

rhapsody **ARTS CENTER**

Academic Year 2017-18

Parent Reference Packet

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Our full class/lesson offerings brochure is available
on our website or at the studio.

OUR MISSION

Rhapsody Arts Center Believes:

- The Arts enrich, enhance, revive and restore minds and hearts.
- Arts Education offers balance, discipline, creativity, empathy and imagination.
- Quality instructors inspire children and adults to experience all the Arts have to offer.
- Everyone in our community - all ages, professions and walks of life- benefits from the Arts.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Tips for Parents Academic 2017-18

Communication

Open communication between parent and teacher is critical to success in any educational endeavor. We urge you to check in with your child's teacher on a weekly basis after his or her lesson. When conversations in person are not an option, conversations via phone provide the clearest communication.

Please refer to the weekly assignment sheet or class syllabus for notes from the teacher, and check the website calendar for events and activities. Newsletters are emailed and contain important information. Please take time to read them carefully.

The Learning Triangle: Student, Parent and Teacher...

Ways in which a supportive relationship can be developed between student, parent, and teacher:

- Acknowledge growth and encourage the student's trust in his/her musicianship.
- Help the student to establish clear and appropriate goals in the areas of performance, experience, and learning.
- Expand the student's musical awareness in the areas of sight, sound, feeling, and understanding.

Here you will find published documents Rhapsody Arts Center has made available online that we believe are helpful or informative to parents. <http://rhapsodyarts.org/for-parents/>

Encouraging Productive Practice

We recognize the challenging schedules of today's families. Due to the many demands on a typical child's time, we dedicate a portion of lesson time to advising our students how to make practice both efficient and productive. The entire family can play a role in making lesson and practice time effective.

1. Immediately after the lesson, ask your child to tell you what s/he learned that day, to show you the new assignment, and to share some thoughts about the lesson.
2. At the first practice session following the lesson, spend a few minutes with your child helping her/him practice one or two of the pieces. Even if you do not play the instrument, encourage your child through the instructions on the assignment sheet.
3. If there are questions about assignments, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher to discuss—don't wait until the end of the week to call!

Music: An Investment in Your Child's Future

Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do, a handbook published by The College Board, states that: "Preparation in the arts will be valuable to college entrants whatever their intended field of study. The actual practice of arts can engage the imagination, foster flexible ways of thinking, develop disciplined effort, and build self-confidence."

Involving your child in musical activities at an early age is an investment in his or her future. Most people who study music don't go on to become professionals. But for many of them, music-making becomes a lifelong activity. Adults who participate in music, whether singing or playing an instrument, find it is fun and a relaxing way to relieve work-related and day-to-day stress.

A child's musical life should not be deadly serious: there is plenty of time to prepare for a musical career if that becomes a goal. Just as there are many who enjoy jogging for fun and have no intention of competing in the Olympics, your child should be encouraged to experience what music provides, based on his or her own instincts and interests.



Academic 2017-18 Private & Partner Lesson Policies

Private Lesson Attendance: The student should be well prepared and arrive 5 minutes before the scheduled lesson. In order for a lesson to be excused, the teacher must be notified of the absence at least 24 hours in advance of the lesson time (except in the case of an emergency). If a student becomes ill at school, please call by noon the day of the lesson. Student absences will not be prorated; teachers will offer make-ups for **up to two (2) excused** lessons per student over the 35 week academic year. School cancellations do NOT imply lesson cancellations. If lessons are cancelled due to weather, notification will be on our phone system message by noon, our closure will be listed on our website and be posted to Facebook. Lessons missed by the teacher or closure due to weather will be made up. We reserve the right to provide a substitute teacher if necessary. The parent is requested to contact the office immediately if there is concern that a teacher has rescheduled too often or is absent from a scheduled lesson.

Partner Lesson Attendance: The student should be well prepared and arrive 5 minutes before the scheduled time. Attendance is mandatory--please call in advance if you are unable to attend. School cancellations do NOT imply lesson cancellations. If lessons are cancelled due to weather, notification will be on our phone system message by noon, our closure will be listed on our website and be posted on our Facebook page. Lessons missed by the teacher or closure due to weather will be made up. We reserve the right to provide a substitute teacher if necessary. Student absences will not be prorated or made up. It is advised that partners often learn at different paces. The teacher will communicate with the parent if the student(s) would benefit from a different lesson format.

Practice: The private/partner lesson concentrates on individual progress and the development of technical skill, musicianship and expressive performance. Daily practice is vital to the musical growth of the student. All students should practice at least five days a week; the teacher will suggest practice guidelines for each individual student. A regular routine with parental encouragement will greatly aid the student's progress. For the best musical results, parents will want to take an active interest in their child(ren)'s music study. Please refer to the "For Parents" section of our website for more information and home practice tips.

