

Music Lessons and Lesson Awards

2020-2021 Academic Year

Private Music Lessons

- Students who are interested in taking private music lessons need to make arrangements directly with their chosen instructor. Many of the Performance Program faculty members and all of the Artists-in-Residence affiliated with the Department of Music teach private lessons, in addition to leading the various ensembles and programs. The Department of Music also maintains a list of additional private teachers who teach on campus and in the Chicago area, covering a wide range of instruments and musical traditions.

If you are interested in finding an appropriate private instructor, you should first ask your ensemble or program director for recommendations. For additional suggestions, please send an inquiry to: musiclessons@uchicago.edu.

- Most teachers will accommodate a variety of lesson plans: e.g., 30-, 45-, or 60-minute lessons, on a weekly, biweekly, or intermittent basis. Please discuss schedule and fee options with your chosen teacher. For the Autumn Quarter 2020 and possibly beyond, most private lessons will take place via the Zoom format. In-person engagement is at the discretion of the instructor.
- When you do schedule a lesson or a series of lessons with a private teacher, you will be expected to follow through with the lesson(s) as scheduled. Out of courtesy to the instructor, you should never cancel a lesson at the last minute. Cancellations should be made at least 24 hours before a scheduled appointment. (If that 24-hour cancellation deadline is not observed, the instructor is under no obligation to reschedule the lesson, and you will be expected to compensate the instructor the normal lesson fee, at your own expense.)
- String players, pianists, and vocalists who are active members of a Department of Music ensemble or program should be sure to take advantage of the free coaching sessions that are available through your ensemble or program membership. Each student may sign up for a maximum of two 30-minute individual coaching sessions per quarter with one of our Artists-in-Residence or program directors. Sign-up procedures will be outlined by each ensemble or program director, and are available by e-mailing: musiccoaching@uchicago.edu.

Music Lesson Awards 2020-2021

- In order to receive a 2020-2021 Music Lesson Award, you must be a currently registered student (undergraduate or graduate) and an active participant in one of the Performance Program ensembles or programs.
- 2020-2021 awards will pay up to 80% of the cost of your private lessons. If you are studying with a teacher who is a member of our Performance Program faculty, you should plan to pay your teacher the remaining 20% cost of each lesson at the time of that lesson. The Department will pay the other 80% directly to the teacher, until the full amount of your award is used. If you are studying with a teacher who is not a member of the Performance Program faculty, you should pay 100% of the cost of your lessons at the time of each lesson; the Department of Music will then reimburse you up to 80%

of the total cost at the end of each quarter, until the full amount of your award is used. To receive your reimbursement, you will need to submit a reimbursement request form, signed both by you and by your teacher, at the end of each academic quarter.

- Note that in recent years the average Music Lesson Award has been approximately \$600, and the maximum lesson award has been \$1200. We do hope to make more funds available for the 2020-2021 academic year, but if you are planning to take weekly lessons throughout the year, it is likely that your Music Lesson Award will not cover the full 80% of that cost.

As noted above, string players, pianists, and vocalists who are active members of a Department of Music ensemble or program should be sure to take advantage of the free coaching sessions that are available through your ensemble or program membership. Each student may sign up for a maximum of two 30-minute individual coaching sessions per quarter with one of our Artists-in-Residence or program directors. Sign-up procedures will be outlined by each ensemble or program director, and are available by e-mailing: musiccoaching@uchicago.edu.

- Applications for 2020-2021 Music Lesson Awards are due by **Friday, October 30, 2020**. For your application, you will need to complete the following steps by the specified deadline:
 - Confirm arrangements with a private teacher (including acceptance by that teacher, the number of lessons anticipated during the 2020-2021 academic year, and cost per lesson);
 - Confirm your participation in the Music Department Performance Program;
 - Provide a brief summary of your reasons for taking private lessons this year, and your specific goals (e.g., technical issues you want to address, specific repertoire or types of music you want to study, etc.);
 - (optional, but strongly recommended) Submit a recorded audition of a musical selection(s) that represents your musical skills. Directions for preparing a recorded audition are provided on the Music Lesson Awards application form, which is available on the Department of Music website.

The application form for 2020-2021 Music Lesson Awards is available on the **Music Department website**.

- Students will be informed of their 2020-2021 Music Lesson Awards via e-mail by Friday, November 6, 2020.
- Current circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic unfortunately limit the available practice room facilities and in-person meetings on campus. We hope this situation will improve during the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, and allow us to open up more practice rooms and schedule in-person lessons and rehearsals as time goes on. Thus the Committee will accept additional applications for Music Lesson Awards at the beginning of the Winter Quarter 2021, for students who are not able to begin lessons in the Autumn Quarter. The same application procedures as outlined above will apply.

Please note that the Performance Program ensembles and programs will hold auditions again at the beginning of Winter Quarter 2021, to accommodate musicians who did not apply for membership at the start of the school year.

- Questions? Please e-mail: musiclessons@uchicago.edu.

music.uchicago.edu