



# VANDERBILT Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

Music education for children, youth, and adults

COURSE OFFERINGS | **FALL 2023**



# WELCOME TO BLAIR ACADEMY

The Blair Academy has something for everyone! With over 50 years of tradition, we are thrilled to add to our learning community. **NEW THIS FALL:**

- **Organ Instruction:** Dr. Malcolm Matthews will be teaching Organ in the Academy. We have a brand new practice organ at the Blair School that is ready to be played by new Academy students of all ages!
- **Kindermusik:** We are thrilled to welcome Emma Jackson, Vanderbilt Blair School of Music alumni back to campus to teach Kindermusik to our smallest learners.
- **Suzuki Trumpet:** Dr. Fred Sienkiewicz will be offering Suzuki trumpet this year starting with students as young as 5. He is the first Suzuki trumpet instructor in the state of Tennessee and he is excited to bring his expertise to our Academy students!
- **Academy Jazz:** Have you wanted to learn a bit more about improvisation on your instrument? We are also expanding our offerings in Jazz this year with our top notch Jazz faculty.
- **New Blair Academy Course:** Especially for Blair Academy students, Jessica Blackwell will be offering a brand new course, "Nurturing the Mental Health of Emerging Musicians". Explore something new!

Whether you are a returning this fall, joining us for the first time, or maybe even broadening your music education, Vanderbilt Blair Academy has something for you!



# VANDERBILT YOUTH CHOIRS

---

The tiered program of six choirs for children in grades 1–12 is classically based, with strong emphases on healthy vocal production, music reading skills, and performance.

**Artistic Director: Mary Biddlecombe**

(615) 343-3167 or [mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu)

**Administrator: Julie Clavierie**

(615) 343-3167 or [julie.clavierie@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:julie.clavierie@vanderbilt.edu)

**Tucker Biddlecombe, Young Men's Chorus director**

**Sarah Bronchetti, Training Choir and Young Singers of Blair director**

Fall auditions for all groups are on Saturday, August 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and on Monday, August 14, from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in room 1109 at the Blair School of Music.

Please sign up for an appointment time on our website [blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/childrens-chorus](http://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/childrens-chorus).

Tuition: Concert Choir and Young Men's Chorus \$460; Blair Choristers \$375; Young Singers of Blair and Training Choir \$290

**NOTE:** Families with more than one child in this ensemble program receive a 25 percent discount for the second child.

The BCC semester begins with Chorale on Wednesday, August 16.

## TRAINING CHOIR

Boys and girls in grades 1–3

Singing, music fundamentals, and music activities form the core of this program.

**Thursday, 5:00–6:00 p.m.,** Room 2190

## YOUNG SINGERS OF BLAIR

Boys and girls in grades 3–5

Healthy vocal techniques, music reading skills, and music activities make this choir rewarding and fun.

**Thursday, 5:00–6:00 p.m.,** Room 2192

## CHORISTERS

Boys and Girls in grade 5 and older

Intermediate choir that sings in parts, performs regularly, and attends fall choral camp.

**Monday, 6:30–7:30 p.m.,** Choral Hall

## YOUNG MEN'S CHORUS

Boys with changed/changing voices learn how to use their emerging voices in harmony with other young men. In summer 2024, the YMC will take a mandatory tour.

**Thursday, 6:10–7:20 p.m.,** Choral Hall

# VANDERBILT YOUTH Choirs

## CONCERT CHOIR

Girls in grades 8–12

This select choir performs regularly and tours each summer.

**Monday, 4:45–6:15 p.m.,** Choral Hall

## CHORALE

Chorale is open to all boys and girls already in one of the BCC choirs. They will sing SATB music.

For advanced students with excellent musicianship.

**Wednesday, 4:45–6:15 p.m.,** Choral Hall

Tuition: \$65/semester







## VANDERBILT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS (VYO)

Craig Madole, director • [craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu)

Visit [blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/youth-orchestras](http://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/youth-orchestras) for audition requirements and information.

Email [craig.madole@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:craig.madole@vanderbilt.edu) to schedule an audition for all VYO orchestras. Auditions will be held August 11–20.

