

NOTES



**931 W. Eastwood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640**

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Office Hours

Mon. - Friday 12:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday Closed

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Aubree Weiley aubree@peoplesmusicsschool.org

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Parking is available at the Arai/Uplift School parking lot at the end of Eastwood Avenue, Mondays through Fridays from 3:30-8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm with the permit provided to all students. Please note that parking is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

www.peoplesmusicsschool.org

STAFF

Bob Fiedler, Executive Director
Aubree Weiley, Program Director
Lilly Torres, Operations Manager
Denise McCracken, Development Manager
Juan Rivera, Building Maintenance
Deborah Wanderley dos Santos,
Founder and Director of YOURS Project
Milan Miskovic, Hibbard Nucleo Director of
YOURS Project

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kate Evert, president
Michael Weis, vice president
David Beatty, treasurer
Jay Venzon, secretary
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Sylvia Cedeno
Lisa Dell
Joel Derstine
Patricia Lasley
Rudy Martin
Catherine Mergen
Sean Parnell

FACULTY MEMBERS

WOODWIND

Erin Murphy, Flute
Alexandra Carlson, Oboe

PERCUSSION

Dominique Louis
Lindsay Williams

PIANO

Hülya Alpakin
Jaime McCool
Mio Nakamura
Tatiana Naumova
Sarah Renberg
Diana Viera

GITAR

Victor Marin
Eric Singh
Steve Vazquez

FACULTY - YOURS Project

Brett Bentler, Bass
Philip Boulanger, Cello
Alexandra Carlson, Oboe
Sylvia Carlson, Trumpet
Margaret Cerjan, Violin
Jennifer Dennis, Flute
Kelly King, Violin
Fabian Lopez, Strings
Kassie Lord, Flute
Marie Medina, Violin

STRING

Louisa Blood, Violin
Stephane Collopy, Violin
Terrance Gray, Violin
Michelle Morales, Cello
Felix Petit, Violin

BRASS

Sylvia Carlson, Trumpet
Robin Clevenger, French Horn

THEORY

John Elmquist
Greg Fundis
Carter Hoyt III
Erin Murphy
Eric Singh
Aubree Weiley

Thomas Madeja, Trumpet
Marie Medina, Violin
Javier Payano, Cello
Nickolai Podvin, Bassoon
Javier Saume-Mazzei, Percussion
Bruno Silva, Viola
Valerie Simosko, Flute
Jason Stein, Trombone
Cory Tiffin, Clarinet
Chris Yung, Choir

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Students are required to rent or buy their own instruments. Below is a list of instrument rental stores in the Chicago area:

A440 Violin Shop
2222 W. Roscoe Street
Chicago, IL 60618
773.348.4949

Fritz Reuter and Sons
Stringed Instruments Rental
3917 West Touhy Ave.
Lincolnwood, IL 60712-1027
847.677.7255

Midwest String Rental
220 S. State Street, Ste. 2108
Chicago, IL 60604
312.593.4391

The Saxophone Shop, Ltd.
Evanston Band & Orchestra Co.
4819 Main Street
Skokie, IL 60077
847.673.3812

BOOKS AND CDS

Musical instruction books and CDs can be purchased from the following retail shops:

Coulson's Music Matters
77 E. Van Buren
Chicago, IL 60605
312.461.1989

Music Unlimited
3950 W. Church Street
Skokie (Evanston), IL 60203
847.763.8800

CALENDAR

The People's Music School observes most federal holidays. Please be sure to pick up a copy of our school calendar and to check for additions and changes throughout the semester.

STUDENT/PARENT BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

Quiet

Great concentration is needed to master the art form of music. Because of the design of our space, noise travels easily through the building, affecting the learning environment. Please be mindful of this whenever you are in the building. Everyone will appreciate your cooperation.

Observation of Theory Classes

Parents are welcome to observe theory classes in order to understand what their children are learning. If a parent is accompanied by other children, however, the parent must keep those children quiet and calm and not allow them to run freely at any time during the class. If this is not possible, both children and parent will be asked to sit in the lobby so as not to disrupt the class.

Parent/Guardian Observation of Lessons

Parents are encouraged to observe their children's private lessons and are required to check in with the private teacher on week 4 and the final lesson of every semester.

Video or Audio Recording

Parents or students must receive written permission from the administration in order to record classes or lessons. Teachers have the definitive right to deny this permission. Under no circumstances may any video recording include other students in the picture.

Cell Phones

Cell phone use is prohibited within the school building. Any person needing to use a cell phone must go outside or may use the entrance way.

