



Studio Lessons at YACM: What to Expect!

500 Davis St. Vacaville CA. 95688
707-451-7200

Student Name	Today's Date	Parent's Name
Instructor's Name	Instructor's Phone	Instructors Email

Welcome to my lessons at Young Artists Conservatory of Music! I am an independent teaching artist at YACM, and I look forward to developing your musical skills. YACM provides the facilities, equipment, and administrative support to help me focus entirely on our lesson and performance time together. These instructions will help us work together so you get the most out of your lessons.

A Note from the Executive Director

Hello, I am glad you are starting or transitioning your music education to YACM. Our vision is to provide the resources necessary to develop your musical skill, as excellently as we can. We know that you or your child's development is rooted in a strong and trusted relationship with not only your teaching artist but with music itself. The role of YACM is to support the structure of those relationships so over time you or your child can "Grow Musical and Grow Well".

Becoming a musician takes time, determination, and excitement. Time is necessary, because the techniques and disciplines necessary to be confident on your instrument or voice take years to develop. Your Instructor knows how to develop and order those skills over time. Determination is at the core of learning music, because playing or singing music is not easy. In fact, it is so hard that often students give up. We know that practice takes determination and most often that determination comes from parents before the student becomes so excited they are determined to practice on their own. And finally becoming a musician takes excitement. Excitement can be felt, imparted, or shared. I and your teaching artist share your excitement with you as you start lessons. We hope that we can impart more excitement as you learn to love more about yourself as a musician.

*Here you will find the important information to start your relationship with music and YACM.
Sincerely Wanda Cook - Executive Director*

The Nature of Your Program: Daily Practice, It's all About the Practice!

Music lessons at YACM are part of a larger program rooted in consistent daily practice. This daily practice is at the heart of you and your child's relationship with music and their instructor. This means that the entire program of weekly lessons, group rehearsals, performances, assessments, and musicianship classes are effective only when following days of intentional and consistent practice. When you enroll in music lessons at YACM, your commitment to daily practice is foundational to the quality of your whole program.

Transformational not Transactional

Music education is transformative not transactional. This means that the value of music education exceeds the value of your tuition because the value of your child reach for his potential is priceless. Together, instructors and parents inspire students to strive and accomplish skills beyond their expectations.

Transactional relationships are rooted in the performance of a task based upon intrinsic motivation. For example, the expectation that a piano teacher be present for a 30-minute paid lesson is transactional. The idea that an 8-year old must rely solely on his intrinsic motivation to participate in an activity is transactional. He is motivated, the opportunity is paid for, he participates - Transactional.

But what happens when his motivation is confronted with difficulty? He needs the inspiration and leadership of his teaching artist and parents to challenge and encourage him. He faces obstacles and overcomes difficulties in his practice. At his lesson, he feels the guidance and excitement from his instructor when he plays music he's practiced. He has been transformed through his diligence, resilience, and imagination. His tuition is supporting his transformation.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition represents an investment in the transformation of you or child through music. Your tuition alone does not cover the cost of your music program at YACM. Your tuition is subsidized by a number of resources including: Membership Fees, Government and Foundation Grants, Add-on Instructor Fees, Individual Contributions, Production Fees, Ticket Sales, and Fundraising. Currently the average student tuition subsidy is about \$735.00 a year. This means without charitable contributions; your tuition would be \$735.00 higher.

There are NO REFUNDS or CREDITS for non-participation or missed lessons.

Add-On Instructor Fees

Your instructor listed above, may require an additional Add-on fee. If a fee is listed here, please pay it directly to your instructor listed above.

Add-On Fee Required	\$	Per Mo / Wk Circle One	Pay by Check, Cash, Venmo, Circle One Other _____,
---------------------	----	---------------------------	---

Production Fees / Ticket Sales / Accompaniment Fees

When it comes time for your child to perform, there will be production fees or tickets required to defray costs associated with the performance event. These costs include, but are not limited to venue rental, sound / lighting engineering, insurance, event administration, and accompanists.

Typical production fees are \$30.00 - \$40.00 per student but may be higher. Families of two or more siblings will only pay two fees. If tickets are sold, production fees will not be charged. CORE-Arts and PRO-Arts members receive discounts on tickets. Typical ticket prices range from \$15.00 - \$25.00 but may be as high as \$75.00.

