



Hoff-Barthelson Music School

DEVELOPING POTENTIAL, ENRICHING LIVES AND CREATING COMMUNITY SINCE 1944

WELCOMING ALL AGES

A tradition of excellence since 1944

Virginia Hoff and Joyce Barthelson believed that the joy of music and the skills to perform it should be available to everyone. When these two gifted musicians founded Hoff-Barthelson Music School in 1944, they built a legacy that has touched the lives of thousands: a warm, friendly music school dedicated to the highest standards of education, performance, and community service.

Today, a commitment to creativity, collaboration, and community permeates the School. Students of all ages, aptitudes, and levels of interest—from casual learners to students preparing to pursue careers in music, from 9-month-olds in our Early Childhood Program to recent retirees returning to music making after decades devoted to pursuing careers and raising children—all enjoy these benefits:

A supportive, joyful learning environment. We inspire students to develop their full creative potential by pursuing their love of music with peers, friends, family members, and teachers.

A focus on the whole person. Developing musical skill, understanding, and appreciation goes hand in hand with nurturing valuable learning and life skills. Problem-solving abilities, fine and gross motor skills, self-confidence, peer relationships, focus and organization, teamwork, and more are strengthened through high-quality music education.

Exceptional teaching. Our faculty—drawn from the region’s most talented teachers and performers—excel at meeting individual needs, developing artistic and human potential, and inspiring achievement for students of all levels of ability.

A multifaceted curriculum. Our comprehensive approach deepens and accelerates musical development through individualized private instruction; classroom instruction in music theory, sight-singing, and music history; frequent performance opportunities, including workshops, master classes with visiting artists, recitals, and festivals; and ongoing assessment of student progress.

We invite you to explore this catalog to learn more about the exciting opportunities Hoff-Barthelson offers everyone to learn, create, and perform.

Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year. We take great care to assess each student’s particular interests and needs before assigning teachers, classes, and ensembles. Interested in joining us? The first step for students and families is to request a placement meeting with a member of our registration team. This is not an audition, but a welcoming introduction to Hoff-Barthelson’s individualized approach to music education. To arrange a meeting, contact us at 914-723-1169 or hb@hbms.org.

Welcome to Hoff-Barthelson—your community music school!



Ken Cole
Executive Director



Christopher Kenniff
Dean



Kathryn Jones
Associate Dean

As one of Westchester’s leading nonprofit arts institutions, Hoff-Barthelson Music School is chartered by the Board of Regents of the State University of New York and is a member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education and ArtsWestchester. Hoff-Barthelson depends on contributions to sustain our dual commitments to access and excellence. We receive financial support from many sources, including individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies including ArtsWestchester, the Westchester Community Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts.



Early Childhood Program



Young children respond naturally to music. With spontaneous delight, they listen intently, sing along, and move to the beat. At Hoff-Barthelson, our teachers build on these early inclinations, inspiring a deep enjoyment of music while guiding the development of music-making skills.

Our Early Childhood Program encourages and supports the development of children's minds and bodies through Dalcroze Eurhythmics, a renowned teaching method that pairs music and movement.



Weekly classes for children aged 9 months- to 5-years-old incorporate exercises and games that involve singing, moving, improvising, and using small percussion instruments to promote keen inner hearing and rhythmic sensitivity. Props such as colorful balls, hoops, scarves, and puppets animate musical concepts and engage the senses and imagination. Even the very youngest children develop focus, spatial awareness, fine and gross motor skills, social skills, and the ability to work with others—all while having fun!

Adult-Child Classes serve our youngest students (9 months to 3 years) who develop joyful bonds with their caregivers as they sing together, listen, and move with the music. **Child-Only Classes** are for children aged 3 and up who are ready to attend music class independently.

Older 3-year-olds through kindergarten students may take the first steps in learning to play an instrument in hands-on **First Instrument and Pre-Suzuki Classes**. Group classes in piano, violin, flute and guitar introduce the joy of making music with others while teaching basic playing technique, and foundational musical concepts.

Suzuki Program



The Suzuki method is an internationally renowned music curriculum and teaching philosophy created by Japanese violinist and pedagogue Shinichi Suzuki (1898–1998). Suzuki’s system, also known as Talent Education, is based upon his observation that children learn their native language quickly—even dialects that adults consider hard to master. He reasoned that given this innate ability, children could learn music in the same way.

