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.

- Note that the 2022-23 Lesson Awards Program will support in-person lessons only. Virtual instruction will not be supported this year.

Music Lesson Awards 2022-23

- In order to receive a 2022-23 Music Lesson Award, you must be a currently registered student (undergraduate or graduate) and an active participant in the Performance Program.

- 2022-23 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 $850, and the maximum lesson award has been $1500. The Department of Music is allocating substantial funding to the Music Lesson Awards program for 2022-23, 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.

• Students who do not use their 2022-23 Music Lesson Awards will be ineligible for an award in 2023-24. All requests to defer any unused funds from a 2022-23 Music Lesson Award to the Summer Quarter 2023 must be submitted in writing to Barbara Schubert, Director of Performance Programs, by April 15, 2023.

• Auditions for 2022-23 Music Lesson Awards will be conducted in person on Sunday afternoon, October 30 and Monday afternoon and evening, October 31, 2022. Registration for a specific audition slot will be available on the Department of Music website starting Monday, October 10. The registration portal will close Friday, October 28, at 12 noon. Before scheduling your Music Lesson Award audition, you will need to complete the following steps:
  — Confirm arrangements with a private teacher (including acceptance by that teacher, the number of lessons anticipated during the 2022-23 academic year, and the cost per lesson), and include that information in the online application form;
  — Confirm your participation in the Department of Music 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.);
  — Select an appropriate audition time. Please note that if you need an accompanist for your audition, as is the case for most vocalists, you will need to provide your own accompanist OR select an appropriate audition time on Monday, October 31. The staff accompanist will not be available on Sunday, October 30.
  — Auditions will be 6 minutes in duration. Prepare one or two musical selections that demonstrate both your technical abilities and your musical skills. Contrasting excerpts — something fast, something slow — are recommended: or choose one excerpt that includes both types of playing or singing. The audition material does not have to be memorized, but memorization (which is customary for singers and for pianists) does reflect well on the auditionee. No sightreading will be included on this audition.

The application and audition sign-up link for 2022-23 Music Lesson Awards will be available starting Monday, October 10, 2022 at music.uchicago.edu.

• Students will be informed of their 2022-23 Music Lesson Awards by e-mail by November 5, 2022.

• Questions?
  For Lesson Awards questions: lessonawards@uchicago.edu
  For Teacher Recommendations: musiclessons@uchicago.edu — or ask your ensemble or program director.