

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Spring 2021 Chamber Music Update

Program Descriptions | Registration Information | FAQs

The Hoff-Barthelson Music School is pleased to announce the restoration of our Chamber Music Program following its hiatus during the Fall 2020 Semester. This spring we will be offering both in-person and online options for 10-week sessions beginning the week of April 5. In-person chamber music ensembles will be available to string players and pianists. Online chamber music ensembles will be available to wind, brass, string and piano students. Unfortunately, concerns regarding COVID aerosols prevent us from offering in-person chamber music opportunities to wind and brass students at this time.

Option 1: 10-Week Spring In-Person* Chamber Music Session for String Players and Pianists beginning the Week of April 5

- **Schedule:**
 - Ten weekly coaching sessions of 45 or 60 minutes (see below for further info on session duration).
 - Beginning the week of April 5 and concluding the week of June 8 or June 15 (depending on the day of the week coaching sessions are scheduled).
 - Day and time of coaching sessions to be determined by student and instructor availability.
- **Final project:**
 - In-person ensembles will perform in-person on a chamber music program recital and/or one of the School's Performance Program recitals.
- ***What happens if pandemic conditions deteriorate to the point that it is not safe for ensembles to meet in-person?**
 - In the event Scarsdale is designated an **Orange** or **Red Zone** (requiring schools in Scarsdale to shift all instruction online) at any time prior to or during the program, in-person chamber music rehearsals will shift online for as long as Scarsdale retains such a designation.
 - Students who wish to meet in-person must be willing to participate in online chamber music during these conditions.
- **What happens if a member of the ensemble and/or the coach has to enter quarantine during the program?**
 - Other members of the ensemble will continue to rehearse. Any student under quarantine may participate in these rehearsals remotely, though, due to internet latency, they will not be able to play with their peers in real time while participating remotely.
 - In the event a faculty member must enter quarantine during the program, new technologies employed by the School will enable them to coach live rehearsals remotely. If the faculty member is too ill to coach the session, the School will provide a substitute or reschedule the session at a time convenient to all ensemble participants.

Option 2: 10-Week Spring Online Chamber Music Session for Wind, Brass, String and Piano Students beginning the Week of April 5

- **Schedule:**
 - Ten weekly coaching sessions of 45 or 60 minutes (see below for further info on session duration).
 - Beginning the week of April 5 and concluding the week of June 8 or June 15 (depending on the day of the week coaching sessions are scheduled).
 - Day and time of coaching sessions to be determined by student and instructor availability.
- **Final project:**

Online ensembles will prepare a recording that will be shared on a chamber music program recital and/or one of the School's Performance Program recitals. The School will provide technology support to create the final virtual performance recording.
- **Might online ensembles 'convert' from online to in-person rehearsals?**
 - Only with the consent of all participants – students and faculty – and the availability of a suitable and safe rehearsal location. If these conditions are met, then, yes. However, **we caution against registering for online chamber music with the expectation that it will convert to in-person.**

Eligibility, Ensemble Levels, Durations and Tuition

- **Eligibility for Online and In-Person Chamber Music Ensembles:**
 - Chamber music – online and in-person - is available to all intermediate and advanced (NYSSMA Levels 2 and above) instrumental students.
 - Piano and string students may participate in online or in-person ensembles.
 - Woodwind and brass students may participate only in online ensembles.
- **Ensemble levels, session durations, and tuition for both Options 1 and 2:**
 - **Chamber Music I**
 - For students with ability equivalent to NYSSMA Level 2-4.
 - Coached sessions are 45 minutes in duration.
 - Tuition
 - Included in Full and Extended Comprehensive Enrollment Tiers. Some students may need to upgrade their enrollment tier*.
 - Available a la carte for \$400 for students not enrolled as Comprehensive Students at HBMS.
 - **Chamber Music II**
 - For students with ability equivalent to NYSSMA Level 4-6.
 - Coached sessions for trios and larger are 60 minutes in duration; sessions for duos are 45 minutes, with Honors Program duos at 60 minutes.
 - Tuition
 - Included in Full and Extended Comprehensive Enrollment Tiers. Some students may need to upgrade their enrollment tier*.
 - Available a la carte for \$460 for individuals not enrolled as Comprehensive Students at HBMS.

