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The Blair School of Music serves as the focal point within Vanderbilt University for the study of music as a human endeavor and as a performing art. Music offers to all persons a medium for the expression of the human spirit. Accordingly, the Blair School of Music addresses music through a broad array of academic, pedagogical, and performing activities. Consistent with the mission of Vanderbilt University, the School maintains and promotes the highest standards in the pursuit of scholarly and creative work, in the delivery of instruction, and in the promotion of professional and public service.

In its scholarly and creative work, the Blair School of Music proposes to advance the discovery of knowledge, to expand the horizons of musical expression, to promote academic excellence, and to sustain an environment supporting these pursuits by faculty and students.

Pedagogically, the Blair School is committed to providing superior musical instruction to precollegiate and adult students in the environs of Nashville, Tennessee; stimulating classroom and studio instruction to collegiate music majors and minors; and, to the students of Vanderbilt University at large, an array of academically rigorous, culturally enriching courses appropriate to one of the nation’s leading institutions of higher learning.

In its commitment to professional and public service, the Blair School of Music contributes to the cultural and intellectual life of Vanderbilt University and throughout the region through concerts, lectures, and recitals by faculty members and students, and by providing a forum for visiting artists, scholars, and composers.
GENERAL INFORMATION

A HISTORY OF THE BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Blair School has been a vital part of Nashville’s musical life from its inception in 1964, and it maintains as its mission excellence in teaching music to persons of all ages, providing the training essential for a performing career or for an enriching and creative avocation. The school was established by the Justin and Valere Potter Foundation through a bequest of Valere Blair Potter in memory of her mother, Myra Jackson Blair. First a division of George Peabody College, Blair School became a private, independent institution and was accredited as a non-degree-granting school by the National Association of Schools of Music in 1977. In 1981, the school merged with Vanderbilt University. Studies leading to the Bachelor of Music degree are available, as are a wide variety of courses for the general university student.

FACULTY

Blair School of Music is home to internationally known faculty members who are highly respected for performance, composition, conducting, and scholarly endeavors, as well as for their dedication to teaching. The faculty has a reputation for personal excellence and for its commitment to students as developing musicians and as human beings. The concept of a precollege “division” is foreign to Blair’s philosophy. Many faculty members teach both precollegiate and university students, valuing greatly their involvement with both—a situation unique among music schools in this country. Many faculty members concertize nationally and internationally and have recorded on a variety of labels. For a list of current faculty members and their biographical information, please visit the Blair website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Blair School of Music generally follows the academic-year schedule of the university, with fall and spring semesters and a ten-week summer session. Precollege and adult semesters are one week longer than the university semesters. The precollege and adult brochure describing semester offerings is published three times a year. Current offerings are posted on the Precollege and Adult Program area of the Blair website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

THE PRECOLLEGE PROGRAM

INSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- A precollege student is a child (infant–19 years) who has not graduated from high school or the home-school equivalent.

- Blair offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments and in piano, organ, harpsichord, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, banjo, dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin, steel drum, a variety of jazz instruments, and voice.

- Kindermusik is a program offered to young children (infants to age 5) with their caregivers.

- Suzuki instruction is available in violin and cello. Suzuki-based instruction is available in piano.

- Group performance instruction is available in piano, fiddle, and dulcimer.

- Class instruction includes music theory, music history and literature, musicianship, Alexander Technique, and collaborative piano.

- The Blair Children’s Chorus Program, the Nashville Youth Orchestra Program, and the Blair Suzuki Program provide ensemble training.

- Chamber music ensembles provide collaborative music training, contingent upon establishment of a compatible group of adequate size.
• Other ensembles, including steel drum and African drumming, are often open to precollege and/or adult students.

• Academic courses are offered in music history, theory, musicianship, and Alexander Technique.

THE ADULT PROGRAM

The Blair adult education program offers a wide array of courses in a variety of music disciplines and genres for both the general student and the serious musician. Adult students are defined as students above high school age who are not receiving university credit for courses taken at Blair.

Blair offers instruction in the following:

• **Individual Performance Instruction**—Blair offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments and in piano, organ, harpsichord, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, banjo, dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin, steel drum, a variety of jazz instruments, voice, and composition.
• **Group Instruction**—Group instruction is available in piano, percussion, steel pan, guitar, and fiddle.

• **Ensemble Instruction**—Vanderbilt Community Chorus is open to the community. Auditions are held by appointment; contact the ensemble director. Two or three concerts are held each year, often accompanied by orchestra. For more information, visit the chorus’ website at vanderbilt.edu/community-chorus.