Food and Drinks

With the exception of bottled water, food and drinks are allowed only in the lobby area and are **NEVER ALLOWED** in the classroom or studios. Parents and students are responsible for disposing of food and drink items properly in the garbage can or recycling container located in the lobby. The kitchen is for staff and faculty use only.

Child Supervision

Unless in a class or lesson, **at no time should a child be left unsupervised by his or her parent/guardian.** Students should not arrive more than fifteen minutes before the beginning of their scheduled activities and should not stay more than fifteen minutes past the end of those activities

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WELCOME

Welcome to the People's Music School. By virtue of coming here to study, you have become part of a unique story.

To a great degree, it is the story of the School's founder, Dr. Rita Simo, and her dream of making a tuition-free classical music education available to everyone. Rita learned to play the piano in her native Dominican Republic, where music lessons are free. When she came to the United States to study at the Juilliard School in New York, Rita was alarmed to find that private music lessons for children in America were often far too costly for many families to afford.

After receiving her doctorate in music from Boston University, Rita began to realize her dream. Through much hard work and determination, the People's Music School was born in a one-room converted beauty salon in Chicago's ethnically diverse Uptown neighborhood. On February 22, 1976, with \$625 and a donated piano, the School opened its doors to its first fifty students.

Since that time, Rita has shared her dream with several thousand students who have come from Uptown and many other neighborhoods throughout Chicago and its suburbs to study at the People's Music School. In 1995, the School moved into its own specifically designed home -a sunny, cheerful building with ten lesson rooms, a piano lab, a music library, administrative offices, an acoustically correct performance space, and a rooftop recital area. Today, the School's acclaimed faculty members offer instruction to nearly 500 students each year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each session, you are allowed a maximum of three days absence per activity (i.e., theory class, ensemble, private or group lesson) in which you are enrolled. Instructors are required to take attendance ten minutes into each class, lesson, or ensemble. Any student not present within the first ten minutes will be considered absent. In addition to regular class attendance, students are required to be present and punctual for their scheduled performances.

Students who exceed the allowed number of absences will be subject to a loss of student privileges as outlined here:

More than three missed private or group lessons will result in a loss of those lessons for the rest of the session. However, the student may continue ensemble and theory classes and may continue on to the next session if all other requirements are fulfilled.

More than three missed ensemble classes will result in a loss of private or group lessons as well as ensemble classes for the rest of the session. However, the student may continue his/her theory class and may continue on to the next session if all other requirements are fulfilled.

More than three missed theory classes will result in a loss of classes, lessons, and ensembles for the rest of the school year. The student will not be allowed to continue on to the next session and will be removed from the list of registered students.

On rare occasions, extenuating circumstances may prevent a student from fulfilling his or her attendance requirements. In such a case, the student may provide a written letter of appeal to the Board of Directors explaining those circumstances. The Board may request further supporting documents in such cases.

PLEASE NOTE: If a teacher, for some reason, has to cancel his or her private lessons, he or she is required to reschedule those lessons with students.

If a student is unable to attend a lesson for any reason, he or she **CANNOT** reschedule the lesson. The teacher will be paid and the student will be marked as absent. The maximum of 3 absences per semester will be **strictly enforced**.

END-OF-SESSION STUDENT CONCERTS

At the end of each session our students perform in a concert. Participation is a requirement of continuing in the program. This concert offers a wonderful opportunity for our students to perform together as a group.

The end-of-session concert schedule will be posted on the school calendar.

For this and all other student concerts at the school, performers should follow the guidelines below:

Proper attire is requested: no gym shoes, no T-shirts with logos, no jeans of any color. Arrive at least 30 minutes before the concert. Bow graciously before and after a performance. Take time to settle in on the stage before beginning the piece. Both students and parents must stay for the duration of the concert.

All students in level theory E and lower are required to attend the concert as well as all required rehearsals. Students who miss rehearsals or concerts may lose the ability to register as a returning student for the next session.

FUNDRAISING

Because the People's Music School is a tuition-free school, we need your help to keep giving free lessons. It costs the school approximately \$1,500 per year to provide one student with free musical instruction. A great way for you to make a difference is through our two student fundraising events.

Performathon

The Performathon takes place during the Winter/Spring session each year. It is a day-long, free event in which each and every student is asked to perform before an audience of fellow students, faculty, family and friends. Audience members may come and go throughout the day, and everyone is welcome. Funds are raised through student solicitation of sponsorship donations for their performances.

