



CRESCENT CITY STRING ACADEMY

## **CRESCENT CITY STRING ACADEMY HANDBOOK**

Dwight Fitch, Fine Arts Director

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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## MISSION

The mission of Crescent City String Academy is to provide a high-quality comprehensive and diverse string program for young students in the greater New Orleans community in the areas of violin, viola, cello, and bass. The CCSA is committed to guiding students from the earliest stages of their development through the highest levels of artistry. In the pursuit of excellence, the program aims to enrich the lives of students and develop creative and confident leaders through perpetuating cultural diversity, intellectual curiosity, spiritual growth, discipline, respect, and appreciation for the arts.

## CURRICULUM

**Beginners Program:** The beginners program is designed for students age ranging from 5 to 18 years old who are starting their string training for the first time, or playing for less than two years. Students are offered both private lessons and group classes. The curriculum for the group lessons includes group review of culturally significant pieces.

**Young Artist Program:** The Young Artist Program is designed for talented and motivated Pre-College students. Students are selected through an audition process. Once selected, students are offered private lessons, chamber music classes, and masterclasses with string faculty and guest artists.

**Adult Program:** The Adult program is designed for adults seeking to deepen their appreciation and understanding for music and string instruments. Students are offered Private lessons, chamber music classes, and Music Appreciation workshops.

The **private lessons** are by arrangement with the private teacher. The curriculum for the **group lessons** and **chamber music classes** includes group review of culturally significant pieces.

**The program takes place from September-December in the Fall semester, and from January-May in the Spring semester.** Private lessons are also available throughout the summer and are highly encouraged (made available upon request).

\* Before enrolling in the CCSA, be prepared to commit to the program for one year.

Learning a string instrument is a difficult pursuit that requires perseverance, persistence, and dedication, which are the qualities we wish to instill in our students. Learning the violin set up and care, how to produce a good sound, the music theory principles, and how to play with peers require consistent practice and a positive attitude. Anything worth doing is worth doing well, and this takes time. If you decide to discontinue at any time, **at least 2 weeks notice** to Dwight Fitch is required.

## **EXPECTATION OF PARENTS**

It is encouraged that parents be actively involved in the learning process of beginning-level students and attend all private lessons and practice with his/her child **every day**. Positive parental involvement plays an important role in the student's success in our program!

## **PRIVATE LESSONS & ATTENDANCE**

The Crescent City String Academy offers one-on-one 30 min, 45 min and 1 hour private lessons for violin, viola, cello, and bass on a weekly basis at the Crescent City Christian School.

**ATTENDANCE:** In the event that the instructor misses a lesson, that lesson will be rescheduled for another agreed upon time. If the rescheduling isn't possible, you will be credited the cost of the missed lesson. There are no guaranteed make-up lessons for lessons missed by the student for any reason. Lessons may be made up at the instructor's discretion and availability if possible and deemed best without guarantee. However, the full monthly tuition is still required. Therefore, it is imperative that lessons appointments be kept as scheduled. The full monthly tuition is required during the holidays when the School of Fine Arts is closed and lessons are not given: the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Mardi Gras, and Easter.

## **GROUP LESSONS & ATTENDANCE**

Group lessons provide the opportunity for students to perform together as a group. Students learn musical and interpersonal technical skills, as they learn to listen and watch each other, sometimes leading and other times following. They develop leadership skills, self-confidence, and a flexible mindset as they learn new ideas together.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students must arrive in group classes in a timely manner, and bring their instruments, music, pencil, and all instrument accessories. Students may not participate in the remaining group class and final performance if they have more than **four (4) unexcused absences or arrive late to more than four (4) occasions.**

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

Solo recitals are held once each semester. All students are expected to remain for the entire length of the recital. The String Orchestra concerts are held once each semester. Date and times of both events are to be determined.