Private Music Lessons

- UChicago student musicians 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 the Chamber Music coaches 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. You should discuss schedule options and fee structure with your chosen teacher. Most instructors charge $60-$90 per hour for teaching private lessons.

- 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.)

- Student musicians who are active members of the Chamber Music Program, Piano Program, or Vocal Studies Program should be sure to take advantage of the free coaching sessions that are available through their program participation. Guidelines for signing up for these free coachings, as well as quarterly limits for the number of free coachings allowed for each student musician, vary slightly for each program. Consult the specific materials provided by the program directors.

Music Lesson Awards 2021-2022

- In order to receive a 2021-2022 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.

- 2021-2022 awards will pay up to 75% 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 25% cost of each lesson at the time of that lesson. The Department will pay the other 75% 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 75%
of the total cost at the end of each quarter, until the full amount of your award is used. At the end of each academic quarter each award recipient must submit a Music Lesson Award attestation form, signed by both the awardee and the teacher, in order for the Music Lesson Award to be processed.

• Note that in recent years the average Music Lesson Award has been approximately $700, and the maximum lesson award has been $1400. The Music Department is allocating substantial funding to the Music Lesson Awards program for 2021-2022, 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 75% of that cost. Once the lesson award is used in its entirety, the award recipient will need to pay the full amount of any subsequent lesson fees directly to the instructor. It is important to keep track of your award usage during the course of the year.

• Applications for 2021-2022 Music Lesson Awards are due by **Monday, November 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm.** 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 2021-2022 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.);
  — 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 2021-2022 Music Lesson Awards is available at **music.uchicago.edu.**

• Students will be informed of their 2021-2022 Music Lesson Awards via e-mail by November 5, 2021.

• Questions?
  For Lesson Awards questions email: lessonawards@uchicago.edu
  For teacher recommendations email: musiclessons@uchicago.edu

music.uchicago.edu