



VANDERBILT

Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

Music education for children, youth, and adults

COURSE OFFERINGS | **SPRING 2024**



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 SPRING:**

NEW KINDERMUSIK CLASSES

The Blair Academy has expanded our Kindermusik curriculum with a new suite of classes taught by Emma Jackson. Explore music and movement with your child through Foundations and Levels 1-2 of Kindermusik's tiered curriculum!



WELLNESS FOR MUSICIANS

Jessica Blackwell and Simone Parker are excited to offer a new combined course that provides musicians with tools to address the mental and physical demands of performance.



THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC

This new course for adults explores the complex world of music publishing and recording. Learn how to navigate the web of rights associated with music and music creators with Dustin Kovacic, an entertainment attorney and expert in music law.





VANDERBILT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS (VYO)

Craig Madole, director • craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu

Visit blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/youth-orchestras for audition requirements and information.

Email craig.madole@vanderbilt.edu to schedule an audition for all VYO orchestras.

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 January 22

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 January 21

REPERTORY ORCHESTRA

Zachary Ebin, director

zachary.ebin@vanderbilt.edu

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

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

Begins January 23

STRING ORCHESTRAS

BEGINNING READING ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 5:30–6:15 p.m.,
Room 2190

Begins January 23

READING ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:00 p.m.,
Room 2190

Begins January 23

YOUTH STRINGS ORCHESTRA

Tuesdays, 7:15–8:15 p.m.,
Room 2190

Begins January 23

VANDERBILT YOUTH CHOIRS

The tiered program of seven 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

Administrator: Julie Claverie

(615) 343-3167 or julie.claverie@vanderbilt.edu

Tucker Biddlecombe, Decani (formerly the Nashville Boychoir) **and Cantori** (formerly the Young Men's Chorus) **director**

Sarah Bronchetti, Training Choir and Young Singers of Blair director

Spring auditions for all groups are on Monday, December 11 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, December 12 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in room 1109A at the Blair School of Music. Please sign up for an appointment time on our website <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blairacademy/youth-choirs/>

Tuition: Concert Choir and Cantori \$460; Blair Choristers and Decani \$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 VYC semester begins with Concert Choir and Choristers on Monday, January 8.

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 2192

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

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

DECANI

Decani (formerly the Nashville Boychoir) will make its return this spring! Boys in grade 3 and older explore vocal technique and music reading skills.

Tuesday, 5:45–6:45 p.m., Choral Hall

VANDERBILT
YOUTH
Choirs



VYC CHOIRS, CONTINUED

CHORALE

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

For advanced students with excellent musicianship.

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

Tuition: \$65/semester

CONCERT CHOIR

Girls in grades 8–12

This select choir performs regularly and takes a mandatory tour each summer.

Monday, 4:45–6:15 p.m., Choral Hall

CANTORI

Formerly the 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 Cantori will take a mandatory tour.

Thursday, 6:10–7:20 p.m., Choral Hall

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 a Zoom interview with **ChiHee Hwang, program coordinator** 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



KINDERMUSIK

Amy Alley, Family Time instructor
amy.alley@vanderbilt.edu

Emma Jackson, Foundations,
Level 1-2 instructor
emma.r.jackson@vanderbilt.edu

15 sessions: Begins January 11
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.

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

FOUNDATIONS

0-12 months old with caregiver

Did you know sound recognition begins in the womb? Foundations classes are all about exploring and reacting to new sounds, objects, and movements. Plus, parents and caregivers heighten connections with their babies by learning bonding techniques.

Tuesday, 11:00-11:45 a.m.

LEVEL 1

12-24 months old with caregiver

Give your little one extra confidence to move, groove, and speak! Level 1 classes allow young toddlers to explore new movements, objects, and words, while learning basic music concepts. Families also discover how to create better daily routines with music.

Tuesday, 10:00-10:45 a.m. and Thursday, 11:00-11:45 a.m.



LEVEL 2

2-3 years old with caregiver

Older toddlers have tons of energy and curiosity. Level 2 classes are all about exploring creativity and enhancing cognitive development through singing, dancing, and instrument play, while grownups learn how to help unpack big emotions with music.

Tuesday, 9:00-9:45 a.m. and Thursday, 10:00-10:45 a.m.

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 students as young as age 4 are welcome.

The Vanderbilt Suzuki program offers instruction in violin, cello and new this year, trumpet.

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

VANDERBILT
SUZUKI
PROGRAM

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



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 be placed with an instructor and join in the fun!

