

rhapsody ARTS CENTER

ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCES 2011-12

Our curriculum is a combination of private lessons and supplemental group study. **ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCES** are held on five designated weeks according to the studio calendar. Group lessons are devoted to developing complete musicianship. Students will develop a strong sense of rhythm, build a solid technical foundation, and become fluent readers. They study theory, improvisation and composition, learn effective practice skills, and listen to as well as perform a variety of music. In addition to age/level-appropriate classes that incorporate the National Standards for Music Education, there are extra Specialty Classes (for parents, too!). Attend as many classes during Ensemble Experience week as you like. During Ensemble Weeks, there are no private lessons (see calendar). Participation in Ensemble Experience Weeks is strongly encouraged.

HOW & WHEN TO REGISTER

Please register online for the classes of your choice. (If you're not an "online person", you can call us and we'll be happy to assist you over the phone.) For planning purposes, the registration deadline will be one week prior to each Ensemble Experience week. Go to www.rhapsodyarts.org, then "current families login," then "customer portal" to access your account. Add your classes by clicking on the registration tab, then select "EE" under "Cat2". All classes are 60 minutes in length. Please mark your family calendar!

ONLINE REGISTRATION PERIOD:

- #1 September 13 through October 3
- #2 November 12 through December 12
- #3 January 13 through February 13
- #4 March 16 through April 16
- #5 April 28 through May 28

CLASS DATES:

- #1 October 10-14
- #2 Dec 19 & Jan 3-6 (split week around the holiday break)
- #3 Feb 20-24
- #4 Apr 23-27
- #5 June 4-8

ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE WEEK POLICIES

- It is not necessary to attend the same class for every Ensemble Experience Week (except for Glee & School of Rock).
- Student absences will not be prorated or made up.
- Bring your instrument and private/partner lesson music to each class.
- Please arrive 5 minutes prior to the start of class. Students who arrive late should go directly to their classroom.
- We reserve the right to dismiss any student from class who disrupts the experience for other students.

"RAINBOW" CLASSES

Red: K-2nd grade

Green: 7th-8th grade

Orange: 3rd-4th grade

Blue: 9th-12th grade

Yellow: 5th-6th grade

Violet: Adults

You'll have so much fun, you won't realize how much you're learning! Our color-coded "rainbow" classes are a flexible curriculum in which students progress in individual ways and have different goals and musical needs. Students are taught in age/level-appropriate groupings and graduate through five levels of difficulty while learning musical terms and concepts in a curriculum that incorporates the National Standards for Music Education. This is an essential curriculum for our students where we provide an excellent foundation in their musical study while they enjoy interacting with their peers. We will focus on the following themes but also review and expand on other aspects of music. **All students are encouraged to participate in these core "rainbow" classes.**

Class 1: Rhythm / Practice Skills

Class 2: Note Reading

Class 3: Solfege

Class 4: Chords & Improvisation

Class 5: Sightreading

Instructors: various (see listing on page 5)

FRIDAY FRETS AND DRUM JAM

Friday Frets is designed to give Rhapsody's students a unique opportunity to hear and learn about what other guitar & drum students and their teachers are working on. Students will be introduced to music outside of what they are working on in their individual lessons and listening to on their own.

Students will enjoy an opportunity to perform and will also see their instructors perform all in a fun and relaxed environment. As the year progresses, students may also play in small ensembles. In addition to the five Ensemble Experience classes, an additional 3 classes are offered as well (register one week in advance).

Dates (all Fridays): 10/14, 11/18, 1/6, 2/24, 3/16, 4/27, 5/18, 6/8

Instructors: Anthony Caulkins, Rojo Carranza, Rocky Rice

Grades: open to all guitar & drum students of any age

SCHOOL OF ROCK

If you have ever wanted to be in a band, this is the opportunity you have been looking for. Now in its 6th year at Rhapsody, School of Rock brings guitarists, keyboardists, drummers, vocalists, and other musicians together into various bands. Each group will choose their band name and learn a song in a modern style (rock, country, jazz, etc.) & perform at Spring Fling. Bands will be assembled based on availability, age, and instrumental need. Rhapsody's theater faculty will assist the bands with making their performances visually exciting as well!

There is no online signup for SOR. **Please EMAIL chris@rhapsodyarts.org NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18 to indicate your interest in participating in School of Rock, your instrument, and which SOR times you are available (list as many times as possible to help facilitate the best instrument groupings).** School of Rock members commit to attending 5 rehearsals (same time/day each Ensemble Experience week) through the 2011-12 academic year.

