

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Enriching lives and creating community through music • Welcoming all ages

PROGRAM UPDATES: New classes and program enhancements for students of all ages and stages of advancement!



Spring brings growth and renewal. This is true in nature and in our program plans at Hoff-Barthelson for the coming year!

I am pleased to share a number of exciting additions to our suite of Hoff-Barthelson programs. Some are year-long classes that meet on a weekly basis, others are master classes meeting monthly, or one-off events designed to support learning and enhance our student's overall experience at the School. All are designed to meet the needs and interests of our community. Equally important, all are included in the HBMS comprehensive tuition rate. Registration opens on May 15.

See you at Hoff-Barthelson!
Christopher Kenniff, Dean of Programs

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC PROGRAM: ENHANCEMENTS AND NEW CLASS

Parent Education Opportunities

Our Early Childhood Program continues to flourish thanks to Dr. Ruth Alperson (our Dean of Students and renowned Dalcroze Eurhythmics expert), and our fine faculty. New to our program will be parent education workshops led by Dr. Alperson that are designed to help families get the most out of their child's experience in class. Dates will be announced in coming weeks.

Piano Together – Group Piano Classes

Four-and-five-year-olds

One 40-minute class per week (child only)

Class size: 4-6 students

Instructors: Mindy Kay Smith and Dominic Meiman

This small-group offering is designed for children preparing for private piano instruction. Class time is divided between learning the basics of technique at the piano and activities away from the piano that develop children's sensitivity to pitch, rhythm, and musical expression. Students play on acoustic pianos and participate in an end-of-course, in-class recital. Students completing one semester of this class may be invited into our Private Lesson Program or may be encouraged to continue for a second semester. Students should have a keyboard at home on which they can practice. A placement meeting is required for families wishing to register.

MUSICIANSHIP TRAINING: PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

New Printed and Digital Resources for Musicianship Training classes

The Hoff-Barthelson Musicianship Program will implement the use of new student workbooks and online resources published by the *Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto, CA)* to support the School's long established grade-level appropriate learning goals. Use of these materials will provide faculty and students with the following benefits:

- **a state-of-the-art curriculum** created and regularly updated by experts from the internationally-renowned Royal Conservatory of Music. Learn more [here](#).
- **superb printed materials and digital resources** for students and teachers to support learning in the classroom and at home
- **optional assessments** for intermediate and advanced students who wish to benchmark and document their progress in an internationally recognized program. Assessment participation is beneficial for students preparing to continue their studies at the collegiate level, and for those who seek to strengthen their college application portfolios generally.

Our goal is that musicianship classes be relevant, engaging, and supported with first-rate resources that deepen and accelerate student learning. Our approach to teaching will remain focused on meeting individual and class needs and interests. Instructors incorporate hands-on explorations of music theory concepts via singing, movement, and playing during class.

Dalcroze Eurhythmics Master Class Series at Hoff-Barthelson

We are thrilled to share that the School will present *Learning Music through Action: the Dalcroze Way, a Master Class Series with Dr. Ruth Alperson*. Ruth is widely acknowledged as one of the leading experts worldwide in the field of Dalcroze Eurhythmics, an approach to teaching that is the foundation of our School's Early Childhood and Musicianship Programs. Individual master classes will be tailored to learners at a variety of ages and experience levels, allowing all who love music, movement, and learning to benefit. Master class topics, dates, and times will be announced on our website.

MUSICIANSHIP TRAINING: NEW CLASSES

Improvisation for Everyone!

Sections available for Grades 6-12, and for Adult students

One 55-minute class per week

Class size: 5-12 students

Instructor: Janet Grice

CLOSED FOR ENROLLMENT

Musicianship training in practice: instrumental and vocal students studying classical music develop aural skills, technical ability, and knowledge of music theory through the art of improvisation. This hands-on class engages students in performing with others, and exploring one's own creative potential. Taught by Dr. Janet Grice, an educator with 40 years of experience teaching improvisation to students of all ages and ability levels. *Participants should know major and minor scales, and intervals.*

Songwriting Workshop

Grades 9-12

One 55-minute class per week

Class size: 5-12 students

Instructor: Jacob Friedman

CLOSED FOR ENROLLMENT

A weekly forum for aspiring songwriters. Learn to develop your own creative ideas while studying songs by great artists in a variety of musical styles. Singers and instrumentalists are invited to participate. Bring your instrument and enjoy collaborating and sharing your ideas in a workshop environment.

