

## Performing Artist Program - Here's What's in Store

Welcome!

I am absolutely thrilled you have chosen us for your child's musical journey.

Sing Music Studio's unique Performing Artist Program is a holistic, creative, cross-genre education for young and aspiring musicians.

While we know a weekly private lesson is essential for learning basic and advanced techniques on an instrument, we also know it isn't sufficient to give young players everything they need to truly be musical. They require weekly, robust group playing opportunities to learn the magic of making music with others, varied performance experiences to complete their skills and the opportunity to explore and create in an environment that allows them to be authentic with nurturing support. Opportunities to build relationships with other students and experience the joy of creating together help inspire them to continue along their journey when the going gets tough. Our unique and carefully crafted Performing Artists Program provides students the tools to grow and fully express themselves creatively, while thriving in a community of like-minded musicians.

What's more, we know that being able to creatively express yourself with authenticity on your instrument and perform with confidence are not qualities you can develop focusing on technique and songs alone. Education for the musical artist must include the skills of being at home on the stage in front of an audience, a solid mental toolkit, deep experiences with the creative process, and the courage to be vulnerable repeatedly with the support of your friends and mentors. With these goals in mind, our curriculum builds on four foundations:

- Solo + Group Musicianship
- Performance + Wellness
- Artistry + Creativity
- Personal Development

Lastly, the arts and our humanity are our future.

Throughout all of history, the creation and performance of music has been a hallmark of what it means to be alive: pure joy, expressing challenging feelings, finding our voices, sharing our stories, and moving the world forward for the better. Music IS the soundtrack of our lives. Your student will learn to play some of the most impactful songs spanning multiple genres from the 19th century through today in this unique program. They will also study the cultural context of the songs and the artists who

created them. In this way, students can fully appreciate where the music came from and the process of the artist's self-expression. They can then model that creative process for themselves in their own lives, with today's cultural context, to make meaningful art.

The creative process is inherently valuable to a person, and that growth permeates any direction they choose to take in life. We are creators in our own lives, whether we're intentional about it or we're unaware. The qualities that an artist must develop are the same qualities that allow us to have a fulfilling life, build long-lasting collaborative relationships, and contribute back to society

Artists are resilient.

Artists are visionary leaders.

Artists are always growing.

Artists are open-minded and flexible.

Artists are curious.

Artists are persistent.

Artists believe in their passions.

Artists are vulnerable.

Artists are authentic and truthful.

Artists challenge themselves.

Artists are humble and courageous.

Artists are mindful of others.

The world will continue to catapult forward with changes we can barely imagine over the coming decades. Artists, and the creative mindset, are essential for the journey. Welcome to the Sing Music Studio family!

Mandi Galer

CEO & Founder

Sing Music Studio Inc.

# The Performing Artist Program Student Journey

Level I - Explorers Preparatory, Explorers, Dreamers

## **Prep: Explorers Preparatory**

This 2 year entry level program for students in JK (age 4-5) and SK (age 5-6) bridges the gap between Kindermusik level 3 and Explorers, providing young students with preparatory skills to optimize engagement and success as they advance through the coming stages of the Performing Artists Program. Year 2 students gain the opportunity to become classroom leaders.

The group class focuses on warm-up/preparation, singing in unison and simple harmony, performance skills including acting exercises, ensemble skills, steady beat and rhythm, introduction to contemporary music and well known composers, live performances, use of technologically current musician tools (ie. loop station, drum tracks), a focus on synthesizers and how they are used in modern music, working with percussion and keyboard instruments in addition to artistry, creativity, group connection and wellness.

At this level, students have the option to add on a one on one piano lesson with one set of method books included per school year.

## **Stage 1: Explorers**

In this 2 year entry level program, students in Grade 1 (age 6-7) and Grade 2 (age 7-8) are enrolled in a weekly group class AND a weekly piano lesson. Year 2 students have the additional opportunity to begin building leadership skills.

In addition to the concepts learned at the preparatory level, students will learn tonic sol-fa, basic harmony (canons, counterpoint and harmonizing in thirds) and more layered ensemble playing as well as basic ukulele and recorder.

One set of piano method books are included per school year.

## **Stage 2: Dreamers**

In this 2 year entry level program, students in Grade 3 (age 8-9) and Grade 4 (age 9-10) lay the foundation for a band style ensemble. Year 2 students additionally work on building leadership skills.

Students continue to be enrolled in a weekly group class and a weekly private lesson. At this phase, students now have the option to continue on with private piano, add a new instrument private lesson or change to a new private instrument of study once Piano Adventures level 1 is complete.

In this stage, students have opportunities to explore drumset and percussion, singing, keyboards, guitar and bass, setting the stage for the next phase of learning where they come together as a band. As concepts from the previous level continue to build, we additionally see growth with personal development, wellness and connection.

One set of instrument specific method books are included per school year.

## Level II - Players

### **Stage 3: Players**

In this 2 year level, students in Grade 5 (age 10-11) and Grade 6 (age 11-12) come together, playing in a band style ensemble. Year 2 students additionally work on building leadership skills.

Students continue to be enrolled in a weekly group class and a weekly private lesson. At this phase, students have typically settled on their main instrument(s) of study and may choose to add an additional private lesson for further musical development.

In this stage, students play different instruments/sing simultaneously as a cohesive group and students who are not studying vocals privately are encouraged to sing back-ups and harmonize. There is a focus on mainstream genres and students work together as a cohesive group developing teamwork, ensemble skills, strong bonds and group musicianship. As concepts from the previous level continue to build, we additionally see growth with personal development, wellness and connection.

One set of instrument specific method books are included per school year.

