

Music Should Last a Lifetime!

Thinking about music lessons but feeling unsure? You're not alone! Parents and adult students often have questions—and we've got answers. We are attempting to tackle the most common lesson concerns and questions and show you how music can fit into your or your family's life.

Music lessons are an investment in confidence, creativity, and lifelong skills.

The first question we are usually asked is “**How much are lessons?**” And honestly, we get it. Music lessons are generally thought of as expensive with a capital **E**! But what we think parents and students are really asking is, “**Will the lessons be worth it?**” That's a fair question. So what are the things that you value?

Let's start with the obvious - cost.

- Are there payment options?
- Are scholarships available?
- How is pricing structured?
- Are there discounts available if you participate in other programs at the school?
- In addition to tuition, do you have to pay other fees, like registration or recital fees?

Look at the school as a whole.

- Does the school have a mission statement that you believe in?
- Can you tell if the school values its community?
- Are there opportunities outside of lessons (performances, collaboration, etc.)?

Who are the teachers and staff?

- What does the school look for in its teachers?
- What kind of qualifications do their teachers present?
- Are their teachers performing in the community?
- How does the school hire teachers (background checks, oversight, interviews, etc.)?
- How long have their teachers been there?

Location. Location. Location...

- Where are the lessons located? Do you feel safe going there?
- What kind of instruments and equipment are available for students?
- Is there convenient parking available?
- Is there a place to wait for a student during lessons?
- What do the performance spaces look like?

Another question is “**How much time will it take to learn?**” People are busy! As you know, “Rome was not built in a day”.....and neither are virtuosos. **#facts** With many things in life, effort can equal progress.

Let's call the time you spend working on your craft outside of lessons as PLAYING, not PRACTICING. The word practice has gotten a bum wrap. We want to remind students that they should enjoy making music. 😊

The play time outside of lessons is for the student to experiment, learn, and have fun! Just 15 minutes of consistent, thoughtful play can make for great results!

Sometimes cost and time are not an issue. What parents and students really want to know - **Will taking lessons be fun?**

Of course, lessons can be fun! Before starting lessons, consider why you or your child wants to take lessons. What are you hoping to get out of lessons? Then take some time to learn about potential teachers. Is this someone who understands your goals and you can see yourself or your child getting along with?

But keep in mind that even with the perfect teacher, sometimes learning can be tough, and maybe not the most fun (can we say learning scales??), but when students keep working and have faith, things get easier. Promise.

Will students be pressured to perform and meet certain standards? Music can be a positive part of your life...for the rest of your life! This is where it is important to know if your expectations and your teachers expectations for lessons are in alignment. What does progress look like for you? Focus on the joy of playing and celebrate every bit of progress you've made. When we invite students to perform in a class, recital, or concert, it's never about judgment—it's about recognizing accomplishments and sharing the joy of music. 🎵

Not really a question, but a statement. **I don't know anything about music.** Learning to read music. Learning to play an instrument. It all can be intimidating. Don't let fear of the unknown stop you or your child from learning something new—like a musical instrument. No musical experience? No problem! Teachers should guide you every step of the way. Trying something new can feel scary, but it also can be worth it!

And now we come full circle. **Will lessons be worth it? Will they be fun?** Music creates connections. By learning an instrument, you open the door to meeting new people and making music together. It can also mean that you have a deeper appreciation and joy for performers and support the arts by being a dedicated audience member and advocate.

Taking music lessons can not only make you a better musician, but also support **cognitive development** (memory, concentration, math and language skills), **emotional and physical health** (stress relief, confidence, express emotions), **social benefits** (teamwork, community engagement), **physical benefits** (fine motor skills, breath work), and **lifelong skills**, such as discipline, patience, and creativity.

You are now armed with the knowledge to figure out if music lessons are right for you, and tools to make a confident decision for your or your child's musical growth.

Still have questions? Ready to get started with lessons? Awesome! Visit us online at cms.uni.edu or by scanning the QR code below. See you soon!



See U
Soon