Instructors: Chris Collins, Anthony Caulkins, Rojo Carranza

Grades: grades 6 and up (or younger by teacher recommendation or past participation), 4-7 students per band

Prerequisite: private instructor recommendation or past participation, at least 1 year of study, students with excellent practice habits

DRUM CIRCLE

CrAsH! BoOm! BaNg! TiNg! Come to this class and learn to build a city of rhythm. This class will provide unlimited potential for experience in rhythm, ensemble, movement, improvisation, meter, and timbre. *I don't want to work, I just want to bang on my drum all day!*

Instructor: Rojo Carranza, Hanna Pieper

Grades: 3-8

SONGS AND GAMES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Take a trip around the globe to sing exciting songs from other cultures! This class will focus on fun musical facts about each country, and students will learn about the instruments played in each region. Along with singing each song, students will learn traditional dances and games to further their understanding of the culture of each region.

Class 1: South America

Class 2: Africa

Class 3: Asia

Class 4: Europe

Class 5: North America

Instructor: Julie Stalheim, Emily Worzalla

Grades: 1-5

GUTS OF THE PIANO

Guts of the Piano will take you on a tour of the piano—12,000 moving parts! We will look at the inside of the instrument and discuss all the various parts that make this fascinating instrument work, as well as talk about the history of the piano. Have you ever wondered what Mozart or Beethoven or Chopin's pianos sounded like? We will have a listen to that too! Instructor: Leo Van Asten

Grades: 3-12

CHAMBER & KEYBOARD ENSEMBLE: ACCOMPANYING (i.e. strings/piano/instrumental groups of 2-6 people; piano duets, 4 to 8-hand keyboard ensembles; accompanying)

Playing in an ensemble adds a new dimension to music study, encourages better listening skills, and heightens rhythm and sightreading abilities.

Learn the tools of communication the pros use and gain experience deciding what needs work and how to work on it. This is a fun opportunity to give some decision-making power to the students and helps build independence and confidence in ensemble playing. Soloists and accompanists will also rehearse together. Students will experience a variety of ensemble literature and rehearse with the aid of a coach. It is important to come to each class (weeks 3, 4, 5) since there will be a performance at the end of the year.

Instructors: Mickey Lytle, Sonya Clark, Becky May

Grades: all

Prerequisite: at least 2 years of study

MUSIC ACCORDING TO BUGS

Do you like cartoons? Do you think classical music is...*boring*? Check out "Music According to Bugs" where we will watch a classic Warner Brothers cartoon which features classical music ("Kill the Wabbit!") and then we will discuss the composer, time period and context surrounding the music as well as listen to some of the music heard in the cartoon in its original form. Come prepared to laugh, be entertained and to learn!

Instructor: Leo Van Asten

Grades: 2-8

COMPOSITION

Composition is a class intended for students who wish to explore the creation of music for themselves and others to perform. Much of the focus will be on where and how to find ideas, and once you've found them, how to translate them into music. As a class we will work on modeling already composed pieces of music, and from there, derive our own pieces. The ability to notate music by hand is very important to this class, and in the first session, we will go over basic notation conventions. Students will compose their own short pieces modeled on various types of music discussed in class.

Instructor: Anthony Caulkins

Grades: 6-12

Prerequisite: Ability to read music is a requirement.

Materials: Pencil and Staff Paper

VOICE MASTERCLASS

This class gives the students a chance to sing for fellow singers, and learn the basics of how to have a fun and rewarding performance experience. The students will work on topics like vocal health, performance persona, and how to express the text.

Instructors: Julie Stalheim, Kathy Mohs, Emily Worzalla

Grades: 6-12

Prerequisite: private voice study

STRINGS MASTERCLASS

In this class, students will have the opportunity to perform a piece they are working on and receive constructive comments from teachers and fellow string players. Students will learn to give a compelling and rewarding performance through working on topics such as technique, performance etiquette, and musicality.

Instructor: Becky Morgan; Allen/May as available

Grades: all

Prerequisite: private violin/viola/cello study

RAC GOES GLEE!

Join us in singing and dancing to musical selections from this popular TV show! No prior experience in a show choir or dance team is required. It is important to come to each class since there will be a performance at the end of the year.

