

MUSIC DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW VOCAL, CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL AND JAZZ

(Students and teachers wear masks and are socially distanced at all times.)

The goal of the Music Department is for each student to develop over four years to their highest potential as a musician, including:

- Performance skills on their chosen instrument or voice, including tone quality, intonation, technical mastery, and interpretation.
- Music literacy, including reading and writing music and understanding all common musical indications and symbols.
- Aural skills, including musical memory, concentration, sight-singing and transcription.
- Collaborating with teachers and peers in an ensemble setting, including interpersonal skills.
- Awareness and appreciation of music history, the music of other cultures, and music's connection to other arts and academic disciplines.
- Audience and performer etiquette. All Music students are strongly encouraged to take regular private lessons while attending the Academy. All students will attend department master classes, which will include faculty and student performances, lectures, and visits by guest artists. Additional courses, by major, are listed below.

Each year, students will take music theory and a performance class on their instrument. Students will also choose among multiple elective courses and be assigned additional fundamentals or enrichment courses depending on each student's individual needs and goals.

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL (open to all Wind, String and Piano Instrumentalists)

- **One Year:** A student who attends one year will take: Level 1 instrumental Performance class, Theory, and an elective class either in music or another art form. *(In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.)*

- **Two Years:** A student who attends two years will take: Level 2 instrumental Performance class Theory, and an elective class either in music

or another art form. *(In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

- Three Years: A student who attends three years will take: Level 3 Performance class, Theory and elective class either in music or another art form. *(In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

- Four Years: A student who attends four years will take: performance class, Jazz Theory and an elective class either in music or another art form. *(In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

Classical Instrumental Performance Courses

STUDIO WINDS AND STRINGS

Studio Winds and Strings is an intensive class open to all music major instrumentalists. In this course students will play as a small ensemble, working on repertoire from the classical canon to the modern day, and work as a soloist. Students will receive one on one coaching once a month and have ample time to practice on their own in one of the Academy's many practice rooms. Work in this class will highlight instrument facility (scales, sight-reading, etudes) and learn solo repertoire that will position them to join honor festival ensembles or prepare for college auditions. *All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks at all times, unless playing their horns. They are spaced 12 feet from the other players, or class is held outside).*

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA *(In 2020-2021, Orchestra is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.*

The Academy Orchestra is one of GHAA's premier instrumental ensembles and is a required class for all music major string and wind players. Academy Orchestra is a performance driven ensemble and strives to play repertoire at the highest level. Students will be exposed to music from the classical canon (Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, etc.) to the modern day. In rehearsing pieces students will also be exposed to various music theory concepts, as well as learn about the importance the works' composers play in music history. The

Academy Orchestra is an active part in the Hartford music scene and is currently in collaboration with the Hartt School of Music's Composition Program, in which the Academy Orchestra premieres works by Hartt composers written for the Academy Orchestra.

PIANO PERFORMANCE *(In 2020-2021, all keyboard instruments are spaced 6 ft. apart and wiped down after each use)*

This course is for students who are either just beginning their study of piano, or those who have previously studied and wish to advance their skills. Students will be reading standard notation as well as chord symbols. The classes are structured to facilitate both group lessons and individual instruction. Students will be required to perform in various settings, including one-on-one with the teacher and in front of the class.

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL

(open to all Wind, Piano, Percussion, Guitar, and Bass Instrumentalists)

- **One Year:** A student who attends one year will take: Rhythm Section Workshop, Theory an elective class either in music, another art form: *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*
or Big Band. *(In 2020-2021, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.*
- **Two Years:** A student who attends two years will take Jazz Ensemble, Theory an elective class either in music or another art form *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.* or Big Band. *(In 2020-2021, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.*
- **Three Years:** A student who attends three years will take: Jazz Ensemble Level 3, Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription, improvisation, and jazz piano, and an elective class either in a music, another art form or Big Band. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*
(In 2020-2021, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.
- **Four Years:** A student who attends four years will take, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription,

improvisation, and jazz piano. an elective class either in music or another art form, or Big Band. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

(In 2020-2021, Big Band is not being offered due to Social Distancing policies.

Jazz Instrumental Performance Courses

RHYTHM SECTION WORKSHOP

Students will learn the essential elements of performance, such as style, performance tips, and genres required for the solid understanding of what is required of a successful member of this vital part of the jazz group. The seven genres covered for rhythm section are: swing, BossaNova, rock, shuffle, samba, funk and ballad. Additional topics include: standard chord progressions, volume, timekeeping, and how to develop effective comping, (accompanying), techniques. Students and teachers wear masks and are socially distanced. *(All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless playing behind a plexi sound booth 12 feet from the other players, or class is held outside).*

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

This class is focused on jazz performance in a socially distanced, small group setting. Students will be guided in the craft of improvisation and ensemble playing. Students will gain an understanding of such skills as chord choice, improvising scales, rhythm section concepts and group cohesion. They will also play a variety of styles such as traditional, fusion, and free jazz. *All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless playing behind a plexi sound booth 12 feet from the other players, or class is held outside).*

***VOCAL (open to all voice types)**

***During the Pandemic, students will sing behind a Plexiglas barrier or socially distanced outdoors.**

- One Year: A student who attends one year will take Intro to Great American Songbook; Musical Theater and Jazz & Pop, Music Theory and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

- Two Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 2 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater), Music Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

- Three Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 3 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater), Music Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

- Four Years: A student who attends two years will take Level 4 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater) including working with an instrumental jazz combo, Jazz Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir. *In 2020-2021, courses in another art form are not offered because of pandemic cohort grouping.*

Vocal Performance Courses

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: JAZZ & POP

This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will gain a repertoire of swing, jazz standards, blues and pop. They will also start to learn how to improvise, changing the melody to better tell the story and even trying a bit of scat. *(All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless singing behind a plexi sound booth, or class is held outside).*

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: MUSICAL THEATER

This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will gain a repertoire from the musical theater canon. They will

learn to incorporate acting elements into performance to gain an understanding of the character they are portraying. *(All covid safety protocols are in place. Students wear masks unless singing behind a plexi sound booth, or class is held outside).*