

Below, you will find the descriptions of classes offered during summer virtual sessions. Please NOTE: We do also offer Music Technology, Piano, Guitar, and Harp. These are all LIMITED AVAILABILITY upon request.

Beginners (1 to 2 years players): “Cola” House
Intermediate Level 1: “Katz” & “Setzer” House
Intermediate Level 2: “Clapp” House
Advanced: “Churchill” House
Contemporary Vocal: “Tyler” House



1. Cola House:

Lessons: Every student under the FSA curriculum, will have the chance to work with a working professional musician at a minimum of twice a week. During these lessons, younger students will work on how to care for their instrument, posture, bow holds, bow placement, creating the best sound, and more.

Keys & Things: This innovative class teaches basic music theory in reference to the circle of fifths. Our younger students will have the experience of an intro of major and minor keys, keys on the piano.

Build-A-Rhythm: This course introduces rhythm as it relates to basic math. Steady beat is the largest part of this course. Students will also be introduced to whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and those note values. Second year students will be given equations to solve in reference to notes learned. For example:

1. Two half notes = _____
2. Two quarter notes and a half = _____
3. If I give you three quarter notes within a 4/4 measure, what could you fill the rest of that bar with?

Solfeggio: This course introduces all students to scales and the names of those scale degrees. (Do-Re-Me-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do : 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8) These scales are reinforced with teaching songs such as “Do Re Me” from “The Sound of Music”, as well as original songs and methods from our theory instructors.

Improvisation: This course introduces the students to creating their own melodies, supporting melodies, and understanding the listening aspect. This is how composers are born. Students may be given a pre produced track from one of our staff members, and taught to sing/play different rhythms on their instrument. This also reinforces the rhythmic and key signature aspects. This is a favorite amongst our students.

Musicians Past and Present: For our younger students, this course is in place to learn about why music sounds the way it does. Students will learn about composers (classical and contemporary pop), and discuss what they sound of the piece, could be conveying. What do you feel when you hear this song, and why do we feel what we feel in music?

Do You Hear What I Hear?: This course is a FIRST YEAR introduction to ear training; In other words, aural music theory. Students will learn about pitch matching, which is hearing a pitch and being able to sing/play it. First year students will work towards being able to sing a certain degree of a scale, having been given a tonic.

Technique: This introduces SECOND YEAR students to the many techniques of classical and contemporary playing. Each time period of music has a specific bow stroke, tone, approach, etc. This is just an introduction of the opportunities that each time period grants. Students will expand on the idea of bow strokes/ sound effects, and other classical approaches. What’s the technical difference between playing “Ode to Joy” and “Old Town Road”?

2. Katz & Setzer House:

Lessons: Every student under the FSA curriculum, will have the chance to work with a working professional musician at a minimum of twice a week. This will be in format of an instrumental sectional, or individual lesson. During these lessons, Intermediate students will be introduced to practicing and performing solo repertoire. This usually only consists of pieces for that particular instrument (No accompaniment). Students will also have the opportunity to work on and review music from their ensembles.

Technique: This continues intermediate students to the many techniques of classical and contemporary playing. Each time period of music has a specific bow stroke, tone, approach, etc. Considering the introduction of solo repertoire, and more difficult music, this course will approach the techniques of the periods in which the students pieces are from. This course is used as a supporting session for their lessons. This course also gives the student perspective and introduces the many opportunities, a given pieces consists of.

Improvisation: This course introduces the students to creating their own melodies, supporting melodies, and understanding the listening aspect. This is how composers are born. Intermediate students are often given the opportunity to make up their own pieces from scratch. Students will also be introduced to the call and response method of improvisation, however with their own version of a given melody.

Chamber Ensemble: This is a course that gives the students the opportunity to put what they have learned throughout the day into action. Intermediate ensembles may be by instrument, or diverse instrumentation. Students will practice and perform amongst one another to create a finished product that will be recorded and sent in. A video will be presented to the parents at the end of the virtual program.

Ear Training/Solfeggio: This course for intermediate students reviews scale degree names and begins singing certain pieces in solfege, based on what they have learned in the previous coursework.

I Got Rhythm: This course reviews basic notes and values, and further introduces rhythm as it relates to basic math. Intermediate students will be introduced to sixteenth notes, thirty second notes, and understanding rests. This is where students will be given the chance to create their own rhythms and have the rest of their group clap them out. This is a group favorite!

Musicians Past and Present (Level Two): For our intermediate students, this course reviews why music sounds the way it does. This turns into a history course for our level one intermediate group. Students will learn about classical composers, why pieces were written based on the circumstances of that composers context, and make comparisons to the current day music industry.

Keys & Things (Level Two): This innovative class expands on musical theory in reference to the circle of fifths. Our intermediate students will have the opportunity to learn the relation between major and minor keys :

G Major = e minor

C Major = a minor

F major = d minor

Students will also learn to sing the chromatic scale, using our professors unique interval training.

3. Clapp House:

Lessons: Every student under the FSA curriculum, will have the chance to work with a working professional musician at a minimum of twice a week. This will be in format of an instrumental sectional, or individual lesson. During these lessons, Intermediate students will be introduced to practicing and performing solo repertoire. This usually only consists of pieces for that

particular instrument (No accompaniment). Students will also have the opportunity to work on and review music from their ensembles.

