

WCAMS 41st Summer Music Camp 2024



Class Descriptions

Vocal classes:

SATB choir (Trish Plumley): Here is a chance to explore, expand and enjoy your choral journey at camp. SATB stands for "Soprano Alto Tenor Bass", and so anyone who can sing (that's everyone!) can join this class. Women with low voices are welcome to sing tenor. A mix of technique, reading and musical fun learning various songs. Join us and sing as if no one is watching!!!

Celtic singing (Shoshanna Godber): Vocalists of all levels are welcome and music reading is not essential as many of the songs will be learned following the 'oral tradition' (with lyrics provided). Learn the stories behind the songs and even a little Gaelic!

Vocal jazz (Frances Roberts): Explore swing, Latin, blues and a cappella vocal jazz styles in three- to six-part harmony. If you want to groove a bit while you sing, go ahead! No previous jazz experience necessary. Double bass and drum-set players also welcome!

Choir (Geordie Roberts): Everyone is encouraged either to sing in the large choir or to play in the orchestra (see 'Choral Orchestra') which accompanies it. This year the group will perform excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

Choral sectional (Frances Roberts, Geordie Roberts, Marco del Rio): These rehearsals focus on helping singers in each of the four choral sections (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) to learn the notes, to work on phrasing and to practise the pronunciation of their individual part of the choral work.

Drop-in singing (Frances Roberts): A mix of global music: rounds from around the world, some 3- and 4-part African songs. It will be primarily acapella singing, improvising and harmonizing. No experience necessary.

Voices Only (Geordie Roberts): The A, B, C's of vocal technique. Monday: breathing, posture, alignment. Tuesday: placement, vowels. Wednesday: increasing range. Thursday: applying concepts to repertoire. Friday: vocal health. If you would like to come to only a few sessions, that is OK.

Instrumental classes

Beginner/Intermediate Celtic (Shoshanna Godber): For C instruments – violin/fiddle, penny whistle, flute, recorder, cello, viola, acoustic guitar and ukuleles (mainly using G / Em / D / Bm / C / Am & related chords). Tunes are all played at a slow speed and are repeated daily for learning. Sheet music will be provided, but there will also be an option to learn a tune traditionally (by ear!). Learn about the different kinds of Celtic tunes and how to ornament them.

Advanced Celtic Instrumental (Shoshanna Godber): Same as above, but we will also add harmony parts and speed up the dance tunes!

Orchestra 101 (Henry Shapard): This is for people without orchestral experience or for experienced musicians who are playing a second (or third, fourth, or more!) instrument.

Orchestra (Henry Shapard): This group will play two symphonic pieces. Seats for wind and brass are limited; their coaches will decide on seating on Monday morning.

Choral Orchestra (Henry Shapard): This group accompanies the large choir performing a work from the major choral/orchestral repertoire. All string players can attend, but seats for wind and brass are limited; their coaches will decide on seating on Monday morning.

Advanced string ensemble (Müge Büyükçelen): This group performs without a conductor. Participants need to have strong sight reading and mixed meter reading skills, and be able to play a three-octave scale in any key.

Intermediate string ensemble (Henry Shapard): This is for players from grade 3 to grade 7. Repertoire has varied from the Baroque (Bach's 3rd Brandenburg concerto), through the Classical (Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik) and Romantic (Grieg's Holberg Suite), to Modern (arrangement of Abba songs). Two contrasting pieces are usually chosen each year. The final performance will be conducted by the coach.

Wind ensemble (Mike Keddy): This group rehearses 3 or 4 pieces for concert band (winds, brass and percussion) and is open to all Intermediate to Advanced players.

Cello ensemble (Albert Seo): play in a group of cellos with 2–4 people on each part. Some parts are all in first position; others can involve thumb position. No prior experience with ensemble playing is necessary.

Flute ensemble (Suzanne Snizek): For flute players who wish to work on the fundamentals of ensemble playing: counting, listening, rhythm and intonation. The repertoire will be selected to address the needs of those participating, and the environment will be fun and inclusive. If you would like to play piccolo or alto flute (or even bass flute), and have the instrument, bring it along and we will try to work it into the repertoire! Prior flute group experience is not necessary.

Instrumental 'Only' classes:

Violins Advanced (Müge Büyükçelen): A mixture of technique, masterclass, and playing as a group. Also known as the "violin nerds" class. For this class, violinists should be comfortable playing a fast two-octave scale in any key.

