

Metropolitan School of the Arts

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

—
Voice, Piano, Guitar,
Violin, Drums, and
more...

Your Performing Arts School

www.metropolitanarts.org/music



WHAT WE OFFER

Whether you are a beginning student or wish to pursue a career in the performing arts, Metropolitan School of the Arts has experienced, dedicated, and professional music faculty ready to guide you toward your goals. Our faculty consists of accomplished, working musicians who specialize in individualized instruction and are enthusiastic about cultivating excellence in each of our students.

We offer **30 minute** and **1 hour** private lessons. Our music teachers are university-trained and teach students of all ages, from **beginners** to **advanced**.

Classical Voice (ages 9+)

Pop & Musical Theater Voice (ages 9+)

Piano (ages 6+)

Guitar (ages 6+)

Violin (ages 6+)

Drums (ages 6+)



OUR MISSION

Metropolitan School of the Arts is a performing arts community, on a mission to change the world by inspiring and supporting students, faculty, and staff to reach their fullest potential as artists, innovators, and generous citizens.

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| ● Confidence Building |
| ● 1-on-1 Mentorship |
| ● Creative Expression |
| ● Skill Development |

OUR TEAM



Matt Nall | Music Department Director

Matt Nall is originally from Dallas, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Music from Texas Tech University and his Masters of Arts from New York University.

In New York, he was a professional actor and appeared regionally as Gaston in *Beauty in the Beast*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, and Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* as well as others. In 2006, Matt accepted the position as Baritone Vocalist in the United States Army Chorus. Since then, he has performed all over the country and for various dignitaries and ambassadors, as well as every living President. Matt has been the Music Director for MSA for more than 15 years.



Jacob Bennett | Guitar

Mr. Bennett has taught music in Virginia public schools since 2017. He earned his B.M. in Music Education (summa cum laude) at Virginia Commonwealth University, and his M.Ed. in Teaching English Language Learners from the University of Virginia. He holds Level II Kodaly certification and Level I Orff-Schulwerk certification. He currently teaches Elementary General Music in FCPS.

OUR TEAM



Howard Breitbart | Piano

Howard Breitbart, a pianist, musical director, and arranger from Miami, FL, earned his music degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland. He has been a sought-after musician in the DC area and toured with “The Capitol Steps” for 27 years. Howard now performs with “The Reflecting Fools” and has accompanied artists like Norm Lewis at the Kennedy Center and Susan Derry at Feinstein’s 54 Below. His favorite directing credits include Closer Than Ever, Carolyn Or Change, and Broadway Christmas Carol. He also recently accompanied Beauty & The Beast and Into The Woods productions.



Heather Gifford | Voice

Heather joined MSA in 2013 as part of the voice faculty and was the music department chair from 2019-2024. She is now the Homeschool Director and Assistant Production Manager. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Industry with a Vocal Performance concentration from James Madison University. Her performance credits include roles at Keegan Theater DC, LTA, and venues like Harrah’s Las Vegas and Holland America Cruise Line. In event management, she has worked at Venetian/Palazzo and Gaylord National. Heather is passionate about sharing her love for the performing arts and inspiring the next generation of performers.

OUR TEAM



Paul Grosvenor | Voice

Paul GL Grosvenor, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, joined the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” in 2021 as a member of the chorus. In 2020, he was a featured soloist and chorus member in the Grammy-winning production of *Porgy and Bess* with the Metropolitan Opera. Paul made his operatic debut as Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* with the Opera Theatre of the Rockies. He then went on to perform in several operas including *La bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. He holds a master’s degree from the University of Michigan.



Lucia Lanave | Voice

Lucia LaNave is a music director and pianist who has worked with top DC theaters, including the Kennedy Center, Constellation Theatre, Nextstop Theatre, Creative Cauldron, and GALA Hispanic Theater. Recent credits include *The Hello Girls*, *Urinetown*, *Lucky Stiff*, *The Christmas Angel*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has accompanied Broadway talent like Lisa Howard and teaches voice and piano at the Metropolitan Studio of the Arts and Blue Feather Music. Lucia also accompanies at American University and judges the VHSL One-Act Theatre Competition.

OUR TEAM



Julie Navarrette | Voice & Piano

Julie has been teaching private voice and piano lessons at MSA since 2006. She also assists Ms. Sara and Ms. Aimee with music for Musical Theater 1-4 classes.

Julie began teaching voice and piano at the Linda Young Music Studio while in college. After graduating from the University of North Alabama, she taught in the private music lesson program at The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia. She has also taught Kindermusik and Music Together for children. Julie works for the Metropolitan Performing Arts Theater, teaching the Junior Music class for the Homeschool Program.