Technique: This continues intermediate students to the many techniques of classical and contemporary playing. Each time period of music has a specific bow stroke, tone, approach, etc. Considering the introduction of solo repertoire, and more difficult music, this course will approach the techniques of the periods in which the students pieces are from. This course is used as a supporting session for their lessons. This course continues to give the student perspective and introduces the many opportunities, a given pieces consists of.

Improvisation: This course continues the students with creating their own melodies, supporting melodies, and understanding the listening aspect. This is how composers are born. Intermediate students are often given the opportunity to make up their own pieces from scratch. Level two students will now initiate the call and response method with their teachers. By the end of the course, the students will be able to improv on an 8-16 bar solo.

Chamber Ensemble: This is a course that gives the students the opportunity to put what they have learned throughout the day into action. Intermediate ensembles may be by instrument, or diverse instrumentation. Students will practice and perform amongst one another to create a finished product that will be recorded and sent in. A video will be presented to the parents at the end of the virtual program.

Keys & Things (Level Three): This innovative class expands on musical theory in reference to the circle of fifths, but now introduces steps, accidentals, and calculating key signatures. This may include, but not be limited to questions such as:

How many sharps are in the key of B major?

How many flats are there in Ab minor?

What is another name for E double flat?

This course also introduces chordal structure and triads.

I Got Rhythm: This course reviews ALL notes/rests and values. This course now introduces syncopation, simple and compound meters, and odd meters. Students will display their understanding for these lesson via games, that are created by the staff.

Ear Training/Solfeggio: This course for intermediate students reviews scale degree names and begins singing certain pieces in solfege, based on what they have learned in the previous coursework. Level two intermediate students will be introduced to the moveable “do”. Students will also be able to sing any scale degree, when given a tonic. This scale degree included major and minor.

Musicians Past and Present (Level Three): For our intermediate students, this course reviews why music sounds the way it does. This is a music history course for our level two intermediate group. Students will learn about classical composers during the romantic and baroque era, why pieces were written based on the circumstances of that composers context, and continue to make comparisons to the current day music industry.

4. Churchill House:

Lessons: Every student under the FSA curriculum, will have the chance to work with a working professional musician at a minimum of twice a week. For advanced students, this is required to be an INDIVIDUAL lesson. During these lessons, advanced students will be required to present solo repertoire with or without accompaniment. For higher level students, this is treated as collegiate level preparation. Students will work on solo rep, chamber music (if needed), and orchestral music for the FSA Honors Ensemble video.

Chamber Ensemble: This is a course that gives the students the opportunity to put what they have learned throughout the day into action. Advanced ensembles will in quartet/quintet form, or unique instrumentation. Students will practice and perform amongst one another to create a finished product that will be recorded and sent in. A video will be presented to the parents at the end of the virtual program. This piece will either be a standard, or original created by the artistic director.

Music Theory: This course is the last level of our “Keys & Things” Series. Virtually, this would test previous information learned in past programs. Using that information, students will be introduced to counterpoint, chordal structures, creating seventh chords, Neapolitan chords, cadences, dissonance, augmentation, and inversions.

All That Jazz: This course introduces advanced students to the standards of jazz improvisation. This includes, but not limited to: reading charts, using ones ear to develop cadences, learning the history of jazz, and understanding the culture.

Sight Reading: In this course, advanced students will be given a piece of music on sight, virtually (using a shared screen), and each student will read the music in their own tempo. The students and teacher, will then discuss what happened during that reading, and work on methods in which the students can improve their sight reading.

Scales: This course is a group course that gives students the comfortability of learning three octave scales with their friends. Though, scales will also be worked on during individual lessons, this helps the musician become comfortable will listening and adjusting to those around them. This also assists with intonation and tone.

Excerpt Preparation: This course gives the student inside information on the excerpts that colleges are looking for, and tips on how to accomplish the best sounding excerpts. Most orchestras and colleges in todays industry, are requiring certain pieces that may include solo sections. This course prepares the student to play the best audition possible, while also being led by a working symphony musician.

Advanced Technique: Every composer has a different technique and stroke that they require when performing their creation. From “The Four Seasons” to “Hadyn’s Sunrise Quartet” to “The Rite of Spring” to Disneys “Moana” to Mahlers “Resurrection Symphony No 2; each one has a completely different technique. This is not something that is taught once you are in the orchestral industry. They must be previously understood. This course introduces the student to exploring these different techniques.

5. Tyler House (Contemporary Vocal):

Individual Sessions: This course allows students to work closely with industry recording artists, on individual songs. This is in masterclass format, so the students are performing their songs in front of the other students. They will be given critiques and asked to perform it again using different methods. Students will also be given songs to learn and execute, as well as be introduced to songwriting.

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble: This gives the vocalists, an opportunity to work with each other on vocal pieces, and A Capella creations. Students will also use this time to work on parts for the honors ensemble piece and for their end of the program vocal piece.

Music Theory: This course is the last level of our “Keys & Things” Series. Virtually, this would test previous information learned in past programs. Using that information, students will be introduced to counterpoint, chordal structures, creating seventh chords, Neapolitan chords, cadences, dissonance, augmentation, and inversions.

NOTE: TECHNOLOGY, PIANO, GUITAR, AND HARP STUDENTS WILL BE PLACED WITHIN THEIR AGE GROUP. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL LESSONS/SESSIONS WILL BE WITH THEIR TEACHER USING A SHARED SCREEN. Please refer to the different levels in order to see where your child would be placed.