• **Classroom Instruction**—Classes offered include music theory, musicianship, songwriting, music history and literature (a wide variety of offerings), and Alexander Technique.

**GENERAL POLICIES**

**AUDITIONS AND PLACEMENT**

All new private lesson students schedule a placement interview with faculty prior to their first registration. Current information regarding interviews is available on the Blair website or by calling the Blair Office of Academic Services at (615) 322-7651.

Requests for specific private teachers are honored whenever feasible. If a teacher change is desired, this must be discussed with the current teacher. Lessons on two instruments concurrently should be discussed with both teachers to determine if there is sufficient time and motivation to sustain study at appropriate levels in both areas. Students enrolling for theory classes are tested for placement. Students wishing to enroll in music history or musicianship classes should contact the instructor.
REGISTRATION AND FEES

Students must register each term before receiving instruction. Fees are due at the time of registration, but may be paid over the entire semester if a signed deferment form is completed. Fee adjustments are made for students entering late in the semester. Refunds are not made after the first week of classes.

See the current precollege and adult brochures for tuition and registration information. Current offerings may be found online on the Precollege and Adult Program page at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

All student account balances must be paid in full before the student may register for subsequent semesters.

ABSENCES

If a student must miss a lesson, the teacher should be notified as far in advance as possible. Faculty members are not required to reschedule lessons cancelled by students. Lessons or classes cancelled by faculty members will be rescheduled. As a general policy, the school is not closed for inclement weather. A faculty member who is unable to travel will notify students and reschedule lessons or classes.

LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

All students enrolled in the Precollege and Adult Program at Blair may use materials, equipment, and resources housed in the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library. Materials available for four-week checkout include books, CDs, DVDs, chamber music parts, and scores. Students must fill out an application, available at the library’s service desk, in order to obtain a library card. If a student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also sign the library card application.

The Music Library is an academic library that exists for study, listening/viewing, and research purposes. Special events for precollege students are held annually. A library area is devoted to precollege books and materials, and several computers are configured with precollege students in mind.

Music Library staff are available at the service desk to assist students in using the Music Library and with learning about the music research process.
Precollege students are expected to follow library policies and behave in a courteous manner. Young students should be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. Failure to abide by these guidelines can result in the loss of library privileges.

REPORTS

Performances, examinations, semester reports, and classroom grade reports are an important part of the Blair program. During performance examinations, students perform for a faculty committee. Those exam critiques and semester written reports provide an evaluation of progress, suggestions for improvement, and important communications from the school to students and parents. Precollege classes have regular assignments and examinations as well. Adults and very young children generally do not play performance examinations, and many adult program classes do not give assignments or tests.
STUDENT CONDUCT

Students of all ages fill the hallways and rooms of the Blair School to practice, perform, and study music. All students are expected to act responsibly and courteously throughout the building, including the hallways, practice rooms, and studios. Students who create excessive disturbance, or who disrupt the school’s teaching, performances, studying, or administration, may be dismissed from the school. No refunds will be granted upon dismissal.

DEFICIENCIES AND PROBATION

A precollege student whose progress is not satisfactory may be placed on probation for half a semester. If at the end of this period the quality of work has not improved to the satisfaction of the teacher, the student may not continue at the school. In the event of a dismissal, no refund will be given. Written notification is made in each case.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students in many high schools and home-school students can earn enrichment credit for instruction taken at Blair. Students must fulfill all requirements to the satisfaction of the teacher. Blair instruction for high school credit is coordinated through the Office of Academic Services. The student is responsible for determining his or her eligibility with the individual high school’s guidance counselor.

CUMULATIVE RECORDS

Formal documentation of all student work (the cumulative record) will be provided upon written request from student or guardian. Contact the Office of Academic Services. All student account balances at Blair must be paid in full before records will be released. At least one week’s notice is required to process a cumulative record.

Blair School abides by federal policies on student confidentiality. For more information on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), please refer to the back page of this catalog.
VANDERBILT PROTECTION OF MINORS PROVISION

The safety and security of students in our building is of the utmost importance. All Blair personnel undergo regular background checks. There is annual training on the Protection of Minors. Vanderbilt University personnel adhere to Tennessee state law on mandatory child abuse reporting to either the appropriate law enforcement agency or the state hotline operated by the Department of Children’s Services. In addition to external reporting, Vanderbilt has a mandatory internal child abuse reporting procedure. If you have reason to believe abuse or inappropriate behavior has occurred concerning a minor participating in a Vanderbilt University program, please consult the program director or Risk Management (615-322-5155) or report via the Vanderbilt hotline at (844) 814-5935. The Tennessee Child Abuse reporting hotline number is (877) 237-0004.

