VANDERBILT
Blair Academy
at Vanderbilt

Student Handbook
2026-2027

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

Precollege & Adult Program Handbook & Catalog

2026-2027

https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt University! Blair Academy offers music lessons, classes, and ensembles for small children through senior adults seven days a week. Blair Academy students study alongside undergraduates and adults, taught by the same premier faculty.

This handbook complements the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt website. Together, they serve as your guide to Blair programs, policies, requirements, and procedures.

As Director of the Blair Academy, please know that I am eager to help you and your student guide your musical journey. Please email me to introduce yourself and learn about the wide array of opportunities for precollege and adult students at Blair.

Cordially,

Mary Biddlecombe

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Blair Academy at Vanderbilt

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Mission Statement

The mission of Blair Academy at Vanderbilt, the precollege and adult program of the Blair School of Music, is to provide the highest caliber of music education for children and adults, to enable all students to achieve their full potential as artists, citizens, and leaders.

To achieve this mission, Blair Academy at Vanderbilt strives:

- To serve students of all ages and ability levels in a unique blended community of musicians. Precollege and university students study with the same nationally renowned faculty in a challenging and welcoming environment.
- To strive for continued and growing excellence in teaching and musical performance, attracting and challenging the most talented, gifted and dedicated young musicians in the region.
- To ensure that financial considerations do not deter qualified students from enrolling in our programs, through a robust need and merit-based scholarship program.
- To create community partnerships to broaden our student and family population and extend our ability to share our resources with the broader Nashville community.
- To serve the community through our many concerts, lectures, and recitals, offered to the public mostly free of charge.
- To be a resource for music education in the greater Nashville community and beyond by actively partnering with area schools and arts organizations to promote music education.

History, Faculty, Resources and Benefits

A HISTORY OF THE BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Blair School has been a vital part of Nashville's musical life from its inception in 1964, and it maintains as its mission excellence in teaching music to persons of all ages, providing the training essential for a performing career or for an enriching and creative avocation. The school was established as Blair Academy of Music by the Justin and Valere Potter Foundation through a bequest of Valere Blair Potter in memory of her mother, Myra Jackson Blair. First a division of George Peabody College, Blair Academy became a private, independent institution and was accredited as a non-degree-granting school by the National Association of Schools of Music in 1977. In 1981 the school was merged with Vanderbilt following the university's decision to develop an excellent program in music. Studies leading to the professional Bachelor of Music in performance were initiated in 1986. In honor of its founding, the precollege and adult program reaffirmed its original name in 2019 and is now Blair Academy at Vanderbilt.

FACULTY

Blair School of Music is home to internationally known faculty members who are highly respected for performance, composition, conducting, and scholarly endeavors, as well as for their dedication to teaching. The faculty has a reputation for personal excellence and for its commitment to students as developing musicians and as human beings. Many faculty members teach both precollege and university students, valuing greatly their involvement with both—a situation unique among music schools in this country. Many faculty members concertize nationally and internationally and have recorded on a variety of labels. For a list of current faculty members and their biographical information, please visit the Blair website.

RESOURCES AND BENEFITS

CONCERTS AND CONCERT HALLS. Blair offers over 400 concerts annually, almost all of them free of charge to Blair Academy students. Guest artists from around the world, faculty and university student recitals and ensembles, opera, and a myriad of precollege recitals and concerts take place in the Martha Rivers Ingram Performance Hall, Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall, and Choral Hall throughout the year for community enrichment and enjoyment. While special events are not free, students may receive a discount at the box office.

ANNE POTTER WILSON MUSIC LIBRARY. The Wilson Music Library is an academic library that exists for study listening/viewing, and research purposes. The library's many resources are available to Blair Academy students. Registered precollege and adult students may apply for and receive library cards to check out materials including books, scores, technology and much more. The library's helpful staff is available to help find titles and assist with research. Special events for precollege students are held annually. A library area is devoted to precollege books and materials and several computers are configured with precollege students in mind. Access additional precollege information at: *http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/precollege*

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCES. Blair Academy students may have the opportunity to collaborate with undergraduates and faculty in concerts or ensembles. Older students act as mentors for younger students, and younger students inspire others with their zeal, skill and artistry.

A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT AND APPRECIATION FOR MUSIC. Learning and making music is a lifelong endeavor. All are encouraged and appreciated for their unique gifts. This community excitement and respect infuses all we do in the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt.

