

STUDENT HANDBOOK



BAKERVIEW MUSIC ACADEMY 2022-2023

Tuesday & Thursday after school:
Drop off 2:45-3:15 PM - Pick up 5:15-5:30 PM
2285 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, BC

www.bakerviewmusic.ca

Who is ready to make music?

Welcome to BMA's 2022-2023 season!



We are excited to welcome you to the 2022-2023 season at the Bakerview Music Academy! BMA exists because we believe that learning to make great music together is a wonderful way for our students to grow and flourish, not only as musicians, but in every aspect of their lives.

When we learn to make great music together, we learn to be great community together. We learn to inspire each other, encourage each other, and challenge each other to reach further.

Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Heidi Epp, Program Director



Music matters! Here's why:

A recent study regarding the impact of an El Sistema after-school orchestral music program in Manitoba found that children enrolled performed better academically and socially after two years of music.

Researchers also found, "familial members feel more connected through music which is calming and stress reducing. Children and their families have sustained, numerous opportunities to form new friendships; they mix and interact socially through concerts and special events. Families with children in the orchestra are experiencing an increased sense of inclusion within the school community and some are now volunteering."

(SOURCE: *Music for Social Justice: Impacts of an El Sistema After-School Orchestral Music Program in Manitoba*, Francine Morin, PH.D, Feb. 23, 2021 Prepared for Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Seven Oaks School Division, & Winnipeg School Division)



Expectations for BMA Families

It's very important that families are ready to help support their children in keeping up their commitments for BMA! Please carefully read the following information about attendance, classroom conduct, practice at home, and Covid-19 safety.

Success at BMA depends on very consistent attendance.

Due to our incredibly faithful and generous private and corporate donors, we are proud to be able to offer each of our students a **full bursary** to attend our program.

As the proud recipient of a bursary to learn music at BMA, we expect you to invest that same kind of generosity with your commitment and dedication.

Attendance Expectations:

- We expect students to attend every class day, on time (we know some families travel from across the city or students attend schools with later dismissals – those are exceptions).
- **Too much homework is not an excuse to skip BMA class!** Schoolwork is very important. If you are struggling to keep up with your schoolwork, talk with us about it. Let's problem solve together. **DON'T MISS CLASSES.** That is not a solution.
- You have accepted a full bursary of \$2,500 to learn music with BMA, so music should be the top priority for your extracurricular activities.
- If a student will be missing from classes at BMA for any reason, it is important that we know this in advance. This is for safety reasons as well as a practice of respect.
- There can be no unexplained absences at BMA. Consistent unexplained absences may result in a student's dismissal from BMA.
- There can be no more than four total absences in a semester.
- Special arrangements under serious circumstances may be negotiated in some cases, but consistent attendance is very important and required to perform in concerts and attend BMA.

ABSENT? LATE? SICK?

If your student is going to be late or absent, or if your student is unwell, please text or call our administrator, Ms. Karen:

604-556-6548

You can also email her at:

info@bakerviewmusic.ca

Students who are arriving late must report to Ms. Karen on their way into class. We keep track of attendance for reasons of safety.

Reporting late or absent students is also important for the smooth operation of our El-Sistema inspired music program.

Additionally, we must also report attendance statistics to the Bakerview Music Academy Society Board as they are responsible to grant funders and donors for how funds are being used to operate our program.

We are grateful for the support of all our donors and grant organizations. Last year, BMA received a one-time grant from the Abbotsford Community Foundation Smart & Caring Community Fund to fund Special Education Assistant position.



ABBOTSFORD
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Participating in the Classroom

The best and most fun way to learn is to participate with enthusiasm!

Listen, focus, and do your best – understanding that mistakes are part of learning. Our attitude is the key to making the most of even our mistakes.

Of course, none of us are perfect, and we understand that everyone has easy days – even great days – as well as days when we struggle hard for any number of reasons.

You can tell us by text, email, or in person at drop off, “handle with care” if your student has had a rough day. We don’t need to know specifics to understand.

We ask our students to do the very best they can while they are in their classes at BMA. This is not only for themselves, but for each other!

Our goal is for students to learn to encourage and support each other, choosing kindness as much as possible.

BMA Staff:

BMA Junior – Ms Jenn
Cello – Mrs. Ruthanne
Choir – Mr. van Liempt
Violin/Viola – Mr. Chris
Musicianship – Sessional artists

Program Director – Ms. Heidi
Administrator – Ms. Karen
SEA – Ms. Val
Food coordinator – Ms. Jane

Assistant Teaching Artists:

Mr. Elan
Ms. Jayne
Mr. Julin
Ms. Katie
Mr. Tobias

Classroom Assistant:

Mr. Zack

BMA hires professional music teaching artists



In the Classroom

All of us at BMA care about our students and pay attention to their progress.

We will communicate with families about the progress of their student(s), celebrating their successful moments musically as well as personally.

We will also communicate with parents regarding regularly disruptive behaviour and how we are identifying and holding boundaries to account.

BMA is committed to working with families as much as possible to help their child(ren) succeed.

Please review these points with your student(s):

- BMA Students are expected to cooperate and participate fully in their classes.
- No cell phones are permitted during music academy.** Students are required to store devices when they arrive. If you need to reach your student during academy hours, contact Ms. Karen or Ms. Heidi.
- Students will allow teachers to lead the class without distractions. This gives themselves and their classmates the best opportunity to learn.
- Consistently disruptive behaviour may result in a student's dismissal from BMA. Unsafe behaviour could result in immediate expulsion.
- Students whose behaviour consistently shows they are not ready to be part of the Academy may need to try again another year.