Instrument: All students should have access to a well-maintained instrument. All students except piano students must bring their instrument to every lesson. Drum students must bring their own sticks. **ADVISORY REGARDING KEYBOARDS:** piano students must have an instrument with 88 full-size keys (each key should be the length of a dollar bill) with at least 2 pedals, and be weighted as well as touch-sensitive. Parents are advised that keyboards with lesser capabilities will only serve the student for the first 4-6 months of study and are not recommended.

Notebook: Students will keep a hardcover 3-ring binder to be used for assignments and handouts. Parents are encouraged to check the book regularly for notes and weekly assignments from the instructor. Students are encouraged to keep their music books in a bag to assure that all materials are brought to/taken from the lesson.

Tuition & Fees:

For Private & Partner Lessons: Our academic year tuition rate is based upon 35 lesson weeks during the period from September 11, 2017, through June 4, 2018. Tuition may be paid in three (3) installments, payable upon registration in August, by November 1, and by February 1. A 5% discount is given for full 35-week tuition paid by check upon fall registration in August. Summer tuition is registered for and payable separately from the academic year. If payment is late, a \$10.00 billing fee will be charged. A \$40 non-

refundable registration fee per household is payable at the time of enrollment. This fee covers all class, partner, and private enrollments at Rhapsody through July 2018. This reserves your spot in the studio and helps cover the cost of studio events, festival opportunities, instrument maintenance, and administration. A \$35.00 fee will be assessed on all returned checks. Lessons will not be scheduled until signed registration form, registration fee, book deposit and first tuition payment is received. Students beginning study mid-year will have their tuition prorated.

INCLUDED IN TUITION:

Audition & festival opportunities; Performance opportunities
Lending library
Theory curriculum & supplementary worksheets
Acoustic piano & digital piano lab use
Electronics use

NOT INCLUDED:

Music/Book costs
Audition entry fees
Accompanist fees
Summer lessons
Software & materials

Book Deposit: All students pay a \$40 book deposit upon registration. A record will be kept of all book expenses. When the book deposit is depleted, a copy of the expense record will be given to the parents and another \$40.00 will be required. All unused funds will be refunded upon cessation of lessons. This is a service we offer to parents, and it ensures that our students have the correct books they need, *when they need them*. **Individual books prices in excess of \$19.95 will be pre-approved by the parent before purchase.**

Group Lesson Weeks: Our curriculum is a combination of private lessons and supplemental group study. Group lessons are devoted to developing complete musicianship. Students will develop a strong sense of rhythm, build a solid technical foundation, and become fluent readers. They study theory, history and appreciation, learn effective practice skills, and listen to as well as perform a variety of music. During the academic year, five Group Lesson weeks are reserved for rehearsals of our Chamber Ensembles, Music Appreciation/History and Composition classes, Guest Lecture/Performances, and Age/Level-appropriate Studio Classes (60 minute classes, 4-10 students per class). During Group Lesson Weeks, there are no private lessons (see calendar).

Registration Agreement: Music lessons will follow the school calendar. A high standard of excellence in teaching, materials, equipment, and curriculum is upheld in the studio. The same is expected of the students enrolled, especially in regard to weekly practice, attitude, attendance, and progress. At the end of the academic year, the student, parent(s), and teacher may review and evaluate the year's progress and make decisions as to future study. **Your commitment to academic year lessons is from your start date through June 4, 2018.** Music lessons are a commitment and musicianship is a skill that requires time, persistence, and patience. Please communicate & work with your instructor through the practice struggles and plateaus we all experience in our musical endeavors. If a student must withdraw before the end of the school year, a four week notice is required and tuition will be assessed through the notice period whether the lessons are taken or not. Families requesting lesson termination must do so in writing; please obtain a **withdrawal form** from the office.

Lesson Etiquette:

- hands should be clean; please use the provided hand sanitizer before entering the lesson.
- no gum or candy during the lesson, please.
- students should have used the restroom before the lesson if possible.
- fingernails should be reasonably trimmed (piano students).
- *punctuality* is appreciated: students are expected to arrive on time so the lesson may begin as scheduled, arriving late will shorten the lesson accordingly.
- students should be picked up no later than 5-10 minutes after their lesson concludes unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher.
- friends, parents, and siblings are welcome to observe the lesson as long as they are not a distraction to the student.
- parents are strongly encouraged to visit with the teacher during the conference time at the end of each lesson.