Piano Together – Group Piano Classes

Four-and-five-year-olds

One 40-minute class per week (child only)

Class size: 4-6 students

Instructors: Mindy Kay Smith and Dominic Meiman

Please see the course description under the heading *EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC PROGRAM: ENHANCEMENTS AND NEW CLASS* found at the top of this update.

Piano History & Literature

One 40-minute class per week for Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6) and Junior (Grades 6-9) students

One 55-minute class per week for Senior (Grades 9-12) and Adult students **ALL SECTIONS CLOSED FOR ENROLLMENT**

Class size: 5-12 students

Instructors: Hélène Jeanney and Katsura Tanikawa

This seminar-style class brings piano students together to learn about the piano's history, literature, and performance traditions. A central aim of this class is to deepen a student's love of music – the piano and its repertoire in particular. Students develop critical listening skills, knowledge of repertoire, and the ability to communicate about music. Piano faculty lead discussions about in-class and at-home listening assignments and make connections between the piano's repertoire, society, and other art forms. Special projects encourage individual exploration and discovery that lead students to find their own favorite aspects of the piano's repertoire.

Improvisation for Pianists

Grades 2–6

Level 1: One 40-minute class per week

Level 2: One 55-minute class per week – (Level 2 is new this year)

Class size: 5-8 students

Instructor: Thomas Feng

Children love to experiment at the piano, a perfect instrument for imaginative exploration. Through improvising, students will have the opportunity to create and explore melody, harmony, and rhythm in action. Students may repeat Level 1 until they are ready to advance to Level 2.

PIANO PROGRAM: NEW OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT STUDENT GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Piano Parent Support Meetings

60-minute long meeting in September, October, February, and March

Chaired by the Dean of Programs or the Associate Dean and a member of the School's Piano Department

These meetings are designed to guide parents in how best to support their child's piano study at home and at Hoff-Barthelson; to set expectations for student growth; to educate as to how achievement is attained; and to build awareness of strategies for resolving challenges working with their instructor and the school. Students may attend with their parents. Parent Q&A in a round-table format forms an integral part of these meetings.

Harpsichord Workshop

Offered once per semester in each format: Informal, Teen Workshop, and Adult Workshop

Pianists learning music from the Baroque era will have a unique opportunity to gain a new perspective on articulation, fingering, phrasing, tempo, and dynamics by trying out their pieces on the harpsichord. Performances come alive as students experience playing on the harpsichord, gain new insights into Baroque musical style, and learn to incorporate this detail into their own interpretations on the piano.

ADULT PROGRAM: NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Please note that new offerings listed above - Piano History & Literature, Improvisation for Everyone!, Harpsichord Workshop, 15 Piece Challenge, and enhancements to our Musicianship Program – are available to adults studying at Hoff-Barthelson.

Scarsdale Singers (aka HB Singers)

Adults

One 60-minute rehearsal per week

Class minimum size: 10

Directed by Laura Green

Adults who love vocal music sing together in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere. Ensemble repertoire includes selections from musical theater, classical repertoire, seasonal favorites, and popular songs. The participants determine each season's repertoire under advisement of faculty. Singers in this ensemble must have some previous vocal study or choral singing experience, as well as elementary music reading skills. Prospective participants are placed in the ensemble after a short meeting with the director of the group. This ensemble is structured to allow singers of varying levels of experience to enjoy making music together.

More adult classes are in development!

We are working with our faculty and the Scarsdale Adult School to create new course offerings throughout the year. Updates will be shared as new courses are formalized.