Suzuki’s approach emphasizes the creation of a musical learning environment at home, listening, repetition, encouragement, learning with other children, small steps, parental involvement, and an unforced timetable for learning based on each child’s developmental readiness to imitate examples and internalize principles. Central to Suzuki’s approach is the belief that education is about developing human potential as well as musical skill.

Suzuki instruction follows a sequential, multi-tiered approach that takes students from novice to advanced levels of skill. It combines listening, proper technique and posture, positive reinforcement, and active adult involvement. Suzuki students begin to read music after they have developed sensitivity to listening and a firm foundation in instrumental technique. Ongoing parent education is a vital component of Suzuki instruction.

At Hoff-Barthelson, we offer Suzuki instruction to beginning 4- to 7-year-olds studying violin, viola, cello, and piano. Guitar and flute also are taught using a modified Suzuki format, combining aspects of Suzuki and traditional pedagogy.

Young beginners and their families are invited to enroll directly in the Suzuki program of their choice. Those who are uncertain of their child’s readiness for instrumental instruction are invited to enroll in one of our First Instrument Classes which transition naturally into Suzuki and traditional teaching methods.

Our Suzuki Program includes 32 private lessons, a weekly group class, one weekly musicianship class or ensemble (excluding chamber music), and a weekly class for parents.

K-12 Program



Hoff-Barthelson Music School designs an individualized, comprehensive course of study for each student based on interests, needs, and preferred learning styles. We focus on the whole person, accelerating musical growth and individual development. Through their musical studies, our students also build valuable learning and life skills—e.g., critical thinking, problem solving, self-discipline, determination, self-confidence, and collaboration.

Students learn under the guidance of distinguished faculty, who encourage them to explore their musical ideas and creative potential in a friendly and supportive environment. Instruction is grounded in Western classical and jazz traditions, and many students study popular and musical theater works as well. We welcome everyone—from casual learners to students preparing for careers in music.

Our comprehensive K–12 curriculum for ages 4 through 18 combines six elements of music instruction into one comprehensive package: private lessons, musicianship classes, ensembles, performance opportunities, accompaniment service, and regular progress reports.

Designed for flexibility, **our comprehensive program offers three tiers** allowing students to select the level best suited to their interest:

- **CORE:** The Core Program includes 32 private lessons, and one weekly class or ensemble (excluding a chamber music ensemble).
- **FULL:** The Full Program includes 32 private lessons and two weekly classes or ensembles.
- **EXTENDED:** The Extended Program includes 32 private lessons and unlimited weekly classes or ensembles.
- **SUZUKI:** Our Suzuki Program includes 32 private lessons, a weekly group class and one weekly musicianship class or ensemble (excluding chamber music), and a weekly class for parents.

Students who take private lessons outside of the School may enroll in our group classes and ensembles on an a la carte basis.



Private Lesson Program

Weekly lessons are at the core of our curriculum for students at all levels. We offer lessons in more than 20 instruments and voice for two 16-week semesters during the academic year, as well as our flexible Summer Session in June and July. Students are expertly matched with teachers through our welcoming and friendly placement interview process.

Accompaniment Service

Woodwind, brass, string, and voice students work with world-class accompanists from the beginning of their studies—a key component of our comprehensive approach to music learning. Hearing one's solo line in context, with the accompaniment “wrapped around” it, is tremendously advantageous to students at all levels of development. Not only that, rehearsing and performing regularly with a professional accompanist is highly motivating and hugely fun!

Musicianship Program

Our comprehensive, sequential musicianship program is designed to develop and deepen students’ understanding of music. Instruction is provided in subject areas central to musical development: theory, aural skills, analysis, composition, improvisation, and more. The pairing of musicianship classes with private lessons greatly accelerates students’ progress.

Progress Program

At Hoff-Barthel, we believe that each student benefits when their progress—skill development, knowledge acquisition, and the blossoming of musical appreciation—is assessed at regular intervals. Through periodic assessments, students, teachers, and families can celebrate accomplishments and identify skills and habits needing more focus. Students receive progress reports each semester from their private lesson teachers, and, beginning at the Upper Elementary level, their musicianship teachers as well. Verbal and written critiques of students’ performances during workshops and recitals are shared with their private lesson teachers, as well as parents. Students also have access to advising from HBMS deans on individualized courses of study, effective practice, external performance opportunities, college applications, and more.