2017-2018 Lesson Calendar



August 1		Fall registrations due; first (1 of 3) tuition payment due upon registration
August 18		Fall schedules available to families
August 22		Last week of summer session
August 28 & Sept 4		Break weeks
Week 1	Sept 11	Fall lessons begin Sept 11
Week 2	Sept 18	Group Lesson sign up begins Rhapsody in Recital summer student recital (Fri 9/22)
Week 3	Sept 25	
Week 4	Oct 2	
Week 5	Oct 9	Choose Holiday Recital pieces
Week 6	Oct 16	
Week 7	Oct 23	<u>Group Lesson Week #1</u> Monster Concert student recital (Fri 10/27) Sonatina Festival Prep Recital (Sun 10/29)
Week 8	Oct 30	Second (2 of 3) tuition payment due Wed 11/1 Sign up for Holiday Recitals begins Mon 10/30 17 th Annual Sonatina Festival (Sat 11/4)
Week 9	Nov 6	Sign up for Holiday Recitals ends Mon 11/13
Week 10	Nov 13	Thanksgiving Break (11/20-11/26)
BREAK	Nov 20	
Week 11	Nov 27	
Week 12	Dec 4	Faculty Holiday Recital Fri 12/8
Week 13	Dec 11	Holiday Student Recitals (Th-Sun 12/14-12/17)
Week 14	Dec 18	<u>Group Lesson Week #2</u>
BREAK	Dec 25	Holiday Break (12/25-1/1)
Week 15	Jan 1	Lessons resume Tues 1/2
Week 16	Jan 8	
Week 17	Jan 15	MLK Day: Rhapsody is OPEN (Mon 1/15)
Week 18	Jan 22	
Week 19	Jan 29	Third (3 of 3) tuition payment due Th 2/1
Week 20	Feb 5	<u>Group Lesson Week #3</u>
Week 21	Feb 12	
Week 22	Feb 19	
Week 23	Feb 26	Choose Spring Recital pieces Summer registration begins (Th 3/1) Student Recital (Fri 3/2)
Week 24	Mar 5	Sign up for Spring Recitals begins Mon 3/5
Week 25	Mar 12	
Week 26	Mar 19	<u>Group Lesson Week #4</u> Sign up for Spring Recitals ends Mon 3/19
BREAK	Mar 26	Spring Break (Mon-Sun 3/26-4/1)
Week 27	Apr 2	Lessons resume 4/2
Week 28	Apr 9	
Week 29	Apr 16	Spring Student Recitals (Th-Sun 4/19-4/22)
Week 30	Apr 23	Class of 2018 Senior Recital (4/28 tent.)
Week 31	Apr 30	Summer registrations & summer tuition due Tu 5/1
Week 32	May 7	Piano Guild student auditions (Th-Fri 5/3-5/4 tent)
Week 33	May 14	<u>Group Lesson Week #5</u>
Week 34	May 21	Summer schedules available to families
Week 35	May 28	Memorial Day Mon 5/28 (CLOSED); makeups on Mon June 4 at regular time 12 th Annual Spring Fling Party for the Arts Fundraiser (Sun 6/3 tent.)
BREAK	Jun 4	Memorial Day makeups (6/4)

Summer schedule starts week of June 11
2018-19 academic year lessons begin Mon 9/10 (tent.)

updated 6/13/17

2017-18 Tuition & Fees

Annual Registration Fee \$40 per household for all students, regardless of program

Book Deposit \$40 per student (\$20 for continuing students)

Lessons take place once a week at a regularly scheduled time and are 40 or 55 minutes of formal instruction. We include 5 minutes of passing time that we encourage parents to use to talk with their child's teacher. Refer to the policies for additional information.

Private Lessons

Basic Level Tuition (three payments, due upon registration in August, Nov 1, and Feb 1)

40 minute private lesson \$415 per payment

55 minute private lesson \$535 per payment

Master Level Tuition* (three payments, due upon registration in August, Nov 1, and Feb 1)

40 minute private lesson \$485 per payment

55 minute private lesson \$630 per payment

Adaptive Lesson Tuition (three payments, due upon registration in August, Nov 1, and Feb 1)

40 minute private lesson \$540 per payment

55 minute private lesson \$715 per payment

Partner Lessons

40 minute partner lesson \$235 per student per payment

Insanely Busy Adult and Insanely Busy Teen Programs

12-lesson package, completed within 6 months, flexible lesson dates/times

Basic Level Instructor

40 minute private lesson \$450 per package

55 minute private lesson \$618 per package

Master Level Instructor*

40 minute private lesson \$510 per package

55 minute private lesson \$700 per package

(* see website for master teacher list)

Forms of Payment & Payment Plans

- Check, cash (exact amount), money order
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover
 - 3 payments (August, Nov 1, Feb 1)
 - 6 payments (August, Oct, Dec, Jan, Mar, May)-- one-time \$15 convenience fee, see office for form

Discounts

- 10% tuition discount on second instrument tuition (same student only)
- Refer a new family and both families receive a \$15 credit (they must list you on their enrollment form)
- 10% discount for the 3rd child (and all subsequent) enrolled in the same household
- 5% tuition discount for full-year tuition paid in full by cash/check by August 1.

Your satisfaction with your experience at Rhapsody is very important to us! If you have any suggestions or concerns at all, please contact the office.

We greatly appreciate those families who support our programs and generously donate extra funds whenever possible, in any amount. We realize you have a choice in your arts instruction, and your enrollment today means a great deal to us and our impact in your community. Thank you.