Tuition: Curb Youth Symphony \$335; Philharmonia \$315; Repertory Orchestra \$305; Youth Strings Orchestra, Reading Orchestra and Beginning Reading Orchestra \$250

**NOTE:** Families with more than one child in VYO ensembles receive a 25 percent discount for the second child.

VANDERBILT  
**YOUTH**  
ORCHESTRAS

### CURB YOUTH SYMPHONY

Nathan Aspinall, director

Sponsored jointly by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and the Blair School of Music, this is the most advanced ensemble of the program. It draws students from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

**Monday, 6:35–9:05 p.m.**  
Instrumental Rehearsal Hall

**Begins Monday, August 28**

### PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Craig Madole, director

This full orchestra performs great masterworks of the symphonic literature.

**Sunday, 2:00–4:30 p.m.**  
Music Rehearsal Hall  
(124 28th Avenue South)

**Begins Sunday, August 27**

### REPERTORY ORCHESTRA

Tiffany Turner, director

[tiffany.turner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tiffany.turner@vanderbilt.edu)

A full orchestra experience for students in grades 7–12.

**Tuesday, 6:30–8:45 p.m.**  
Instrumental Rehearsal Hall

**Begins Tuesday, August 29**





# STRING ORCHESTRAS

To schedule an audition, email [craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu)

## BEGINNING READING ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 5:30–6:15 p.m.,  
Room 2190

Begins August 29

## READING ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:00 p.m.,  
Room 2190

Begins August 29

## YOUTH STRINGS ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 7:15–8:15 p.m.,  
Room 2190

Begins August 29

# CHAMBER MUSIC

## CHAMBER MUSIC

All ages

**Christina McGann, coordinator**  
[christina.mcgann@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:christina.mcgann@vanderbilt.edu) • (615) 322-4911

Visit [blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/chamber-music](http://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/chamber-music) for requirements and information.

This course offers weekly coaching sessions of small instrumental groups culminating in a final performance. Students will be active participants in the collaborative process, gaining a greater knowledge of ensemble techniques and widening their musical perspective.

All ages are encouraged to participate.

Tuition: \$425/semester



# VANDERBILT SUZUKI PROGRAM

Ages 4 and up

Suzuki instruction develops musical skill and sensitivity, using listening and imitation, the same process used in learning language. Students gain poise and read music notation as they progress. New violin and cello students as young as age 4 are welcome.

VANDERBILT  
**SUZUKI**  
PROGRAM

The Vanderbilt Suzuki program offers instruction in violin, cello and NEW THIS YEAR, TRUMPET, beginning in August 2023. Students aged 5 and up may begin their musical journey with the majestic sound of the trumpet with with Dr. Fred Sienkiewicz.

Contact the **Suzuki Program director, Zachary Ebin**, for information about joining this renowned program. [zachary.ebin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:zachary.ebin@vanderbilt.edu) • Phone: (615) 322-7665

## SUZUKI I

(First year) — \$1,500

30-minute private lesson  
and weekly group lesson

## SUZUKI II

\$2,000

45-minute private lesson  
and weekly group lesson

## SUZUKI III

\$2,500

60-minute private lesson  
and weekly group lesson



The Blair Suzuki program is thrilled to welcome students beginning their musical studies on TRUMPET, beginning in August 2023. Alongside traditional Suzuki instruments of violin, viola, and cello, students aged 5 and up may begin their musical journey with the majestic sound of the trumpet. Please help us spread the word!



## KINDERMUSIK

Amy Alley, Family Time instructor • [amy.alley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:amy.alley@vanderbilt.edu)

**15 sessions: Begins September 7**

Room 1197

**Tuition:** \$535 per family

### FAMILY TIME

A curriculum designed for everyone! Engaging for the youngest child yet challenging for the preschooler. Musical and developmental learning in a fun environment. One child or two... mom, dad, caregiver or grandparent...all are welcome! Tuition is priced per family.

**Thursdays, 4:30-5:15 and 5:30-6:15 p.m.**





# BEGINNING AND PARTNER PIANO

---

## PARTNER PIANO

Ages 3 and up, 16 weeks

Students in Partner Piano receive a combination of private and group piano instruction. In the group lesson, students learn rhythm, pitch, musical terms, and notation, using a variety of activities. Each student has a private lesson and a group lesson weekly.