Offerings for Children and Youth

See https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/ for complete information about each program. For current course listings, schedules, rooms and tuition, see the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the *Blair Academy at Vanderbilt* website. For a complete list of courses available for registration, visit the Blair Academy Programs Page.

PRIVATE LESSONS Blair Academy at Vanderbilt offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments, and in piano, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, organ, jazz instruments and voice. All new private lesson students schedule an interview with a faculty member prior to their first registration. Current information regarding interviews is available on the Blair Academy website or by calling the Blair Academy registrar at 615.322.7655.
See the website for a list of faculty contacts to schedule an interview and audition.

BEGINNING AND PARTNER PIANO (ages 4 and up.) This tiered program includes weekly private and group classes. In addition to piano skills, students develop a conceptual understanding of the fundamentals of music: ear training, improvisation, sight reading, singing, and technique.

VANDERBILT SUZUKI VIOLIN, CELLO AND TRUMPET PROGRAM (ages 4 and up) Founded on principles originally developed in Japan, the Suzuki Method is one of the most influential and popular methods of music instruction in the world. Key components include starting children young, active parental involvement, positive reinforcement, and communal learning. Children may begin violin, viola, cello or trumpet and progress through the multilayered program. They participate in weekly private lessons and group classes. Performance groups are the Violin Performing Group and Children's Cello Choir.

VANDERBILT YOUTH CHOIRS PROGRAM (grades 1-12) This renowned program comprises seven choirs, offering a graded program for children and youth at all skill levels. Advanced choirs regularly perform with the Nashville Symphony and guest artists; some choirs tour annually. Choirs are: Training Choir, Young Singers of Blair, Choristers, Decani, Concert Choir, Cantori, and Chorale. Auditions are held in May, August, and December.

VANDERBILT YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM (VYO) This tiered youth orchestra program encompasses six student orchestras: Curb Youth Symphony (cosponsored by the Nashville Symphony), Philharmonia Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, Youth String Orchestra, Reading Orchestra, and Beginning Reading Orchestra. All orchestras are open by audition; auditions are scheduled in August. Students accepted for membership are encouraged and expected to be in good standing in their school music organizations.

CHAMBER MUSIC. Chamber ensembles of various sizes and instrumentation provide collaborative music learning.

PRECOLLEGE CLASSES. Children and youth may take classes in Music Theory, Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Aural Skills (Musicianship), and Collaborative Piano.

Adult Offerings

See https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/ for complete information about each program. For current course listings, schedules, rooms and tuition, see the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the *Blair Academy at Vanderbilt* website. For a complete list of courses available for registration, visit the Blair Academy Programs Page.

PRIVATE LESSONS Blair Academy at Vanderbilt offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments, and in piano, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, organ, jazz instruments and voice. All new private lesson students schedule an interview with a faculty member prior to their first registration. Current information regarding interviews is available on the Blair Academy website or by calling the Blair Academy registrar at 615.322.7655.
See the website for a list of faculty contacts to schedule an interview and audition.

ADULT CLASSES. Adults may take courses in Songwriting and CreatiVets.

CHAMBER MUSIC. Chamber ensembles of various sizes and instrumentation provide collaborative music learning and performance.

VANDERBILT COMMUNITY CHORUS. 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 embarks on a European Tour every 4 years.

General Information

SCHOOL CALENDAR. Blair Academy at Vanderbilt generally follows the academic-year schedule of the university, with 16-week fall and spring semesters and a 15-week summer session. Course offerings are updated three times a year in advance of each semester. See the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the *Blair Academy at Vanderbilt* website.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

BUILDING HOURS. All doors to the Blair School of Music will remain locked other than the front door of the building. The front door will be open at the following times:

Mondays: 8:00am-7:00pm
Tuesdays: 8:00am-7:15pm
Wednesdays: 8:00am-7:00pm
Thursdays: 8:00am-7:00pm
Fridays: 8:00am-7:00pm

If you need assistance entering the building outside of those times, please contact your instructor.

For public concerts and events, the front doors will be unlocked and monitored by event staff.

LOST AND FOUND. A lost and found is in the main Blair office. The school is not responsible for instruments and belongings left unattended.

FIRST AID. First aid kits are in the main office, the Ingram Hall box office, and in the faculty lounge. AED machines are in the corridor near the main office, and on the first floor, near the 25th Avenue elevator. An Emergency Action Plan is posted in each room at Blair.