Students must turn in money prior to or on the day of the event to be eligible to perform.

Annual Raffle

The Annual Raffle is held at the end of the Winter Concert. Raffle tickets are available for students to buy or sell (at \$2 each) about a month before the concert. Prizes are awarded to the holders of the winning tickets and to the student who sells the most tickets.

Remember, participation in school fundraising is mandatory

Recognizing its value to Chicago and the arts community, many prestigious musical organizations partner with the People's Music School. Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Civic Orchestra, the Ravinia Music Festival, among many others, come to the School to give performances, lectures, and master classes.

Throughout the School's 35 years, the quality of education has never faltered and its commitment to the community has remained steadfast. Students and their families bring their talents and skills to the School to ensure that these traditions survive. The story of the People's Music School is indeed unique and continues with you. Welcome to your music school!

The People's Music School is the only totally free community music school of its kind in the United States. As a student of the School, you (or your child) will receive a comprehensive music education with an emphasis on classical music. This includes music theory, which teaches the language of music and explains how musical sound is created and produced, as well as instruction in the particular instrument of your choice. All theory classes and instrument lessons are taught by highly qualified professional musicians and music educators.

In addition to classes and lessons, you will also have opportunities to perform for an audience – an invaluable lesson in itself. You will also have opportunities to learn from established and highly regarded professional musicians in master classes and to attend any of the numerous concerts performed at the School by some of Chicago's premier musicians.

All completely free of charge.

MUSIC THEORY CLASSES

The People's Music School believes that the study of music theory provides an essential foundation for studying music. Therefore, all students of the School are enrolled in a theory class at all times.

Music theory is presented in age-appropriate classes with consideration for a student's mastery of the subject matter. New students who have little or no previous musical training will be enrolled in the respective beginning-level theory class, according to age.

In beginning theory class, youth students will learn the foundation of music notation, aural skills and rudimentary theory. After one semester, and upon passing the mid-term exam, youth students ages 18 and younger will be assigned to a private or semi-private lesson in the instrument of their choice. Adult students will study both theory and musicianship. These classes will incorporate theory fundamentals, listening skills, ear training, and music history and literature.

YOUTH PRIVATE AND SEMI-PRIVATE LESSONS

Upon passing the theory mid-term exam at the end of fall semester, students ages 18 and under will be asked to choose an instrument to study from among the following:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Woodwinds: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone

Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba

Guitar, Percussion, Piano

Voice: Reserved for students sixteen years of age or older

*Please note that Parents are required to check in with their child's private teacher for an informal evaluation of progress on week 4, and the final lesson of every semester.

YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Ensembles meet weekly for a fifty-five minute session and provide additional training and musical experience for our more advanced students.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

If students successfully complete all of the specified requirements, they will not have to stand in line to register at the beginning of each school year. In order to maintain this privilege, each student is asked to commit to the following each session:

- Demonstrate development in his/her musical studies
- Attend weekly music theory classes
- Attend weekly group or private instrument lessons
- Attend at least one Repertory Class per semester (students in theory G or higher only)
- Participate in juries
- Complete volunteer hours (8 per session for youth, 4 for adults)
- Participate in end-of-session student concert and rehearsals
- Participate in fundraising (1 per session)
- Adhere to attendance policy
- Keep his/her membership card current

These policies and requirements are elaborated on further in this handbook.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Students must demonstrate development in their musical studies at the People's Music School. Student development is measured according to the following:

- Periodic tests and quizzes in the student's music theory class
- Written evaluation as prepared by the student's private teacher after every lesson
- Jury results evaluated by the Program Director, the student's private teacher, faculty department members, and special professional guests of the music school

Any students who fail to meet the minimum cumulative passing grade in any of the requirements above will have their student membership reviewed by the Appeals Committee for dismissal.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Because the People's Music School is tuition-free, we depend on our students and parents for many of the things that keep us up and running. Volunteer opportunities range from administrative tasks to building maintenance to professional services. Please see Lilly Torres at the front desk to discuss how we can best utilize your time, skills, and energy. We will work with your schedule to help you to complete your volunteer hours in a timely manner. Youth students are required to complete 8 hours of volunteer work each session. Adult students are required to complete 4 hours of volunteer work per session.

REGISTRATION and STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CARD

The People's Music School divides its year into two semesters: Fall and Winter/Spring. New-student registration is held only once a year in the fall to coincide with the school year. This is the sole opportunity new students have to enroll in the school.