Please email or call to schedule an interview with **ChiHee Hwang, program coordinator** [chihee.hwang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:chihee.hwang@vanderbilt.edu) • (615) 322-7670 • Room 1170

### PARTNER PIANO I

(Limited to children age 3) — \$1,210  
30-minute private lesson and  
30-minute group lesson weekly

### PARTNER PIANO II

(Children age 4 and up) — \$1,500  
30-minute private lesson and  
30-minute group lesson weekly

### PARTNER PIANO III — \$2,000

45-minute private lesson and  
30-minute group lesson weekly

### PARTNER PIANO IV — \$2,500

60-minute private lesson and  
30-minute group lesson weekly



# COLLABORATIVE PIANO

---

Grade 7 and up

**Amy Dorfman, instructor**

[amy.dorfman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:amy.dorfman@vanderbilt.edu)  
(615) 322-7688

This class will help you develop skills to work with different instrumental partners. Learn how to develop teamwork and confidence in making music with others. Pianists in grade 7 and up are welcome.

Room 2180

**15 sessions**

Tuition: \$425



## ORGAN STUDIES

---

### **Dr. Malcolm Matthews, instructor**

Dr. Malcolm Matthews, head of the organ and harpsichord at Blair, will be offering organ lessons in the Blair Academy to all ages. Students will have the opportunity to practice and have lessons on Blair's brand new practice organ. A background in piano study is required.



## PRECOLLEGE FIDDLE

---

### **Crystal Plohman Wiegman, director**

Ages 5 and up, 16 weeks

The Precollege Fiddling program offers a holistic approach in teaching, using the Suzuki philosophy to build solid technique and tone, along with the "Fiddle and Song" curriculum to teach traditional fiddle music. Introductory classical and historical folk styles, including old-time, bluegrass, Irish, Scottish, Texas swing, and other world styles are taught. Beginning students have 30-minute weekly private lessons and small group experience. Second-year and above students participate in the Fiddle Frenzy performance group, which gives students the opportunity to have fun playing and learning with peers.

Please contact Crystal Plohman Wiegman to inquire about openings.

[crystal.plohman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:crystal.plohman@vanderbilt.edu) • (615) 343-6360

Tuition:

30-minute weekly/group experience: \$1,500

45-minute weekly private/Fiddle Frenzy group class: \$2,000

60-minute weekly private/Fiddle Frenzy group class: \$2,500



# JAZZ INSTRUCTION

---

## ACADEMY JAZZ IMPROV

**Jerome Kimbrough, instructor**

Introduction to the techniques of jazz improvisation. Development of basic performing technique with in-depth study of blues, rhythm changes, the Great American Songbook, and jazz standards.

**Wednesday, 4:30–5:30 p.m., Room 2192**

**Begins August 16**

Tuition: \$425/semester

## ACADEMY JAZZ COMBO

**Jerome Kimbrough, instructor**

Provides focused laboratory training for performance of composed and improvised small combo jazz traditions. Discussion and application of techniques associated with solo, sectional, and ensemble performance in jazz.

**Sundays, 5:30–6:30 p.m., Room 1192**

Tuition: \$425/semester





# MUSIC THEORY



Grade 8 to adult

**Kevin Rilling, instructor** • [kevin.a.rilling@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kevin.a.rilling@vanderbilt.edu)

Understanding how music is put together can inform our performing ability, as well as our personal satisfaction we get from the music we listen to. Each student's learning and understanding is personally guided through weekly class meetings and regular worksheets and tests. Classes on Zoom allow for more personalized instruction. Students are able to develop collegiality and community.

**Monday, 4:00–4:50 p.m.**

(Zoom, intermediate/  
advanced)

**Monday, 5:00–5:50 p.m.**

(in-person, beginner  
students only)

**Begins August 21**

**Tuesday, 6:00–6:50 p.m.**

(Zoom, intermediate/  
advanced)

**Begins August 22**

**Thursday, 4:00–4:50 p.m.**

(Zoom, intermediate/  
advanced)

**Thursday, 5:00–5:50 p.m.**

(in-person, intermediate/  
advanced)

**Begins August 17**

**15 sessions**

Tuition: \$315/semester

**A placement test is required for all new students.**

Contact Kevin Rilling at [kevin.a.rilling@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kevin.a.rilling@vanderbilt.edu).