**The cost of upgrading from Core to Full Enrollment is \$250; the cost of upgrading from Full to Extended Enrollment is \$200.*

Placement and Registration

- **Placement and Registration Process:**
 - All students entering the Spring 2021 Chamber Music Program must complete the placement process prior to registering to ensure optimal ensemble placement.
 - Our chamber music ensemble placement process includes the following steps:
 - 1) Completion of the [Chamber Music Placement Form](#).
 - 2) Submission of a video (approximately 5 minutes in duration) that represents the student's current performance level. Repertoire choice is at the discretion of the student. A recently recorded performance is acceptable.
 - 3) Submission of an image (scan, .pdf or photograph) of the musical score of the recorded selection.
 - 4) Evaluation of the recording by faculty members representing strings, winds and piano.
 - 5) Follow up communication as needed with Chamber Music Program Director, Donna Elaine.
 - 6) Notification of ensemble placement by March 31.
 - 7) A Student and Faculty Services team member will contact you to complete your registration.

Please submit the video and musical score by March 5 to chambermusic@hbms.org.

Chamber Music Open House:

Want to learn more about Hoff-Barthelson's Chamber Music Program, speak to faculty, and hear from students? Join us at Saturday, February 27, 5:00 pm! [RSVP here](#).

FAQs

1) Why consider restoring chamber music instruction this spring, when there is still so much uncertainty about the course of the pandemic?

Most public health experts predict that COVID-19 vaccinations will not be broadly available until late spring or summer and that K-12 education will not return to "normal" until sometime next fall.

If accurate, these estimates could well mean that students will miss up to *18 months* of chamber music training at a critical period in their development. Months matter in the realms of music education and child and youth development. Gaps of even a semester can significantly disadvantage students; longer gaps can be extraordinarily difficult to overcome. The harms children and youth are experiencing are real and impel us to respond.

The trajectories of the winter surge and vaccine availability lead us to believe that starting the program in April provides the best opportunity to 1) operate safely in-person for those students wishing to do so, and 2) to maximize overall participation, which benefits all students by increasing the likelihood that each will be placed in ensembles with peers of comparable ages and levels of development.

2) What space will be used? What safety precautions will be in place?

All activities will be conducted in our largest available spaces—those on the first floor of our main building, as well as two studios in Helton House—all of which are served by air handling systems with MERV-13 filtration that circulates the air in each space at least 5.5 times per hour and are continuously ventilated with fresh air.

Maximum capacities in each space are set so that all participants can maintain at least 6' of distance from one another throughout the entirety of a coaching sessions.

All music stands, chairs, tables and high-touch surfaces will be sanitized before and after each rehearsal. No materials may be shared between students or between students and teachers at any time.

All participants will be required to wear facemasks at all times. *(This requirement prevents us from accommodating wind and brass students in in-person ensembles at this time. We continue to monitor developments in woodwind and brass instrument safety apparatuses [e.g., instrument bags] and look forward to accommodating wind and brass students in in-person instruction as soon as it is safe to do so.)*

To reduce the risk posed by COVID-19 aerosols, sessions will be limited to a maximum of one hour, with rooms not used for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each session to ensure at least three full air exchanges are completed in the room prior to the next students' arrival.

Health assessment forms will be completed by all participants prior to entering the rehearsal space.

No one with symptoms, possible exposure, etc., or with a member of their household in quarantine or isolation will be allowed to participate in-person until cleared by health professionals.

In the event an individual—student, staff, faculty member or family member—tests positive and is determined to have visited the facility during the period in which they may have been infectious, the administration will immediately consult with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) to initiate contact tracing, notify the HBMS community, and take other protective measures as recommended by the WCDOH.

Hoff-Barthelsson's safety guidelines were most recently updated on December 9; to learn more, [click here](#).

3) What must external conditions be in order for these programs to run?

With the above-described safety measures in place, programs will operate as scheduled. However, should New York State designate Scarsdale as an **Orange** or **Red Zone**, as defined by the State's [Micro-Cluster Framework](#), in-person chamber music will shift online until such designation is lifted.