



## Mission Statement

OMA exists to glorify God by providing excellent music instruction in a Christian community for students in Middle Tennessee. We seek to support students reaching their God-given potential as musicians.

In addition to offering music instruction, our intent is to develop a supportive community for our musicians and their families.

“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servant for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

## What's in our name?

The word “overture” was chosen to describe the intent behind everything we do. By both connotation and definition, it embodies “an introduction to something more substantial.” We aim to share our passion for excellence in musicianship with each student; we aim to see the next generation of musicians develop from the beginning a deeper understanding of music while simultaneously learning that all of life should be aimed at glorifying God, the Creator, including stewarding their gifts and talents; we aim to foster in our student community a love for music that will last their whole lives.

## What are we passionate about?

We want our students to understand that music is much more than notes on a page; that it is a vehicle for expressing the breadth of human emotion, the language of the soul, and the beauty of God as part of His created order. We want to facilitate collaborative opportunities through which students and the community can encounter the beauty of God's created order, both its expansiveness and its deeply personal facets, through the musical arts. We want to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us to teach that music shall be “*solī Deo gloria*” -- for the glory of God alone.

## Student Behavior and Conduct

God has created each of us in His own image; we owe every action and thought to His goodness in creating and preserving us. Following Christ's example, we have a duty to love and honor Him by respecting the persons and world that He made and loves. Jesus Christ, as very God and Savior, is our example. Our conduct should be modeled upon His conduct, demonstrating humility, self-sacrifice, love, and joy.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

## Relationships in Community

God has placed us in relationship with the other human beings in our communities, all of whom were created in His image. We ought to love our brothers and sisters in holy friendship, stirring them up to love and good works in Christ Jesus. We owe the adults in authority over us within the community cheerful obedience in acknowledgment of their experience and wisdom. We owe the adults not in authority over us in the community the duty of respect.

Overture Music Academy is a community of families from diverse backgrounds. All students shall be welcomed and supported equally at OMA. We expect and encourage our students and their parents to develop wholesome and healthy relationships with each other and to help build the sense of Christian community by following these guidelines:

- Make every effort to include others.
- Be an accepting, supportive friend to all students at OMA. Do not gossip about others. Guard your tongue and actions both in and out of class.
- Be a humble peacemaker. If a problem arises with someone, always talk to that person first in an effort to resolve the conflict before discussing the problem with anyone else.
- Focus attention on building solid friendships, not romantic relationships.
- Maintain healthy friendships with everyone. PDA (public displays of affection) is prohibited while attending OMA classes, rehearsals, or performances, or while students are in the process of arriving or departing from the above.
- Respect and encourage peers, mentors, and parents with words and attitude.
- Provoke others to love and good deeds.

## Communication

Students and parents will receive regular messages with announcements, reminders, and practice guidance. Please make sure you and your student are reading this e-communication, and please feel free to contact directors or tutors if you have any questions. E-mail and Google Classroom are considered our official and main means of communicating pertinent class information to you outside of class time. All students (and parents) are expected to weekly check their e-mail and Google Classroom for important communication. It is also your responsibility to check spam filters. Ongoing participation in the learning management system (Google Classroom) is required of students at Overture Music Academy. OMA uses the one-way “Remind” text-based announcement system for only emergent and occasional announcements such as inclement weather. At least one parent in the family will need to be able to receive these messages on a cell phone.

## Digital Citizenship and Technology Use

OMA Students are expected to demonstrate digital citizenship at all times. In other words, they are to behave responsibly online, no matter where they are or what device they are using. Students that participate in online bullying, harassing, indecent, or inappropriate behavior outside Overture Music Academy hours may be disciplined by the OMA board if their behavior is harmful to or reflects poorly upon the community of OMA individuals or families.

Students should recognize they are creating a digital footprint that will remain with them beyond their school experience and could have potentially permanent and irreversible results. Students of Overture Music Academy have the right to free speech insofar as they are abiding by the behavioral expectations of OMA. Whether interacting in person, in writing, or in electronic form, students will not be protected if their speech brings embarrassment or shame to themselves or the program, or if their speech negatively impacts the reputation of the student or the program.

Examples of non-protected speech include:

- any illegal activity;
- any activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent, or that portrays any conduct done in a manner whereby the community learns of such activity;
- or any activity that degrades, demeans, or disparages any tutor, staff member, parent, or student.

