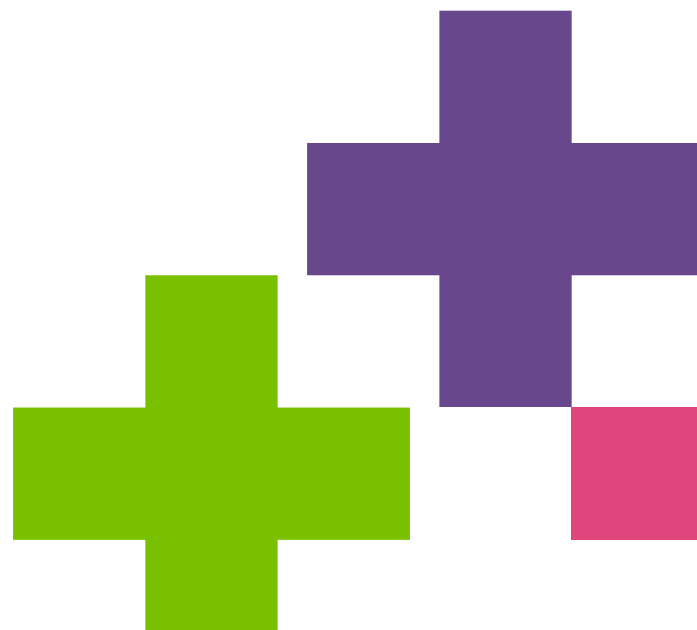




ARTS+

STUDENT

HANDBOOK



WELCOME HANDBOOK

I. Welcome to Arts+!

A Letter from the Executive Director

II. About Arts+

Mission

History

III. Private Instruction

Benefits

Recital Information

Merit Scholarship Audition

IV. Registration Policies

V. Parent Agreement Form

VI. Location Information

VII. Support Arts+

VIII. Arts+ in the Community

Arts+ Programs

Board Members

Community Partners

Contact Arts+ about Registration

Madeline Branham

Student Services Coordinator

registration@artsplus.org

704.367.2793



I.

Welcome to Arts+

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Arts+, formerly Community School of the Arts! We are very excited to have you join the 50-year legacy of Arts+. Fifty years ago in the basement of First Presbyterian Church, founder Henry Bridges was surrounded by an urban neighborhood with children who could benefit from -- but could never afford -- high-quality music lessons.

Henry recruited four of the finest piano teachers in Charlotte as his faculty, and from more than 150 student applications, he accepted twenty children into the inaugural year. The quality of the instruction was exceptional, and Arts+ rapidly expanded to offer tuition-based programs for families who could pay for lessons, in addition to the School's free and discounted outreach programs.

From our small beginning serving the neighborhoods around First Presbyterian Church, we have grown to reach more than 4,500 students each year in community locations across Charlotte.

The founding mission remains our mission today - Unleashing creativity, transforming lives and building community through outstanding and accessible arts education.

We are confident that the arts will teach you new skills and new perspectives, and that you will be enriched by your time at Arts+.

I look forward to keeping you informed as we continue to celebrate 50 years of arts education.

Thank you,



Devlin McNeil
President & Executive Director

HISTORY

Henry Bridges founded Arts+, formerly Community School of the Arts, in 1969, when he served as the organist and choir director of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Charlotte. The program was born after Henry realized that the church had fifteen unused pianos in its basement and that it was surrounded by an urban neighborhood with children who could benefit from high-quality music lessons.

From more than 150 student applications, Henry accepted twenty children into the inaugural year. Students received instruction free of charge five days a week, including two piano lessons, supervised practice, choir, sight singing and music theory. Arts+ rapidly expanded to offer tuition-based programs for families who could pay for lessons, in addition to Arts+'s free and discounted outreach programs.

Henry Bridges remained the executive director of Arts+ until 1982. From twenty students in 1969, Arts+ has grown to serve more than 4,500 a year and has grown to employ over 50 dedicated instructors.

Through Arts+'s five decades, its programs have changed and expanded based on community demand, at times including dance, theatre and extensive school-based classes. Arts+ now concentrates on instruction in music and the visual arts, offering private and group music lessons, visual art classes and workshops, summer camps, the Charlotte Youth Choir and early childhood art and music education. And, as it has every year since its founding, Arts+ teaches extensively in low-income neighborhoods and provides significant student financial assistance, honoring its founding mission and the belief that outstanding arts education should be available to all.

MISSION

*Unleashing creativity, transforming lives and building community through **outstanding** and **accessible** arts education.*

INCLUSION STATEMENT

At Arts+, our vision is to make outstanding arts education accessible to all members of the community. We believe every person--regardless of race, faith, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability and ethnicity--should have the opportunity to access a transformative arts education.

III.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

BENEFITS OF PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

- **One-on-one** attention structured towards students individualized learning style
- Develop **critical thinking** and self-discipline
- Minimize frustration through:
 - **Problem solving**
 - Developing a practice toolbox
 - Honing **creative interpretation** and expression
- Recitals and Performance Opportunities
- Pursue individual interests

RECITAL INFORMATION

Student recitals at Arts+ play an important role in the musical training and development of young musicians. Recitals give students an opportunity to display their talents and achievements with family, friends, teachers and fellow students. Arts+ believes that high-quality recitals will add to students' learning experiences, developing poise and self-assurance.

