



## **The bART Center for Music** **The Barthelmes Conservatory Handbook**

The bART Center for Music's Conservatory Division welcomes you to a unique program in the Tulsa area, designed to guide music students towards success in professional, university, and performance settings. The mission of The Barthelmes Conservatory is to promote artistic and academic excellence, preparing musicians to confidently succeed in music through leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. It's comprehensive, specialized, professional training curriculum involves individual mentorship, music theory, music literacy, history, musical creativity, and ensemble/studio group classes taught by experienced faculty. Regular performance, attendance at musical events, and developing enthusiasm for learning about new music is also a vital part of the holistic music curriculum. Students may attend the conservatory for several hours per week, based on their level of interest in the bART's opportunities. Classes take place in the afternoons and evenings with some special events taking place on the weekends. The conservatory runs during most of the normal academic year in two semesters: Fall (Sept.-Dec.) and Spring (Jan-May).

### **Curriculum**

The Barthelmes Conservatory curriculum includes:

- Individual and group instrument instruction
- Music Theory/Musicianship classes
- Performance exams and feedback opportunities
- Concert performances and attendance

### **Individual and Group Instrumental Instruction**

Conservatory students attend 30 minute, 45 minute, or one hour individual instrument lessons once or twice a week. At the start of each term conservatory faculty develop detailed semester objectives for each student according to their growth needs. Individual instrument instruction includes scale/arpeggios, etudes, concert pieces, songs, and sight-reading. Instructors communicate regularly with students and parents with required parent/teacher conferences at the beginning of each semester.

Consistent class attendance and daily study and practice are expected. Each student is responsible for exerting maximum effort in order to produce maximum self-improvement. Teachers communicate the course objectives to parents through student practice journals.

Each student also plays in a group setting with students assigned to group studio classes or chamber ensembles. Assignment to a studio class or chamber ensemble is based on student proficiency in music fundamentals and on a student's schedule.

### **Music Theory/Musicianship Classes**

The study of music theory and musicianship is indispensable to developing literate, well-rounded musicians. These classes also provide students with a sense of artistic chronology, repertoire, and an awareness of varied styles and style periods. Music group classes primarily work to develop the "seeing ear" (the ability to hear music and know how it should sound). The music theory curriculum begins with fundamentals, general keyboard orientation, ear training, music history, tonal harmony and counterpoint, elementary composition, and transposition. Basic conducting, 4 part writing, tonal and atonal dictation and group sight-singing are available to advanced students. Conservatory students are prepared to do competitively on undergraduate college music theory placement exams as a benchmark.

### **Performance Exams and Feedback Opportunities**

At the end of each semester students perform juried examinations for a faculty panel plus an external "guest juror". Similar to the collegiate experience, juries are the final exam for an instrument held each semester. Students receive verbal and written feedback telling them what went well and what needs work. Students are typically expected to prepare two etudes/studies and one or two larger works from the repertoire. Scale and arpeggio exams take place halfway through the semester as they are considered to be a part of the overall jury grade. After the first year, larger pieces are expected to be performed by memory. Sight-reading may be assigned at the request of the student's instructor, who leads their jury. The guest juror's role is to provide a fresh perspective and the opportunity for a "mini masterclass" within the exam. Students should dress formally for their jury, and arrive at least 30 minutes early to warm up and prepare. No classes/lessons are conducted during the week of juries. Parents are not allowed in the jury classroom.

At the conclusion of each semester, all conservatory students complete written assessments in music theory and related topics in their group class.

**Progress Reports:** After juries each semester, teachers fill out progress reports for what went well in a semester, and what students should work on next. The completed evaluations are then discussed with all parents during the scheduled Parent/Faculty conferences at the beginning of each semester.

### **Concert Performances and Attendance**

At the end of each semester, the bART hosts studio recitals: unique, small-scale, informal recitals featuring the students in each teacher's studio/classroom. These concerts offer each student at least one performance opportunity per semester. All conservatory students are required to perform at the Studio Recitals. As performances are a big deal to students, families and friends of performing students are encouraged to attend and support them.

Exposure to professional musical performances is an essential part of healthy musical growth. Such exposure provides modeling and inspiration, as well as gaining familiarity with common repertoire and fostering openness to new musical realms. All students are required to attend at least 7 concert/recitals as part of the curriculum. Our students and their families are provided discounted tickets through bART partner organizations such as Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Tulsa, and others. Students will submit reflective essays and a copy of the concert program during music theory musicianship class the week following the concert.

### **Open Concert**

Each year the bART hosts its Open Concert, a by-audition, end-of-year performance celebration open to all bART students. Auditions take place during the Spring Semester juried examinations. The Open Concert is for parents, relatives, friends and the general public to attend. All bART conservatory students are expected to attend, whether or not they perform.

