

# ***The Illinois Music Academy***

## ***String Academy***

***Syllabus – 2017-2018 Academic Year***

### **Overview**

String Academy instruction incorporates the pedagogy and teaching philosophies of Ivan Galamian, Paul Rolland, Shinichi Suzuki, Mimi Zweig, and traditional methods.

Individual instruction is currently available for the violin, viola and cello. Violin/viola students may also enroll in weekly group classes. Group classes are currently available for Beginners and Suzuki book 1, 2, 3 and 4 level violin and viola students. More advanced students may enroll in private lessons with optional chamber music opportunities and/or music theory courses. All students are provided consistent opportunity to perform throughout the year.

Interested families, parents or students should contact the program Coordinator, Aaron Jacobs, to determine the best course of study. **An introductory consultation and/or trial lesson may be scheduled free of charge.**

### **Registration**

#### **New Students (Beginners)**

Families and/or interested students should review the information in this document and may complete the online registration at any time. Group classes are offered during fall and spring semesters. We encourage those interested in group classes to complete registration before the beginning of the new term to avoid a delayed start to the semester (calendar on last page below).

New beginning students are generally accepted between the ages of 5 and 8, but there are exceptions, and inquiries are welcomed from all. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to schedule a free introductory consultation and/or trial lesson.

#### **Transfer Students (Students with previous playing experience)**

There are many different methods and approaches of learning how to play a stringed instrument. The Illinois String Academy has a specific curriculum that all students enrolled in group classes learn. An incoming transfer student can start working with a private teacher right away, but may need to spend some time learning the curriculum before participating in group classes. A certain amount of group class observation may also be recommended. The way in which a transfer student is integrated into the program will vary depending on a student's background and is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes students are referred to standard private lessons without group classes. Please contact the Coordinator or the Office of Public Engagement for more information and to schedule a free consultation and/or trial lesson.

### **Scheduling**

Private lessons are scheduled directly with your private teacher. Group classes for beginners will take place on Wednesdays at 5:30 throughout the academic year. Other group classes generally take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings. Group classes are not offered during the summer.

#### **Transition Time Between Lessons and Classes**

Because private lessons and classes are often scheduled back-to-back, family members and students should expect a reasonable amount of transition time. This allows students to enter and exit our teaching spaces, and allows teachers to run quick errands. Transition time should not cut into instruction time more than 5 minutes. Please let us know if you encounter excessive amounts of transition time on a regular basis.

## **Tuition**

- Private lesson tuition – includes 15 weekly lessons
  - 30 minute lessons | \$330
  - 45 minute lessons | \$480
  - 60 minute lessons | \$630
  - 90 minute lessons | \$900
- Group class tuition – includes 13 weekly group classes
  - 60 minute classes | \$195
  - \*Must be enrolled in private lessons
- Billing for extra lessons or chamber music options to be arranged as needed.
- \*If students do not receive all lessons paid for in a given term, a credit will be issued towards registration for the following term (fall, spring, or summer). Likewise, extra lessons (if not paid for ahead of time) will be charged in addition to tuition for the following term.

## **Billing Options**

- Payment may be made by check (payable to “University of Illinois”) or credit card through a U of I secure credit card site (<http://go.illinois.edu/ISAPayment>).
- Tuition may be paid in full at the time of registration or, by request, in two installments – due at the beginning of the term and during the 7<sup>th</sup> week.

## **Registration Deadline**

For private lessons – registration may be completed at any time. For group classes – we encourage enrollment no later than the Friday before the semester begins in order to avoid delay in joining the class. Students may be integrated into group classes mid-semester on a case-by-case basis.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Illinois String Academy does not discriminate on the basis of talent, race, nationality, gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious belief in its admission, student aid or other educational practices.

## **Finding an Instrument**

*Do not purchase an instrument without your teacher’s approval!* A well set-up instrument is essential to the development of young string players. Your teacher will also help to determine the correct size of instrument that is needed. Smaller is better than larger.

## **Policies & Guidelines**

### **Family Involvement**

Consistent evidence and extensive experience has shown that the amount learned and the speed with which it is learned is directly associated with the degree to which family members are involved with a child’s study. Whether it is a parent, guardian, grandparent, kith or kin caregiver, it is highly encouraged that a family member attend private lessons and group classes, take notes for students during lessons, and assist students during at-home practice sessions. Studying the instrument along side a young student is also encouraged for those who are interested, and can be very motivating. Consistent, daily musical activities and music listening reinforce learning and help to establish practice as a daily habit. As students grow and mature, the amount of family involvement required will gradually lessen.