PARKING AT BLAIR

The Blair School maintains ten marked permit-only spots in Lot 103 on the west end of the building. These spaces are reserved for our youngest students—those age five and younger. Permits may be obtained in the main office at the time of registration.

Adult student parking is available at Blair only for students with a valid handicap parking sticker.

Precollege and adult student parking is also available after 3:30 p.m. daily at the Harris Hillman School across Blakemore Avenue. After 4:00 p.m. daily and on weekends, free parking is available in the West Garage, directly across Children’s Way from the Blair School’s main entrance.

THE PRECOLLEGE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Blair School of Music awards two certificates to high school seniors who have completed formal programs that encourage excellence in performance and knowledge of music theory and history—all essential elements for development of mature musicianship in advanced students. Myra Jackson Blair Scholarship students generally fulfill all or most of the Certificate Program requirements and are especially encouraged to participate in this program.
**Certificate Program at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Certificate of Merit</th>
<th>Certificate of Distinction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Achievement in Lessons and Performance Class</strong></td>
<td>Instrumental or Vocal study at Blair</td>
<td>Two years minimum (four semesters)</td>
<td>Three years minimum (six semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audition ranking</td>
<td>Intermediate rank</td>
<td>Achievement of “Advanced Level” rank by May of the junior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance Class participation (if offered)</td>
<td>Each semester enrolled in lessons</td>
<td>Each semester enrolled in lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solo Performance</strong></td>
<td>Studio recital performance</td>
<td>Each semester</td>
<td>Each semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-recital hearing</td>
<td>Successful completion required</td>
<td>Successful completion required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate recital</td>
<td>Minimum 20-minute public performance</td>
<td>Minimum 30-minute public performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensembles</strong></td>
<td>Large ensemble participation</td>
<td>As qualified</td>
<td>As qualified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chamber Music/ Collaborative Piano</td>
<td>One-year minimum (two semesters)</td>
<td>One year minimum (two semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>And participation in a recital</td>
<td>And participation in a recital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coursework</strong></td>
<td>Precollege Music Theory</td>
<td>Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*</td>
<td>Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music History</td>
<td>Year One (Two semesters)</td>
<td>Year One (Two semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year Two (Two semesters)*</td>
<td>Year Two (Two semesters)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recital attendance</td>
<td>Two faculty or professional concerts per semester</td>
<td>Two faculty or professional concerts per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
<td>Grade standards</td>
<td>Minimum B+ in class work and performance</td>
<td>Minimum B+ in class work and performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Certificates with Honors

Students that successfully complete at least Level 6 of precollege theory and two years of history are eligible to receive either the Certificate of Merit with Honors or the Certificate of Distinction with Honors.
Formal admission to the program. High school students are nominated for the program by the departmental faculty at the spring scholarship auditions. Letters of invitation are sent to those students who qualify for the program. Students who accept the nomination to join the program enter at the Certificate of Merit level (advanced intermediate). They may audition for the Certificate of Distinction level (advanced) in the spring of their high school junior year. Occasionally, a student may petition to audition for the Distinction level in the fall of the senior year.

Responsibilities. Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all requirements. The student should keep a personal record of study and accomplishment to supplement similar records being maintained by the studio teacher and Certificate Program coordinator. The student’s private teacher is the primary adviser throughout the program, selecting repertoire suitable for study, ensuring that all major periods and styles are covered, and determining when a student is qualified for the advanced audition. The Certificate Program Council determines policies and standards, working closely with the entire faculty in matters affecting the program.

Financial cost. There is no fee for participation. Total cost to the student will be the regular tuition for lessons and classes.

Requirements. An overview of each certificate is outlined on the previous page. More detailed information is available from the certificate coordinator, the Office of Academic Services, and the Blair Precollege and Adult Program Web page.