PARKING. The second floor of the West Garage, across Children's Way from Blair, is open at no charge to Blair Academy students and families after 4:00 p.m. each weekday, and all day on weekends. Enter the garage via the Children's Way or 25th Avenue entrances.

SUZIE'S ESPRESSO. A café with snacks, sandwiches, salads, and drinks is located on the third floor in the Student Lounge. Café hours are 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters.

BLAIR ACADEMY FAMILY WAITING AREA. After 2:30 p.m., the Blair Academy waiting area on the first floor of the building is an appropriate space for Blair Academy students/families to eat snacks, work and wait for their students.

VENDING MACHINES. Vending machines are located on the second floor of the building.

RECITALS AND RECORDING AT BLAIR. Blair Academy students perform recitals and concerts in the three performance halls. Concert participants may obtain video recordings for their personal viewing by submitting a recital request form: http://vu.edu/recital-request.

Registration, Tuition Payments, Refunds, and Scholarships

REGISTRATION

- Students must register before having lessons or classes.
- Blair uses the VUPace online registration system: *https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/*. The first step is to create a username and password and complete the New Student application. Once the application is approved, you may register for lessons and classes and pay your tuition in full or in part up until the invoice deadline.
- The Blair Academy at Vanderbilt semester is 16 weeks in the fall and spring, and students register for the full semester. Private lesson instruction is 15 weeks of instruction and 1 week of performance exams. In the summer, students may register for as few as three weeks and as many as fifteen weeks, depending on teacher availability.
- For help with VUPace, the online registration system, please watch the user guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7tofTYT5dM

TUITION

- To view your current invoice, please login to VUPace and click "*My Account History*" on the left-hand menu.
- Tuition for each semester must be paid in full by December 1st for Fall semester, May 1st for Spring semester, and August 1st for Summer semester.
- Payment may be made in full or in installments with credit cards or checks made payable to the Blair School of Music with student name and "tuition" on memo line.
- Checks returned for nonsufficient funds will incur a $30 returned check fee to registrant's account.
- Students with overdue balances at Blair Academy are not permitted to register or participate in lessons, classes, or ensembles for the next semester until the account is clear.
- Tuition will be prorated for new students entering late in the semester.
- If a student must withdraw from a course early in the semester, please see below for refund policy.
- For help with VUPace, the online registration system, please watch the user guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7tofTYT5dM

REFUNDS

- Enrolling in a semester implies commitment to a full 15 weeks of lessons and one performance exam/jury, (unless otherwise arranged with registrar and faculty).
- Enrolling in lessons implies commitment to the number of lessons agreed upon at the time of enrollment. Failure to schedule and/or participate in the full number of lessons agreed upon will not necessarily result in a tuition adjustment.
- Enrollment changes and/or cancellations are permitted only until the published start date of the student's class or lessons.

- Any tuition adjustment requests must be verified by the instructor and approved by Blair Academy registrar and Director.
- Instructors are expected to keep accurate attendance records for fall, spring, and summer sessions.
- Parents and students are expected to attend/schedule all lessons agreed upon with instructor.
- Tuition is non-refundable once the semester begins barring extenuating circumstances.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Blair School of Music is privileged to award a number of merit and need-based scholarships to precollege students. A precollege student is a child (infant to 19 years) who has not graduated from high school or the home-school equivalent.
- Financial assistance is not available for adults (over the age of 19) enrolled in the Academy.
- Students must register before having lessons or classes.
- Tuition not covered by scholarship for each semester must be paid in full by December 1st for Fall semester, May 1st for Spring semester, and August 1st for Summer semester in order to maintain scholarship eligibility.
- Scholarship awards are for one academic year only (fall and spring semesters) and are based on a number of factors including performance at the scholarship audition, teacher recommendations, and financial need. Consequently, awards will vary from year to year. Students are invited to apply each spring for merit and need based scholarships.
- All students holding scholarships are expected to maintain at least a B average in their Blair Academy studies and must audition each year for scholarship consideration. Scholarship auditions are held each spring and are adjudicated by faculty committees. New students may be eligible to apply for aid at other times of the year as well.
- Contact the Blair Academy registrar for information.