## **Policies Regarding Student Minors on the Premises of the University of Illinois**

- *The behavior and supervision of minors outside of scheduled instruction time with our instructors is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians.*
- Instructors are not permitted to give rides to students. Neither may minors rehearse unsupervised on university property.
- Instructors will have an emergency contact sheet based on the information families provide.
- *An adult must accompany young children at all times.* If an instructor is late, a responsible adult must be present with a young child until the teacher arrives and must be present immediately following the completion of instruction. Parents/guardians or a responsible adult, similarly, must also monitor any additional young children (e.g. siblings or friends) who have entered university facilities with them but are not enrolled in our programs.
- Students who are old enough and mature enough to navigate our facilities quietly may be dropped off and not accompanied into the building by a parent, guardian or responsible adult. In this case a parent or legal guardian must obtain written approval from the Coordinator.
- The lobbies and hallways serve as both a waiting area for students prior to classes and a meeting place for parents, students and faculty. Students should speak quietly in these areas to prevent interference with instructors in nearby studios.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for curtailing running, loud play and any dangerous or annoying behavior on the part of their youngsters. Such occurrences, if deemed extreme, could be cause for dismissal from the program.

## **Private Lesson Attendance**

Students will be granted a specific time and day each week for private lessons, to be agreed upon with the private teacher. It is expected that the day/time chosen will remain a constant weekly time throughout a given semester, with the exception of published university breaks.

- **Only one cancellation is permitted per semester.** Teachers are not obligated to make up additional cancelled lessons and no refund will be issued. However, we will do our best to accommodate additional cancellations when given at least two weeks advance notice.
- Students/families are responsible to give reasonable notice to their teacher in the event of a cancellation (i.e. at least 24 hours advance notice). If a student does not show up, or if notice of the cancellation occurs less than 24 hours in advance, it is considered a “no-show.” Teachers will not grant make-up lessons for a “no-show” and no refund will be issued. In the occurrence of sudden illness or family emergency, a “no-show” may be classified as the one permitted cancellation per semester.
- If the teacher cancels a lesson, it will be made up or carried over to the next term.
- Students/families are encouraged to trade lessons with other students when conflicts arise.
- Extenuating circumstances will always be taken under consideration at the discretion of the private teacher.

## **Group Class Attendance**

- Group lessons are an integral part of the learning experience for the student, and for that reason attendance is required.
- Students are billed for group classes regardless of attendance.
- If a student misses more than two group classes in a semester, discussion with the teacher will need to occur to determine the student's continued level of involvement.
- If a student is not adequately prepared for a performance due to frequent absences, they may not be allowed to participate.
- If a group class is cancelled due to extenuating circumstances, every effort will be made to reschedule.

**Accompanists**

During the academic year (fall and spring semesters), tuition supports the engagement of pianists at all ISA group classes, master classes and performances, including associated rehearsal time as approved by the Coordinator. For any additional rehearsals, private lessons or outside performances, you may need to hire a pianist. Please consult with your private teacher before hiring a pianist.

**Concert Etiquette**

Please arrive on time and plan to stay for the entire performance as a courtesy to the other performers. Should anyone need to enter/exit the recital hall, please wait until the current performer is finished, during the applause. Our recitals are family friendly – infants and young children are welcome! In these cases, we understand that attending a performance is a learning experience and welcome the occasional outburst. Formal attire is not necessary, but students should be dressed appropriately for a recital (i.e. avoid jeans, t-shirts and tennis-shoes if at all possible).

**Concurrent Study**

Students enrolling into the Illinois String Academy cannot be concurrently studying that same instrument or discipline with another private teacher without the approval of the Coordinator.

**Withdrawal**

We encourage students to complete the entire semester or summer session. The general policy is no tuition refund for withdrawn students. Extenuating situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Withdrawal requests must be made in writing and approved before a refund or credit is issued.

**Dismissals**

We reserve the right to dismiss any student due to delinquent payment of tuition, frequent absences or tardiness, failure to practice, behavioral problems, etc.

**Conflicts**

Students/families should make every effort to resolve instructional or personal issues with their private teacher. Teachers will do their best to respond to individual needs. The Office of Public Engagement is available for consultation in case of serious need.

Revised: January 2, 2018

# **Illinois String Academy**

## **2017-2018 Calendar**

### **Fall Semester 2017**

- Week of August 27: Semester begins
- Week of September 3: Group classes begin
- Sunday, Oct 29, 1:30: Halloween concert
- November 18-26: Fall break
  - Group classes will not meet during fall break
  - Private lessons scheduled as needed
- Week of December 11: Final group classes
- December 9/10: Solo recitals
  - 12/9 – 11:00
  - 12/9 – 5:30
  - 12/10 – 1:30
  - 12/10 – 3:00
  - 12/10 – 4:30
- December 16 – January 14: Winter break
  - Group classes will not meet during winter break
  - Private lessons scheduled as needed

### **Spring Semester 2018**

- Week of January 15: Semester begins
- Week of January 22: Group lessons begin
- March 10/11: Mid-semester solo recitals and group performances
  - 3/10 – 5:30
  - 3/11 – 1:30
  - 3/11 – 3:00
- March 17 – March 25: Spring break
  - Group classes will not meet during spring break
  - Private lessons scheduled as needed
- Week of April 30: Final group classes
- May 5/6: Solo recitals
  - 5/5 – 11:00
  - 5/5 – 5:30
  - 5/6 – 1:00
  - 5/6 – 2:30
  - 5/6 – 4:00
  - 5/6 – 5:30

### **Summer Session 2018**

- May 7: Summer session begins
- August 19: Summer session ends
- No group classes over summer; private lessons scheduled as needed