New-Student Registration

Registration for new students is held on a Saturday in late August, and classes for the Fall semester begin the day after Labor Day. New students are enrolled in the following categories: beginning students ages 5-7, ages 8-12, ages 13-18, and ages 19 and older. After completing one full Fall semester of music theory classes, students ages 18 and younger will receive private or semi-private lessons in the instrument of their choice.

Please check with the School prior to New-Student Registration Day to find out more information on the logistics of registration and the approximate number of new-student vacancies.

Once a student has enrolled in the People's Music School, he or she is eligible to continue studying at the School indefinitely as long as he or she has fulfilled volunteer and fundraising requirements, adhered to the attendance policy, shown growth and dedication, and passed class exams and juries. At the beginning of each session, every student is issued a "student packet." This packet contains a student handbook, parking permit, calendar, and most importantly, a **Student Membership Card**.

Student Membership Card

The Student Membership Card helps you keep track of what you need to do in order to continue to study at The People's Music School.

Each time you fulfill one of your obligations throughout the session (volunteer hours, fundraising, etc.), you should have your card stamped by a School staff member.

At the end of every semester, students must turn in completed (fully stamped) membership cards for the registration committee (comprised of students and board members). If you have successfully fulfilled all of your requirements, you will be automatically enrolled as a student in the next session.

Your fully-stamped membership card (or a copy) is required for returning-student registration. **DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD.** We encourage you to make copies as you progress throughout the session. Please be advised that **WITHOUT A COMPLETED CARD, YOU CANNOT CONTINUE TO STUDY AT THE PEOPLE'S MUSIC SCHOOL.**

Membership cards are not transferable from one person to another. Each membership card is designated to a specific student and may not be transferred to another student.

ADULT CLASSES AND ENSEMBLES

Registered adults have the following options for group class:

Guitar Class

Piano Class

Jazz Ensemble: students admitted at the discretion of the teacher

(Please see pages 5 & 6 for a schedule of ensemble and group classes.)

STUDENT EVALUATIONS & JURIES

Theory

In all theory classes written tests are given throughout the session. Homework, quizzes, and classroom participation also factor into the student's cumulative grade. Any students who fail to meet the minimum cumulative passing grade will have their student membership reviewed by the Appeals Committee for dismissal.

Jury Exams

Twice a year, in December and May, all youth students taking lessons will participate in a jury review. Each student will perform two contrasting pieces, technical exercises and a sight-reading example before a panel comprised of School faculty members and guest jurors from the Chicago musical community. The results of the juries are shared with students and parents during the final lesson of the session and are kept on file to help the school ensure that the student is progressing appropriately.

STUDENT REPERTORY CLASS

All students attending Theory Classes G and higher must attend at least one Student Repertory Class per semester. Student Repertory Classes are held on the last Wednesdays of each month at 6:00pm and are classes intended to improve the critiquing and listening skills of our advanced students.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, Winter/Spring 2011

YOUTH THEORY MONDAY- FRIDAY

Level A	All	5 -7 year-olds	Thursday 4:00-5:00pm
Level B	Beginning	8-12 year-olds	Monday 4:00-5:00pm
Level C	Intermediate I	8-12 year-olds	Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm
Level D	Intermediate II	8-12 year-olds	Tuesday 4:00-5:00pm
Level E	Advanced	8-12 year-olds	Tuesday 5:00-6:00pm
Level F	Beginning	13-18 year-olds	Thursday 5:00-6:00pm
Level G	Intermediate	13-18 year-olds	Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm
Level H	Advanced	13-18 year-olds	Monday 6:00-7:00pm
Level I	Advanced II	13-18 year-olds	Friday 6:00-7:00pm

YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Youth Percussion Ensemble	Wednesday	4:00-5:00pm
Youth String Ensemble	Monday	5:00-6:00pm
Violin Class A	Friday	4:00-5:00pm
Violin Class B	Friday	5:00-6:00pm
Youth Guitar Ensemble	Saturday	11:00am-12:00pm
Children's Choir	Tuesday	6:00-7:00pm
Youth Jazz Ensemble	Saturday	12:00-1:00pm
Junior Jazz Ensemble	Saturday	10:00-11:00am

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, Winter/Spring 2011

ADULT ENSEMBLES/CLASSES

Piano Class	Saturday	9:00-10:00am
Piano Class	Saturday	10:00-11:00am
Piano Class	Saturday	11:00am-12:00pm
Jazz Ensemble	Saturday	11:00am-12:00pm
Guitar Class	Saturday	1:00-2:00pm
Musicianship	Saturday	12:00-1:00pm

*Classes & Schedule are subject to change