

Guidelines for Private Music Lessons at Swarthmore College *****Fall 2020 ONLY*****

In addition to the information in these guidelines, the music faculty will hold an information session and Q & A via Zoom during the Academic Fair on August 24. An informational video about the Music 48 program is also available at <https://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons>

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 Swarthmore music faculty members as part of their learning process
- ***Due to safety precautions required by the coronavirus, the normal requirement for concurrent participation in Departmental Ensembles is temporarily suspended for the Fall 2020 semester. Students participating in the Music 48 program are nevertheless strongly encouraged to register for and participate in one of our ensembles in their virtual form, so as to maintain a connection with music as a communal activity.***

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 in faculty-directed auditioned ensembles at Swarthmore.

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. 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.

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

- 1) **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.
- 2) **AUDITION:**
 - a. First year students, or other students new to Music 48, must audition to enter the Music 48 program. To audition, please make a 3-4 minute video of yourself singing or playing your instrument.
 - b. You do not need to have accompaniment for these virtual auditions. You may choose to perform anything that you feel will give us a good sense of your current level.
 - c. There is no need for fancy recording equipment: a phone or computer video is fine as long as we can hear the sound is clear and we can see you perform.
 - d. **Submit your audition video by September 1.** There is a link to submit this video on the Moodle site for Entering Students. It is also linked on the Music 48 website <https://www.swarthmore.edu/music/private-lessons>. Singers should, in addition, fill out the Vocal Information form, also found on the Music 48 website.
- 3) **FIND A TEACHER:**
Please note that most lessons will take place remotely in Fall 2020.

ON CAMPUS: Certain reservable spaces are available in Lang Music Building for the use of on-campus students for practicing and lessons. Outdoor, in-person lessons are also possible on campus, by reserving the patio outside Lang Music Building.

OFF CAMPUS: Students studying off campus may study remotely with the teacher they would have worked with (or already have been working with) at Swarthmore. Instrumentalists also have the option to study in person with local teachers wherever they are, assuming proper social distancing protocols are carefully followed.

- **Vocalists:** Our voice teachers are:
 Nancy Jantsch (njantsc1@swarthmore.edu)
 Clara Rottso1k (crottsol@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>).

- **Instrumentalists:** Contact Andrew Hauze (ahauze1@swarthmore.edu) or the Music Program Coordinator (music@swarthmore.edu) for a list of recommended teachers for your instrument.

4) **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.

V. **Do I need to register in Music 48 for academic credit?**

You must register for Music 48 like any other course, but you can choose to register for the 0.5 credit section or the 0 credit section. The requirements of the program are the same for both sections. **Music 48 counts toward your credit limit**, so choose the 0 credit section if you are already taking the maximum number of credits permitted by the college. (Please note that this is a change beginning in Fall 2020: previously Music 48 was only available for 0.5 credit and could go above the normal college credit limit).

VI. **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. See Section VII below. There are three ways for students to receive full \$800 subsidies (the Department covers the full cost of most teachers' lessons):

1. 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.

For Fall 2020: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors who have participated in at least one year of Music 48 and who wish to be considered for Freeman Scholarships should submit a video audition to the form on the Music 48 website (following the instructions for new students above). Faculty will review submissions and notify students if they qualify for the Freeman Scholarship.

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

3. 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.

VII. **What are the limitations of Music 48 funding?**

Music 48 requires **ten one-hour lessons** per semester (or spread over the fall and January terms). 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 VI 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 (in a normal semester) reasonable transportation costs to and from lessons. However, Music 48 funding is limited to ten hour-long lessons per semester.

VIII. 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).

IX. 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.)

X. 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.

- **Lessons:** Music 48 requires ten one-hour lessons during the semester (or during the fall and January terms combined), 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.*
- **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.
- **Juries:** At the end of the semester, all students in Music 48 will submit a video of a performance demonstrating the progress they’ve made over the course of the semester. 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).

With the approval of their teacher, voice students who submitted a video to the voice recital may use the same video for their Music 48 jury (though they must resubmit the video separately to count as their jury).

- ***Failure to submit a jury video will result in a grade of No Credit and a loss of subsidy.*** If you are ill and cannot submit your video on time, 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.

XI. 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.

XII. 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 video.
- 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.