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



CHAMBER MUSIC

All ages

Christina McGann, coordinator

christina.mcgann@vanderbilt.edu • (615) 322-4911

Visit 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



COLLABORATIVE PIANO

Grade 7 and up

Amy Dorfman, instructor

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



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

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



WELLNESS FOR MUSICIANS

9th Grade and up, 16 weeks

The Blair Academy is excited to offer a new slate of courses covering the physical and mental wellbeing of musicians! This new course is comprised of two 8-week modules that examine and hone the health of the performer.

Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 1197

Tuition: \$400/semester

NURTURING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF EMERGING MUSICIANS

Jessica Blackwell, instructor

This course will address prevalent mental health issues that students may encounter, on-stage or in the classroom.

8 Sessions

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE AND BODY MAPPING

Simone Parker, instructor

This course will cover topics such as balance, attention, mapping specific areas of the body (head/neck, spine, legs, arms, breathing) and will conclude with a body mapping masterclass.

8 Sessions



MUSIC THEORY



Grade 8 to adult

Kevin Rilling, instructor • 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 January 8

Tuesday, 6:00–6:50 p.m.

(Zoom, intermediate/
advanced)

Begins January 9

Thursday, 4:00–4:50 p.m.

(Zoom, intermediate/
advanced)

Thursday, 5:00–5:50 p.m.

(in-person, intermediate/
advanced)

Begins January 11

15 sessions

Tuition: \$315/semester

A placement test is required for all new students.

Contact Kevin Rilling at kevin.a.rilling@vanderbilt.edu.

MUSICOLOGY AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Grade 9 to adult

Melanie Lowe, instructor

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 January 9

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 January 9

Tuition: \$315/semester



ADULT COURSES

HIT SONGWRITERS SERIES

Deanna Walker, instructor • 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 January 9

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



THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC

Dustin Kovacic, instructor •

This course will explore the music business in-depth, with a focus on understanding how music is protected and monetized. We will break down the rights associated with music and music creators and will explore key music industry agreements, from recording and publishing deals to management and live performance contracts and the rights implicated in each. We will also discuss how royalties are generated and ways in which music creatives can properly collect and utilize these resources.



Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Room 1167

8 Sessions: Begins January 18

Tuition: \$200/semester



CREATIVETS

CreatiVets has partnered with Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music to create a songwriting course exclusively for veterans. CreatiVets mission is to empower wounded veterans to heal through the arts and music. The class, hosted by veteran Rick Beresford and Deanna Walker, and is free to veterans around the country on a first-come, first-served basis. It's presented entirely on Zoom and is limited to 12 full participants (those who can get their songs critiqued) and 20 observers (observers can participate in every way other than submitting material for critique). The class will cover a range of topics, including songwriting craft, creativity, an introduction to production and recording, and will include song critiques with the hosts and major music industry publishers.

For more information, contact info@creativets.org.

Monday, 6:30–8:30 p.m. CST, Zoom

Begins January 8

Full Participant Tuition: \$100 | Observer Section Tuition: \$40

VANDERBILT COMMUNITY CHORUS

David B. Williams, director • 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

Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Choral Hall

Begins: January 16

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

GUITAR (Classical)

Richard Todd • (615) 322-7651

richard.todd@vanderbilt.edu

HARP

Paula Bressman • (615) 322-7651

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

PERCUSSION

Ji Hye Jung • (615) 322-7669

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

PIANO (for beginners)

ChiHee Hwang • (615) 322-7670

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

VOICE (high school age and older)

Tyler Nelson • (615) 322-7685

tyler.s.nelson@vanderbilt.edu

WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS

Flute: Molly Barth

Oboe: Jared Hauser

Clarinet: Mariam Adam

Bassoon: Peter Kolkay

Saxophone: Brian Utley

Area Contact: Jared Hauser • (615) 322-

7663 • jared.hauser@vanderbilt.edu

ORGAN STUDIES

Dr. Malcolm Matthews, instructor

All Ages

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, as well as the Dobson in Turner Recital Hall. A background in piano study is required.



REGISTRATION

Blair uses an online registration and payment system, VUPACE. New students should visit 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 December 4, 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

PARTNER PIANO, FIDDLE, AND SUZUKI (INCLUDES GROUP LESSON)

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

BLAIR ACADEMY PROGRAM WEBSITE

blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy

GENERAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Mary Biddlecombe

Director, Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

(615) 343-3167

mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu

