertical Theory
- Patterns & Interval Shapes
- Tablature & Standard Notation
- Chord Symbols
- Ear Training

REPERTOIRE

- Method books (Partial List)
 - Hal Leonard
 - Berklee William Leavitt
 - Julio Segreras
 - Frederick Noad
 - Christopher Parkening
 - Mel Bay
 - FJH for young students
- Resources (Partial List)
 - Pumping Nylon
 - Christopher Parkening
 - Leo Brouwer
 - Mick Goodrick (RIP)
 - Segovia scales
 - Transcribing and Listening
 - Lead sheets and Chord Charts
- Genres (Partial List)
 - Pop, Jazz, Rock
 - Classical
 - Folk, Country

Strings Musicianship Guide

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, HARP

Under the guidance of experienced teachers whose expertise ranges from classical to bluegrass to jazz, our teachers take a gentle approach to the fundamentals of string playing, such as bow technique, posture and body awareness so that students may achieve excellence in pitch and tone. In the early years, teachers and caregivers work together to assure that the proper technique is being practiced at home and that a suitable practice routine is established.

TECHNIQUE

- Posture and Holding the Instrument
- Bowhold & Left Hand Frame
- Shifting & String Crossings
- Awareness of Tension & Balance
- Bow Weight, Bow Placement and Bow Speed
- Bow Division and Articulation
- Tone Production
- Arco (Bowing) & Pizzicato (Plucking)
- Listening Skills
- Intonation & Ear Training
- Alternative String Techniques
- Vibrato

EXPRESSION

- Articulations & Dynamics
- Listening within an ensemble
- Lyrical Phrasing & Breathing
- Vibrato Speed

READING & THEORY

- Note Names & Musical Terms
- Intervals
- Clefs
- Rhythmic Values & Steady Beat
- Time Signatures
- Key Signatures
- Scales & Arpeggios
- Hearing Chord
- Sight Reading

REPERTOIRE

- Scale Book
- Method Books (Partial List)
 - Suzuki
 - Essential Elements
 - Fiddle Time Starters
 - Magic Carpet
 - Mark O'Connor
- Etudes
- Duets & Ensemble Pieces
- Sonatas & Concertos
- Lead Sheets & Chord Symbols

Voice Musicianship Guide

CLASSICAL, JAZZ, POP, OPERA, ROCK

Private lessons in Voice are generally suitable for students ages 9 and up. Focusing on a wide variety of genres and styles, ranging from musical theater and opera to pop, rock, jazz and spoken word, private voice lessons will build solid vocal technique and encourage habits that will help keep your voice healthy and strong. Students gain skills such as reading notes, matching pitch, harmonizing and interpreting songs. Students also have the opportunity to prepare for performances and recitals with a live accompanist. Students who are preparing for auditions and concerts work towards building a solid repertoire and performance skills.

TECHNIQUE

- Breathing & Breath Control
- Posture
- Pitch Matching
- Diction & Languages
- Improvisation & Vocal Composition
- Ornamentation
- Ear Training
- Transcription
- Dynamics & Articulation
- Vibrato
- Range & Voice Type
- Vocal mechanics (Anatomy)
- Microphone Practice

EXPRESSION

- Meaning of the Lyrics
- Storytelling
- Personality of a Song
- Stylistic Approach
- Performance Practice
- Phrasing

READING & THEORY

- Rhythmic Values
- Intervals
- Solfege
- Pitch Recognition
- Awareness of the piano accompaniment
- Musical context (historical)

REPERTOIRE

- Sight Reading Books
- Kodaly
- Appropriate content (Lyrics)
- Songwriting
- Genres
 - Pop
 - Soul
 - Rock
 - Jazz
 - Classical (Opera, Art Songs, Arias)
 - Spoken Word
 - Musical Theatre
 - Folk

Brass & Woodwind Musicianship Guide

FRENCH HORN, TRUMPET, TROMBONE, TUBA, BASSOON, CLARINET, FLUTE, OBOE, SAXOPHONE

Brass and Woodwind lessons are generally suitable for students ages 10 and up. Students develop their sound by studying breath control, articulation and building a healthy embouchure. We encourage our brass and wind students to take advantage of our plentiful ensemble offerings geared towards building a strong sound. This program also provides support to students who are enrolled in a school band program or are looking to audition for a specialized music school.

TECHNIQUE

- Instrument Assembly & Care
- Embouchure
- Hand Position
- Posture
- Tonguing
- Mechanics of Articulation
- Breath Control & Sound Production
- Intonation & Ear Training

EXPRESSION

- Phrasing of Melodies
- Articulation
- Dynamic Contrast
- Vibrato
- Extended Technique
- Rhythmic Interpretation

READING & THEORY

- Note recognition & Sight reading
- Fingering & Slide Placement
- Rhythmic Notation
- Time Signature
- Key Signature & Accidentals
- Scales, Arpeggios & Chords
- Musical Context

REPERTOIRE

- Solo Pieces
- Duets & Trios
- Group Ensembles
 - Classical
 - Jazz
 - Rock/Pop/Funk
- Method Books
- Lead Sheets & Transcriptions

Drums & Percussion Musicianship Guide

Our percussion students jam on familiar songs and rhythms, including rock and roll, classical, jazz, African, Latin American, South American, traditional Indian and contemporary music. Students learn drum notation, rhythmic studies, limb independence and stick technique. We encourage our drum students to join one of our many ensembles. Students prepare and perform for recitals with a live ensemble, giving them a real-world experience as a drummer.

TECHNIQUE

- Hand and Body Position
- Drum Rudiments
- Metronome Practice
- Coordination of all 4 limbs
- Shifting
- Tone Production
- Awareness of Pulse
- Steady Beat

EXPRESSION

- Listening Skills
- Dynamics and articulation
- Phrasing and Breathing
- Speed of phrase
- Developing drum beats

READING & THEORY

- Rhythmic values
- Syncopated Rhythms
- Note Names & Musical Terms
- Rudiments and Grooves
- Sight Reading
- Polyrythms
- Odd Meter Rhythms

REPERTOIRE

- Stick Control
- Syncopation
- Rudiments
- Funk, Soul, Jazz, Country, Rock, South American, Latin, Brazilian Grooves
- Snare Drum Etudes
- Required studies for high school and college admissions