



COVENANT

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2023-2024
CCA Music Lesson Program
Informational Handbook

Covenant Christian Academy
83 Pine Street, West Peabody, MA 01960
978-535-7100 / www.covenantchristianacademy.org

2023-2024

CCA Music Lesson Program

Covenant fully embraces the value of the musical arts in a student's education, especially the benefits that come from one-on-one personal instruction. Our music lesson programs are designed to meet the needs of students wishing to pursue a musical instrument and develop life-long musical skills and appreciation. The following information provides details on our music lesson programs, policies, faculty, and fees.

All students in Grades 4-12 are invited to participate in *Covenant's Music Lesson* program. Students who participate in this program will be able to take lessons from our instrumental instructors on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium/baritone horn, and drums/percussion. There is also instruction for piano, voice, guitar/bass/ukulele and violin, viola, and cello. Students in Grades K-12 are eligible for violin, viola, cello and piano lessons, while students in Grades 3-12 are eligible for guitar/bass/ukulele, drum and voice lessons.

Students receive 28 lessons during the school year (there is an option for additional lessons during the last part of the school year). Lesson fees can be paid all at once or be split up into monthly payments. Payment is made directly to Covenant Christian Academy. There is a one-time nonrefundable \$25 registration fee factored in to the total cost for lessons.

For more information on our music lesson programs and instructors, please refer to the enclosed materials.

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

On behalf of the Music Department faculty,



Lisa Coleman
Director of Fine Arts

Strive for Excellence. Do Your Best. Honor God. Have Fun!

2023-2024 Covenant Music Faculty



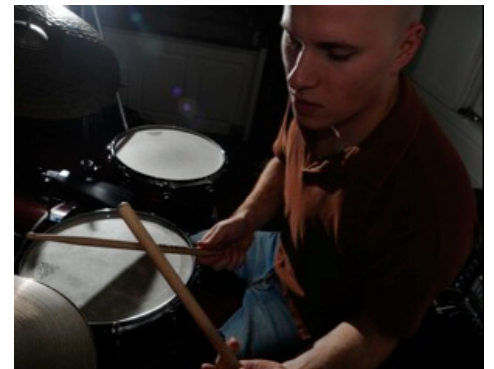
Miss Hannah Cohen (piano) is a classically trained pianist with over ten years of experience teaching private lessons. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Concentration in Piano Pedagogy from Covenant College. She enjoys working with students of all ages and especially loves the mentoring role that comes with working individually with young growing musicians. Her goal is to keep them motivated and invested in the learning process, develop well-rounded musical skills, and nurture an appreciation of beauty and creativity that serves them far beyond the keyboard. In addition to her work at CCA, Hannah teaches lessons privately and serves periodically as an accompanist for church services, recitals, weddings, and other events. This will be Hannah's thirteenth year teaching at Covenant.

Mr. Billy Garzone (guitar/bass/ukulele) has been teaching private music lessons for over 25 years. He has taught for American School of Music, Governor's Academy, National Music and runs his own private teaching practice. Billy has had students become Berklee graduates and has lead students to showcases for Nickelodeon and Disney and opening up for major acts including Arianna Grande. Billy Garzone is a guitarist, vocalist and full time musician. He is a graduate of Musicians Institute of Hollywood California and has spent the past 25 years performing thousands of show all over New England and as far as Hawaii. He has performed with Grammy award winner and Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame legend Bo Diddely and has worked with music producers for well known TV shows. This is Billy's seventh year teaching at the Covenant.



Mrs. Nilsa Huynh (voice/piano) grew up in Lynn, MA. She believes that her Hispanic roots have contributed to her love of music immensely. She has been singing since the age of four and playing piano and other percussion instruments since the age of seven. Nilsa plays a major role in developing the musical skills of every individual of her ministry. She became the worship leader at her local church at the age of 13 and has since served as the worship team leader and choir director. While in high school she received a scholarship to Berklee College of Music to attend their Saturday school and Summer Music Program, with a focus on jazz and gospel for voice and piano. After receiving an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, she completed three years of classical training in voice and piano with a concentration in Music Education at UMASS Lowell. She then completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in Secondary Education and began to give private lessons for piano and voice. In 2019 she taught private piano and voice lessons at True Worship Music Academy in Chelsea, MA. This is Mrs. Huynh's third year teaching lessons at Covenant.

