

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy of Music is Hampton Roads' only independent, non-profit community music school. Our mission is to provide the joys and benefits of learning music to the residents of Hampton Roads, regardless of their ability to pay. Founded in 1991, The Academy of Music offers private and group instruction for most instruments and voice. Our instructors are highly trained professionals and include members of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and other leading ensembles. The Academy's offerings, designed for all skill levels, are:

- Academy studies programs conducted in venues across Hampton Roads. Most of our instruction takes place in churches in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake; and

- Community Outreach programs, conducted in partnership with other institutions, such as our drumming program at Park Place Child Life Center in Norfolk, our harp program at Blair Middle School in Norfolk, and our strings programs at Park Place School in Norfolk and Parkview Elementary School in Portsmouth.

In addition to our outreach programs, The Academy provides funding for students enrolled in private study who could not otherwise afford music lessons. Up to 1 in 3 of our private students receive music instruction at little or no cost to themselves through partial or full scholarships.

In 2000, The Academy of Music was fully certified by the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts after meeting its rigorous evaluation criteria. The Guild provides leadership and advocacy for some 300 schools of the arts across the country, sets quality standards, and promotes public awareness of the value of arts education. The Academy is one of only two fully certified schools in Virginia.

The Academy of Music is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, equal opportunity organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, ethnic origin, color, sex, or religious belief in any of our policies or programs.

FUNDING THE ACADEMY

SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Music enriches our lives in countless ways, and music education has enormous benefits for each student, and for the community overall. The Academy's mission of offering quality music instruction to all has two key components:

-**Quality instruction for all.** We design our programs to build skills, understanding, and appreciation at all ages and skill levels. Matching each individual student's needs to the right teacher and program is very important. While certain musical building blocks are fundamental for most students, our underlying philosophy is that music is a gift and a joy that can be experienced in many ways.

-**Opportunity and access.** To share the benefits of music study as widely as possible, we strive to maintain affordable tuition and to provide scholarship support when needed. Expanding access through community outreach programs and partnerships is also a goal. Developing funding through gifts and grants is therefore very important to The Academy's mission and economics.

The Academy and its Board of Directors offer sincere thanks to the foundations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals whose generous, ongoing financial support enables us to share the gift of music.

If you would like to donate to the Academy of Music, please visit our website:

<http://aomva.org/wp/support/contribute/>

ACADEMY STUDIES PROGRAMS

Areas of Private Study

The following study areas are currently offered:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Suzuki Violin, Suzuki Viola, Suzuki Cello, Piano, Suzuki Piano, Guitar, Flute, Drums/Percussion, Recorder, Harp, and Voice.

Private study in composition, musicianship, and sight reading is also available. For other possible areas, inquire with the Registrar.

Private lessons provide tailored, one-on-one instruction with top-quality teachers in a warm, encouraging learning environment. Teachers and students are carefully matched for age, experience, and other criteria.

Studio classes augment private study, by bringing students at similar experience levels together for small group sessions with their teacher. Students informally perform together and for each other, building confidence and a shared learning experience. Studio classes meet in lieu of the private lesson at the instructor's discretion.

Adult Private Study

Our faculty are skilled in providing tailored, one-on-one instruction for all teens and adults, from the novice to the seasoned professional. Our students reach their goals through an affirming, customized method of instruction.

Instrumental lessons focus on knowledge of the instrument, technique, musicianship, repertoire, interpretation, and confidence-building. Studio classes, recitals, and community performances are scheduled as desired and appropriate.

Vocal instruction is available in various musical styles, from classical and musical theater to jazz and pop. Lessons focus on development of vocal technique, interpretation, repertoire, and language. Studio classes, recitals, and community performances are scheduled as desired and appropriate.

Suzuki Instruction Method (Ages 2-7 and up)

The Suzuki Method is based on the natural way that children learn to speak their native language. The student's ear is trained by hearing a well-played example of the music they will be learning. In addition, parent and child attend lessons together in a group environment, providing an opportunity for both to share in the learning process. Music repertoire is presented in a carefully sequenced manner, especially designed for very young children. The method begins with excellent posture and producing a beautiful tone. Children play all the repertoire they have learned at each session, building a strong memory and joy in performing. Reading music follows at the appropriate age.

Suzuki Strings and Piano (Ages 4-7 and up)

We offer Suzuki instruction on string instruments and piano. This program offers students an opportunity for children to begin study at an early age. The unique class structure of the Suzuki Method, where children learn with other children and their parents, has significant developmental benefits.

Suzuki for Parents

Parents of Suzuki children sometimes discover an interest in playing themselves. In response to popular demand, The Academy offers Suzuki classes just for parents, giving them extra instructional time and a chance for discussion with other parents.

Prezuki (Ages 2-3)

"Prezuki" is an early childhood music class that gives families a glimpse into the Suzuki Method: early start, parental involvement, group experiences, mastery through repetition, positive reinforcement, experience with instruments, and introduction to Suzuki repertoire. Prezuki is designed for 2 and 3 year old musicians. Students turning 4 during the school year may continue in this class. Class repertoire changes each semester and continuing students can improve skills and deepen their understanding of the concepts learned.

