

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRIVATE LESSONS

2026-2027

Course Description

The Music department offers private voice and 26 different instrumental lessons in a variety of genres, including classical, jazz, bluegrass, and world music. Participation is open to all Colorado College students. Lessons are available as adjunct courses, taken for an entire semester. Students receive twelve 40-minute lessons (or the equivalent) and .25 unit credit per semester.

Group lessons are also available in guitar, bluegrass, piano, and voice for beginners and those students who do not read music. The classes meet once a week, and students receive .25 unit credit per semester.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of private music study, students will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate Developing Technical Proficiency and Expressive Musicianship**
Apply discipline-specific technical principles (e.g., tone production, posture/alignment, breath or physical coordination, articulation, flexibility, and control) in order to perform with increasing consistency, artistry, and stylistic awareness.
- 2. Strengthen Core Musicianship Skills**
Integrate skills such as sight reading, aural perception, rhythmic accuracy, theoretical understanding, and stylistic literacy into the preparation and performance of repertoire.
- 3. Prepare and Perform Diverse Repertoire Appropriate to Level of Instruction**
Learn, refine, and present contrasting works that reflect a range of historical periods, cultural traditions, genres, or compositional approaches, demonstrating thoughtful interpretation and informed musical decision-making.
- 4. Engage in Reflective Practice and Performance Readiness**
Develop effective practice strategies, manage performance anxiety, and demonstrate readiness for public performance in studio classes, recitals, or other venues within a supportive and collaborative learning environment.

Registration/Placement Procedures

A list of instructors, along with bios, may be found [here](#) on the Music department website.

There are multiple teachers in voice and piano making it necessary for Intermediate/Advanced piano and voice students to audition for placement with the principal teachers in those areas. Auditions can include playing or singing a piece of their choice, sight reading, and in piano, knowledge of scales. All other instrumentalists are assigned to the instructor of their instrument.

Practice Expectations

Students enrolled in private lessons are expected to engage in **regular, intentional practice** outside of weekly lessons. Consistent practice is essential for artistic and technical development.

- Students should practice for the amount of time it takes to make effective progress each week. Short, consistent sessions can be more effective than a single extended session depending on the student.
- Practice sessions should be goal-oriented, targeting specific technical challenges, passages, or musical elements rather than simply repeating repertoire from beginning to end.
- Students are encouraged to use varied practice strategies appropriate to their discipline, including slow practice, sectional work, score study, mental rehearsal, rhythmic or technical drills, and audio/video recording for self-assessment.
- Access to departmental practice facilities is provided; however, effective practice may also include silent study, score analysis, listening, and physical or technical exercises relevant to the instrument or voice.

Faculty will provide guidance on healthy, sustainable practice techniques to support steady progress and performance readiness.

Grading

Grades in private lessons are based on sustained engagement, preparation, and demonstrated musical growth over the course of the semester.

Evaluation includes:

- **Attendance**
Regular attendance at lessons and required studio/performance classes. Students must attend at least 75% of scheduled lessons (nine 40-minute lessons or equivalent) and any other individual-instructor required sessions to receive a passing grade.

- **Preparation and Responsiveness to Feedback**
Evidence of consistent, goal-oriented practice; correction of previously assigned material; and demonstrated progress on repertoire, technique, and musicianship.
- **Technical and Musicianship Development**
Demonstrated knowledge and application of skills, technical elements, stylistic conventions, and related musicianship skills appropriate to the discipline and level of study.
- **Performance and Repertoire Requirements**
Completion of assigned repertoire, including (as required by the studio) at least one public or studio performance per semester.
- **Concert Attendance and Musical Engagement**
Attendance at a minimum of two approved concerts per semester to foster broader musical awareness and engagement with the department community.

Scheduling

Instructors will communicate to students at the beginning of the semester about how best to contact them and vice versa in case there is a need to reschedule a lesson.

Instructors expect a 24-hour lead time to cancel a lesson when possible. If a lesson is skipped without notice, no makeup is available. If a new time is needed, instructors will accommodate a student's schedule.

Fees, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

The rate for private lessons in 2026-2027 is \$550 for twelve 40-minute sessions. Hour long lessons are available for those students preparing a recital. The rate for group lessons in 2026-2027 is \$90 per semester. Students who are in good standing in the music department (as outlined in the departmental handbook) are eligible for financial aid and scholarships.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, need-based financial aid is available and may be requested during registration. Students are required to write a brief thank you note to the donor.

Declared music majors receive a full scholarship for the first set of lessons each semester and can receive an additional one-half scholarship if they are taking a second set of lessons. Declared music minors receive a full scholarship for the first set of lessons each semester for a total of four semesters. If a music minor has completed at least three academic, block-long courses by the end of their fourth semester of lessons, they may receive additional scholarships at the discretion of the faculty.

Scholarships are awarded in Blocks 1 and 5; scholarship awards for students who declare after week 2 of Blocks 1 and 5 will go into effect the following semester. Music majors and minors who do not complete all requirements of the major prior to their graduation will be charged retroactively for any lessons taken in the department covered by scholarship.

Prerequisites/Required materials

There are no prerequisites for lessons. All levels are accepted.

No materials are required. Music can be obtained from the music library and also downloaded from IMSLP. Instruments can be rented if a student does not own their own.

Selection of repertoire

Students have the option of choosing music they would like to work on along with selections made by the instructor. A balance of styles is taken into consideration along with technical difficulty depending on the level achieved by the student.

Performance Opportunities

Voice and piano students are expected to attend studio class once a block. Advanced students may perform on Music at Midday held once a block. Full or shared recitals for advanced students often happen in the junior or senior year. There is also an Elementary/Intermediate performance class at the end of each semester for students who are less advanced.