Guidelines for Private Music Lessons at Swarthmore College

I. Who can take private music lessons?
The Music Program welcomes Swarthmore students to study music at all levels. Beginners are encouraged to enroll in Music 2 (Reading and Making Music) during the fall semester. The Stott Beginners Program offers free weekly lessons in piano or voice to all students in that course. Academic credit is not available for the Stott Program; its goal is to provide a strong foundation so that students can eventually join our Music 48 program.

Intermediate and advanced performers are eligible to enroll in Music 48. This program enables these students to:

• Take a weekly private lesson with a private instrumental or vocal teacher, with financial support from the Department;
• Earn 0.5 academic credit per semester for as many semesters as they wish;
• Perform for and meet with Swarthmore music faculty members as part of their learning process; and
• Enrich their performance experience by joining with others in a large ensemble directed by a faculty member. The music faculty holds that this community component is crucial to every student’s success. For this reason, credit and financial subsidy is available only to students who participate in these ensembles:
  o Chorus / Garnet Singers
  o Jazz Ensemble
  o Orchestra
  o Wind Ensemble
  o Taiko (Japanese Drumming and Dance Ensemble)
  o Gamelan (Indonesian Percussion Orchestra)
  o Chinese Music Ensemble
  o Note: Chamber Music (Music 47) does not satisfy the Music 48 ensemble requirement.

II. How do I know whether I am at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels?
Consult with a member of the Music Faculty. In general, we classify beginners as those who have never taken regular private lessons, or have not done so in many years. We define as intermediate or advanced those who have taken private lessons; have been active in high school ensembles; and/or who are prepared to participate at Swarthmore in faculty-directed ensembles such as the Chorus, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble.

III. If I have never previously studied music, how do I arrange to take piano or voice lessons?

• Enroll in Music 2 (Reading and Making Music) during the fall semester.

• Tell the instructor of the course that you are interested in lessons.

• See Bernadette Dunning, the Administrative Coordinator in the Department of Music and Dance (Lang Music 401). Tell her whether you are interested in piano or voice lessons. She will match you with a teacher and arrange for payment.

• Contact the teacher to arrange a lesson schedule. The Department will pay for ten 30 minute private lessons. In addition to attending these lessons, you are responsible for practicing (approximately 20-30 minutes daily).
• If you would like to begin piano lessons but can already read music fluently, enroll in Music 11 (Harmony, Counterpoint, and Form I) instead of Music 2 during the fall semester. The Department offers free piano lessons to those students in Music 11 with limited keyboard experience.

• Lessons at the beginning level for instruments other than piano and voice are not currently funded by the Department. However, we are happy to assist you in finding a teacher.

IV. If I have previously studied music, how do I enroll in Music 48?

• Sign up to audition for the Music Faculty. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Department office (Lang 401). Auditions to enter the program occur on the first Friday when classes are in session in the fall semester; and during the reading periods in December and in May.

• Join one of our Department Ensembles. For some, an additional audition is required; for others, no audition is necessary. Please consult the handout entitled “Performance Opportunities in the Music Program” for detailed information about each ensemble. Vocal students normally join the Chorus / Garnet Singers; string players normally play in the Orchestra; woodwind players, brass players, and percussionists normally play in the Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, or Jazz Ensemble. Pianists and others whose ensemble placement is not so obvious should consider playing in the Chinese Music Ensemble or Gamelan. **Music 47 (Chamber Music) is in a separate category and does not satisfy this requirement.**

• Find a teacher.

  o **Vocalists:** Our voice teachers are:
    Nancy Jantsch (njantsc1@swarthmore.edu)
    Clara Rottolk (crottsol1@swarthmore.edu)
    Lara Nie (laraniemezzo@gmail.com)
    Tom Sitzler (twsbaritone@gmail.com)

    Your preference of teacher will be accommodated whenever possible with the teacher's scheduling constraints. If you would like extra guidance, any member of the music faculty can assist. A link to more information about these teachers can be found on the Lessons for Credit webpage (http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/voice-teachers).

  o **Instrumentalists:** consult Bernadette Dunning for the Department’s list of recommended private instrumental teachers. If you would like some additional guidance, speak to Andrew Hauze or another member of the music faculty. A number of outstanding teachers come to campus to give lessons; others are easily accessible via public transit.