Summer Camp Registration, Tuition Payments, Refunds, and Scholarships

REGISTRATION

- Students must register and pay at least 30 days prior to the start of the camp. See camp website for more details.
- Blair uses the VUPACE online registration system: https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/. The first step is to create an account and complete the Blair Academy New Student application. Once the application is approved, you may register for camp and pay your tuition in full or in part up until the invoice deadline. Returning Blair Academy students can register for the camp by adding said camp to their existing account.
- For help with VUPace, the online registration system, please watch the user guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7tofTYT5dM

TUITION

- To view your current invoice, please login to VUPACE and click "My Account History" on the left-hand menu.
- The tuition deadline for all Blair Academy Summer Camps is 30 days prior to the start of said camp. See camp website for more details.
- Payment may be made in full or in installments with credit cards or checks made payable to the Blair School of Music with student name and "camp tuition" on memo line. Payments must be made in full by tuition deadline (30 days prior to the start of camp).
- Checks returned for nonsufficient funds will incur a $30 returned check fee to registrant's account.
- Students with overdue balances at Blair Academy are not permitted to register or participate in camps, lessons, classes, or ensembles until the account is clear.
- Tuition will not be prorated for Blair Academy Summer Camps.
- For help with VUPACE, the online registration system, please watch the user guide: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7tofTYT5dM

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Enrolling in a Blair Academy Summer Camp implies commitment for the duration of the camp.
- No tuition adjustments shall be made due to non-attendance.
- Enrollment changes and/or cancellations are permitted only until 21 days prior to the start of the camp.
- If you need to cancel registration, refunds will be given dependent on the date of cancellation:
- 50% refund of total cost up to 21 days prior to the start of said camp.
- Refunds will not be provided within 20 days of said camp start date.
- See camp website for details.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Blair School of Music awards need-based scholarships to eligible precollege students. A precollege student is a child (infant to 19 years) who has not graduated from high school or the home-school equivalent. Seniors graduating Spring 2027 must be a current Blair Academy student to be eligible.
- Financial assistance is not available for adults (over the age of 19) enrolled in the Academy.
- Tuition not covered by scholarship must be paid in full 30 days prior to camp start.
- Contact the Blair Academy registrar for information.

Getting started with lessons, ensembles and adult classes

PRIVATE LESSONS

- All new private lesson students schedule an interview with a faculty member prior to their first registration. Current information regarding interviews is available on the Blair Academy website or by calling the Blair Academy registrar at 615.322.7655.
- After meeting with the faculty member and confirming availability and scheduling, new students should create a Profile and New Student Application. Once an approval email is received, the student may register online for lessons and classes. If you require assistance with the new student registration, a helpful video can be found here.
- Requests for a specific teacher are honored when possible. Please do not hesitate to discuss this with the interviewing faculty member.
- If a current Blair student wishes to change teachers, the situation must be discussed with the current teacher first.
- Lessons on two instruments concurrently should be discussed with both teachers to determine if there is sufficient time and motivation to sustain study at appropriate levels in both areas.

ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

- The Vanderbilt Youth Choir program holds auditions in December, May, and August. See the website for audition information or contact *mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu*
- The Vanderbilt Youth Orchestra Program holds auditions in August. See the website for information about the orchestras and audition requirements or contact *craig.a.madole@vanderbilt.edu*.

- Vanderbilt Community Chorus holds auditions by appointment. See the website for information about the choir or contact david.b.williams@vanderbilt.edu.

PRECOLLEGE AND ADULT CLASSES

- Create a Profile and New Student Application on *https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/*, receive an acceptance email, enroll and start learning. Please feel free to contact the appropriate faculty member with questions.
- Students enrolling in Interactive Music Theory will take a placement test during the first class to help the professor find the right level of instruction for you.

Conduct, Attendance, Absences, and Grading Policies

CONDUCT

Prohibited Activities and/or Behaviors

The following activities and/or behaviors pose significant risks to students and the broader community and are strictly prohibited. Students who engage in these prohibited activities and/or behaviors may be subject to immediate dismissal from the Blair Academy without refund.