Caroline Nielson | Voice

Caroline Nielson is an alto vocalist with the United States Army Chorus "Pershing's Own." She recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy at the New England Conservatory, and also holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Belmont University.

She has performed with Finger Lakes Opera, Syracuse Opera, Nashville Opera, and Opera in the Ozarks, and appears regularly with ensembles including the Washington Bach Consort, The Thirteen, and Washington Master Chorale. Caroline also teaches voice to students of all ages, emphasizing healthy technique, musical expression, and a supportive learning environment.

OUR TEAM



Aiyana Pringle | Violin

Aiyana recently completed her Bachelor of Music in Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is currently a violinist with the Piedmont Symphony and enjoys learning and performing new music with her duo partner. Aiyana's interests include pedagogy, score study, writing, and working with young people. She teaches students of all ages and levels, emphasizing the importance of incorporating activities and off-the-instrument practice. Her teaching methods are individualized, allowing students to learn at their own pace and explore what works best for them. Aiyana believes that a patient yet stimulating environment helps students work more efficiently and enjoy the music-learning process.



Sam Ramatowski | Drums & Guitar

Dr. Sam Ramatowski is originally from Bowie, MD, and holds degrees from Stevenson University, Johns Hopkins University, and Drexel University. A lifelong musician, he began playing guitar at age 11 before discovering his passion for bass and drums. After focusing on academics and lacrosse through college, Sam returned to music and now plays bass, guitar, and ukulele. A self-taught musician, he enjoys studying music theory, exploring songs across genres, and collaborating with friends. Alongside his career in education, music continues to be a creative outlet and source of joy in his life.

OUR TEAM



Linda Tai | Voice

Tai started her music studies early, earning a bachelor's degree in vocal performance. She later moved to El Salvador as a music volunteer, founding the first choir at the University of Don Bosco and expanding local music education. Tai also served as the pianist for the El Salvador National Choir, collaborating with musicians across Latin America. In 2020, she joined the University José Matias Delgado as a piano faculty member, helping develop its first certified music program. Now pursuing a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano at the University of Houston, Tai is passionate about teaching and fostering a positive learning environment. She also enjoys exploring food and Virginia's natural beauty.



Irene Tsai | Piano

Irene Tsai is a highly professional musician who has studied piano for 18 years, has over more than ten years of performing experience, and has participated in several piano competitions. She has also had three years of accompanying experience with a variety of ensembles and soloist situations. She just graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance, where she studied piano with Eric Ruple and Gabriel Dobner and studied with Narciso Solero, a past president of the Virginia Music Teachers Association, before she attended JMU. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year to earn more experience as a piano teacher while preparing to apply to graduate schools to continue pursuing a master's degree in piano performance. She's delighted to embark on this exciting journey as your new piano teacher.

OUR TEAM



Elycia Woodham | Voice

Elycia Woodham is a mezzo-soprano with a BA in Music from Spelman College and a minor in political science. A former student of the Metropolitan School of the Arts, her academic background has deepened her understanding of the arts' historical significance. Elycia has received recognition from the National Association of Teachers Singing and was part of the LA Opera's HBCU Career Comprehensive Program. She has performed at venues like the Kennedy Center and Salt Lake City Tabernacle. Elycia aims to continue pushing artistic boundaries and making a meaningful impact through music, with interests in jazz, classical, musical theater, and R&B.



MUSIC LESSON

RECITALS

Each year, Metropolitan School of the Arts' music students perform one Winter Recital & one Spring Recital. Our recitals offer low stress and high-quality performance opportunities for students as well as entertaining events that can be experienced with family.

Private Music Lesson recitals are the perfect venue for students to show family and friends the results of months of learning and practice. Our recitals are organized and designed to eliminate "stage fright" and help performers build self-esteem.

At our music recitals, students are exposed to new musical styles and instruments. The recitals give students motivation and encouragement to practice and build skills in their chosen musical genre.

*****All music recitals are held on site in our Black Box Theater.***



Music Lesson Tuition

- A fee of \$42 per half hour lesson and \$79 per one hour lesson, will be billed on the second of the month for the lessons to be received during that month.
- **Private Music Lesson Recital Fees:**
Winter Private Music Lesson Recital: \$15.00
Spring Private Music Lesson Recital: \$15.00

Summer Music Lessons

- A fun and engaging six-week session offering lessons in guitar, piano, drums, voice, and more! Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this package provides personalized instruction to help you reach your musical goals. Perfect for all ages and skill levels looking to make the most of their summer!
- The fee for this package is \$42 per half-hour lesson and \$79 per one-hour lesson. The summer package of 6 weeks will be billed in full at once.



If you have any questions, please reach out to us:



www.metropolitanarts.org



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