Furthermore, use of technology or phones during class or at any point during a student's day at OMA should be limited to appropriate communication, homework, and G-rated material. Students will not be permitted to use video games while at OMA. *If using a computer or iPad/Tablet at Overture, students will be asked that the device screen faces the center of the room so as to be visible by everyone in the room. Insofar as it is possible, this approach shall be honored with regard to personal phone screens as well.*

**During rehearsal and class, devices should be kept silent and in a backpack unless otherwise instructed by the teacher for a special purpose like tuning.**

The Overture Music Academy Board of Directors reserves the right to discipline any student that violates the above categories of non-protected speech or infractions of responsible digital citizenship.

## Dress Code

Overture Music Academy staff, directors, and students are guests at our host site. Our appearances should always be modest and considerate of our hosts, our visitors, and each other. Infractions of the dress code will be addressed by the tutors, staff, or ensemble directors, or by the OMA Board of Directors, as needed. If there is a Dress Code issue, parents may be called to bring a change of clothing for the student. This applies to regular OMA rehearsal days as well as special events.

Our dress code allows for personal expression within these guidelines:

- Dress comfortably and with your individual fashion personality reasonably intact.
- Hats should be removed during class if they are deemed distracting by the tutor or cover a student's eyes.
- Clothing with inappropriate logos or slogans or any tight or sheer clothing are inappropriate and should not be worn to rehearsals or classes.
- Undergarments should not be visible through tight or thin fabrics. Undergarments should be *under* your garments and not visible. Necklines should cover cleavage; apply the "bending over in front of the mirror" test before coming to class. Male students should remain covered from the waist up at all times.
- Dresses and skirts should extend below your fingertips when your arms are at your sides; opaque leggings or biker shorts must be worn under skirts that do not qualify. Shorts must also come below your fingertips when your arms are at your sides.
- Leggings (and opaque tights) are not considered to be "pants" and may only be worn under appropriate length skirts, shorts, or blouses/t-shirts longer than fingertips when arms are resting at your sides.
- Strapless shirts are not allowed at any time. Midriff shirts are inappropriate and should not be worn to rehearsals or classes. If you stand up straight and hold your arms shoulder high, no skin should be visible at your waist.

This dress code is in effect for all functions and activities of Overture Music Academy including social events such as trips, performances, and including off-location rehearsals, classes, and events.

## Respect in Rehearsals and Classes

Students (and their parents) are expected to make every effort to participate actively and positively during rehearsals, classes, and volunteer positions. Each ensemble director, coach, or tutor will provide clear expectations for student's at-home preparation, outlining what needs to be done outside of class or rehearsal time to be prepared for OMA each week.

Students are asked to commit to spending the amount of time preparing for rehearsals suggested by the director each week at home in order to be a committed member of the ensemble.

Parents are asked to support their students in their preparation as well as to encourage them in the pursuit of excellence. This includes, but is not limited to, making certain they have the necessary equipment & tools for success in practicing and performing as well as being certain students are on time or early to all classes and call times.

## Respect for my body

Students are expected to abstain from tobacco, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, sex, drugs, and any other illegal activities. Students should keep conversation clean and healthy regarding these topics. Any instances of bullying, fighting, theft, plagiarism, cheating, controlled substance use, or other honor code violations will not be tolerated and may result in probation, suspension, and/or expulsion as determined by the OMA Board of Directors. Controlled substance use on campus (in or outside the building) is grounds for expulsion.

## Respect for our host

We all (students, tutors, parents, directors, and visiting guests) have a moral and legal obligation to respect the property and boundaries of our weekly and special event hosts. When we are on site for OMA activities, students are expected to "*do unto others as you would have them do unto you*" (Matthew 7:12). Students will be involved with the setting up and tearing down of rehearsal and class spaces each week as fits the needs of OMA at our host site. Additionally, we expect everyone associated with OMA to follow these guidelines:

- For security reasons, please enter and exit the building only through the designated door(s).
- If you have muddy shoes, wipe them clean before you come inside.
- Be respectful of the belongings of our host and the furnishings including furniture, classroom materials, pianos, books, plants, etc.
- Students should eat in designated areas only. When the weather allows, students can go outside to eat (make sure an adult is present). Clean up after you finish -- leaving trash behind is disrespectful and will not be tolerated.

## Safety Policy

- No students shall be left alone in a private space or closed room in groups of two.
- All participants and their parents/guardians must agree to hold OMA, its officers, leaders, and agents harmless from any and all liability or claims which may arise out of or in connection with supervision when a parent/guardian is present on premises.
- There shall be at least two unrelated adults (at least two years older than the oldest child participant) present at all events for OMA students.
- No adult should be alone with an unrelated child in a private space or closed room.
- All classes will be visually-open, or will have two adult supervisors.
- Regardless of group size, all events lasting more than 12 hours will have at least three adult chaperones, unless the board gives prior written approval for an exception.
- A door is to remain open when a student and tutor/director of OMA are working together one-on-one (if the door doesn't have a window), or a third person shall be present.
- Overnight programs shall provide safe, supervised sleeping arrangements.