ASSITING YOUR CHILD

Even if children have had frequent recital experiences, but especially if they have not, parents can greatly assist by doing recital 'practice runs' at home. Setting the stage, trying out recital pieces for family and neighbors, practicing walking bowing, etc. - all will enhance the student's comfort and ensure their preparedness. Whether performances go perfectly or not, the greatest contribution a parent can make is in positive support, encouraging words, pats on the back and instilling pride for the hard work they put into preparing for the performance.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

Arts+ offers a variety of scholarships for outstanding students in our private lesson division. Arts+ awards scholarships based on merit and awards that are determined by external and independent professional arts educators, frequently faculty at local university art programs. Scholarships are awarded to young children through high school students, based on the recommendations of the adjudicators. Auditions are held each spring for the following school year.

IV. REGISTRATION POLICIES

REGISTRATION FEE

All registration fees are nonrefundable.

Standard Private Lesson Program & Suzuki Program

- \$25 per student/per semester - Students who are enrolled for one semester of lessons only (fall semester vs. spring semester) must pay \$25 each semester.
- \$35 per student/per school year - Students who are enrolled for the entire school year (fall semester AND spring semester) must pay a one time \$35 payment.
- There is no registration fee for summer lessons.

Charlotte Youth Choir

- \$35 per student/per school year
- Students enrolled for either Harmony, Melody, Lyric or Concert Choirs must pay a one time \$35 payment.

LATE FEE

- Tuition is due at the time of registration.
- All payments must be made no later than 24 hours prior to the student's first lesson or rehearsal.
 - *Accounts* that have not been paid by this time will not be able to attend their lesson/rehearsal until payment has been received.
- Any payment that has not been received before 24 hours of the first lesson/rehearsal will be considered late and an additional \$25 fee will be assessed.
- Private Lessons: Failure to make payment after the third scheduled lesson can result in losing their lesson time reservation

IV. REGISTRATION POLICIES

PAYMENT POLICY

- All payments run through a secure server through our website account portal.
- Payments must be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard and American Express), check, or money order.
- **Payment plans** can be set up in the ASAP portal, and some customization is available by request to our Student Services Coordinator.

All students: 25% deposit

Yearlong students: Default option is monthly payments, Sept - March

Semester students: Default option is monthly payments, Sept - March or Jan - Apr

Mid-semester joins: We will offer the maximum available payments within the term.

REFUND POLICY

Charlotte Youth Choir

- CYC tuition is pro-rated by quarter for those who join or leave at various times of the school year.
- Students may receive a refund of their tuition for any quarters in which they did not participate, with written notice of cancellation.

Group Classes & Workshops

- 90% Refund available if the request is submitted one week before the first class. 10% of the class tuition will be retained as a cancellation fee.
- Refunds are unable to be issued once group class has begun.

Summer Camps

- 90% refund available if canceled by 11:59 pm on Sunday one week prior to the start of camp. 10% of the camp tuition will be retained as a cancellation fee.
- 50% refund offered in the 7 days before the start of camp.

IV. REGISTRATION POLICIES

Refund & Missed Lesson Policy: Standard Private Lesson Program & Suzuki Program

Upon registration, all students are expected to continue their lessons/rehearsals for the full semester or school year. In the case that it becomes necessary to withdraw from instruction, the student must provide a written notice of cancellation to both the Student Services Coordinator and their instructor.

- Arts+ will issue a refund of the student's remaining tuition for the range of 30 days after receiving a written notice of cancellation to the end of the enrollment period. Families are still financially responsible for the period of 30 days from the point of written notice of cancellation.
 - E.g., a student enrolled for the school year (August 30-June 6th) and withdrawing from the program on January 1st will receive a refund covering January 31-June 6th.
- Private lessons students placed with a new instructor can request a refund prior to the 3rd lesson for all future lessons not yet taught. After the 3rd lesson is held, the 30-day policy stated above takes effect.
- Refunds are available if a student's instructor cancels a lesson and does not make-up the canceled lesson.
- Refunds are not able to be issued if a student misses their lesson, and instructors are not required to teach a makeup lesson.
- Grace Period: Instructors and students are asked to observe a 10-minute grace period before labeling a "no show" and leaving the premises.

V. PARENT AGREEMENT

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Arts+ asks all families to show respect for our instructors by arriving on time for lessons and fostering a professional atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Please be sure there are no disruptions to the lesson from siblings, cell phones or guests. No pets are allowed at Arts+ facilities.

**Suzuki parents/caregivers are expected to attend and participate in lessons as requested by their instructors.

MISSED MUSIC LESSONS

Students are expected to attend all lessons. **Arts+ has a no make-up policy. If a student misses a lesson, Arts+ will not issue a refund, and instructors are not required to teach make-up lessons.** However, if a class or lesson is cancelled due to weather, instructor illness, or instructor emergency, the instructor will schedule a make-up lesson within the same semester at no additional cost.

