

West Coast Amateur Musicians Society  
**SUMMER CAMP 2022**

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## **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** (Amy Stephen): 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).

**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** (Lars Kaario): 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 Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, K339.

**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 and harmonizing.

**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

**Guitar/Ukulele** (Elliot Langford): Learn the most common chords and strumming techniques for both guitar and ukulele and have fun strumming and singing together! Some guitars available to borrow but please bring your own ukulele.

**Beginner/Intermediate Celtic** (Amy Stephen): 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.

**Advanced Celtic Instrumental** (Amy Stephen): We will play the tunes available for both Intermediate and Advanced on [Amy's website](#) at, or close to, actual speed: basically between 100 - 120 bpm. (By July 1st there will be audio for the tunes on the page as well so you can listen / play along ahead of time.) If you have other tunes you already play, and would like to play them with the group, please send music to [stephamy@gmail.com](mailto:stephamy@gmail.com) so she can add them to the list. This class has no transposed tunes, so is suitable for 'session' instruments such as fiddles, flutes, accordions, penny whistles, and guitar/ukulele (chords included).

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

**Orchestra** (Rosemary Thomson): This group will play three short symphonic pieces. Seats for wind and brass are limited; their coaches will decide on seating on Monday morning.

**Choral Orchestra** (Rosemary Thomson): 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** (Becky Whitling): This group performs without a conductor. Seats are limited and will be decided after Monday's 'only' class. Participants should be able to play a three-octave scale in any key.

**Intermediate string ensemble** (Rosemary Thomson): 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** (Dave Haskins): 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** (Cyrena Huang): 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** (Brenda Fedoruk): 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 not necessary.

**Instrumental Jazz** (Elliot Langford): will focus on learning to play basic jazz styles, focusing in particular on learning to improvise (yes, you can learn to improvise!) Open to all instruments and abilities, though basic sight reading skills would be valuable.

## 'Only' classes:

**Violins 1** (Becky Whitling): 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 2** (Karen Gerbrecht): A class which provides technical help, works through fundamentals, and offers a master-class opportunity. All levels of players are welcome.

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

**Cellos 1** (Cristian Markos): 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 2** (Cyrena Huang): 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** (Brenda Fedoruk): A group class with a daily focus on tone production. Every class will also focus on how to improve one additional aspect of flute playing, whether it's vibrato, articulation, intonation or technique. We will decide as a group what topics we want to cover and there will be a short masterclass component each day for those players who wish to perform and have specific feedback.

**Oboes** (Marea Chernoff): 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** (AK Coope): 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** (Marea Chernoff): 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.

**Horns** (David Haskins): A mixture of technique, orchestral repertoire and horn ensembles.

**Lower brass** (Sharman King): 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** (Michael Jarrett): 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** (Trish Plumley): We will focus on one or more of these items, depending on attendance and interest: repertoire, sight reading, collaboration skills, crossing-over styles and duets.

**Voices** (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.

## Mixed classes

**Teen pop** (Elliot Langford): For 15–19-year-olds. Play or sing arrangements of modern pop songs. The goal of this course is to give you the skills and confidence to be able to lead your own band!

**Collaborative music** (Geordie Roberts): A coached masterclass for singer & piano pairs, 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.

## 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!

**Conducting** (Lars Kaario): An opportunity to learn the basic techniques of conducting, including patterns, articulation, cues, cut-offs, dynamics and expression. Lars will discuss a variety of approaches to conducting, both choral and orchestral. Appropriate for beginner-to-intermediate level. It will be fun and interesting!

**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.