## **Coming in 2024/2025 and beyond...**

### Level II - Creators

#### Stage 4: Creators

Students in Grade 7 (age 12-13) and Grade 8 (age 13-14)

### Level III - Artists, Innovators

#### Stage 5: Artists

Students in Grade 9 (age 14-15) and Grade 10 (age 15-16)

#### Stage 6: Innovators

Students in Grade 11 (age 16-17) and Grade 12 (age 17-18)

## Off to a Great Start

We know there are plenty of new things to navigate as your child's new musical journey begins. For this reason, we recommend a parent/guardian sit in on the first 4 one-on-one lessons so you can learn about the practice expectations, the type of equipment and practice environment you should have at home and how to support your child's musical journey with optimum success in mind. You are your child's 1st (and best) teacher after all! They look to you for encouragement and support and learn best with the presence of their most trusted adult! You are welcome to attend these first 4 lessons (and beyond) in entirety or wean down your attendance as the weeks progress. You will know when it's time to step back, and if you're not sure - just check in with your child and the instructor! You are always welcome to pop in for the last few minutes of a lesson at ANY time in your child's musical journey. We've also built in three Connection Weeks a year for just that purpose (more info below).

## How to Succeed with Musical Study

Being able to play an instrument and/or sing is an incredible joy! That being said, the actual process of learning music can bring emotions that range from exhilaration to defeat. Preparing mentally for study and knowing what to expect makes all the difference. Here's our best advice for you as you form new musical habits:

- Make a commitment to yourself and your musical goals
- Set short and long term goals with your teacher
- Complete your goals to earn ballots in our monthly draws
- Believe in yourself
- Stay positive, patient and encouraging
- Communicate your struggles and lean on us for support
- Find inspiration by listening to all kinds of music and seeing live concerts
- Use our Ignite the Spark contest to get creative and unleash your musical passion
- Participate in our performance opportunities
- Embrace your mistakes - they are the key to learning
- Don't give up, you can do it!

## How to Practice

- Try to find time to practice every day. Start with 10 minutes, 4 times a week for beginners.
- Log your practice so you can keep track.
- Find a quiet place to practice so you can focus and concentrate.
- Don't try to practice too much all at once - break big ideas into smaller ones for the best success!
- Practice slowly and repeat small chunks until you have mastered them.
- Practice with friends! Connect in person or over online video chat.
- Don't forget to have fun! Be sure to practice some music you enjoy in addition to the hard stuff!

## Monthly Draws

Each month, September through June, Sing Music Studio holds a monthly draw with a new exciting prize. By setting and completing goals in your one-on-one lessons with your instructor, there are no limits to the amount of ballots you can earn to win. Goals can include completing a weekly practice log, learning a new song on your own, performing for someone new, mastering something challenging, memorizing a song and much much more. Be sure to connect with your instructor about your goals each week so they can provide you with ballots to place in the prize drum. Good luck!



Every year in February, the Ignite the Spark contest takes the place of the monthly draw. At the beginning of the month, you will receive access to a bingo-style card and instructions on how to play. Fabulous small, medium, large and grand prizes contributed by local businesses are to be won by completing musical tasks that are sure to ignite your spark!

## Performances

All Performing Artist group classes will perform together with their class during our end of year recital in addition to participating in the holiday video performance week, in-studio showcases and community events. Students may additionally choose to perform a solo piece at the live recital to be prepared with their instructors in their one-on-one lessons.

Preparations for these performances begin months in advance and depend on consistent attendance, group connection and teamwork as students come together as an ensemble to perform. Students really count on each other to perform as a cohesive unit. With even one student absent on performance day, an entire song can completely unravel! It is for this reason that we ONLY accept new enrolments into our Performing Artist Program until the first week of October with an additional enrolment window from January through the first week of February AND we do not allow withdrawals after the 4 week happiness guarantee period. We strive to achieve loving, connected groups of students who enjoy all aspects of the preparations, performance and final class celebration day together.

## Connection Weeks

Twice a year, we invite parents/guardians to join students during their weekly one-on-one lessons and sit in on a portion of the group classes. We know that YOU are your child's most important teacher. We want to do everything in our power to help you support your child in their musical development and journey. These connection weeks are an opportunity for you to see what happens in a lesson, discuss achievements and goals together with your child and their instructor and learn about what new opportunities may lie ahead. Be sure to mark your calendars for our Connection Weeks as noted in our calendar here <https://www.singmusicstudio.com/current-calendar/>.

## Celebration Day

Be sure to attend on the final day of your child's group classes in June for Celebration Day! Each class will celebrate together, sharing their favourite moments from the school year. Parents are welcomed into the class to see students completing year 2 receive a graduation certificate as they prepare to move up to the next stage. And don't worry, there will be a little something for everyone!

## Absence

While we know that you know how important consistent attendance is in your child's music education, we also know that kids get sick, things happen and once in a while a one-on-one lesson or group class has to be missed.

When these rare occurrences do happen, be sure to inform the Harmony Team ([harmony@singmusicstudio.com](mailto:harmony@singmusicstudio.com)) before 3pm on a weekday or 9am on a Saturday morning so they can inform your one-on-one lesson or group class instructor.

If you will be missing a one-on-one lesson and notification is received in time, a video lesson and notes will be prepared during your usual one-on-one lesson time to keep your individual momentum going and your practice consistent.

As each group class is unique and driven by the specific students enrolled in each individual group, make-ups and video lessons are not available for these classes. Your group class instructor or the Harmony Team will reach out if there is important communication to be shared from a missed class.

On the even rarer occasion of your instructor being absent, a substitute instructor, virtual lesson or video lesson will be provided based on the circumstances.