Instructor: Kathy Mohs, Julie Stalheim

Grades: 4-9

PIANO MASTERCLASS

This class gives the students a chance to play for fellow pianists, and learn the basics of how to have a fun and rewarding performance experience. The students will work on topics like tension, performance anxiety, phrasing, and balance.

Instructors: Leo Van Asten, Sonya Clark, Mickey Lytle, Richard Floeckher

Grades: all

Prerequisite: private piano study

ADULT MUSIC SOCIAL

Adult students will enjoy the social interaction and intellectual stimulation while meeting with other creative and musical adults. Opportunities for self-expression and creativity, stress reduction, and FUN! Casual performance setting is provided, but performance is not required. A different history/literature/performance-related topic will be presented at each class.

Instructors: Leo Van Asten, Becky May, Mickey Lytle

Ages: 18 and up; adults of all instruments and levels

IMPROVISATION

Improvisation is a class intended for students who wish to improve their ability as well as increase their comfort with the idea of making up music 'on the fly'. As many musicians feel rather uneasy when asked to play something for which they have not rehearsed, the focus of this class will be to show that improvising is not only not scary, but can be easier and more fun than playing prepared music. We will discuss different improvisational styles from Blues and Jazz, to "total" free improvisation. Musicians of any instrumental or vocal category are encouraged to join if they are willing to leave their inhibitions at the door, as a sizable portion of the class will be devoted to singing...especially the blues.

Instructor: Anthony Caulkins

Grades: 6-12

Prerequisite: One year of musical training is preferred.

LISTENING 101

This class will give participants the opportunity to become acquainted with some of the most notable classical music performers of the past 100 years. Audio recordings and video footage of select pianists, violinists, orchestras, etc. will be used to generate discussion about their style, personality and relevance in the history of recorded classical music.

Instructor: Richard Floeckher

Grades: 6-12

Prerequisite: none

PARENT ENRICHMENT

Parents need encouragement, too! Want to learn the basics of the instrument your child is learning so you can help at home? Looking for ways to motivate your child to **practice play** more often? We're here to help!

Instructor: Mickey Lytle, Leo Van Asten, Emily Worzalla, Grant Billings

Age: All parents of Rhapsody students

ADULT JAM

This is a class designed for adults students who would like to meet in a low pressure environment and play some music together. We will work on some fun progressions and melodies and just "jam" together for a bit. Students will also be encouraged to bring music of their own (e.g. jazz sheets, duets...etc.) to read together with the group. This is a non-exclusionary class. The more diverse the range of instruments involved, the more fun! That means vocalists, too!

Instructor: Anthony Caulkins

Age: Adult

Prerequisite: One year of musical training is preferred.

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Table of Class Offerings: Classes held each of the 5 Ensemble Experience Weeks

Class	Day/Time	Teacher
Blue	Mon 6:15	Sonya
Blue	Wed 6:30	Sonya, Natalie
Friday Frets/ Drum Jam	Fri 5:15	Anthony, Rojo
Glee	Th 6:30	Julie, Kathy
Green	Mon 6:30	B Morgan, Emily
Green	Th 4:30	Sonya, Leo
Green	Tu 5:15	Anthony, Mickey
Green	Wed 4:00	Kathy, Leo
Orange	Fri 4:00	Sonya
Orange	Mon 4:00	Julie, Sonya
Orange	Th 4:45	Kathy, Hanna
Orange	Tue 4:00	Hanna, Sonya
Orange	Tue 5:00	Leo
Red	Fri 3:45	Julie
Red	Mon 3:30	Genia, Emily
Red	Mon 5:00	Genia, Emily
Red	Tue 3:45	Julie, Hanna
Songs & Games	Tu 5:15	Julie, Emily
SOR	Fri 4:30	Chris, Anthony
SOR	Fri 5:45	Chris, Anthony
SOR	Mon 5:15	Chris, Anthony
SOR	Mon 6:30	Chris, Anthony
SOR	Wed 5:15	Chris
SOR	Wed 6:30	Chris
Violet	Th 3:15	Leo, B May
Violet	Tu 6:30	Mickey
Yellow	Mon 5:15	Leo, Julie
Yellow	Th 5:45	Kathy, Leo
Yellow	Wed 5:15	Kathy, Natalie

Table of Class Offerings: Specialty Classes offered at various times (not each EE week)

