

Your Guide to Choosing and Starting Lessons



2023-24 PCS Music Artistry at BJU

SERVING STUDENTS AT BOB JONES ACADEMY AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

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Make **MORE MUSIC** at school!

PRIVATE and GROUP LESSONS in:

**PIANO • GROUP PIANO CLASS • VIOLIN • VIOLA
FLUTE • CLARINET • OBOE • SAXOPHONE • BASSOON
TRUMPET • TROMBONE • EUPHONIUM • TUBA • PERCUSSION**

Here at PCS, we want so much more for our students than just the weekly class or lesson. That's why our program provides a full and enriching experience – in the weekly lessons, at performances and judging events, and through our exclusive PCS Milestones Awards Program.

We are passionate about nourishing hearts and minds with music making for life as we equip and motivate BJA students to use their God-given skills and talents for His glory. To this end, we are honored to be a support and partner to the fine music program at BJA by providing music lessons on campus during the school day and after school for Academy students.

Be Inspired

Be **INSPIRED** to explore, create, collaborate, share, and persevere in the process of learning in order to make steady progress towards achieving your full potential as a musician.

Get Connected

Develop your musical skills and your capacity for creative self-expression in a way that causes your **LOVE FOR MUSIC** to grow deeper and stronger with every passing year.

Feel Valued

Know that every word, interaction, and teachable moment is our gift to you as we seek to consistently affirm just how highly we appreciate and **VALUE** you as a PCS student.

Stay Happy

As a part of the family here at Piano Central Studios, discover the many opportunities to **BE CONNECTED** with the entire community here at PCS—one class, one lesson, one moment, one experience, and one song at a time.

Love Your Lessons

Feel confident and **HAPPY** as we customize your musical journey, unfolding your unique musical gifts and discovering together all the joy that music making will give to you.

A Letter from the Director of PCS

Dear BJA families,

We are truly honored to be a part of the exceptional fine arts program at BJA and to partner with BJA and BJU to offer music lessons for Academy and community students through PCS Music Artistry at BJU.

As a trusted upstate destination for keyboard instruments and music instruction for over 40 years, Piano Central is proud of our reputation for an uncompromising commitment to excellence and the extra care we take of each of our students.

At BJA, we are especially privileged to set forth a godly example of Christian musicianship in our teachers and to encourage students to use their musical abilities to serve the Lord and to edify other believers.

For your convenience, we offer music lessons throughout the school day as well as after school. Space is limited, but we will certainly do everything we can to accommodate your scheduling requests. Students may enroll for lessons at any time.

We love working with each of our students, customizing our teaching to fit how each student learns best and to complement their individual learning style and musical interests.

It is a special joy to work with each student in our program, customizing our teaching to fit how each one learns best and to match his or her learning style and musical interests. We sincerely desire to inspire a love of music and to develop musical skill that can be used for the Lord's glory, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Theresa Case, MEd

Director, Piano Central Studios

Piano Central Studios | 864-232-5010 | www.PianoCentralStudios.com

Nourishing hearts and minds with music making for life

Opportunities at Bob Jones Academy

🎵 Join the BJA band or orchestra – Sign up through BJA

Band and Orchestra start in 4th grade and continue through 12th grade.

Wondering if there is a place for you?? The answer is, "Yes!!"

Ideally, a concert band needs:

- 1 piccolo
- 6-10 flutes
- 2 oboes
- 2-4 bassoons
- 10-16 clarinets
- 1 bass clarinet
- 2-4 alto saxophones
- 1 tenor saxophone
- 1-2 baritone saxophones
- 6-10 trumpets
- 4-8 trombones
- 1 bass trombone
- 4 French horns
- 2-4 euphoniums/baritones
- 2-4 tubas
- 4-6 percussionists

Ideally, a concert orchestra needs:

- 16 violins
- 8 violas
- 6 – 8 cellos
- 3 – 4 double basses

🎵 Join one of the BJA choirs – Sign up through BJA

Joining a BJA choir is another way to gain valuable musical experience and experience the joys of being a part of a musical group.

🎵 Take music lessons at school – Enroll with PCS

Music lessons build self-confidence, develop skill, and make a difference for each student in every way – at home, at church, with friends, and in music groups at school! Take lessons during the day or after school.

For 1st–3rd graders at BJA:

- Beginning Group Piano or Violin Lessons
- Private Piano Lessons
- Group Windstars Lessons (Pre-Band Lessons on the flute, saxophone, clarinet, or horn – you choose!)