Creative Music (Ages 3 and 4) Not currently offered

Designed to help children find joy in expressions of music, these classes include singing, listening, movement, improvisation, and instrumental activities. Classes are warm, active, developmental, and fun! Three-year-olds meet twice a week for 30 minutes, and four-year-olds meet twice a week for 45 minutes.

ACADEMY POLICIES

Registration

To register with The Academy:

1. Fill Out The Interest Form

Found here: www.aomva.org/wp/online-registration-form/

On this form, you will give us your contact information, and information about the type of lessons you wish to sign up for. After we receive your form, our registrar will contact you and give your information to a teacher who suits your needs.

2. Set Up Your Lessons With A Teacher

One of our teachers will contact you to arrange your lesson time, length, and location.

3. Fill Out Your Lesson Agreement Form

After you have set up your lessons with a teacher, our registrar will e-mail you a digital copy of our Student Handbook and a link to your lesson agreement form (a paper copy will be mailed if necessary). We will use this form to generate an invoice for your lessons. This is your contract with The Academy concerning what you are expected to pay. After you fill out this form, you will be asked to pay a one time registration fee of \$35.00 per family.

Suzuki Registration

The process for Suzuki student registration is identical to the process above, however, rather than an interest form, you will be asked to fill out an observation form. That link can be found here:

<http://aomva.org/wp/suzuki-checklist/>

Scheduling

All private lessons and studio classes are scheduled with the teacher. Scheduling of lessons (or arranging make-up lessons) is done by the teacher, based on his/her availability, at his/her discretion.

Tuition and Fees

All new families are subject to a one time registration fee of \$35.00. Our semesters run in 18 week terms. A full semester of tuition is billed as follows.

Private Lessons

Tuition for private lessons is billed at a rate of \$24.00/half hour.

For the semester:

30 minute lessons | \$432

45 minute lessons | \$648

60 minute lessons | \$864

Suzuki Strings

Tuition for Suzuki lessons is billed at a rate of \$24.00/half hour and a flat rate for the group classes and performances (varying by length of group) associated with Suzuki lessons. For the semester:

30 minute lessons | \$602

45 minute lessons | \$828

60 minute lessons | \$1,054

Suzuki Piano

Tuition for Suzuki lessons is billed at a rate of \$24.00/half hour and a flat rate for the group classes and performances associated with Suzuki lessons. For the semester:

30 minute lessons | \$552

45 minute lessons | \$768

60 minute lessons | \$984

Prezuki

Prezuki students meet once a week for 14 weeks during the semester. Three to four class times are offered depending on demand. Those days and times are posted on our website.

\$60 | semester

plus \$35 registration fee for first time students

Payment

We offer two options for payment. You may either pay your tuition in full or set up an automatically recurring credit card payment of 2, 3, or 4 payments with the office.

Payment (cont.)

A payment plan or payment in full must be on file within 30 days of beginning lessons, or lessons will be suspended until a plan or payment is established. All balances must be paid off in-full before the beginning of the following semester in order to continue lessons.

We accept payment via cash, check, money order, Visa, Mastercard, Discover Card, and American Express.

Mail cash, check or money order payments to:

P.O. 11146

Norfolk, VA 23517

To pay by credit card, please visit:

<http://aomva.org/wp/pay-tuition/>

To set up a recurring payment plan, please visit:

<http://aomva.org/wp/set-payment-plan/>

Scholarships

Each semester, The Academy provides funds for students with financial needs to pursue music studies. Scholarship information and forms can be found here:

<http://aomva.org/wp/scholarships/>

Requests may be submitted to The Academy office any time prior to the application deadline for the upcoming term. All requests will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee, made up of members of the Board of Directors and Academy staff.

Deadlines

Fall Semester | July 15

Spring Semester | January 15

Withdrawals and Refunds

Written withdrawal must be submitted to the Registrar, in order to be a final withdrawal from study. Notification to the instructor is not considered withdrawal.

Withdrawals and Refunds (cont.)

Once the office receives your written notification of withdrawal, a refund will be given for any sessions not held.

No refunds for withdrawal from Prezuki will be given.

If it is necessary for The Academy to cancel a class prior to the first session, the student will be given the option to transfer to a comparable class. If no satisfactory arrangement can be made, regardless of the reason, a full refund will be given. If a class is cancelled during the term, a full refund will be given for those sessions not held.

Attendance and Missed Lessons

24-hours notice must be given to your teacher for missed lessons. When possible, missed lessons will be made up if 24-hours notice was given. Cancellations made after the 24 hour mark will not normally be made up, but may be at the discretion of the teacher.

Lessons cancelled by the instructor will be made up in a mutually agreeable manner.

Inclement weather may lead to lessons being cancelled. We follow the discretion of Norfolk Public Schools for office closing; however, it is by arrangement with teacher and student whether or not lessons will occur due to weather. Safety is our main concern. If you or your teacher feel that holding the lesson would be unsafe, do not hold your lesson. Cancelled lessons due to inclement weather are made up at the discretion of the teacher. There will be no financial penalty for any decision made to ensure safety during inclement weather. Safety comes first, ALWAYS.

Lessons that fall on public holidays will be held by agreement between you and your teacher. Lessons missed due to public holidays are to be made up.

Music Purchasing

Although teachers may occasionally offer to assist in acquiring parts and scores, this is primarily the responsibility of the student.