Scholarships

The Blair School of Music is privileged to award a number of merit and need-based scholarships to precollege students. All awards are for one year only and are based on a number of factors including performance at the scholarship audition, teacher recommendations, and financial need. Consequently, awards will vary from year to year. All students are expected to maintain at least a B average in their studies and must audition each year for scholarship consideration. Scholarship auditions are held each spring and are adjudicated by faculty committees. Scholarship applications are available in the main office at Blair and on the Blair website. Check the current application for deadline dates.
Honor Scholars, 2016/2017
Myra Jackson Blair Senior Scholarships. These honor scholarships are awarded annually by Blair School of Music to outstanding students in grades 8–12 who have been recommended by their teachers and who may aspire to careers in music. Auditions, held each spring, are adjudicated by faculty committees. Scholarships cover academic-year tuition for 45-minute private instruction, classes in music theory and music history, collaborative piano and/or participation in chamber music. Optional classes in musicianship and Alexander Technique may be covered by this scholarship. Myra Jackson Blair Senior Scholars must maintain at least a B average in each subject, perform in one MJB Honor Scholars Recital each fall, perform in two outreach concerts annually, and attend at least two professional or faculty concerts each semester. High school seniors perform in the spring MJB Graduating Senior Recital. These students are encouraged to participate in the Certificate Program. Eligible instrumentalists are required to audition for the Nashville Youth Orchestra Program and pianists are expected to take collaborative piano class or participate in chamber music for at least two semesters.

Myra Jackson Blair Junior Scholarships. These honor scholarships are awarded annually by Blair School of Music to outstanding students in grades 5–7 who have been recommended by their teachers and are serious about their music and musical study. Auditions, held each spring, are adjudicated by faculty committees. Scholarships cover academic-year tuition for 45-minute private instruction, and collaborative piano or chamber music. MJB Junior Scholars must maintain at least a B average in their lessons, attend one MJB Honor Scholars Recital each semester, perform in two outreach concerts annually, and attend at least two professional or faculty concerts each semester. Students entering grade 8 and older are not eligible for this award. Additionally, one MJB Scholarship award is made in honor of Roland Schneller and is presented annually to an outstanding young pianist in grades 4–6 who has been recommended by a Blair teacher. This scholarship covers partial tuition for private instruction.

Blair Guild Scholarships. High-achieving students who do not qualify for Myra Jackson Blair Scholarships but have demonstrated significant growth and skill in their performance and qualify for financial assistance may be awarded Blair Guild Scholarships in addition to other awards.

Blair Folk Instrument Scholarships. Awarded following auditions in the spring, these need-based scholarships provide financial assistance for private instruction tuition.
Valere Blair Potter Precollege Scholarships. Established in 1994 by the Potter Foundation, these scholarships are based on demonstrated financial need and significant talent and accomplishment. They provide partial tuition for private instruction and may be awarded on the basis of an audition with Blair faculty or, in some cases, on the recommendation of an outside teacher. Some Potter awards are made to members of the Blair Children’s Chorus Program, the Suzuki Program, and the Nashville Youth Orchestra Program, at the recommendation of the faculty.

Jerome “Butch” Baldassari Scholarship. Established by Lelia Sinclair Baldassari in 2010 in honor of her husband, Jerome “Butch” Baldassari, Blair School of Music adjunct professor of mandolin from 1996 until his death in 2009, this scholarship provides partial tuition for precollege and adult students studying mandolin, fiddle, or dulcimer.

Blair Woodwind Scholarships. Awarded to woodwind students who demonstrate interest and ability, the need-based scholarships provide financial assistance for private instruction tuition.

Gilbert Memorial Scholarship. Established in 1998 in memory of Douglas A. Gilbert, former Blair clarinet student, and his father, Robert J. Gilbert, a lifetime clarinet player and Blair supporter, this scholarship provides partial tuition for a clarinet student with at least one year of study at the Blair School.

Mary McClure Hotchkiss Scholarship. Established in 1987 by the will of Coleman A. Harwell in memory of his aunt, a distinguished pianist and teacher and a native of Lewisburg, Tennessee, this scholarship provides a partial tuition award each semester. Preference is given to a piano student.

David Mazanec Memorial Scholarship. Established in memory of David Mazanec, former Suzuki student, this need-based scholarship provides partial tuition for Suzuki violin and cello students in Book 4 or above. Students are eligible to apply after one year of participation in the Suzuki program at Blair.

William H. Moennig Memorial Scholarship. Established in 1986 by the family and friends of Mr. Moennig, this scholarship provides partial tuition for private instruction to talented precollege string students.

Lois and Peter Fyfe Scholarship Fund. Established in 2016 from the estate of Lois and Peter Fyfe, this fund supports precollege scholarships at the Blair School of Music.
Samuel E. Stumpf Sr. Trumpet Scholarship. Established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Samuel E. Stumpf, Sr., by his family and friends, this endowed scholarship provides partial tuition for a brass student who is serious about his or her musical endeavors.