For 4th–5th graders at BJA:

- Private Lessons or Group Lessons for all instruments

For Middle School and High School students at BJA:

- Hymn Improvisation Class or Private Hymn Playing Lessons
- Private Piano or Organ Lessons
- Private Voice Lessons (*MS and HS students only; available at our Pleasantburg or Woodruff Rd studios*)
- Private Instrumental Lessons > Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, or Percussion

Choosing Your Instrument

IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT THAT MAKES SOUNDS THAT YOU LIKE. MANY PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SOUND OF SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTS WHEN THEY ARE CHILDREN. THAT IS A GREAT MOTIVATOR.”

- Dr. Daniel Levitin, musician, neuroscientist, and author of *This Is Your Brain on Music*

Considerations when choosing an instrument to learn:

- Which instrument does your child seem most drawn to? What kind of music do they like?
 - For band instruments, consider the shape of your child's mouth. Do they wear braces?
 - Which instrument might their prior musical experience have best prepared them for?
 - Are they interested or enrolled in the BJA Band or Orchestra?
 - Do you have an instrument already, or are you prepared to rent or buy an instrument?
 - How do you see your child using their musical abilities 5, 10, or even 20 years from now?
-

PLAY THE PIANO

- Beginning Group Piano for beginners available for 1st to 3rd graders
- Private piano lessons available for 1st through 12th graders
- A great foundational instrument

PLAY A BAND INSTRUMENT: GROUP OR PRIVATE LESSONS

- Start Pre-Band Group Lessons in 2nd or 3rd grade (flute, horn, saxophone, or clarinet)
- Help your child in Band or Orchestra student excel and stay involved with private lessons
 - Woodwinds: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, or Bassoon
 - Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, or Tuba (new!)
 - Percussion: Learning percussion includes bells, triangle, tambourine, maracas, claves, bells, xylophone, marimba, and timpani among many other instruments.

PLAY AN ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENT

- Beginning Group Lessons for 1st to 5th graders
- Private Lessons available for 1st through 12th graders
- Violin or Viola (Cello lessons available at our studio locations)
- Stringed instruments come in a variety of sizes until your child grows into a full-sized instrument

TAKE VOICE LESSONS

- Private voice lessons available for BJA MS and HS students at our Pleasantburg location

Meet the Teachers!

Piano & Hymn Playing

Ruth Coleman, Donna Crawford, Rebeca Hornor,
Gwen Paquette, and Karen Simmons

Voice

Joy Sehested*

Violin & Viola

Jen Gerber (violin & viola)

Cello

Karen Egger*

Guitar

Robert Parrish*

Trumpet

Steve Allen, Bruce Cox, and Daniel Leedy

French Horn

Rebecca Steffoff

Trombone & Euphonium

Paul Jantz and Daniel Leedy

Tuba

Daniel Leedy

Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe & Bassoon

Gina League

Flute

Brittany Leonard

Percussion

Steve Allen

Organ

Donna Crawford

**These teachers currently teach only at our Studio locations
on Pleasantburg Drive and Woodruff Road*

5 Things You Need to Get Started with Lessons

Getting started in music lessons is easier than you might think. In fact, some of the things on our list are things you already have – no purchase necessary!

#1 – An instrument

The only time you don't need an instrument for music lessons is if you're taking voice lessons. Otherwise, you will need an instrument on which to practice during the week in between lessons. Your consistent practice at home is what will ensure that you are making steady progress.

For purchasing a piano, we recommend spending some time with the good folks at Piano Central. For rentals of other instruments, we recommend Musical Innovations. Students at BJA may also rent through the school.

#2 – Self-motivation

If you're taking the time to read about these six things, chances are the motivation for taking music lessons is already there in one form or another. It is true that motivation, even more than raw talent, is one of the biggest factors to long-term success in music lessons. Younger beginners will need help and encouragement in, but if a love for music is there, chances are that the self-motivation will come out too.

#3 – A perfect fit

Here's one that can be a little harder, but it is oh-so-worth-it to find that good teacher match – someone that you or your child clicks with, someone who is committed to help you reach your musical goals, someone who will inspire you, someone you like and trust, and someone who is musically qualified. The great news is that PCS has already done the vetting for you and has assembled a wonderful team of Music Artistry teachers!

#4 – Time for practice

Taking lessons without practice time is pretty much a waste of money and time. But making time for practice doesn't have to be hard. It simply takes a little planning, a little commitment, and sometimes a little creativity. (For example, 10 minutes in the morning before breakfast and 10 minutes just before supper still gets in 20 minutes a day – plenty of time for beginning and early level students.)

#5 – Goals to accomplish

One big reason for taking lessons is just to learn to play or sing! But take it a step further. WHY do you want to learn to play the piano or sing? Why do you want to join the band or orchestra?

