

Boston College Music Department

Instrumental and Vocal Private Lessons

Syllabus, 2025-2026

Program Directors / Professors of Record

(questions about private lesson pedagogy, expectations, requirements, grading, etc)

Professor Anna Wittstruck (instrumental): anna.wittstruck@bc.edu

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers; Preferred Address: Dr. Anna, Dr. or Professor Wittstruck

Professor Riikka Pietilainen-Caffrey (vocal): pietilai@bc.edu

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers; Preferred Address: Dr. Riikka or Dr. Caffrey

Music Department Administrator

(questions about registration, room reservations, billing, etc)

Martha Kraft: martha.kraft@bc.edu

Lyons Hall 416

(617)-552-8720

Private Lesson Music Instructors

(questions about individual lesson scheduling, preparation, repertoire, learning goals, etc)

Cello – Leo Eguchi: eguchiL@bc.edu

Flute – Judy Grant-Duce: judy.grant-duce@bc.edu

Guitar – Erik Kniffin: kniffin@bc.edu

Percussion

- Timur Rubinshteyn: timur.rubinshteyn@bc.edu
- Fugan Dineen: douglass.dineen@bc.edu

Oboe – Ben Fox: oboeben@gmail.com

Organ – Timothy Zimmerman: zimmerta@bc.edu

Piano

- Adam Feldman: feldmaae@bc.edu
- Leah Kosch: leah.kosch@bc.edu
- Linda Papatopoli: papatopo@bc.edu
- Eleanor Perrone: perroe@bc.edu
- Lyubov Shlain: shlain@bc.edu

Saxophone – Jennifer Bill: jbill28@bu.edu

Trumpet – David Healey: david.healey@bc.edu

Tuba / Trombone – Eric Goode: goodeea@bc.edu

Violin – Anne-Marie Chubet (classical): chubeta@bc.edu

Viola

- Anne-Marie Chubet: chubeta@bc.edu
- Joan Ellersick: jellersick@mail.com

Voice

Jean Danton: jeandanton@comcast.net

Allyn McCourt: allyn.mccourt@bc.edu

Randy McGee: randy.mcgee@bc.edu

Pam Murray: murraypp@bc.edu

Clara Sandler: clarasandler@mac.com

Rob Woodin: robwoodin@gmail.com

Course Description

Individual instruction on a musical instrument or in voice is open to any Boston College student upon consultation with the Music department. Students are assigned to an approved teacher for one lesson per week, beginning the second or third week of classes (total of **10 lessons per semester**). Students may sign up for lessons that are 30-min or 1-hour in length. Students may elect to take lessons for credit (1-hour lessons only, with 4 additional music education hours required over the course of the semester, grading Pass/Fail), or for zero credit (30-min or 1-hour, grading Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory). Fees and registration are required – see details under “Registration.”

Learning goals (including technique, musicianship, musicality, and repertoire knowledge) are determined and agreed upon by the student and the teacher, depending on the student’s musical abilities and background. Teachers will customize pacing and expectations depending on their own approach and the needs, interest, and experience of each student.

Expectations (all students)

Regardless of whether a student is taking lessons for credit or no credit, and regardless of their level of musical experience, the following is expected:

- That students, upon receiving communications/inquiries from the Music Department’s administrative director, from their private instructor, and from the program director of their area (instrumental or vocal), will respond by email in a timely and respectful manner (ideally within 24 hours), and will work proactively and expediently towards scheduling mutually-agreeable lesson times with their private instructor.
- That students are expected to attend all scheduled lessons; “no-shows” are unacceptable. Absences, other than those due to illness, should be cleared with the private instructor at least two weeks in advance. If you need to miss a lesson due to illness, notify your private instructor as soon as possible. In the event of a medical or family emergency, if you are unable to notify your instructor of your absence ahead of time, please reach out with an explanation as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to communicate with your private instructor about what is going on, rather than have them reach out to you. **More than two “no-shows,” i.e. absences without prior notification to the private instructor, may result in a F for students taking lessons for credit, and – for any student – may jeopardize continued study with your teacher.**
- **Make-up lesson policy:** students may receive up to **one make-up lesson per semester** if they miss a lesson due to an excused absence. *A “no-show,” when you miss a lesson without notifying the instructor ahead of time, is NOT an excused absence.*
- That students will practice assigned repertoire and technical exercises on their own between lessons, and will make every effort to adequately prepare musical assignments requested by their instructor for each lesson. Students should discuss with their instructor expectations for the number of hours they should be practicing per day/week, on average, and should be forthright about their capacity (on a weekly basis) to balance practice hours with their curricular and co-curricular workload.

Expectations (students taking lessons for credit)

- Additionally, students **enrolled for credit** must participate in the following to satisfy the 5 additional hours of music education needed to meet Federal guidelines of 15 hours of class time per single credit:
 - Give a short, 2-5 min performance (formerly known as “jury”) in a group setting, to be scheduled around the final exam period.
 - With instructor permission, students may opt out of this requirement and elect to submit a recorded performance.
 - Recordings should be submitted to the program director by email by the date of the group performance. Students must receive permission from their instructor to pursue this alternative, and must notify the program director (with their instructor ‘CCed) **within 3 weeks of receiving notification of the group performance date and time**. Recordings should be submitted to the program director [using this form](#) by the date of the group performance.
 - Attend 3 masterclasses/workshops or performances (on campus) during the semester. Upcoming masterclass and performance events are available [here](#).
 - Note: any student concurrently **enrolled** in a professionally-led musical ensemble (i.e. Astaza!, BC Baroque (spring only), BC bOp!, BCSO, Cello Ensemble, Chamber Music, Flute Ensemble, Marching Band, Popular Styles Ensemble, Piano Ensemble, University Wind Ensemble, Waaw Waaw Sabar, Chamber Singers, Liederabend, Musical Theater Cabaret, Opera Workshop, University Chorale, or Voices of Imani) automatically fulfills the three additional hours.
 - Note: **ensemble participation does not exempt students from participation in the final group performance.**
 - Students should submit documentation of the masterclasses/performances they attended using [this form](#) (same form used to submit program notes/recordings).

Registration and Fees

Students must register for lessons no later than September 3, 2025. More information about lesson registration and fees can be found [here](#).

Non-Credit: Students should enroll in the following courses:

Instrumental

30-min lessons: MUSP 1960

60-min lessons: MUSP 1980

Vocal

30-min lessons: MUSP 1900

60-min lessons: MUSP 1920

One-Credit: Students should enroll in the following courses:

Instrumental

60-min lessons: MUSP 1985

Vocal

60-min lessons: MUSP 1925