Amelie Throne Scholarship. Established in 1989 through a bequest from Elizabeth Binford Bergner, this scholarship provides partial tuition each semester for a piano student.

Jacqueline and Morris Wachs Scholarship for Piano and Strings. Established in 2001 by Morris Wachs and family, this scholarship is awarded annually to deserving piano and string students for study at Blair. Scholarships cover partial tuition for private instruction during the academic year.

Precollege Instruction

Please check the current interview schedule, which provides faculty contacts for placement interviews, available at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

For a current listing of all Blair faculty, visit the website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

Individual Performance Instruction

The Blair School of Music provides a programmed course of study in individual instruction. Students normally register for a full semester of study. Individual instruction focuses on the art and practice of an instrument or voice, with emphasis on tone quality, technique, rhythm, interpretation, and literature.

Group Instruction/Classes

Kindermusik (Ages 0–5). This nationally acclaimed music program is designed for children from infancy to five years of age and their caregivers. Participants enjoy singing, listening, dancing, interacting socially, and playing simple instruments. The program offers a variety of classes which focus on the child’s emotional development as confidence, curiosity, self-control, and communication begin to take shape. See the Kindermusik information on the Blair website for a complete schedule of classes.
Suzuki String Instruction

(Ages 4 and up). Instruction using the Suzuki method is available in violin and cello for children. Children develop musical ability and sensitivity, using the same process of listening and imitation by which they learn their native language. Suzuki students gain the poise necessary for performance and learn to read music notation as they progress. It is essential that parents attend each lesson and supervise home practice.

Suzuki Strings I. Beginning students receive one 30-minute private lesson and one 30-minute weekly group lesson.

Suzuki Strings II. One 30-minute private lesson weekly and one 45-minute weekly group lesson.

Suzuki Strings III. One 45-minute private lesson weekly and one 45-minute weekly group lesson.

Suzuki Strings IV. One 60-minute private lesson weekly and one 45-minute weekly group lesson.

In addition to individual and group lessons, the Blair Suzuki Violin and Cello Program offers motivated students several group performing opportunities:

The Blair Children’s Cello Choir is a select group of advanced students from the Blair Suzuki Cello Program. Rehearsals are held weekly to learn a variety of works for cello ensemble and to polish Suzuki repertoire to a high level of performance. Students who are studying at the Suzuki Book 4 level are eligible to audition for the Cello Choir. The Children’s Cello Choir performs several times each semester.

The Blair Violin Performing Group is open to motivated students currently in Suzuki Book 4 and beyond. Auditions are held early in the fall semester. Weekly rehearsals prepare students for performances at Blair and at various prominent venues in the Nashville area, including the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art.

Late in the spring semester, the Blair Children’s Cello Choir and the Blair Violin Performing Group join forces to present the Suzuki Program’s annual concert in the Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall at Blair.
Partner Piano (Ages 3 and up). The Blair School offers several introductory piano classes geared to different age levels. Partner piano combines Suzuki and traditional methodologies in private lessons and group instruction. In group, children learn rhythm, pitch, musical terms, and notation using a variety of auditory, visual, and kinesthetic activities. Throughout the program, parents attend lessons and supervise home practice.

Partner Piano I (Age 3 beginners). Includes 30-minute private lesson, and a 30-minute weekly group.

Students begin with a variety of singing and pre-reading activities. Parental involvement is essential to beginner lessons; parents normally attend all lessons and practice sessions. At the conclusion of the first year, students should progress to Partner Piano II, III, or IV.

Partner Piano II (Children 4 and up). One 30-minute private and 30-minute weekly group.

Partner Piano III. One 45-minute private and 30-minute weekly group.

Partner Piano IV. One 60-minute private and 30-minute weekly group.

Elementary to intermediate students will develop a conceptual understanding of the fundamentals of music: ear training, improvisation, reading, singing, and technical training. Students will be invited to participate in formal recitals at the conclusion of each term.

More advanced students will continue to learn solo repertoire and to develop performance skills, including technique, sight-reading, keyboard improvisation, theory, and composition.
AMERICAN FOLK INSTRUMENTS

**Fiddle.** Individual instruction available for all kinds of players, ages 5 and up. Instruction includes tunes and techniques of various historical folk styles including old-time, bluegrass, Irish, Scottish, Texas swing, and other world styles. Ear training, harmonization, and introductory improvisation are also included in weekly lessons, as well as the development of the student’s own style. Beginner instruction places emphasis on correct violin training and technique, using fiddle and violin repertoire. The precollege program includes semester recitals as well as the opportunity to play and learn in a group setting with peers of a similar age. This “fiddle frenzy” experience meets every other week and includes community performance opportunities.

