



# 2020-2021 CCA Music Program

Summer greetings! We have another exciting musical year ahead of us at Covenant and I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to get involved with the music program in some way. This year will look a little different, but that does not mean it will be any less fun to be involved!

This year, the majority of instrumental lessons will be held virtually. A few lessons will be available during the school day on guitar and piano, with social distancing and masks required. All other lessons will be held virtually, as they were conducted from March through August. We have had great success with our virtual lessons these past few months - our teachers are well prepared and ready for this new format in lessons.

We are often asked if certain lesson dates/times can be reserved. All of our lessons are scheduled on a “first come, first served” basis, which means that the quicker your enrollment forms are returned, the quicker we can schedule your lesson day/time and the more choices you will have. We make every effort to schedule all students in the time slot that best fits their family schedule, but there are only so many of the prime time slots available. Please be understanding that over 90 lessons are scheduled each year and that process is not an easy one!

Lessons will begin the week of September 14th and students will have a total of 28 lessons spaced out throughout the school year. There will be the option to continue with lessons once students have completed the 28 lessons at the rate of \$26/30-min lesson.

To sign up for music lessons please go to the [2020-2021 Lesson Registration Form](#) and complete the form for each student taking lessons.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email.

On behalf of the Music Department faculty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Coleman".

Lisa Coleman  
Director of Fine Arts

# CCA Strings Program

We are so excited to welcome back Mrs Abigail Haynes who began at Covenant last year! Mrs. Haynes has a Bachelor's of Music Performance from Gordon College and has completed Suzuki training through the Hartt School of Music. 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. The total package cost is \$750 for the year, which includes 28 thirty minute lessons and a one-time nonrefundable registration fee of \$25.

Payments are made directly to Covenant. *Other payment options may be available - contact the business office to discuss options if necessary.* Lesson books are not included in this price.

**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 online [2020-2021 Lesson Registration Form](#) as soon as possible.**

Lessons are filled on a “first come, first served” basis.

# CCA Instrumental Program

We are so excited to welcome back Mr. Ron Parsons who began at Covenant four years ago, but has over 30 years of experience teaching instrumental lessons and band! Under his direction, the Danvers Band is the only Massachusetts high school band to perform in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade three times. The band also represented Massachusetts at Pearl Harbor performing for the 70th Anniversary and 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor making them the only Massachusetts high school band to perform at Pearl Harbor two times! Ron's bands have also performed at a Presidential Inauguration, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Universal Studios, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC. As a trumpet player for over 45 years, Ron shares his enthusiasm and love for music with students of all levels. He received both his Bachelor of Music in Education and Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Director Certification from UMASS Lowell. He is a certified instructor in Music Technology for the Technology Institute for Music Education (TI-ME) and adjunct faculty at Endicott College. He is also a consultant/trainer and motivational speaker for Southwestern Consulting's Leadership Institute. Ron is recognized as one of "50 Directors who Make a Difference" by School Band and Orchestra (SBO) Magazine, and one of "100 Influential Leaders in Essex County" by the Salem News.

## What Instruments Are Available?

Beginning in Grade 4 students can pick between flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and euphonium/baritone.

## How Can I Rent An Instrument? What Instruments Can I Rent?

Instrument rentals are handled directly through the school at a rate of \$150 for the school year (approximately \$15 per month). We will supply your student with the instrument of your choice: flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, percussion setup. You are responsible for the lesson book (*Tradition of Excellence* by Bruce Pearson, *Book 1*) and any necessary accessories (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, cleaning supplies, etc.). Our rates are *very* competitive and we provide a buyout price at the end of the year should you decide your student wants to own the instrument. We will handle minor repairs, but major repairs due to damage would be responsible by the renter. We try to provide new instruments, but more often we are only able to supply good quality used instruments. This is not necessarily a disadvantage! A good used instrument can sometimes be more valuable than a not-so-good new instrument.

## Will We Get To Play In A Band?

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Massachusetts Department of Early and Secondary Education has suggested that no wind or brass instruments be played indoors. Therefore, we will not have any band rehearsals or performances at Covenant this year. From time to time, Mr. Parsons may organize small groups to perform songs together virtually for recitals or have rehearsals with small groups of students to create some virtual performances. These rehearsals and performances will be based on the progress of students and their virtual availability. Depending on the ability of the students taking lessons and availability this fall, we may attempt some virtual band rehearsals, but that is still to be determined.

## 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 online [2020-2021 Lesson Registration Form](#).**

Lessons are filled on a “first come, first served” basis.