

# Overture Music Academy

## 2026-27 Classes



### **Musica! General Music Class**

Rachel Verdon | [rverdon@overturema.org](mailto:rverdon@overturema.org)

- Age: 2nd - 6th grade
- Class Capacity Max: 20 students

This general music class introduces the basic elements of music - rhythm, melody, and harmony - through physical movement, singing, listening, as well as playing Orff instruments, learning recorders, and utilizing floor percussion.

Pedagogy from Dr. Feierabend's *Conversational Solfege* is the foundation of the class. *Musica!* provides a foundation for future years of music making and ensemble participation, and it will be tailored to the students' abilities and aptitudes.

### **Instrumental Ensembles**

Shayna Bosquet | [sbosquet@overturema.org](mailto:sbosquet@overturema.org)

#### ***Primo Ensemble***

- Age: minimum of 9-10 yrs. old recommended (older students welcome)

Primo Ensemble is the beginning concert band at Overture. Students will move progressively through concepts such as how to read printed music, basic music theory principles, how to play their instrument & first notes, and how to work as an ensemble & to follow a director. Primo is the best place for students who are beginning on woodwind, brass, or percussion. A combination of a band book, sheet music, games, and other materials will be used during Primo. Students are expected to practice their new skills at home to progress as new instrumentalists.

#### ***Crescente Ensemble***

- Placement audition required.

Crescente builds upon the foundation laid in the Primo Ensemble or another similar program. Students in Crescente will further their instrument skills, music theory knowledge, and ensemble playing. These students will play a variety of musical styles as they learn new techniques and work to strengthen their skills as individuals and an ensemble. Crescente is composed of woodwind, brass, and percussion players. Students are expected to practice their skills and assigned music at home in order to grow as musicians.

#### ***Cantabile Ensemble***

- By placement audition only.

This advanced ensemble is composed of experienced instrumental musicians. Further advancement of musical skills and individual musical responsibility is emphasized as students reach new goals in their own musical growth and leadership abilities. Cantabile assists Crescente and Primo at several points during the school year, allowing for personal and leadership growth. Students in Cantabile are expected to have the utmost level of personal responsibility both in their preparedness as musicians and in their own interactions with teachers and other students. This select group will have more opportunities for community performance, Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment, and music festivals. Students are expected to practice their music at home to come prepared for each rehearsal.

### **Choral Studies**

#### ***Amabile***

Jessica Taylor | [jtaylor@overturema.org](mailto:jtaylor@overturema.org)

- Age: 3rd - 6th grade
- Class Capacity Max: 28 students

In this beginning choral ensemble, we offer a fun environment for elementary students to learn about music through group singing. Students will learn good singing habits and develop confidence through singing games and a variety of choral literature, including rounds and partner songs. Musicianship, diction, introduction to solfège, and music literacy are all components of the Amabile experience.

**Viva Voce** Reneé Chapman | [rchapman@overturema.org](mailto:rchapman@overturema.org)

- Age: 6th - 12th grade

In this non-auditioned choir for students of all levels of musicianship, choristers will sing various genres and styles of choral literature and will learn proper vocal technique, sightreading skills, and basic music theory. Students are expected to practice their skills and assigned music at home in order to grow as musicians.

**Vox Nobilis** Reneé Chapman | [rchapman@overturema.org](mailto:rchapman@overturema.org)

- Age: 8th - 12th grade

Students in Vox Nobilis will receive further instruction in vocal technique, musicianship, and individual musical responsibility through more challenging choral repertoire of all styles and genres. More performance opportunities are required as a part of this ensemble, and students are encouraged to be enrolled concurrently in Viva Voce but must have spent minimally one year as a Viva Voce chorister before auditioning. Membership is by audition only. Students are expected to practice their music at home to come prepared for each rehearsal.

## **Theory Studies**

Mirandi Herrenbruck | [mherrenbruck@overturema.org](mailto:mherrenbruck@overturema.org)

### ***Exploring Music Theory***

- Recommended age: 10-18 years

This is offered by semester but may be taken as a full year as well, if desired. It is designed to strengthen overall beginning musicianship as either a vocalist or an instrumentalist, supporting students in their ensemble participation. Topics covered include basics of rhythm, foundations in pitch, major and minor keys, scales, Solfège, musical terms & signs, notation, and circle of fifths. There is an added emphasis on beginning aural skills training. Homework outside of class will not exceed 20 minutes each week. All consumable materials are provided by OMA to the student.

### ***Music Theory and Aural Skills I***

- Recommended age: 12-19 years
- Prerequisites: Exploring Music Theory, or by instructor approval.

This year-long course assumes a working knowledge of concepts in the essentials of theory but takes those further and goes deeper. Scales, tonality, advanced rhythmic concepts, chord structures, key signatures, beginning transposition skills, dictation skills, and beginning musical analysis are among the topics covered. Development of level-appropriate aural skills will be an ongoing focus along with understanding music in its historical context. Students will have approximately 1-2 hours of homework outside of class each week.

### ***Music Theory and Aural Skills II***

- Recommended age: 13-19 years
- Prerequisites: MTAS I or by instructor approval.

Music Theory and Aural Skills II is for the student who demonstrates proficiency in concepts such as key signatures, M/m scales & chords, rhythms, as well as basic skill in harmonic analysis, and level-appropriate aural skills. Students will continue to think about music in its historical development; will be challenged with topics such as inversions of chords, modes, cadence patterns, principles of voice-leading, matters of musical texture, extensive transposition, and composition techniques; and will pursue mastery of functional harmony of Western music. Both dictation and aural skills are an ongoing & integral part of the class. This class can serve as preparation for the AP Music Theory test, though it goes beyond the scope and sequence of the AP Music Theory coursework requires.

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