# MUSICOLOGY AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Grade 9 to adult

**Melanie Lowe, instructor**

[m.lowe@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:m.lowe@vanderbilt.edu)

## MUSIC HISTORY I (YEAR 1)

History and culture come alive in this year-long overview of music from the Middle Ages to the present.

**Tuesday, 4:35–5:25 p.m., Room 1167**

**15 sessions: Begins August 23**

Tuition: \$315/semester

## MUSIC HISTORY II (YEAR 2)

Special topics will be explored in depth in this year-long course, including specific composers, genres, styles, and historical concepts.

**Tuesday, 5:35–6:25 p.m., Room 1167**

**15 sessions: Begins August 23**

Tuition: \$315/semester



## AURAL SKILLS (MUSICIANSHIP)

---

Grades 9–12

**Fred Sienkiewicz, instructor** • [fred.sienkiewicz@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:fred.sienkiewicz@vanderbilt.edu)

Aural Skills is for any musician who desires to understand music better and become a more musical and expressive performer. It can especially help prepare students performing in competitions, playing in chamber ensembles, preparing for the Music Theory AP exam, and/or interested in formal study of music in college. Join us and cultivate your powerful musical ear!

Aural Skills is designed as a full-year curriculum, with level 1 offered in the Fall only, and level 2 in the Spring. Students who complete levels 1 and 2 may continue with more advanced and individual study in Advanced Aural Skills.

**15 sessions: Begins August 21**

Tuition: \$315/semester



### AURAL SKILLS I

**Mondays, 5:25–6:15 p.m.**

(Fall Semester only)

Room 2133

### AURAL SKILLS 2

**Mondays, 5:25–6:15 p.m.**

(Spring Semester only)

Room 2133

### ADVANCED AURAL SKILLS

By Arrangement

## NURTURING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF EMERGING MUSICIANS

---

Grades 9–12

**Jessica Blackwell, instructor** • [jessica.l.blackwell@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jessica.l.blackwell@vanderbilt.edu)

This course will address prevalent mental health issues that students may encounter, on-stage or in the classroom. In an inclusive and supportive environment, things like performance anxiety and depression will be explored, from both a clinical and musical perspective. Students will be given tools and resources to help support their mental health and well-being.

**Wednesday, 4:45–5:45 p.m., Room 1167**

**15 sessions: Begins August 16**

Tuition: \$355/semester



# ADULT COURSES

---

## HIT SONGWRITERS SERIES

---

Deanna Walker, instructor • [deanna.walker@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:deanna.walker@vanderbilt.edu)

Special guest artists each week make this class sparkle. From Nashville, Los Angeles, Atlanta and beyond, guests include the music industry's finest songwriters, publishers, producers, performers, and experts. Connect, ask questions, hear the stories behind the songs, and get your songs critiqued by Professor Walker and industry guests. The class is open to audiences worldwide, is presented on Zoom AND in-person, and is limited to 18 full participants (those who can get their songs critiqued) with an unlimited number of observers (observers can participate in every way other than submitting material for critique).



**Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**, Zoom and in person (Room 1167)

**15 sessions: Begins August 29**

Full Participant Tuition: \$330 | Observer Section Tuition: \$140





# VANDERBILT COMMUNITY CHORUS

---

David B. Williams, director • [david.b.williams@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.b.williams@vanderbilt.edu)

The VCC is an auditioned chorus composed of singers from throughout the middle Tennessee community, and performs some of the most challenging music in the repertoire. Programs are diverse and are just as likely to include music of JS Bach as they are Stephen Sondheim, Jake Runestad or Moses Hogan. The group performs 2-3 concerts per year and during May 2024 they will embark on a concert tour of Italy.

Concert dates this season are: **Saturday, December 9, 2023 and Friday, May 3, 2023**

Auditions are held by appointment with director David Williams: (615) 322-7164 • [vanderbilt.edu/community-chorus](http://vanderbilt.edu/community-chorus)

**Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 p.m.**, Choral Hall

**Begins: September 12**

Tuition: \$110/semester



# SIGN UP FOR PRIVATE LESSONS

---

Every new student must contact a faculty member for a placement interview before registering for lessons. Faculty are happy to answer questions about lessons, procedures, and expectations.