V. Submit a Music 48 Application Form to Bernadette Dunning in Lang 401. It is due by 12 noon the same day that add/drop period ends. You cannot enroll in Music 48 through the Registrar.
VI. Do I need to register in Music 48 for academic credit?
Yes. Music 48 students must enroll for 0.5 credit. Please note, however, that the College will permit you to enroll for 5.5 credits per semester without incurring an additional tuition charge if the additional 0.5 credit is Music 48.

Membership in a Departmental Ensemble is a co-requisite for Music 48, but you can choose to enroll in your ensemble for 0.5 credit or 0.0 credit.

VII. How are lesson subsidies apportioned?
All Music 48 Students receive some level of financial support. The Department offer subsidies based on merit and on financial need, and we also offer subsidies to declared Music majors and minors. We never turn away a student on account of financial need.

1. Merit-based subsidies are awarded to Music 48 students based on auditions in September, December, and May. We offer merit-based subsidies at three different levels:
   - 60% (the student pays 40% of the cost of lessons)
   - 80% (the student pays 20% of the cost of lessons)
   - 100% ("Freeman Scholars"; the student pays nothing)

2. Need-based subsidies supplement merit-based subsidies so that students who would otherwise lack funds can participate in Music 48. The Music Program and the Financial Aid Office work together to ensure that students with need have access to musical instruction. The student gives Financial Aid consent to permit its officers to consult with the Music and Dance Administrative Coordinator. (There is a checkbox on the Music 48 application for this purpose). The Financial Aid Office will indicate a general level of need, but information about income or the student’s specific financial aid package information is never shared.

3. Students who have been formally accepted as music majors and minors automatically receive subsidies of 100%, regardless of the merit-based subsidy level at which they were ranked.

VIII. What are the limitations of Music 48 Funding?
Music 48 requires ten one-hour lessons per semester. The Department recommends that teachers charge $80 per lesson --- amounting to $800 per semester --- and calculates subsidies based on that rate. Thus, the maximum subsidy for students at the 60% level is normally $480.00 (60% of $800); the maximum subsidy for students at the 80% level is $640.00. Please note, however, that teachers are free to set their own fees. Thus, if your teacher charges more than the recommended $80 norm --- and if your subsidy is less than 100% --- your share will be higher than it might be if you studied with a different teacher.

In recognition of the higher costs of pre-professional training, students at the 100% level (Freeman Scholars) may receive a maximum subsidy of $1500 per student per semester, including reasonable transportation costs to and from lessons. Music 48 funding is limited to ten lessons per semester.

IX. Can I work with a coach or accompanist?
Freeman Scholars and students assessed at the 80% level can apply to receive additional funding to support individual coaching sessions with a professional accompanist. This is particularly recommended for vocalists. The specific number of coachings, and the amount of departmental subsidy for them, varies each year depending on the overall funding available to the program.
X. Can I take lessons in more than one area?
No. Support is available for a single set of lessons each semester. (In rare circumstances we will make an exception for a declared major or minor who makes a compelling case for simultaneously studying two different instruments. The student must submit a special request to the chair --- in writing --- in advance of the audition.)

XI. How should I prepare for my Music 48 Audition?
Music 48 auditions take place in September, December, and May. At these auditions, the faculty listens to each student perform for 3-4 minutes. Here is the procedure:

- Sign up for an appointment to play/sing for us. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Lang 401.
- Sign up to rehearse in advance with a professional accompanist, if applicable. The Department provides this free of charge. Performing with an accompanist is required unless the music you play is intended to be a solo without accompaniment.
- Practice a representative four-minute excerpt that is not too difficult for your level of technical development. (You may perform the same excerpt when you audition for a Department Ensemble and/or for a private teacher.)
- The faculty is most eager to hear:
  - Technical mastery of material that is appropriate for your level; and
  - A performance that demonstrates your musicality
- The faculty on the jury enjoy hearing you perform, and we want you to enjoy the chance to play in our beautiful concert hall.

Incoming students ranked at the 60% level are strong and highly motivated musicians who can be expected to make excellent ongoing contributions to Department Ensembles. Students ranked at the 80% level demonstrate unusual accomplishment and leadership potential significantly above average. Students at the 100% level are considered "pre-professional" whose level of accomplishment equals that of students at top conservatories.

XII. What are my Music 48 obligations, and how do I balance them with my other commitments?
Music 48 students learn to become expert at time management. Developing this skill takes time, and can be especially frustrating in the initial stages. If you feel overwhelmed, please talk to your private teacher or a member of the music faculty for advice. Eventually, many Music 48 students discover that the discipline of a regular practice schedule, punctuated by weekly lessons and rehearsals, helps them to “recharge,” resulting in improved focus and concentration on their academic work.