Accompaniment Fees are charged for vocal or instrumental students who require a professional pianist to accompany their performance. Accompaniment fees may range from \$30.00 - \$60.00

More about Practice

The most important part of your lesson is the week of practice prior to attending your lesson. Your lesson is where you:

1. Demonstrate your learning
2. Ask questions about your music and musicianship
3. Learn from the guidance of our instructor based upon your demonstration.

These are my practice requirements for you.

Your Level: Beg, Int, Adv <small>Circle One</small>	Daily Minimum Practice Time: <small>Circle One</small> 30 min, 45 min, 60 min, 90 min, 2 hours, 2.5 hours, 3 hours Other _____
---	---

As you increase your skill, and your music becomes longer, you will be required to practice longer.

Practice Journal

You will write down your practice assignments in your practice guide or notebook. I will write notes about how to practice helping you remember what to do. You will be asked to log your daily practice time, successes and notate your challenges. I will teach you how to do this better and better over time.

Your student portal at My Music Staff, also has a time tracker to log your practice time and questions. Parents can log in and check if I have any messages, resources or suggestions.

Not Practicing?

Practicing is always harder than playing or singing music you already know. You need to be determined if you are to learn new things every week. If you attend lessons without practicing your assignments for 2 or more consecutive weeks, a parent conference will be required to determine the appropriate response to support you. Some options are as follows:

1. modify your assignments to encourage more engagement,
2. reduce your activity schedule to provide time to practice,
3. place you on paid lesson hold until you have developed a practice schedule
4. upload video recordings of learned assignments prior to attending your lesson

Your Goals

Together we will develop your goals each year. Every few months we will re-evaluate your goals so you can have every opportunity to achieve them. I will write them in your Practice Journal and track your progress.

Your Repertoire

When you learn and memorize music, you will have a collection of pieces you can share with friends and family. You will also have a collection we can choose from when it comes time to perform. This is called your Repertoire. You are required to keep your repertoire ready to play or sing at any moment. Plan to practice your repertoire many times throughout the week.

Schedule and Missed Lessons

You are expected to attend all your lessons as scheduled. If you find you must miss lessons due to illness, emergency, vacation, or any other reason please contact me directly as soon as you are aware. Please continue to practice your assignments as you are able and plan to attend your next regularly scheduled lesson well prepared.

If I must cancel your lesson, I will schedule a makeup lesson as soon as I am able.

CORE-Arts and PRO-Arts YACM Members may receive 1 makeup lesson in January and 1 make up lesson in June or July scheduled at my discretion.

Other Activities

Please do not schedule upcoming conflicts with extra-curricular school or non-school activities, sports, or other arts engagements during your lesson time. My schedule is also very carefully balanced, and I cannot guarantee I can accommodate changes.

You can inquire about a new schedule for the upcoming program year in May.

Monday Holidays: The only Monday Holidays that YACM closes is Labor Day and Memorial Day. If your lesson lands on another Monday Holiday, I will communicate with you directly if the lesson will be given on a different day.

Master Classes / Performances

YACM offers regular performances that are a standard part of your program. From time to time I will offer studio recitals, workshops, or master classes and encourage your participation.

Sometimes a rehearsal or performance is scheduled for the same day as your lesson. Rehearsals are provided in lieu of lessons. All performances except those in the "Melody Maker Series that land on a lesson day will be provided a make-up.

The Melody Maker Spring Recital is an all-school performance event.

The Black-Tie Gala features a select few students. All YACM is encouraged to attend this Gala event.

Communication

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly as needed. YACM will email a monthly newsletter with information about upcoming events and the arts.

Please read all communications from YACM so you keep up to date.

"My Music Staff" portal is where to go for your attendance records, payment information, and other account information at YACM.

You can use the website at www.youngartistsconservatory.org to stay informed.

Social Media

YACM Facebook: www.facebook.com/yacmusic.solano.org

YACM Instagram: www.instagram.com/yac.music

YACM Youtube www.youtube.com/channel/UC2O3GqwWae5tMFCsUQkDCOw