- Insubordination
- Violating the rights of others, including bullying (physical, verbal, cyber such as through social media, texting apps or otherwise)
- Minor ongoing disruptions to the Blair community
- Violations or misuse of technology, social media or honor codes
- Damage, vandalism, littering, or theft of Vanderbilt University property, property of a University community member or campus visitor, or other property used during Academy activities.
- Pranks and practical jokes with malicious intent or that pose a threat to student safety
- Possession, threat, or use of incendiary devices or weapons
- Tampering with fire alarms or other emergency equipment
- Possession, misuse or distribution of unauthorized medications, illegal substances, or using tobacco, vaping products, or alcohol
- Inappropriately touching other students and/or university personnel, including inappropriate displays of affection
- Putting self or others at undue risk for emotional or physical harm
- Violence or threats of violence of any kind, including without limitation: fighting, assault, sexual harassment, and physical or verbal intimidation including racial slurs or inappropriate language
- Violations of rules established during the program
- Violation of federal or state laws

ABSENCES. If a student must miss a lesson, the teacher should be notified as far in advance as possible. Faculty members are not required to reschedule lessons cancelled by students. Lessons or classes cancelled by faculty members will be rescheduled. As a rule, the school is not closed for inclement weather. A faculty member who is unable to travel will notify students and reschedule lessons or classes.

DEFICIENCIES AND PROBATION. A precollege student whose progress is unsatisfactory may be placed on probation for half a semester. If, at the end of this period, the quality of work has not improved to the satisfaction of the teacher, the student may not continue at the school. In the event of a dismissal, no refund will be given, and all scholarships will be revoked. Written notification is made in each case.

SYLLABUS. Each student should receive a syllabus from the teacher at the beginning of the semester. The syllabus will include teacher contact information, course objectives, teacher expectations for attendance, homework and practice, calendar information including performance dates, and grading policies.

GRADING. Performances, examinations, semester reports, and classroom grade reports are an important part of the Blair Academy program. During performance examinations, students perform for a faculty committee. Those exam critiques and semester reports provide an evaluation of progress and suggestions for improvement. Precollege classes have regular assignments and tests. Adults and young children generally do not play performance examinations. Many adult program classes do not give assignments, tests, or grades. Ensembles do not give grades.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. Students in some high schools and home-school students may earn enrichment credit for instruction taken at Blair Academy. Students must fulfill all requirements to the satisfaction of the teacher. Blair instruction for high school credit is coordinated through the Office of Academic Services. The student is responsible for determining his or her eligibility with the individual high school's guidance counselor.

CUMULATIVE RECORDS. Formal documentation of all student work (the cumulative record) will be provided upon written request from the student or guardian. Contact the Blair Academy Registrar. All student account balances at Blair must be paid in full before records will be released. At least one week's notice is required to process a cumulative record.

Safety, Security and the Protection of Minors at Vanderbilt

SUPERVISION: Parents are responsible for assuring that their students get to and from the lesson studio, ensemble meeting site, or classroom. Young children (generally under twelve years of age) should be in the company of the parent/guardian or supervising adult at all times in the building. Ensembles, studios, and classes will have different policies for drop-off and pick-up. Each studio or ensemble will have policies appropriate for the age and maturity of the participants. Policies will be made clear to students and families on a per semester basis. General policies are below:

- Faculty are responsible for the safety of the student in studios, classes or ensembles. Young children (generally under age 12) should be in the company of the parent/guardian when they leave the class, lesson, or are dismissed by the ensemble director.
- Parents are required to register their student before participating in classes or lessons. Accurate records are imperative for the staff to know who is in the building and when.
- In Kindermusik classes, Suzuki violin, viola, cello, trumpet and Partner Piano lessons, a parent is required to be present.
- Young children are dismissed directly to parents or supervising adult after Kindermusik, Training Choir, Young Singers of Blair and Suzuki lessons and groups.
- Parents or supervising adult are responsible for accompanying their student to and from the lesson studio, ensemble meeting site, or classroom. Children under 12 should be in the company of the parent/guardian at all times in the building.
- Blair hallways are monitored by security cameras.
- Faculty and staff supervise during stated hours of lessons and programs and where otherwise indicated in program descriptions and are available to assist in off program times, but cannot assume responsibility for unaccompanied children. If your child has multiple courses in our building, it is expected a parent/guardian/supervising adult will provide supervision when the child is not in a meeting or class.
- Blair policies minimize any 1 student to 1 adult interaction where feasible, which utilizes best practices of observable and interruptible activity. Private lesson instruction is one teacher, one student. Please ask any questions of the instructor or Blair school leadership about safeguards during private lessons. Parents are welcome to attend lessons if desired. Please notify the instructor beforehand if you wish to attend lessons.

