

# CCA Strings Program

We are so excited to have a new violin and cello instructor to teach lessons and the CCA String Ensemble program - Miss Mary Barba! Miss Barba has a Masters of String Pedagogy and is highly qualified to teach with us here at CCA. The violin is a wonderful and versatile instrument which can play nearly any kind of music – from Classical to Bluegrass to Jazz and Rock! At Covenant we are passionate about our music program, and we desire to continue building a foundational program for stringed instruments. Someday in the not too distant future, we hope to enjoy our very own student orchestra! We are If this interests you, please read on...

## Who Can Play The Violin?

Anyone with fingers and a desire to learn! Because the violin is lightweight and comes in many different sizes, even young children can learn to play. We are delighted to offer lessons to all students: from children in Kindergarten up through High School. With many years of teaching experience our new instructor is competent to work with beginners as well as advanced students.

## Who Can Play The Cello?

Anyone with fingers and a desire to learn! Because the cello comes in many different sizes, even young children can learn to play. We are delighted to offer lessons to all students: from children in Kindergarten up through High School. With many years of teaching experience, our new instructor is competent to work with beginners as well as advanced students.

## How Do I Choose A Violin or Cello?

When you are just beginning to play, there are two primary attributes needed in a string instrument: (1) it must have a good sound, and (2) it must fit the player. The violin or cello with the fullest, sweetest sound is what you are looking for. We are happy to chat with you and personally walk you through the process of selecting an instrument that will guarantee the most success!

## Where Can I Rent A Violin or Cello?

- John A. Rowen Stringed Instruments, 46 Hillside Rd, Boxford, MA (*highly recommended*)  
978-887-9279, [www.rowenstrings.com](http://www.rowenstrings.com)
- Johnson String Instruments, 11 John St, Newton Centre  
800-359-9351, [www.johnsonstring.com](http://www.johnsonstring.com)  
Size instruments a little smaller than others
- Music & Arts Center, 300 Andover St (Route 114), Peabody  
978-532-3380, [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)
- Haverhill Music Centre, 2 Washington St, Haverhill  
978-372-9552, [www.haverhillmusic.com](http://www.haverhillmusic.com)

## How Much Does It Cost To Rent A Violin or Cello?

Different vendors have different rates, but you can expect to pay somewhere around \$25-35 per month. Some stores include insurance with this rate, but if not it is highly recommended that you pay the extra few dollars each month for insurance since replacing even a beginner's violin can cost up to \$800.

**How Much Will Lessons Cost?**

Students will receive 28 private lessons throughout the school year. A once-a-week afternoon ensemble class will also be part of this program. The cost for the weekly half-hour lesson PLUS 30-minute ensemble class is \$37.50 per week. The total package cost is \$1,050 for the year, which includes a one-time nonrefundable registration fee of \$25. This can be paid all at once or be split up into two payments: \$525 due on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and \$525 due Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Payments are made directly to CCA. *Other payment options may be available - contact the business office to discuss options if necessary.* Lesson books are not included in this price.

**When Will Lessons and Rehearsals Take Place?**

Lessons will take place after school and are occasionally available during recess and study hall times. Grammar School String Ensemble will take place from 3-3:30pm one afternoon a week (day to be determined) and USLR String Ensemble will take place during one of the weekly Club Times. Lessons will begin on the week of September 10<sup>th</sup>, String Ensemble will begin the week of September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**How much should students be expected to practice?**

An article was published by a musician from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra where he stated that his parents required him to practice every day for the same amount of time that he spent in his weekly lesson. His lessons were 30 minutes long, so he practiced 30 minutes a day. While this is often the norm for committed, advancing students, it may not be possible for all students all of the time. When you consider practice time, please bear in mind that people enjoy what they do well. Because learning to play the violin is a fairly complex process, the more dedicated a student is to the endeavor, the more they will enjoy playing! Many string instructors consider a 6-day practice week a perfect week and a 5-day week is an adequate week. If a student practices 3 or 4 days a week they will make some progress, but understand it will be a bit slower and can be a bit more difficult. In the beginning, 15 minute practice sessions will be adequate. As ability grows and complexity increases, practice time will increase accordingly. By the end of the year, most students will be comfortable practicing 30-45 minutes per session. It is best to establish a regular and consistent practice routine as soon as possible—feel free to ask any questions which you may have regarding practicing. Students will keep track of their practice time in their lesson books. These will then be initialed by the parents each week. Students are of course welcome (and encouraged) to practice more than the expected time if they like!

**If I have any other questions, whom should I contact?**

Lisa Coleman, our Director of Fine Arts, will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Strings Program at Covenant. You can reach her by email at [lisa.coleman@ccamail.org](mailto:lisa.coleman@ccamail.org) or phone at 978-535-7100 x510.

**Please fill out the included After-School Lessons Registration Form and return to the school as soon as possible.**

Lessons are filled on a “first come, first served” basis.  
You can also drop off forms at the main office (Attn: Lisa Coleman).