Performance Program

Year-round performance workshops and recital opportunities complement individual instruction and introduce students to the joy of performance. Frequent performance opportunities in multiple formats are a highlight of learning at Hoff-Barthelson. Each year, we present more than 180 recitals and concerts by students, faculty, and guest artists. Our emphasis on performance at all ability levels fuels musical growth and personal development. Performing a piece before an audience, whether solo or with a group, strengthens self-confidence and communication skills.

Workshops

Performance workshops, offered several times a week, provide students with opportunities to practice performing in front of small groups of peers and teachers; experiment with musical ideas; give and receive feedback; and iron out wrinkles in a relaxed setting before performing in more formal student recitals or master classes.

Recitals

Formal recital opportunities are offered several times each week, enabling students to perform the music they're working on as soon as they're ready, rather than waiting until the end of the semester as is often the case at other schools. As a result, students learn to enjoy performing in public and often end up far ahead of their peers studying elsewhere.

Audition-Based Performance Opportunities

Twice-yearly music festivals—our *Festival in Style* in March, focused on the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods, and the *Music of Our Time* Festival in May—are open to students who undertake and pass a rigorous audition process. Auditions are open to students and ensembles of all ages with their teacher's recommendation. The audition experience, regardless of the outcome, helps students develop positive habits around meeting deadlines, handling pressure, accepting criticism, learning the value of hard work, and sometimes even accepting disappointment—all valuable life skills.



Master Classes

Advanced students may participate in master classes conducted by world-renowned guest artists each year. Chamber ensembles may be chosen to receive coaching from New York Philharmonic musicians during the annual *Elaine Stamas Chamber Music Residency*. By working with distinguished teaching artists in master classes, students benefit from specialized training and constructive feedback that help them perfect their performance practices. Recent master class presenters have included violinist Midori; cellists Carter Brey and Natasha Brofsky; flutist Paula Robison; clarinetist Anthony McGill; pianists Richard Goode and Garrick Ohlsson; soprano Dawn Upshaw; and jazz legend Dick Hyman.

Holiday Music Festival

The Holiday Music Festival, presented each December, marks the start of the holiday season. The Festival is a weekend-long celebration featuring performances by the School's instrumental and vocal ensembles and instrument clubs.

Concerts for the Community

Hoff-Barthelson students perform for hundreds of older adults each year through recitals presented at area nursing homes and senior centers.

Ensembles Program

From the earliest stages of proficiency, students are encouraged to join one or more of the School's ensembles or instrument clubs. Orchestral, choral, jazz, and chamber ensembles enliven music learning, enhance private lessons, and provide the unique pleasure of performing with peers. Through their participation, students also learn the value of collective effort and develop leadership and teamwork skills. Each group performs periodically throughout the year.



Youth Orchestras

Hoff-Barthelson is the only community music school in Westchester with a four-tiered orchestral pyramid, culminating in a full symphonic orchestra for high school students at the highest level of technical ability and musical artistry. Students hone their technical skills and musical sensibilities in Young People's Symphonette, Chamber Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble in preparation for membership in the audition-only Festival Orchestra.

Chamber Music

Hoff-Barthelson's Chamber Music Program offers small ensemble experience to intermediate and advanced instrumentalists and pianists. The program is open to students who maintain the highest standard of dedication, commitment, and attendance.

Piano Ensembles

The Piano Ensembles program is available for intermediate to advanced piano students who would like to develop ensemble and sightreading skills as well as enjoy the social and emotional benefits of participating in music-making with others. The curriculum is focused on the development of skills necessary for playing in a mixed (piano/winds/strings) chamber music ensemble.

Choruses

Choral groups at Hoff-Barthelson provide opportunities for students to develop their musicianship, ensemble skills,

and vocal talents. Through our four-tiered choral program, vocal ensembles are available to K-12 students at all levels of advancement.

Chimes and Handbells

Chime and handbell ensembles provide opportunities for students to develop their musicianship and ensemble skills while experiencing the joy of making music with others.

Jazz Ensembles

Jazz ensembles explore improvisation and performance techniques essential to jazz, rock, and a variety of music styles. Parts are individually tailored to the skill level of the participants. Available to early intermediate, intermediate, and advanced players, ages 10 through adult.