VANDERBILT POLICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS. Police and the CSO officers regularly patrol the campus and campus buildings. Need a jump start? Locked your keys in the car? The Community Service officers are happy to help you and get you going safely. Call VUPD at 615-322-2745 if you need assistance.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT INFORMATION. Blair Academy at Vanderbilt abides by the federal policies on student confidentiality. For more information on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), please refer to the website: https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/ferpa/.

PROTECTION OF MINORS AT VANDERBILT UNIVERISTY. The safety and security of students and children on campus is a vital priority at Vanderbilt University. All Blair School of Music personnel undergo regular background checks, take annual training and education on the protection of minors and learn the Vanderbilt codes of conduct when interacting with minors. See the full policy at *https://vanderbilt.edu/riskmanagement/protectionofminorslanding page.php*.

Vanderbilt University personnel adhere to Tennessee state law on mandatory child abuse reporting to either the appropriate law enforcement agency or the state hotline operated by the Department of Children's Service. The Tennessee Child Abuse reporting hotline number is 877-237-0004.

In addition to external reporting, Vanderbilt has a mandatory internal child abuse and child safety reporting procedure. If you have reason to believe abuse or inappropriate behavior has occurred concerning a minor participating in a Vanderbilt University program or if there is a condition affecting your child's safety at Vanderbilt, please contact one of the Blair School of Music associate deans, (615) 322-7651 or Vanderbilt Risk Management (615-322-5155), or report via the Vanderbilt hotline at 844-824-5935.

DISABILITY SERVICES. Vanderbilt is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmation action. The University provides reasonable accommodations for qualified persons with disabilities. Please tell us if your child requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in our program or to perform the program tasks. Examples of reasonable accommodations could include providing documents in an alternate format, or using a sign language interpreter.

Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Certificate Program

Blair Academy at Vanderbilt awards two certificates to high school seniors who have completed formal programs that encourage excellence in performance and knowledge of music theory and history—all essential elements for development of mature musicianship in advanced students. Myra Jackson Blair Scholarship students generally fulfill all or most of the Certificate Program requirements and are especially encouraged to participate in this program.

FORMAL ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM. High school students are nominated for the program by the departmental faculty at the spring scholarship auditions. Letters of invitation are sent to those students who qualify for the program. Students who accept the nomination to join the program enter at the Certificate of Merit level (advanced intermediate). They may audition for the Certificate of Distinction level (advanced) in the spring of their high school junior year. Occasionally, a student may petition to audition for the Distinction level in the fall of the senior year.

RESPONSIBILITIES. Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all requirements. The student should keep a personal record of study and accomplishment to supplement similar records being maintained by the studio teacher and Certificate Program coordinator. The student's private teacher is the primary adviser throughout the program, selecting repertoire suitable for study, ensuring that all major periods and styles are covered, and determining when a student is qualified for the advanced audition. The Certificate Program Council determines policies and standards, working closely with the entire faculty in matters affecting the program.

FINANCIAL COST. There is no fee for participation. Total cost to the student will be the regular tuition for lessons and classes.

REQUIREMENTS. An overview of each certificate is outlined below. More detailed information is available from the certificate coordinator, the Office of Academic Services, and the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt website.

Activity	Requirement	Certificate of Merit	Certificate of Distinction
Achievement in Lessons and Performance Class	Instrumental or Vocal study at Blair	Two years minimum (four semesters)	Three years minimum (six semesters)
	Audition ranking	Intermediate rank	Achievement of "Advanced Level" rank by May of the junior year
	Performance Class participation (if offered)	Each semester enrolled in lessons	Each semester enrolled in lessons
Solo Performance	Studio recital performance	Each semester	Each semester
	Pre-recital hearing	Successful completion required	Successful completion required
	Certificate recital	Minimum 20-minute public performance	Minimum 30-minute public performance
Ensembles	Large ensemble participation	As qualified	As qualified
	Chamber Music/ Collaborative Piano	One-year minimum (two semesters) and participation in a recital	One year minimum (two semesters) And participation in a recital
Coursework	Precollege Music Theory	Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*	Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*
	Music History	Year One (Two semesters) Year Two (Two semesters)*	Year One (Two semesters) Year Two (Two semesters)*
	Recital attendance	Two faculty or professional concerts per semester	Two faculty or professional concerts per semester
Standards	Grading standards	Minimum B+ in class work and performance	

*Certificates with Honors

Students that successfully complete at least Level 6 of precollege theory and two years of history are eligible to receive either the Certificate of Merit with Honors or the Certificate of Distinction with Honors.