**Appalachian Dulcimer.** Individual instruction for all levels and ages. The appropriate skill level of the student is determined by the instructor. No musical background required. Historical playing styles are taught, with an emphasis on ear training. Students will build a repertoire of traditional tunes played on this unique American folk instrument. Advanced students will explore additional styles based on interest. The precollege program offers specialized group experience.

**Mandolin.** Individual instruction includes learning the use of tablature and standard notation and the study of the basics of mandolin technique. Emphasis is placed on playing together and developing a repertoire of old-time tunes. Advanced students expand on old-time tunes as a repertoire base and develop other mandolin styles including bluegrass, Celtic, and original music.
OTHER CLASSES

**Precollege Collaborative Piano.** This course introduces pianists in grades 7–12 to the field of collaborative piano. Skills covered include sight-reading, score-playing, and learning to successfully play with woodwinds, strings, brass, and vocalists. Weekly coaching sessions are planned to meet the needs of each individual student while occurring in a classroom format. Classes meet 45 minutes weekly, fall and spring semesters.

**Music History.** Music history is designed to introduce students (grade 9 and up and adults) to the history of Western art music, including its historical development, styles, genres, major figures, and socio-cultural contexts. The curriculum also focuses on developing critical thinking and writing skills. The study consists of two successive yearlong courses, beginning each fall. Music History 1 is a general survey of Western music history, while Music History 2 explores selected topics in depth.

**Music Theory.** The Music Theory Program is a unique, integrated theory experience, offering students an exciting range and depth of individualized instruction. The curriculum is designed to address the needs of all students, from total beginners to advanced students who are already working at or near college level. Personal interaction with theory faculty and regular assessment through testing are integral to each student’s academic development and understanding of course material. Children and adults ages 12 and older are welcome after completing an initial placement test.

**Alexander Technique for Musicians.** Dedicated musicians practice a lot, which can lead to strain, pain, and injury. Alexander Technique teaches students to unite the body and mind in effective, healthy ways.

**Musicianship, Level I.** Introduction to how to identify by ear, sing, track in order, read, and write each of the three most foundational elements in music—the 12 pitches, the 11 intervals (di-chords), and the divisions of any beat into 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 equal parts. Emphasis is on conventional ways of naming pitches/notes using letters or fixed syllables, and defining relationships between pitches by scale degrees or interval numbers. Students ages 13 and older are welcome. No prerequisite classes.

**Musicianship, Level II.** Using skills learned in Level I, continued pitch, interval, and rhythm training, with focus on compound beat divisions into 5, 7, and 9 equal parts, three- and four-note chords, the 7 diatonic modes, and chords in the diatonic scale. Includes instruction in dictation, sight-reading, performance, improvisation, and sight-singing. Students ages 14 and older are welcome. Prerequisite: Level I.
ENSEMBLE INSTRUCTION
BLAIR CHILDREN’S CHORUS PROGRAM

This classically based, tiered choral program is designed for children grades 1–12. The program develops vocal, listening, and music reading skills in an enriching ensemble environment. Admission to each choir is determined through open auditions that are held during fall and spring registration periods. For audition information, check the Prospective Members page at blair.vanderbilt.edu/bcc.

Girl’s Concert Choir. This touring choir of girls in grades 8–12 performs repertoire from many genres and in multiple languages. The choir gives numerous concerts per year, tours each summer, and attends a weekend fall choral camp. Concert Choir has performed many times with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and other prominent arts organizations in the area. Recent concert tours and festivals have taken the choir to England, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Oregon, and Costa Rica. A high level of musicianship and commitment is required. Students are admitted into the Girl’s Concert Choir in the fall only.

Young Men’s Chorus. Boys whose voices have changed or are changing are eligible for this chorus. The choir stresses strong music fundamentals and healthy singing through the vocal change, and emphasizes the cultural importance of young men singing together. They sing music in many styles and languages and tour biennially to domestic and international locations.

Nashville Boychoir at Blair. Boys in this choir enjoy exploring their vocal talents and learning how to read music together. They perform several times each year in collaboration with other arts organizations, for community and civic events and at Blair. A pleasant, unforced vocal quality and a love of singing are the most important attributes sought in new singers.

