

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Developing potential, enriching lives and creating community since 1944

Honors Program

Glen Kirchoff, Coordinator

The program is for talented students who are motivated and working up to their potential. Students must be 12 years or older; exceptions are made on occasion for a very gifted child. A student must be enrolled in the School's Comprehensive program for two semesters before being eligible for the program.

Auditions are held once a year on the first Wednesday in June.

The audition committee includes the Honors Program coordinator and two additional faculty adjudicators. If you have a student who may qualify, please schedule an audition with Student and Faculty Services.

Audition requirements: Pianists: Four octaves of two major scales; two relative minor scales - harmonic and melodic forms; two contrasting selections from two different periods. Other instruments: Two octaves of two major scales and two relative minor scales, harmonic and melodic forms; two contrasting selections from two different periods. Jazz students should play one prepared piece and one improvisation. Vocal students should prepare two contrasting selections from two different periods.

Participation requirements for the 2020-21 school year are as follows:

Jazz Piano:

- Large Ensemble – Jazz Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, R.I.N.G. concert
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; Concert #1: one prepared, two improvisations of different styles; Concert #2: one prepared, one improvisation; music must be memorized.

Piano:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, R.I.N.G. concert
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; each concert has to feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.); music must be memorized.

String:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Large Ensemble – Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, R.I.N.G. concert
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; each concert has to feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.)

Vocal:

- Large Ensemble – Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, R.I.N.G. concert
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – At least five pieces total; each concert should feature small group of contrasting songs or arias from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.); music must be memorized.

Woodwind:

- Chamber Ensemble
- Large Ensemble – Festival Orchestra, Wind Ensemble or Jazz Ensemble
- Musicianship Class
- Two Solo Recital Performances – student recital, festival student recital, R.I.N.G. concert
- Must attend a professional performance
- Honors Recitals – Five pieces total; each concert has to feature pieces from separate periods (Baroque, Classical, etc.)

Performance requirements: Each Honors recital program should total no more than 20 minutes. Evaluation forms are completed by the Honors Program coordinator, as well as two other faculty adjudicators, in response to each student's performance. These forms are given to the teacher to be shared with the student and family at the teacher's discretion. Students in the program who have achieved a record of good attendance at all activities, and have fulfilled all requirements, will receive an Honors certificate at the conclusion of the academic year, and a special Honors award upon graduation.

Students who receive an evaluation which indicates that the standard of playing is not up to that of the Honors Program will be placed on a leave of absence. If the faculty members present at the next recital feel that an adequate standard has still not been achieved, the student's teacher will be informed that the program is no longer appropriate for the child. If a child is not working, and you, the teacher, feel s/he should be withdrawn from the program, this can be done at any time.

If you have students whom you deem appropriate for the program and who may be motivated by the challenge and honor that it offers, please contact [Dean Christopher Kenniff](#) for additional details.

Special considerations for Honors Program Students during the Fall 2020 Semester

As the School's large ensembles (all orchestras, Wind Ensemble, and Chamber Music Program) are on hiatus this fall, a variety of options are provided below for Honors Program students to fulfill their ensemble requirements.

All students grades are encouraged to consider the [Virtual Performance Program](#), as it is in many ways a replacement for chamber music. This brand-new offering — designed for the times — blends ensemble instruction with music technology as an exciting alternative to in-person ensemble instruction.

Chamber Choir (grades 9-12): The choir will meet online, learn repertoire together, and prepare an end-of-semester video. Emphasis is on healthy singing, diction, and musicality. Singing, even in online and socially distanced ways, is fundamental to the development of any musician, no matter the instrument studied; Mondays at 6:00 pm, beginning September 21, 2020.

Club participation: The Viola, Flute, and Clarinet Clubs will meet online beginning September 11 (Junior Flutes) and September 12 (all other clubs).

- **Viola Club:** Saturdays at 1:00 pm (Intermediate) and at 2:00 pm (Advanced)
- **Junior Flute Club:** Fridays at 5:30 pm
- **Flute Club:** Saturdays at 11:45 am
- **Clarinet Club:** Saturdays at 1:00 pm

Jazz Ensembles (grades 6-12): Ensembles will meet online Tuesdays at 7:45 pm beginning September 15, and Wednesdays beginning September 16, 2020, at 6:00 pm. Multiple sections available for players of all instruments and of all levels of experience for students. Parts are individually tailored to the skill level of the participants.

Improvisation for Everyone (grades 5-8): Meets online Wednesdays at 7:00 pm beginning September 23, 2020. A hands-on class for classical musicians new to improvisation.

Ring Out! (grades 5-8): A handbell ensemble that will meet in-person during the fall semester practicing social distancing and using PPE. Meets Fridays at 4:45 pm beginning September 25, 2020, in the JBB Auditorium.

Review detailed descriptions for [classes](#) and [ensembles](#).

Students who do not wish to participate in any alternative programming may elect to defer starting the Honors Program until the spring semester. For students who defer starting the Honors Program until spring, three rather than five pieces will be required for recital performance.

We will continue to monitor the situation and determine safe conditions for the spring semester, keeping everyone updated about our plans to resume large ensembles and chamber music. It is our plan to be able to do this sometime in November.