Violins Beginner/Intermediate (Karen Gerbrecht): This class works on the fundamentals of violin playing, including posture, intonation, sight reading, and sound production. Depending on the needs of the class we may include performance opportunities as well, in a masterclass setting. All levels of players are welcome here!

Violas (Sarah Kwok): A mixture of technique, masterclass and playing as a group.

Cellos Advanced (Albert Seo): A mixture of technique, masterclass and playing as a group. For this class, cellists should be comfortable playing a three-octave scale in any key.

Cellos Beginner/Intermediate (Brian Mix): A mixture of technique, masterclass and playing as a group. All levels of players are welcome.

Double basses (Meaghan Williams): This course will introduce and review basic principles of technique and cover a mix of orchestral repertoire and ensemble playing. All levels are welcome!

Flutes (Suzanne Snizek): We will begin each group class with warm-ups, followed by technical building and short melodic pieces to hone breathing and expressive control.

Oboes (Geronimo Mendoza): A daily masterclass setting, where everyone has an opportunity to play for a collaborative and supportive group of colleagues! Technique, reeds, breath control and posture are all topics that will be covered, and we will also play as a group.

Clarinets (Cris Inguanti): Each class will cover a different aspect of clarinet playing with group participation for all each session - appropriate for all levels. Masterclass option available for any who are interested (one to two performers per class).

Bassoons (Sophie Dansereau): Reed fixing, technique, interpretation, masterclass and group playing during the week. Each day a topic will be selected by the students.

Recorders (Karen Epp): Technique (tonguing, breathing, intonation, etc.) will be explored in the context of bringing recorder consort music to life. Bring your assorted sizes ... a home will be found for all levels of player, low intermediate to advanced.

Trumpets (David Michaux): Trumpet morning sessions will be daily group warm-ups and technique practice, section playing and ensemble work. All trumpet, all the time.

Horns (Andrew Mee): A mixture of technique, orchestral repertoire and horn ensembles.

Lower brass (Scott MacInnes): The sessions will include a group warm-up, ensemble playing and discussions of lower brass (trombone, tuba, euphonium,...) playing. This class is suitable for players of all levels.

Percussion (Mike Keddy): This is a fundamentals and techniques class that will each day focus on different aspects of the huge variety of skills involved in playing percussion. We will cover timpani, snare drum, keyboard percussion and everything else we can get to, with particular focus on areas of need for the attending participants. Sometimes this time is used to do sectionals on big repertoire being performed at WCAMS that week or to give participants specific exercises to work on for the other 51 weeks of the year. It is fun, fast-paced and, mostly, hands-on.

Pianos (Kinza Tyrrell): We will focus on one or more of these items, depending on attendance and interest: playing posture, repertoire (bring 1 slow and 1 fast piece/excerpt), sight reading, collaboration skills (duetting and chamber music), finger voicing, breathing, counting/subdividing and conducting/leading from the keys. All skill levels welcome.

Mixed classes

Collaborative music (Geordie Roberts): A coached masterclass for singers & pianists interested in accompanying, designed to help both singers and pianists take songs from “just words and notes” to “a true musical experience”. Auditors welcome, but be warned: we will try to coerce you into singing something! We will work on performance aspects of singing/accompanying, including technical considerations, performance anxiety, level of expressiveness, diction and languages, historical conventions and singing outside the box.

Early Music (Karen Epp): Come one come all! This ensemble welcomes everyone no matter what their skill level or instrument/voice. We tend to focus on Renaissance and Baroque music, but may have some excursions into other periods. It is an opportunity for instrumentalists and vocalists to learn about working and making music together. Something for everyone!

Ukulele (Heather Stubbs): Learn a variety of chords and strumming techniques while singing with gusto! These drop-in sessions are for all ability levels and will be relaxed and fun. Many styles of music will be covered—from Nostalgia to the latest Pop, from Reggae to Rock. Bring your own uke and stand. Please note that guitarists are welcome to come and strum and sing with us, but no guitar instruction will be provided.

Other classes

Body awareness for musicians (Trish Plumley): The more aware you become of the subtleties of your primary instrument – your body – the more joyful, integrated, eased and fulfilling your life as a musician can become. Hop into loose-fitting clothing and get ready to explore both movement and relaxation. Increase your awareness of the dramatic range of possibilities for motion through Alexander technique, yoga and Feldenkrais-inspired concepts that will help you listen and respond to the singular needs of your body!

Music lectures: Faculty give lectures on a wide variety of topics. The titles of this year’s lectures can be found in the camp booklet which will be available a couple weeks before camp.