# What do we believe?

Our Statement of Faith includes truths upon which orthodox Christians agree. It offers clarification on distinctives that affect the life of students and families learning together in Christian community and mutual support of one another. It concerns the authority of Scripture, Deity of Christ, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:2, Ephesians 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers.

## We believe:

- **The Bible to be the divinely inspired, infallible, authoritative, inerrant, written Word of God, the supreme standard for all faith and life** (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21). Therefore, we are to believe and obey its teachings. The Bible is the only source of special revelation for Christian believers today. Faith in Christ alone has always been the only way of salvation.
- **There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** In the unity of the Godhead these three “persons” are co-equal, co-eternal, and fully God. (Genesis 1:1; John 10:30, 37-38) God is personal, yet beyond our comprehension. He is an invisible spirit, completely self-sufficient and unbounded by space or time, perfectly holy, just, loving, & merciful.
- God made all things *ex nihilo*, or "out of nothing," **creating the heavens, the earth, and all they contain.** He is sovereign over all things, upholding and governing them in accordance with his eternal will.
- **God created all human beings in His image by His direct act.** Therefore, we believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; we must honor the physical and spiritual needs of all people. Every person should be treated with love, dignity, and respect. (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 5:1,2; Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10)
- **Because of the sin of Adam, all mankind is corrupt by nature, dead in sin, and subject to the wrath of God.** God determined, in His grace, that sinners may receive forgiveness and eternal life through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit leading to faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin. (Romans 3:19, 23; John 3:16,17; John 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-19; Titus 3:5,6).
- **We believe in the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross (being fully God and fully man), in His bodily resurrection, and in His imminent bodily return in power and glory.** He will return to judge the living and the dead, bringing his people (with glorious, resurrected bodies) into eternal life, and consigning the wicked to eternal punishment. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:25; John 2:11; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 1:14; John 11:25; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16).
- **Man's repentance of sin will produce good works as the fruit of his faith.** Believers strive to keep God's moral law, summarized in the Ten Commandments, not to earn salvation but as a response to a loving Savior and a desire to obey Him. God is the Lord of the conscience, so that men are not required to believe or do anything contrary to, or in addition to, the Word of God in matters of faith or worship. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service. (Ephesians 5:18; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19, 20).
- **We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage. We believe that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complement each other in marriage if God wills.** God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one male and one female. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

## \*We love our Parent Volunteers!

**We can't do this alone -- keeping the Overture Music Academy community strong and safe is a team effort!**

**Parents are required to either volunteer for a job and/or be looking for other ways to serve and enhance the OMA community.**

Opportunities for parents to volunteer will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis using [this SignUp Genius form](#). Reserve your favorite spot for your Parent Volunteer position by May 10, or as soon as you complete your online registration!

*If, for some reason, you are unwilling or unable to volunteer, we simply ask that you "fulfill" your volunteer duty as a parent of your student(s) at OMA with a \$75 opt-out fee, payable with your Registration payment.*

## \*FOMA – Friends of Overture Music Academy

At OMA, we want to develop a strong community of families.

Leading the charge, the Friends of Overture Music Academy (FOMA) serve to further the mission of OMA and support its directors and students. This is a great way to go deeper and invest in the lives of the students at FOMA and their families.

During the registration process online, you'll have the opportunity to share other ways in which you are interested in helping enrich the OMA community above and beyond the required volunteer position. We refer to this team of our extra special helpers as FOMA - Friends of Overture Music Academy – they are work as a small but vital team of individuals who help grow and strengthen OMA.

A wide variety of skills and interests make the fabric of the FOMA strong.

Parents (or grandparents!) who are interested in being on FOMA will have opportunities to serve during the year in addition to their required parent volunteer role, including but not limited to these areas:

- Social event planning – game night, winter dance, etc
- Assist in ordering and distributing Concert Attire for Vox Nobilis & Cantabile students
- Yearbook creation and distribution - we use TreeRing!
- Administrative tasks on non-Wednesdays
- Networking and building the reputation of Overture in our community
- Fundraising
- Grant writing and garnering sponsorships for the concert season
- Instrument assistance (hauling instruments, etc.)
- Communications with the parent volunteers
- Liaison between the community and Overture to build community presence and relevance
- Assisting with social media, website maintenance, photography, advertising
- Supporting and raising awareness about the ethos and the mission, vision, and values of Overture