Blair Choristers. This intermediate-level choir for girls in grades 5–8 performs regularly in the Nashville area. This choir stresses vocal development, music reading, ensemble singing, and performance skills. Students explore music in other languages and singing in two and three parts. They often combine with other program choirs for concert pieces.
Training Choir. This beginning choral ensemble is open to boys and girls in grades 1–5. This choir is split between two rooms and two instructors during the rehearsal time where students develop their young voices, begin music reading, and learn musicianship skills through part singing, rounds, games, and activities. The result is a fun introduction to singing that is supportive and structured. This choir performs with the other BCC ensembles in the concerts at the end of each semester.

Chorale. Chorale is an auditioned ensemble of girls and boys in other BCC choirs who can comfortably sing treble music. Entry into Chorale is based on musicianship skills, vocal quality, attendance record, and citizenship. Chorale is the primary performing children’s choir for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Any student in Chorale must also participate in his or her primary Blair choir.

NASHVILLE YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The Nashville Youth Orchestra Program encompasses eight student orchestras: the Curb Youth Symphony, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Nashville Youth Repertory Orchestra, the Nashville Youth Strings Orchestras (I, II, and III), the Nashville Reading Orchestra, and the Nashville Beginning Reading Orchestra. All orchestras are open by audition; auditions are scheduled in August. Students accepted for membership are encouraged to be in good standing in their school music organizations. The Nashville Youth Orchestra Program provides unique opportunities to experience masterpieces of orchestral literature and work with professional coaches and conductors. Audition information is online at blair.vanderbilt.edu/ensembles.

Curb Youth Symphony. Curb Youth Symphony is the most advanced ensemble of the Nashville Youth Orchestra Program. It performs masterpieces of standard orchestral literature and features winners of the CYS Concerto Competition on each concert. Students have the opportunity to work with both Nashville Symphony Orchestra members and Blair School of Music faculty members in section rehearsals and master classes. An annual CYS/NSO Side-By-Side Concert is performed at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. Membership is open to students in grades 8–12. The Curb Youth Symphony is sponsored jointly by the Nashville Symphony and Blair School of Music. The orchestra rehearses Monday evenings.
Philharmonia Orchestra. The Philharmonia is a full orchestra of middle school and high school musicians. It performs masterpieces of standard orchestral literature and provides leadership opportunities for young musicians. Students have the opportunity to work with both Nashville Symphony Orchestra members and Blair School of Music faculty members in section rehearsals and master classes. Membership is open to students in grades 7–12. The orchestra rehearses Sunday afternoons.

Nashville Youth Repertory Orchestra. The Repertory Orchestra is a full orchestra of middle and high school students. They perform orchestral repertoire, and students learn how to provide leadership in an orchestra section. Membership is open to students in grades 7–12. The orchestra presents several concerts each season. The orchestra rehearses on Tuesday evenings.

Nashville Youth Strings Orchestras (I, II, and III). The Youth Strings Orchestras provide training for young string students and prepare them for admission into the Repertory Orchestra. Students must be able to read at least level-one music. These groups give two or three concerts each season and meet for one 60-minute session weekly. Tuesday evenings.

Nashville Reading Orchestra. The Reading Orchestra focuses on strengthening string students’ music-reading skills. This class also introduces fundamentals of orchestral playing and music theory. This ensemble gives two or three concerts each season and meets for one weekly 60-minute session weekly. Thursday evenings.

Nashville Beginning Reading Orchestra. The Beginning Reading Orchestra introduces fundamentals of orchestral playing and music theory and develops music-reading skills. Thursday evenings.

CHAMBER MUSIC PROGRAM

This course involves the study and performance of chamber music. Mixed ensembles including woodwind, brass, percussion, string, voice and piano are available. Includes weekly one-hour coaching, rehearsal, and end-of-semester concert. Open to students by audition or upon recommendation of their private instructors.
**ADULT INSTRUCTION**

**INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTION**

Individual instruction focuses on the art and practice of an instrument or voice, with emphasis on tone quality, technique, rhythm, interpretation, and literature. Schedules are arranged between teacher and student at registration.

**GROUP PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTION**

Group performance courses are designed primarily for beginning and intermediate students. Group instruction emphasizes basic technique, rhythm, tone, and musical interpretation. Students must interview with faculty member for approval to enroll. Enrollment information is available from the Office of Academic Services.

**AMERICAN FOLK INSTRUMENTS**

*Fiddle Program*

**Beginning and Intermediate Fiddle.** Private lessons for all levels of players. Instruction includes an introduction to various styles, such as Old Time, Bluegrass, Celtic, and Texas Swing. Students also have opportunities to play and learn in a group setting, with others at a similar level. Ear training and work with harmonization is included.

