

Guidelines for Private Music Lessons at Swarthmore College

An informational video about the Music 48 program is also available at <https://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons>

1. 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 Swarthmore music faculty members as part of their learning process
- 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:
 - Chorus / Garnet Singers
 - Jazz Ensemble
 - Orchestra
 - Wind Ensemble
 - Taiko (Japanese Drumming and Dance Ensemble)
 - Gamelan (Indonesian Percussion Orchestra)
 - Chinese Music Ensemble
 - Student Staff Pianist (*by invitation only)
 - **Note: Chamber Music (Music 47) does not satisfy the Music 48 ensemble requirement.**

2. 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 in faculty-directed auditioned ensembles at Swarthmore.

3. 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. The instructor of Music 2 will work with our Department Coordinator to 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.

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

- a) **REGISTER** for Music 48 as you would any other course online during the pre-registration or follow-up registration periods, or during the add/drop period.
- b) **AUDITION:** Sign up online (go to swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons) to audition for the music faculty. 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.
- c) Join one of our **Department Ensembles**.
 - For some ensembles, an additional audition is required; for others, no audition is necessary. Please consult the music program website for detailed information about each ensemble and the contact information of each ensemble director.
 - Vocal students normally join the Chorus / Garnet Singers; members of Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, or Jazz Ensemble generally study the instrument they play in their ensemble.
 - Pianists and instrumentalists whose ensemble placement is not so obvious should consider playing in the Chinese Music Ensemble, Gamelan, or Taiko. ***Music 47 (Chamber Music) is in a separate category and does not satisfy this requirement.***
 - Each semester, two pianists will be eligible to fulfill their ensemble requirement by becoming Student Staff Pianists. These pianists will be responsible for accompanying vocalists and instrumentalists during studio classes, noontime concerts in Parrish, and other designated events. These students will be eligible for additional piano lessons (beyond their usual Music 48 lessons) at no cost to them focused on accompanying. Student Staff Pianists register for Music 47 (Chamber Music) for this designation. (They are the only Music 47 students eligible to use Music 47 to fulfill their ensemble requirement for Music 48). If you are interested in becoming a Student Staff Pianist, let the Chair or Director of Music know. Appointments to the position of Student Staff Pianist are at the discretion of the music faculty.
- d) **FIND A TEACHER:**
 - i. **Vocalists:** Our voice teachers are:
 Nancy Jantsch (njantsc1@swarthmore.edu)
 Clara Rottsoik (crottso1@swarthmore.edu)
 Lara Nie (laraniemezzo@gmail.com)

You can indicate a preference for a particular teacher on the Vocal Information Form. 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>).

- ii. **Instrumentalists:** Contact Andrew Hauze (ahauze1@swarthmore.edu) or Molly Floyd (mfloyd1@swarthmore.edu) for a list of recommended teachers for your instrument. **Please note that all private teachers must be fully vaccinated, so if you contact a teacher not regularly employed at Swarthmore please make sure that they are aware of this requirement.**

ALL STUDENTS: Please also note that, **until further notice, all teachers and students in Music 48 must remain masked during lessons.** Woodwind and brass players are also required to use bell covers over their instruments to keep everyone safe. The music program will provide special instrumental masks and bell covers to everyone who needs one, so please be in touch with us if you haven't already picked up this equipment from your ensemble director.

e) **SUBMIT APPLICATION FORM**

Submit the online **MUSIC 48 APPLICATION FORM** (which can be found at swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons) by the end of the add/drop period.

5. 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.

6. How are lesson subsidies apportioned?

Music 48 students generally receive a \$560 subsidy toward the cost of lessons. This is the equivalent of 70% of the cost of most lessons. Students are responsible for any cost above \$560 (generally \$240, the remaining 30% of the cost of most lessons) unless they have been awarded a full subsidy. There are three ways for students to receive full \$800 subsidies (the Department covers the full cost of most teachers' lessons):

- a. Any student who is currently receiving **financial aid** through Swarthmore College will receive a \$800 subsidy. The Department of Music and Dance will contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine which students qualify. If you do not want the department to contact Financial Aid about your status, please notify the Chair or Department Coordinator. All information is kept strictly confidential.
- b. **Merit-based subsidies (Freeman Scholarships)** are eligible to Music 48 students who have participated in at least one year of Music 48 lessons at Swarthmore, and who are performing at a highly advanced, pre-professional level. These selective awards go to a handful of students, designated **Freeman Scholars**, each year, normally based on their end-of-year jury in May.

- c. Formally accepted **music majors and minors** automatically receive subsidies of \$800.

7. 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. Thus, with the standard departmental subsidy of \$560, the student pays \$240. Please note, however, that teachers are free to set their own fees. Thus, if your teacher charges more than the recommended \$80 norm, your share will be higher than it might be if you studied with a different teacher. For students receiving full subsidies due to financial aid or as music majors/minors (the second two categories in Section 6 above), the Department covers the standard \$800 cost of 10 lessons per semester.

In recognition of the higher costs of pre-professional training, Freeman Scholars may receive a maximum subsidy of \$1500 per student per semester, covering higher teacher lesson rates and reasonable transportation costs to and from lessons. However, Music 48 funding is limited to ten hour-long lessons per semester.

8. Can I work with a coach or accompanist?

Students can apply to receive additional funding to support individual coaching sessions with a professional accompanist. This is particularly recommended for vocalists. Students are eligible for two coachings per semester (the \$170 cost fully funded by the department). Freeman Scholars are eligible for up to five coachings (\$425, fully funded).

9. 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.)

10. 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 by going to swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons.
- Sign up to rehearse in advance with a professional accompanist, if applicable. Instructions for signing up for an accompanist rehearsal can be found at swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons. The Department provides an accompanist for your audition 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 excerpt (of 3-4 minutes in length) 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 enjoy hearing you perform, and we want you to enjoy the chance to play in our

beautiful concert hall.

11. What are my Music 48 obligations, and how do I balance them with my other commitments?

Music 48 students learn to become experts 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.

- a. **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. 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 your teacher’s policy, since the department will not pay for lessons that you have cancelled. You may be financially responsible for the entire cost of improperly cancelled or no-show lessons.*
- b. **Payment:** Students pay their share of the lesson fee (usually \$240) first to your teacher; the Department will remit the remaining balance (\$560) later in the semester directly to your teacher. **Meeting your financial obligation is a requirement of the Music 48 program.** Failure to meet these requirements will render a student ineligible to continue in the program
- c. **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 (please apply in writing to request to have this requirement waived).
- **Failure to perform at juries will result in a grade of No Credit and a loss of subsidy.** If you are ill and cannot perform for your jury, consult with the department as soon as possible about taking an incomplete. 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>). Meet all of them to maintain your enrollment in the program.

12. 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 participation; and arrange for coaching sessions. This complexity gives us no wiggle room on deadlines.

13. 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 informally 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 jury performance.
- A written evaluation by the student's private teacher.
- 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.