At Home

Home practice expectations for our BMA Senior students (Juniors should just have fun showing family and friends what they've been learning):

Learning an instrument requires regular practice. BMA provides valuable instruments for our students to take home for practice, and we expect our BMA Seniors to practice regularly.

Remember, the first time you play something in your practice, you are saying hello to a friend. The second time you play it, you are remembering where you left off. The third time you play it is when you start to make progress.

- BMA Seniors should practice at home for 20 minutes at least three times a week. (Daily practice for 10-15 minutes works – more ambitious? Aim for 30 minutes daily.)
- Practice should be fun – “Show me what you’re learning.” The idea is progress, not perfection. Play for a pet or over the phone or Skype to a relative or friend! Just play.
- Try setting a timer. We have to eat every day – and we can practice every day! It’s only 10 (or 20 or 30) minutes out of 24 hours (1,440 minutes if you do the math!).
- It can be helpful to say, “When you have practiced you can do X, Y, or Z” rather than “If you practice” because “if” implies practice is negotiable.

Music Jokes



BMA students having fun during snack 2019-2020

What is allregretto?

A tempo you regret taking about three bars into a piece!

Why did Mozart get rid of his chickens?

"They kept saying, "Bach! Bach!"

What is the difference between a fish & a piano?

You can't tuna fish.

What part of the turkey is musical?

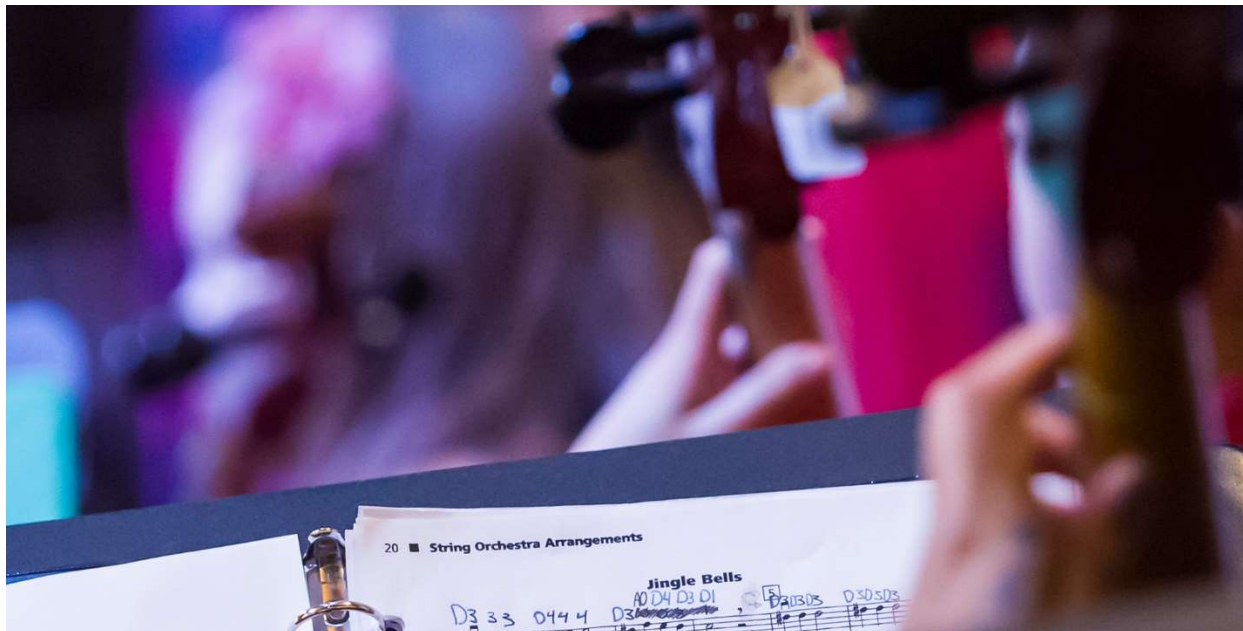
The drumstick!

What music makes balloons afraid?

Pop music!



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Ways to Be Involved in BMA

The success of our program depends on the support of the Abbotsford community. We can use parent help with:

- Walking school bus from local schools.
- Carpool to get students to and from BMA.
- Fundraising support. Do you have ideas? We'd like to hear them! And we need parents to help us run our annual Choose Joy Walkathon.
- Set up for recitals twice a year.
- Filming or photography.
- Chaperoning / supervising at public events, off-site student performances, and field trips.
- Setting up or cleaning up from snack.

All volunteers who work directly with youth at BMA must undergo a Criminal Record Check at the expense of BMA to ensure that our students are with safe adults. Want to help? Let Ms. Karen and Ms. Heidi know!



Safety: Covid-19 & Other Communicable Diseases

We ask that families and caregivers assess their child(ren) for key symptoms of illness – for any communicable diseases.

As a reminder, if your child is experiencing symptoms of any communicable illness, they should stay home.

If the symptoms persist or worsen, seek a health assessment. If you test positive for Covid, please let us know as a precaution.

*“Teach children the
beauty of music and
music will teach
them the beauty
of life.”*

*- Dr. Jose Antonio Abreu,
Founder of El Sistema*