Class	Wk	Day/Time	Teacher
Adult Jam	3	Tu 6:30	Anthony
Bugs	1	Mon 6:30	Leo
Bugs	3	Mon 6:30	Leo
Bugs	5	Mon 6:30	Leo
Bugs	5	Tu 6:30	Leo
Composition	2	Tu 6:30	Anthony
Drum Circle	2	Mon 5:15	Hanna, Rojo
Drum Circle	3	Mon 5:15	Hanna, Rojo
Drum Circle	5	Mon 5:15	Hanna, Rojo
Duets/Chamber	3	Th 5:15	B May, Sonya, Mickey
Duets/Chamber	4	Th 5:15	B May, Sonya, Mickey
Duets/Chamber	5	Th 5:15	B May, Sonya, Mickey
Guts of the Piano	1	Th 5:15	Leo
Guts of the Piano	2	Wed 5:15	Leo
Improvisation	4	Tu 6:30	Anthony
Listening 101	3	Wed 5:15	Richard
Listening 101	4	Wed 5:15	Richard
Listening 101	5	Wed 5:15	Richard
Parent Enrichment	1	Tu 6:30	Mickey, Leo, Grant, Emily
Parent Enrichment	1	Wed 6:30	Mickey, Grant, Leo
Parent Enrichment	2	Wed 6:30	Mickey, Grant, Leo
Piano MC	1	Wed 5:15	Leo
Piano MC	2	Mon 6:30	Leo
Piano MC	4	Mon 6:30	Leo
Piano MC	5	Wed 6:30	Leo
Strings MC	1	Mon 5:15	B Morgan
Strings MC	4	Mon 5:15	B Morgan
Voice MC	2	Th 5:15	Julie
Voice MC	3	Wed 6:30	Kathy, Emily
Voice MC	4	Wed 6:30	Kathy, Emily

RHAPSODY'S ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCES

Rhapsody's Faculty and Board of Directors feel that our Ensemble Experiences are an integral part of our curriculum and also contribute to the private/partner lesson experience for a variety of beneficial reasons. Many hours of planning and preparation go into this program, for the benefit of our students, and to heighten their musical experiences.

FOR THE STUDENT

Everyone learns differently. Students learn from each other and can be "turned on" to music by each other. A competitive atmosphere is not the goal of group lessons, but success is contagious. If one student learns a difficult piece, often the whole class will want to try to learn the piece as well. "I can't" becomes a phrase of the past.

ADVANTAGES OF GROUP LESSONS

1. Provides confidence in playing for others
2. Aids students in developing rhythmic security
3. Stimulates critical listening as students hear other students perform and comment on these performances
4. Allows students to broaden their musical experiences
5. Exposes students to a variety of music-related materials
6. Provides a friendly-competitive atmosphere and peer encouragement
7. Fosters an atmosphere that is conducive to effective teaching of functional skills such as sight reading, transposition, harmonization, improvisation, and composition
8. Social environment
9. Facilitates the performance of ensembles including duets, trios, quartets and multiple instrument ensembles
10. Students get a better perspective on the challenges of playing in a group.
11. Establishes a sense of group spirit and group dynamics that increases motivation
12. Fosters the development of communication skills
13. Allows students to learn from peers as well as from the teacher
14. Provides a setting where drills and exercises can be more interesting and motivating

What do pedagogical experts say about group lessons?

- "When students in a group evaluate each other, they internalize the criteria for themselves and it helps them improve as they practice."
- "In groups, students have a sense of responsibility to themselves and to the other students."
- "The small group provides a wonderful atmosphere for students to exchange ideas and thereby fosters creativity and enhanced self-esteem from peer approval."
- "The group format establishes an environment for creative, collaborative learning and encourages students to take risks."
- "When students hear opinions different from their own and their teacher's, it encourages creativity and experimentation."

Our Group Lesson Curriculum and Philosophy:

While the private lesson offers a one-to-one relationship with the teacher, the group lesson stimulates healthy interaction among students and is particularly efficient for expanding and integrating musical concepts taught in the private lesson. The combination of private and group atmospheres intensifies students' exposure to music and provides both individual attention and group reinforcement. Each lesson has a structured lesson plan including writing, discovery, and listening, as well as a student performance class.

The Benefits of Group and Private Instruction:

Private lessons focus on the individual learning style of a student. When the group lesson is a supplement to the private lesson format, students perform for each other, reinforce musical concepts learned in the private lesson, and develop ensemble skills.

Group teaching is not a new idea—it has been around since the 1820's. Group teaching is not new to *Rhapsody Arts Center*, either. This format has consistently been an important part of Rhapsody's curriculum.

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