## BRASS INSTRUMENTS

**Horn:** Leslie Norton

**Trumpet:** Jose Sibaja

**Trombone:** Jeremy Wilson

**Tuba/Euphonium:** Bethany Wiese

**Area Contact:** Nick Laufer • (615) 322-7698 • [nicholas.laufer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nicholas.laufer@vanderbilt.edu)

## FIDDLE

Crystal Plohman Wiegman • (615) 343-6360 • [crystal.plohman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:crystal.plohman@vanderbilt.edu)

## GUITAR (Classical)

Richard Todd • (615) 322-7651 • [richard.todd@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:richard.todd@vanderbilt.edu)

## HARP

Paula Bressman • (615) 322-7651 • [paula.bressman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:paula.bressman@vanderbilt.edu)

## JAZZ INSTRUMENTS

**Jazz Guitar:** Jerry Kimbrough

**Jazz Piano:** Pat Coil

**Jazz Brass:** Nick Laufer

**Jazz Drum Set:** Marc Widenhofer

**Jazz Bass:** Rob Linton

**Jazz Saxophone:** Jimmy Bowland

**Jazz Voice:** Vinéecia Buchanan

**Area Contact:** Marc Widenhofer • (615) 322-7651 • [marc.widenhofer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:marc.widenhofer@vanderbilt.edu)

## PERCUSSION

Ji Hye Jung • (615) 322-7669 • [ji.h.jung@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ji.h.jung@vanderbilt.edu)

## PIANO (for students with one year or more of previous study)

Heather Conner • (615) 322-7699 • [heather.conner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:heather.conner@vanderbilt.edu)

## PIANO (for beginners)

ChiHee Hwang • (615) 322-7670 • [chihee.hwang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:chihee.hwang@vanderbilt.edu)

## STRING INSTRUMENTS

**Violin:** Connie Heard

**Viola:** Eric Wong

**Cello:** Felix Wang

**Double Bass:** Glen Wanner

**Area Contact:** Connie Heard • (615) 322-7681 • [connie.heard@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:connie.heard@vanderbilt.edu)

## VOICE (high school age and older)

Tyler Nelson • (615) 322-7685 • [tyler.s.nelson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tyler.s.nelson@vanderbilt.edu)

## WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS

**Flute:** Molly Barth • (615) 343-1697 • [molly.a.barth@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:molly.a.barth@vanderbilt.edu)

**Oboe:** Jared Hauser • (615) 322-7663 • [jared.hauser@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jared.hauser@vanderbilt.edu)

**Clarinet:** Mariam Adam • 615-322-7651 • [mariam.adam@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mariam.adam@vanderbilt.edu)

**Bassoon:** Peter Kolkay • (615) 322-4918 • [peter.kolkay@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:peter.kolkay@vanderbilt.edu)

**Saxophone:** Brian Utley • (615) 322-4917 • [brian.utley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brian.utley@vanderbilt.edu)

## REGISTRATION

---

Blair uses an online registration and payment system, VU Pace. New students should visit [vupace.vanderbilt.edu](https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu) to create a profile and submit a new student application. After application approval, registration may be made online.

Credit card payments are accepted. Refunds are not made after the first week of classes. Payment may be made in full at registration or in installments. See Elm Stephenson, academy registrar, for assistance.

**Registration begins July 17, 2023**

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

## PRIVATE PRECOLLEGE AND ADULT LESSON FEES

---

### ALL ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS, PIANO, GUITAR, VOICE

One 30-minute lesson weekly—\$1,370

One 45-minute lesson weekly—\$1,930

One 60-minute lesson weekly—\$2,430

### FIDDLE INSTRUCTION

One 30-minute lesson weekly—\$1,500

One 45-minute lesson weekly—\$2,000

One 60-minute lesson weekly—\$2,500

The precollege semester is 16 weeks and includes 15 lessons and a jury/performance exam. New students may submit a need-based scholarship application at the time of registration, after having interviewed with a faculty member.

## BLAIR ACADEMY CONTACT INFORMATION

---

### REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT QUESTIONS

Elm Stephenson

Blair Academy Registrar

(615) 322-7655

[elm.a.stephenson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:elm.a.stephenson@vanderbilt.edu)

### BLAIR ACADEMY PROGRAM WEBSITE

[blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy](https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy)

### GENERAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Mary Biddlecombe

Director, Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

(615) 343-3167

[mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu)