Mr. John Iltis (drums) is a freelance drummer working in and around the Boston and New York area. John is also one of our General Music teacher's here at CCA, teaching grades 4-12. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from Gordon College, during which time he toured both North America and Europe with various ensembles. John has studied with top drummers such as Tommy Igoe and Kenwood Dennard. John currently performs frequently with a wide variety of artists as well as his own Jazz Trio. In addition to his performance work John runs a successful private teaching studio and has taught competitive drum lines at area high schools. This will be John's twelfth year teaching at Covenant. For more info, visit www.johniltis.com.





Mr. Steve Kercher (Guitar/Bass/Ukulele) studied songwriting, music business, guitar, & voice performance at the Berklee College of Music. While there he studied stage performance techniques with Livingston Taylor, & attended a songwriting masterclass with Billy Joel. Mr. Kercher also studied Classical Guitar with David Patterson (M.A. New England Conservatory). Mr. Kercher has been teaching private music lessons for more than 15 years & has led worship weekly since 1998. He has been a guest lecturer on the subjects of Music Business, Music Production, Entertainment Marketing & Public Relations, and Career Development at the University of Massachusetts, Berklee College of Music, and The New England Institute of Art and Communications where he also developed music industry courses. This is Mr. Kercher's thirteenth year at CCA.

Miss. Madelyn Morrell (strings) is a violinist and fiddler hailing from Southern Maine with over fifteen years experience playing and performing locally. She is passionate about developing community through music and helping students find ways to reach others through their music. Madelyn is certified in the Suzuki method of teaching and is currently studying Music Performance at Gordon College in Wenham. In addition to studying classically, Madelyn values the continuation and development of traditional fiddle styles such as those from Ireland, Quebec, and Cape Breton. You can hear Madelyn's recordings by visiting madelynmorrell.com. This is Madelyn's third year teaching private lessons at Covenant.



Miss. Luciene (Lucy) Nascimento (piano) is a Brazilian lady that loves music, children and Jesus. She is a piano teacher with over 20 years of experience in both school and church settings. Alongside teaching, she has explored various artistic avenues, including composing, conducting children choirs, and also producing children's artistic endeavors. As the owner of a piano studio in Wakefield, she provides personalized instruction, while pursuing a master's degree at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. As a visionary educator who fosters creativity and passion, she ignites her students' love for music, encouraging them to express themselves artistically and develop a deep appreciation for the art form. She has a Bachelors in Portuguese through Universidade Federal de Viçosa (Brazil) and a Music Education Specialization through Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil). Some of her works can be seen [here](#). This is Lucy's first year teaching private lessons at Covenant.

Mr. Ron Parsons (Brass, Woodwinds, Piano) was the director of the Danvers High School Band Program for 33 years. 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. 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. 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. Mr. Parsons is an alumni parent and has been teaching at Covenant for seven years.





Mrs. Lauren Patrick (voice) graduated with honors from the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton University in New York where she received her Bachelor's in Music. Lauren has been studying vocal performance since her time as a student at CCA, and piano since her childhood. In college, she performed with the Houghton University's a cappella group as well as the prestigious college choir. She was also very involved in the musical theatre program at the university. She has performed in leading roles in over a dozen theatre productions ranging from classical opera to contemporary musical theatre. Most recently, Lauren was teaching many voice students in a private studio outside of Philadelphia and was recognized with an award from Carnegie Hall's American Protégé International Vocal Competition in 2021. This is Mrs. Patrick's second year teaching at Covenant.

Mr. Mike Tebo (piano) has been a musician since his grammar school days in Salem Ma. He began his musical career on the accordion at age 8 and from there, it began a passion for music. He attended Ithaca College in upstate NY where he graduated with a degree in Television/Radio Communication and also was involved with Ithaca's music programs. Mike has been a professional singer, songwriter, and musician for 30 plus years. He has been teaching privately for the last 20 years! "Music is a special gift to work towards." "To share my knowledge and passion of music to my students is what drives me to teach!" This is Mr. Tebo's third year teaching at Covenant.



CCA Private Music Lessons Policies & Procedures

The following information pertains to all private music lessons at Covenant. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Lisa Coleman at (978) 535-7100 x510 or lisa.coleman@ccamail.org.

Payment of Lesson Fees: Private music lesson fees are paid directly to the school on annual or monthly basis through FACTs.