## PERSONAL COMMITMENT

(Student, please read carefully and thoughtfully before signing)

“[W]alk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit -- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call -- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4: 1-6, 9-32

- I have read the OMA policies and procedures as stated in the Student Enrollment document for 2024-2025 and agree to support and abide by them.
- I will make every effort to be prepared for and to participate actively and positively in rehearsal or class each week; I will work for excellence in my personal practice time commitment as well as in the context of rehearsals and classes. I will cooperate with the musical standards and practice requirements of my directors and tutors.
- I make a personal commitment to our host sites to protect their property and to remember that I am a guest, refraining from senselessly destroying the world God has made or the works of another man’s hands.
- I will seek to humbly honor those around me, both my peers and those in authority over me.
- I will regularly check my email for communications from my director(s) and tutor(s).
- I will not harm my own body or another person’s body.
- I will demonstrate responsible digital citizenship at all times.
- I will cheerfully do my part regarding set-up and clean-up of rehearsal spaces each week as requested.
- I will be on time or early to all classes and call times.
- I will make every effort to give more than I take in both rehearsal and social settings, humbly apologizing and making amends in any way within my power should I fail in this duty.
- I will keep my phone in my backpack during classes and rehearsals, unless requested by the teacher.

## AGREEMENT WITH OMA POLICIES 2024-25

**By signing below, I affirm that I will support the full implementation of the Overture Music Academy Statement of Faith, the Personal Commitment, and the Behavior and Conduct expectations as outlined in the Overture Music Academy Enrollment Guide for 2024-25.**

Signature of OMA Student(s)

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Signatures of OMA Parents/Guardians

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo Consent Release

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission and consent to Overture Music Academy (OMA) for the use of photograph(s) or electronic media images of my student(s) at OMA for the use of the OMA website, OMA Facebook page and/or OMA Instagram account.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **do not** give permission and consent to Overture Music Academy (OMA) for the use of photograph(s) or electronic media images of my student(s) at OMA for the use of the OMA website, OMA Facebook page and/or OMA Instagram account.

**This authorization is effective from August 2024 through May 2025.**

First and Last Names of all OMA Student(s)

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## PERMISSION TO MAKE EMERGENCY MEDICAL DECISIONS

I hereby grant my permission and authority to the Overture Music Academy administrative staff and tutors/directors to render their best judgment concerning emergency medical assistance for my child(ren) in the event of an accident, injury, or illness if they are unable to contact a parent or legal guardian in a timely manner. I further authorize the dispensation of first aid for my child(ren), if needed, and I hereby give my consent for my child(ren) to receive emergency medical treatment as reasonably determined by Overture Music Academy staff to be necessary and appropriate. The child(ren) subject to this waiver include the following:

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand this permission and have willingly placed my signature below as evidence of my acceptance of all the conditions contained herein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's signature  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's signature  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

# WAIVER, RELEASE, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of Overture Music Academy and its host site (hereinafter referred to individually and/or collectively as the “Organizations”) accepting my child(ren) for participation in Overture Music Academy classes and associated activities, and events (hereinafter referred to as the “Programs”), I hereby, for my child(ren), myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages that I and/or my child(ren) may have against the Organizations and/or its agents, employees, representatives, successors, and/or assigns for any and all injuries, loss and /or damage suffered by myself and/or my child(ren) that arise out of participation in the Programs. The child(ren) subject to this waiver include the following:

(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)(age) \_\_\_\_\_

I warrant that I have the right to authorize the foregoing and do hereby agree to hold the Organizations harmless of and from any and all liability, loss, and/or damage of whatever nature which may arise out of and/or result from my and/or my child(ren)’s participation in the Programs. For the consideration stated above, I further agree that in the event my child(ren) and/or I should cause any liability, loss, or damage whatsoever arising out of and/or resulting from participation in the Programs, and/or my child(ren), and/or I, and/or anyone on my child(ren)’s behalf should make any claim against the Organizations for damages arising out of the Programs, I will personally indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Organizations against any and all liability, loss, and/or damage occasioned thereby, including attorney’s fees and costs. I specifically agree to pay, on demand, for any damages arising out of participation in the Programs caused to anyone or anything by myself or my child(ren). In the event I refuse to pay on demand, I understand and agree that my child(ren) may no longer participate in Overture Music Academy and/or in the Programs and/or in any activities held in association with them on their host site that are related to Overture Music Academy and that I will forfeit any and all fees that I have paid to the Organizations. I have read and understand this agreement and have willingly placed my signature below as evidence of my acceptance of all the conditions contained herein.

\*Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Guardian (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_