Instrument Clubs

In popular weekly instrument clubs, students studying the same instrument or family of instruments play and perform together under the guidance of an experienced teacher. Through the Flute and Viola Clubs and The Westchester Double Reed Band, students of different ages and levels of advancement develop instrumental technique, explore core repertoire, and learn to mentor each other in their musical development. Clubs are open to all students looking for a supportive, social, high quality music learning experience, regardless of their primary instrument of study.

Additional Opportunities

Honors Program

The Honors Program for gifted and committed students, selected through auditions, has produced prize-winning performers in national and international competitions. The program is designed for students 12 years or older who have been enrolled in private lessons for at least two semesters, have been recommended by their teacher, and are motivated, committed, and working up to their potential. Honors Program students are required to perform stylistically diverse programs for a faculty jury in special recitals at the end of each semester. To ensure a well-rounded music education, students also take musicianship classes, attend professional performances, and participate in HBMS ensembles.

Graduation Certificate Program

Students may earn a Graduate Certificate by presenting a Graduation Recital.

Summer Arts Program

Hoff-Barthelson Music School is the ideal setting for a stimulating, challenging, and fun-filled summer arts program for students entering grades 1-10. Students at all levels try new instruments, gain proficiency on instruments they already play, experiment musically, take daily group lessons, discover new musical styles, and perform each week, all while forming lasting friendships.

Students choose programs tailored to their individual needs and interests. Offerings include group instrumental instruction, orchestra, chamber music, chorus, jazz and popular music, music technology, piano for non-pianists, world drumming, chimes, musicianship, eurhythmics, drama, and visual arts. Our exceptional faculty members—top performers and music educators—provide personalized attention to each student.



Adult Program



Students of all ages find a musical home at Hoff-Barthelson, and adults are no exception. The high quality of our faculty and the warm, welcoming atmosphere for which Hoff-Barthelson is known, have attracted a wide following of adults eager to develop their musical skills and explore classical, jazz, and popular repertoire at all levels of advancement.

Lessons, group classes, jazz and vocal ensembles, chamber music, musicianship courses, and performance opportunities enable adults to discover new talents and interests and build on existing skills. Private lessons are available on more than 20 instruments and voice over 16-week fall and spring semesters and a flexible Summer Session in June and July. Adults may sign up for lessons weekly, every other week, or make other arrangements that best suit their schedules.

Musicianship classes that deepen a learner's appreciation and understanding of music through the study of music theory, the development of aural skills, and analysis of repertoire are also available to our adult learners as well as special lectures and seminars. These classes are great places to form friendships with other music lovers.

Performance Opportunities

Sharing music with others can be fun—but sometimes anxiety provoking! Our Informal Adult Performance Workshops and Musicales are opportunities to make music in a relaxed, supportive and social environment.

Faculty

Hoff-Barthelson's faculty comprises some of the nation's most distinguished performers and educators. Many hold chairs in prominent New York orchestras, are members of world-class chamber ensembles, perform in major Broadway productions, and are in international demand as solo artists. Others teach at leading conservatories including The Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, and Juilliard Pre-College. These superb musicians contribute to the School's national recognition for unsurpassed excellence in music education. Hoff-Barthelson prides itself on providing access to these outstanding artist-educators in the heart of Westchester. Full biographies of HBMS faculty members are available at <https://hbms.org/faculty>.

Financial Aid

Hoff-Barthelson Music School welcomes need-based financial aid applications for students of all ages and levels of advancement. Decisions regarding the amount of aid awarded are based on the amount of funds available, demonstrated financial need, an individual's commitment to music education, an applicant's contribution or potential contribution to the HBMS Community, and the number of applications received. Funding is limited; early application is encouraged. For complete information about the financial aid program and to download an application, visit <https://hbms.org/register/financial-aid/>.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of Hoff-Barthelson is a parent and volunteer association for the Music School. Friends assist with events throughout the year that nurture a supportive and welcoming environment, create opportunities for community involvement for students and families, and support faculty and programming of the highest caliber.

Participating in Friends activities is an excellent way to get to know other HBMS parents, families, faculty, and staff. To learn more about specific opportunities to get involved, contact us at friends@hbms.org.



Hoff-Barthelson Music School inspires and develops each student's potential through excellence in music education with a commitment to creativity, collaboration, and community.



Hoff-Barthelson Music School

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