Scheduling of Lessons: Lessons will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and lesson times are not guaranteed from year to year. We will observe the Covenant school calendar for lesson days (see attached lesson calendar for specific information). All state and federal holidays will be observed. Students are responsible to be present at the beginning time of their lesson and will not be offered make-up lesson time if arriving late.

Missed Lessons & Make-up Lessons: Absolutely no make-up lessons will be given for missed lessons unless absence is due to serious illness or school event and 24 hour advance notice is given via phone or email to Mrs. Coleman and the instructor. Make-up lessons due to illness will be limited to two per teaching year. Make-up lessons will be scheduled at the earliest possible date and may not be used as credit for future months. If the instructor cancels a lesson, a make-up lesson will be scheduled at the earliest possible date. Make-up lessons will be offered in the case of a school-initiated conflict ONLY WHEN the conflict is told to the instructor 24 hours in advance of the conflict (such as field trips, athletic events, school functions). It is a parents responsibility to inform their instructor of the school conflict. Lessons missed for any other reason will not be made up, nor will the missed lesson be refunded.

Withdrawals & Refunds: There is a half-year minimum for all lessons. One-month notice from the first of the month and within the first seven days of the month is required to discontinue any lesson during the school calendar year. No withdrawals will be accepted after May 1. The instructor and school reserves the right to terminate any lessons at any time, in which case a refund for unused lessons will be issued. If all 28 lessons are not completed prior to the end of the school year due to teacher illness, school cancellations, or any other school-related reason, a refund will be issued to the parent.

Parent's Responsibility to be Aware of Dates and Events: It is the parent or adult student's responsibility to be aware of school calendar activities as well as lesson activities such as recitals and dates the school is open or closed. If students wish to participate in recitals or other special events, it is the parent's responsibility to be aware of all fees, dates, & deadlines associated. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the instructor and Mrs. Coleman of any changes in contact information.

2023-2024 Music Lesson Calendar

The following information shows when lessons will be held during the coming school year. Known conflicts are also listed for each week. Students will receive a total of 28 lessons for the year. Two makeup lessons will be given for excused absences each semester. Makeup lessons will most likely take place in December and May/June, but may be made at the discretion of the lesson instructor. Unexcused absences will not be made up. After-school lesson students will have the option of continuing through the end of the year for an additional charge. Parents will be contacted in April regarding this option. Please note that Friday students will need one make-up lesson scheduled at some point during the year as there are only 27 available Friday's. Any questions, please contact Lisa Coleman, Director of Fine Arts, at 978-535-7100 x510 or lisa.coleman@ccamail.org

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9/11	1	1	1	1	1
9/18	2	2	2	2	2
9/25	3	3	3	3	3
10/2	4	4	4	4	Grandparents Day No Lessons
10/9	No School	5	5	5	4
10/16	5	6	6	6	5
10/23 *No Afterschool lesson for GS Play participants	6	7	7	7	6
10/30	7	8	8	8	7
11/6	8	9	9	No School	No School
11/13	9	10	10	9	8
11/20	10	11	No School	No School	No School
11/27	11	12	11	10	9
12/4	12	13	12	11	No School
12/11	13	Makeup Lessons	GS Concert - Makeup Lessons only	USLR Concert - Makeup Lessons only	10
12/18	Vacation				

12/25	Vacation				
1/1	No School	14	13	12	11
1/8	14	15	14 (No 5/6th graders)	13 (No 5/6th graders)	12 (No 5/6th graders)
1/15	No School	16	15	14	13
1/22	15	17	16	15	14
1/29	16	18	17	16	15
2/5	17	19	18	17	16
2/12	18	20	19	18	No School
2/19	VACATION				
2/26	19	21	20	19	17
3/4	20	22	21	20	18
3/11	21	23	22	21	19
3/18	22	24	23	22	20
3/25	23	25	24	23	No School
4/1	24	26	25	24	21
4/8	25	27	26	25	No lessons - Symposium Day
4/15	VACATION				
4/22	26	28	27	26	22
4/29	27	Makeup Lessons	28	27	23
5/6	28	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	28	24
5/13	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	25
5/20 (Senior exams)	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	GS Concert - Makeup Lessons only	USLR Concert - Makeup Lessons only	26

5/27 (Gr. 7-11 exams)	No School	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	27
6/3 (CODA trips)	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Makeup Lessons	Last Day of School