**Advanced Fiddle.** Designed for advanced players. Various styles of fiddle, from traditional Texas style to the recording session experience, are presented. Emphasis is placed on ear training, improvisation, and developing one’s own style.

*Appalachian Dulcimer*

**Group and individual instruction for all levels.** No musical background required. Historical playing styles are taught with an emphasis on ear training. Students will build a repertoire of traditional tunes played on this unique American folk instrument. Advanced students will explore additional styles based on interest.
Mandolin Instruction

Beginning Mandolin. Students learn to read music and study the basics of mandolin technique. Emphasis is placed on playing together and developing a repertoire of old-time tunes. Advanced students expand on old-time tunes as a repertoire base and develop other styles of mandolin including bluegrass, Celtic, and original music.

Jazz Performance Instruction

Individual jazz performance instruction is offered in voice, guitar, saxophone, drumset, double bass, and piano. Prerequisite: A personal interview and an audition with the instructor.

Steel Drum

Group and individual instruction for all levels. Caribbean song styles (Calypso, Soca, Reggae), history and development of the Steel Band art form, and cultural awareness are emphasized.

CLASS INSTRUCTION

Blair Adult Classes may be offered on a rotating basis. Blair university courses may also be available to adult students. Check current offerings brochure or call the Office of Academic Services at (615) 322-7651.

Music Theory

Precollege and Adult Music Theory. The Blair Precollege and Adult Music Theory Program is a unique, integrated theory experience offering students an exciting range and depth of theory options. The curriculum is designed to address the needs of all students, from total beginners to advanced students working at or near college level. Personal interaction with theory faculty and regular assessment through testing are integral to each student’s academic development and understanding of course material. Adults and children ages 12 and older are welcome after an initial placement test.

The Nashville Number System for Songwriters and Performers. Designed for adults and teenagers ages 15 and older who write songs, sing, or play an instrument but may not read traditional music. Aspects of music notation, theory, chords, and charting original songs and classic hits will be explained. The Nashville Number System is explored. Students will observe and discuss studio work.
Hit Songwriters Series. Guest artists visit every week, listening to student compositions and offering advice and suggestions. Guests include Music Row’s finest producers, songwriters, and performers.

Music Literature and History

Symphony 101: Hear More, Enjoy More with New Ears. Engaging, participatory discussion focused on listening skills, each composer’s personal and artistic thinking, social and cultural factors, and the enjoyment of music. Music and discussions timed to correlate with upcoming Nashville Symphony programs.

Great Music, Great Films. This class explores the work of great symphonic composers who scored their music for cinema. Films and music will be viewed and discussed as the merging of two great art forms.
Adult Ensembles

Vanderbilt Community Chorus. Open by audition to faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Vanderbilt who love to sing the best of choral music. Three performances are given each year. The repertoire includes classical literature from all periods as well as major works with orchestra. Auditions are held in August and January. One two-hour rehearsal weekly.

Steel Drum/Pan Ensemble—MUSE 1200. Open to all members of the community, a laboratory and performance experience drawing on Caribbean steel drums/pans with emphasis on the music and dance repertories of the island of Trinidad. Lecture-demonstrations and rehearsals in one weekly two-hour session. At least one public performance each semester. No previous experience required.

Sankofa African Performing Ensemble—MUSE 1230. A laboratory and performance experience drawing on traditional African musical instruments—drums, percussion, winds—with emphasis on West African (Ghana) and East African (Uganda) music and dance repertoires. Lecture-demonstrations and rehearsals in one weekly two-hour session. At least one public performance each semester. No previous experience required.

For the availability of participation in any other university ensemble, please contact the ensemble director for eligibility and audition information. For a full listing of Blair ensembles, visit the school website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.
BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY

For a complete and current listing of all Blair/Vanderbilt University and Precollege and Adult faculty with contact information, please visit the Blair website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

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NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the Blair Precollege and Adult program Registrar or Associate Dean for Precollege and Adult program a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Registrar or Associate Dean will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

FAMILY POLICY COMPLIANCE OFFICE

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Executive Order 11246, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 as amended by the Jobs for Veterans Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, as amended, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Vanderbilt University does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, covered veterans status, or genetic information in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other university-administered programs; or employment. In addition, the university does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their gender expression consistent with the university’s nondiscrimination policy. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to Anita J. Jenious, J.D., Director and Title IX Coordinator; the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Department; Baker Building; PMB 401809, 2301 Vanderbilt Place; Nashville, TN 37240-1809. Telephone (615) 322-4705 (V/TTY); FAX (615) 343-4969.