- Lessons: Music 48 requires ten one-hour lessons during the semester, all with the same teacher. The Department expects that you will be well prepared for all of your lessons and that you will be prompt. As part of your course of study, it is vital that you and your teacher think carefully about your choice of repertoire. It is important that you and your teacher select a composition at the appropriate level of difficulty for juries. In addition: find out what your teacher’s policy is for advance notification in the event that you need to reschedule a lesson. Adhere to it since the department will not pay for lessons that you have cancelled.
• **Payment:** Students at the 60% and 80% level: please pay your share of the lesson fee first to your teacher; the Department will remit the remaining balance later in the semester directly to your teacher. **Meeting your financial obligation is a requirement of the Music 48 program.**

• **Music 48 paper:** This is an opportunity for you to work with a member of Swarthmore's Music faculty to enhance your critical and research skills in music and develop a stronger and more authoritative approach to interpretation by writing a short paper about the work you intend to perform at juries. For detailed information about the faculty’s expectations for the paper (length, focus, etc.), please visit [http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/research-guidelines-music-48](http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/research-guidelines-music-48).

Your work on the Music 48 paper will proceed as follows:

- After enrollment in Music 48, you will be assigned a faculty member who will serve as your Music 48 advisor, whom you may contact at any point in the semester for guidance on your paper.

- Once you and your private teacher agree on which work you will perform at juries, it is up to you to write the paper. The paper must be a minimum of two pages of thoughtful inquiry into the historical/cultural context of the primary composition you are preparing for performance at the end of the semester. It must also include a detailed bibliography.

- Submit a hard copy of your final draft to Bernadette Dunning in the Department office by the deadline posted at [http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons](http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons). **Late papers and electronic copies are not accepted.** Music 48 Advisors will give a non-binding letter grade to each student. **Failure to submit a Music 48 paper on time will result in a grade of No Credit and loss of subsidy.**

- After submitting your completed paper, you will have an individual meeting with your Music 48 Advisor to discuss it. **This meeting is a required component of your Music 48 coursework. Failure to meet with your Music 48 advisor to review your Music 48 paper will result in a grade of No Credit and a loss of subsidy.**

• **Perform at the end-of-semester jury.** During the reading period at the end of each semester, all Music 48 students perform for the music faculty, just as in the auditions in September. We welcome the larger community at this event; please invite friends to come hear your performance! Participation is required of all Music 48 students, with only two exceptions:
  - Second semester seniors who have performed a senior recital or a senior comprehensive presentation; and
  - Second semester seniors who have performed a recital or a prominent solo with a Department Ensemble may apply in writing to have this requirement waived.

• **Failure to perform at juries will result in a grade of No Credit and a loss of subsidy.** Consult the list of **Music 48 Deadlines** on the Private Lessons page of the Music Program’s website. ([http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons](http://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons)) Meet all of them to maintain your enrollment in the program.
XIII. Why are there so many deadlines? Is there any flexibility?
Music 48 is unlike any other course at Swarthmore. There is no single instructor; anywhere from 50 to 90 students are matched with different teachers, some on campus, some off. Among other tasks, the Department must communicate with teachers; set subsidy levels; consult with the Financial Aid office; track ensemble memberships; arrange for coaching sessions; and coordinate Music 48 papers and advising. This complexity gives us no wiggle room on deadlines.

XIV. How is Music 48 graded?
Music 48 and the other performance courses in our Department are graded on a credit/no credit basis. You may take as many of these courses as you wish; your choice to enroll in them does not affect your option to take academic courses pass/fail. Given the long-term nature of musical growth we hope that most students will re-enroll in the program each semester. Therefore, we assess all Music 48 students at the end of the semester to monitor their progress. The music faculty's assessment takes into account the following criteria:

- The end-of-semester performance before a faculty jury (this is an important factor, but not the sole one).
- A written evaluation by the student's private teacher.
- An informal evaluation by the director of the Departmental Ensemble.
- The Music 48 paper - which will be given a non-binding letter grade.
- Other departmental service (e.g., participating in multiple Departmental Ensembles, chamber music, and other forms of service to the musical community). In some cases, the faculty provides written comments to students at the end of the semester.