### **Participation In Community Performances**

Conservatory students who are consistently prepared are invited to perform for community organizations and venues outside the school. Previous engagements include participation in The OK Mozart International Festival, the Tulsa Performing Art Center's "Brown Bag It" series, The Tulsa Symphony Orchestra's Recognition Concerts, Music at the Mansion, Philbrook Museum of Art, and many other community events. Instructors are consulted for nominations for these events.

## **Piano Accompaniment**

If a piece requires piano accompaniment for performance or examination, the bART provides a piano accompanist for our students. Students will be assigned required rehearsals with the accompanist. Parents will be notified of the rehearsal schedule prior to juries and performances.

## **Concert Dress Code**

At all performances appropriate concert dress is generally formal, including black pants or skirt with a white or black shirt and black shoes (with a low or flat heel). No distracting jewelry or accessories are to be worn onstage. If the students have questions or need further clarification regarding the dress code they should consult their instructors.

## **Concert Expectations**

Respectful concert behavior is expected in order to ensure the most enjoyable and meaningful experience for all. Performers should work with their teachers on developing a positive stage presence, including performing with good posture, bowing, and refraining from activities that distract from the performance onstage (example: chewing gum).

Audience members must (1) Avoid talking, walking around, cell phone use, flash photography, and all other distracting or noisy behavior during performances; (2) Hold applause until each performance (including all movements) is complete; (3) Young children must be taken outside if they become disruptive; (4) Display general respect and appreciation for the hard work each student has put in preparing their piece for performance; (5) Wait to leave until the concert is complete. If it is necessary to leave a concert early, please notify the Administration.

## **Attendance, Preparation, and Practice Policies**

Each musician's success in the Barthelmes Conservatory is built on enthusiastic and consistent parental support and supervision of students as they work with their teachers to achieve success together. Most growth happens through regular practice consequently the program requires 40 minutes per day of home practice, six days a week. As student's progress and their goals become more ambitious, more time should be added. Parents must ensure that students bring all necessary musical materials to lessons, including music books and repertoire folders, string instruments, practice journals, handouts, and any other materials deemed necessary by their instructors.

Students are expected to attend all lessons and classes as scheduled and on time. Lessons cancelled by the Conservatory will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time. The Conservatory assumes no obligation to make up or reschedule lessons missed by the student. With various classes and lessons preceding and following your child's lesson, punctuality is necessary for smooth operation of the Conservatory. If a student is late, our dedicated teachers are required to proceed according to the normal lesson schedule timetable, which may result in reduced lesson time for your child.

As music is a physical and mentally engaging activity, student warm up time before a lesson is fundamental to productive lesson time management and avoiding injury. Students should arrive 10 minutes prior to their lesson so that they can warm up and mentally prepare for their lesson/class. Parents are expected to guarantee the punctual arrival and departure of their child, especially for young students who have not yet developed successful time management habits. We encourage parent(s) to attend individual lessons during the first month in order to receive guidance on how to best supervise their child's practice.

### **Practice Rooms**

When students arrive at the bART there are practice rooms available to them for warm up. If a student has a gap between lessons/classes they are strongly encouraged to use a practice room and remain musically engaged. All practice rooms will be assigned at the front desk, and are to be left exactly as you found them. **No food or drinks are allowed in the practice studios!**

### **Instruments**

The bART offers instrument rental for those students who need it. Financial aid is available for students who qualify. The bART offers violins, violas, cellos, flutes, and guitars for rental. Families are responsible for instrument maintenance. In the instance that damage is done to an instrument due to negligence, families are responsible for repairs/replacement. Before an instrument is loaned, the parent and student sign an Instrument Loan Agreement and students are taught how to care for their instrument. As your child grows it may be necessary to change the size of their instrument.

**Piano:** Parents whose child is studying piano in the Conservatory must own a standard piano or be prepared to purchase or rent a piano. Our staff and faculty are happy to help if necessary with that process.

## **Communication and The bART Administration**

The management and staff of the Bart are always available to help students and their families. Our Registrar and [info@thebart.org](mailto:info@thebart.org) are the primary points of contact for all bART related questions. ALL absences MUST be communicated to the Registrar at [info@thebart.org](mailto:info@thebart.org), or by telephone at 918.794.0330. It is the responsibility of parents and students to maintain regular contact with the Registrar or Executive Director about any and all needs. Parents must keep an updated email on file and consistently check emails for updated information with prompt responses expected. The bART's calendar of events, cancellations, and holidays are available on our website.