



Orpheus

NEWSLETTER OF CHORDINATION[®], LLC

HARMONY
IN
MUSIC
EDUCATION

Fall 2018, Volume 57

FROM JOHN *by John Jaqua*

Summer is fun, but I still love getting back to the routine of regular music lessons, plans for recitals, and touching base with our wonderful teachers. During summer we had a few good-byes, but are excited about our new teachers we have hired. All of our teachers, new and experienced (notice how I didn't say old) bring such passion and positive energy to their students, creating a lifelong appreciation of music.

Many of our teachers have busy teaching schedules and work hard to accommodate the challenging schedules many families have this time of year. We are trying something new this Fall Term. Instead of charging you for all 17 weeks of lessons, we are encouraging families and teachers to look at schedules at the beginning of the term and pick a week they do not want a lesson due to another obligation- like Thanksgiving, or a family vacation, a school concert, etc. This will require communication but we think it will also allow some needed flexibility.

Always know that our doors are open- well in reality our phones and email! Always feel free to contact us with any concerns, questions, or even to let us know how awesome your teacher is doing.

FALL TERM - 16 LESSONS

Need to talk to teacher about availability. In the past we have always had Fall Term follow the fall school schedule. Typically, it has been 16 weeks long and started when school started. This year it appears that the school year will start early and that Portland Public Schools and Lake Oswego Schools are taking the week of Thanksgiving off- this creates challenges. If we start on the week of August 27 and end the December 21 the term will be 17 weeks long. After a lot of thought we decided to start the week of August 27 and end December 21, but to invoice for 16 weeks. We ask that you please discuss with your teacher your family plans and which day you might need to take off from lessons due to Thanksgiving week or other commitments. We hope that given holidays and other events that come up this could offer some flexibility that is helpful to busy families. At the same time we hope that this gives our teachers some advance notice for planning purposes. As a reminder our Cancellation Policy will still apply to lessons during the term.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Makeup lessons are given for students who cancel lessons because of illness or extenuating circumstances when teachers are notified at least 24 hours in advance. Make-up lessons are not guaranteed for lessons cancelled due to personal scheduling conflicts such as school, sports, extracurricular activities, etc. Our teachers have allotted this time for your lesson and it is often difficult for them to fill this time.

Take a minute to communicate with your teacher about trips, school closures, schedules, etc.

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR TEACHER

Fall is a great time to take a few minutes with your teacher and communicate goals, concern, and most of all the best way to communicate. Do you prefer email, text, or phone? What does the teacher prefer? Do both parties have all the appropriate contact information? If you know of lesson days that will have another obligation please give the teachers as much notice as possible. Due to traffic issues all the teachers try very hard to align lessons in the same area. Being stranded at the Starbucks with an hour or more between lessons costs money, time, and patience. Our teachers work very hard to offer quality music lessons, while also managing their own performance and rehearsal schedules.

MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS

Ben Zuelsdorf began his musical journey when he was 9 with classical piano lessons in Chicago. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree (Piano; Jazz Emphasis) at Portland State University in 2011. Benjamin has studied and performed straight ahead Jazz, Western Classical, Soul, Rhythm and Blues, Funk, Experimental and electronic genres. He has composed and arranged for many types of ensembles including jazz vocal groups, jazz chamber groups, vocal ensembles and Big-bands.

Benjamin has experience working with students ranging from preschool to senior citizens in all skill levels. He has worked with adult group-piano classes at the collegiate level, coaching elementary students in after school music programs, group children's classes, and individual instruction. Benjamin welcomes students of all ages, styles, and skill levels.

"As a teacher I offer a great deal of knowledge in many styles of music as well as a genuine motivation to impart the love I have for music performance. My journey through music has blessed me with experience in western classical, jazz, blues, and popular styles; all of which allows me to instruct students in whatever their musical goals may be. The lessons are always rooted in observing excellent pianistic technique and fundamental musicianship. Finally, my students know me to be a patient instructor that consistently works to teach the material in a way that is accessible and relevant to the student's goals."

Madeline Moun is a student at Pacific University, earning a second Bachelor's in Music Therapy. She minored in music while at the University of Oregon, graduating in 2013 with a B.A. in English. While at U of O, Maddy accompanied a University Theatre production on piano; the show toured rural elementary, middle and high schools in Oregon and Washington in the summer of 2010. After graduating, Maddy accompanied a Corvallis Community Theatre production of The Sound of Music, before serving a year in Americorps NCCC. Maddy attended Marylhurst University from 2016-2018, playing piano in Jazz Ensemble and singing in Women's Chorale and Chamber Choir. She sang in the chorus for Marylhurst Opera's productions of The Yeomen of the Guard and Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. She toured Italy with the Chamber Choir this July. Currently, Maddy is playing keyboards for Torchsong Productions. Maddy has worked with kids at summer camps starting at age 14. She has also worked with kids through RISE Family Services, as well as part of her course work. Maddy is excited to start teaching with Chordination, and share her passion for music and how it connects us all. She can't wait to show her students how to play and enjoy music.



MUSIC FACT:

One of the only activities that activates, stimulates and uses the entire brain is Music.

FALL RECITAL AND MONSTERS

Our Fall Halloween Recital, October 28, is always a favorite. Students have the option to wear costumes while performing their musical piece. Prizes are given for most original, scariest, and best costume. Recitals always offer a variety of music- from Rock to Classical and this recital, especially, is a unique and fun experience.



**Piano
Tuning**

Chordination teacher **Andrew Fort** is now available to tune and service your piano.

Call **Pedal to Pin Piano Service** at (503) 327-5089 or e-mail pedaltopin@gmail.com

Important Dates to Remember

Summer Term Ends
August 24

Fall Term
August 27 – December 21

Fall Term Recital
October 28

Winter Term
January 7 – March 22

Winter Term Recital
March 17