Maybe it's for fun or as a hobby. Or because you want to be part of the music ministry at your church or be able to entertain friends. Maybe it's because music is an outlet for you, an important way to express yourself or relieve stress. Or maybe you really love music and feel like you might have a future with music. Think about your goals and then don't hesitate to share those goals with your music teacher.

Renting or Buying Instrument

Unless you are taking voice lessons, you will need to have an instrument on which to practice at home during the week. To put it into perspective, having an instrument for daily practice is as vital to music lessons as ice skates are to hockey or shin guards are to soccer.

Here are our preferred partners for instrument purchase or rental. Be sure to mention that you are a PCS student or use our affiliate links for Amazon purchases.

→ **Purchasing a digital or acoustic piano**

Piano Central

864-232-5164

<https://pianocentral.net/>

→ **Purchasing a NUVO instrument for your Studio Windstars class**

[Clarineo](#) (pre-clarinet) on Amazon

[jFlute](#) (pre-flute) on Amazon

[jHorn](#) (pre-brass) on Amazon

[jSax](#) (pre-saxophone) on Amazon

→ **Renting band or orchestra instruments locally**

Musical Innovations

864-286-8742

<https://www.musicalinnovations.biz/rental-program>

Note: Musical Innovations' rent-to-own plan allows 100% of the monthly rental to be applied towards purchase.

→ **Renting band or orchestra instruments through BJA**

A limited number of instruments are available for rent through Bob Jones Academy.

Please contact Mr. Alex Wright (Band Director) or Mrs. Rachele Whitcomb (Orchestra Director) for more information.

aewright@bobjonesacademy.net

rwhitcom@bobjonesacademy.net

Frequently Asked Questions

About our lessons

What kind of lessons do you offer?

We offer private and group lessons for piano, voice, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion, and guitar for BJA students.

What is the duration of lessons?

Group lessons are 45 minutes each. You may choose either 30- or 45-minute private lessons.

When are lessons scheduled?

Lessons are scheduled during the school day or after school.

About our program

Do you teach all levels of students?

Yes, we teach students of all levels – from beginners to advanced and from the hobbyist to the very serious student.

What can I expect at my lesson?

We'll create a customized lesson setting that matches your learning style and musical interests. You'll also experience a positive and encouraging learning environment where your unique abilities and preferences are developed through exciting literature, motivational rewards, positive performance experiences, and the best and latest in pedagogical approaches.

What kind of performance opportunities will each student have?

We believe in giving our students lots of opportunities to learn, grow, share, and shine through a variety of performance opportunities – on the stage, at our Studio Performance Parties, online with our Recital Piece Premieres, at our Winter and Spring Recitals, and the NFMC Festival auditions.

About our teachers

What kind of qualifications do your teachers have?

Our teachers vary in background and experience – that's part of what makes PCS so unique. Most teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in music. Many have advanced degrees in music or pedagogy.

Do your teachers undergo background checks?

All of our teachers are carefully screened, including background checks and references. During the hiring process, we not only consider credentials, but we also look for a teacher with a friendly personality, a high degree of professionalism, proven proficiency on their instrument, and most importantly, a love for teaching.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont' d)

About enrolling

What is the enrollment process?

Simply give us a call or go online. We'll get right back to you to coordinate and confirm so that you can start as soon as you are ready.

Why do you have ongoing enrollment at PCS?

We believe in making things easy. We're also committed to seeing our students develop to their fullest potential. That's why enrollment at PCS is ongoing and year-round and why you can start lessons at any time throughout the year. Once enrolled, you stay enrolled until you tell us you need to pause or enroll.

What if I need to discontinue lessons?

All we require is written notice by the end of the month to avoid charges for the new month.

About Piano Central Studios

What makes PCS so unique?

We're a place – a family, actually – where you'll be inspired to get involved and to belong. Our program is more than just the weekly lessons – there are new friends to be made, recitals to celebrate your accomplishments, community performances to share your love of music with others, an awards program to motivate you, judging events to help you measure up, and much more!

How long has PCS been in existence?

PCS was established in 1979. The current owner, Mrs. Theresa Case, has been director of the program since 1995.

Enrolling for Lessons with PCS: Get Started in 4 Easy Steps

Step 1:

Decide what kind of lessons you want to enroll in

Step 2:

Enroll online or over the phone at 864-232-5010

Step 3:

Purchase or rent your instrument if you need one

Step 4:

PCS will call and/or email to confirm your start date, lesson time, and teacher's name. Your teacher will have music books for you at your first lesson.

Enroll Now