MISSED GROUP CLASSES OR WORKSHOPS

Once enrolled, students are expected to attend all classes. Arts+ has a no student make-up policy. If a student misses a class, Arts+ will not issue a refund, and instructors are not required to teach make-up sessions. If a class is canceled due to the instructor, the instructor will either schedule a make-up class at no additional cost to the student or if no other options are available, Arts+ will issue a refund for the class missed.

PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS

Payment for lessons, classes, and workshops is due prior to the first session of each semester. Failure to pay the full balance or set up a payment plan prior to the first session could result in the termination of lessons. Scheduled times will not be reserved for unpaid students. A partial refund is available only for private lessons if the student gives a notice to withdraw before the third lesson. After the third lesson, no refunds will be given.

V. PARENT AGREEMENT

WEATHER CANCELLATION

Arts+ generally follows the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools closing policy for inclement weather, however exceptions do occur based on our community partner locations and weather conditions in the evening, when most of our programs take place. In the event of bad weather or a CMS closing, parents should always check for closing information on Arts+'s website at www.artsplus.org, Arts+'s Facebook and Instagram pages [@artsplus.clt](https://www.facebook.com/artsplus.clt) or Arts+'s main phone line at **704.377.4187**. Any information on Arts+ closings will be posted there by 11:00 a.m. Under no circumstances should parents or students travel in dangerous conditions to reach a lesson or class.

INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR LESSONS

Students are expected to bring their instruments (except piano, voice and drums) and all required materials to every lesson that is requested by the instructor. Instructors are not expected to provide any materials that the student did not bring for the lesson that day.



VI.

SUPPORT ARTS+

By registering for a program with us, you are joining the Arts+ family -- a family committed to making quality music and visual art education programs accessible to all. In addition to your child's program, Arts+ reaches more than 4,500 students each year through private lessons, group classes, summer camps, workshops, the Charlotte Youth Choir, as well as Studio 345. Nearly half of those 4,500 students receive their programming for free or at a reduced rate thanks to our extensive outreach programs, community partnerships and financial aid.

Access to an arts education impacts children for the rest of their lives. It provides students with a chance to build social capital and develop skills -- skills that translate from the artistic to the personal and academic realms.

Arts+ relies on support from people like you to make this impact accessible to all Charlotte students. Interested in joining Arts+ in these efforts? Make a gift today or sign up to volunteer with us!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Have time to give? Volunteers help Arts+ faculty and staff with a range of tasks, including prepping arts supplies for our young artists and preparing mailings for supporters. Please contact Michelle Williams at **mwilliams@artsplus.org** to be added to our volunteer email list or to sign up for a monthly volunteer day.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Donate securely online at **artsplus.org/give**
- Mail a check to: Arts+
c/o Development Office
P. O. Box 32757
Charlotte, NC 28232

*For any questions on how you can support Arts+, please contact us at **development@artsplus.org***

VII.

ARTS+ PROGRAMS

Group Classes + Workshops

Our talented local artists and teachers offer instruction in a variety of mediums, including drawing, painting, jewelrymaking, and bookmaking. We welcome students of all ages and skill levels.

Summer Camps

We offer engaging camps for aspiring musicians in preschool through twelfth grade. Whether just starting out or if you're a seasoned young musician, join us for an exciting and fun week of music!

Private Lessons

Arts+'s private lesson program reaches more than 300 students each semester. Weekly music lessons are taught on 17 different instruments in standard, Suzuki and commercial music methods. Piano and violin are consistently the most popular instruments. Instructors are degreed professional faculty that include gigging musicians, music educators in our school system and Symphony members.

Charlotte Youth Choir

The Charlotte Youth Choir (CYC) continues to celebrate 35+ years of choral excellence. Formally the Charlotte Children's Choir, CY reflects the total student body makeup of the choir which spans kindergarten through twelfth grade. Renamed in 2021, CYC honors the significant growth and development of our performers' experience -- in both talents and in life. Through the education of music and song, we continue to build a connected community and learn what it means to be excellent musicians and students. We are your Charlotte Youth Choir.

Carolina Suzuki Strings

Arts+ is proud to have the largest Suzuki program in the Charlotte region, with students from ages 3-18. We feature Suzuki instruction on violin, viola, cello, and harp. We are an active group of families and young musicians with opportunities to learn and play all year long. All our instructors are registered with the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

VII.

ARTS+ PROGRAMS

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Our financial aid program is designed to make sure everyone in the community has access to outstanding arts education, no matter their financial circumstance. Arts+ awards nearly \$100,000 of financial aid annually to students. Arts+ offers audition-based merit scholarships to roughly ten students each year.

Studio 345

Studio 345 is a free, creative, after-school youth development program that uses Digital Photography, Digital Media Arts, and Multimedia Design to educate and inspire students to stay in school, graduate, and pursue goals beyond high school.

Project Harmony

Project Harmony is a community-based orchestra outreach program for students Grades 2-5 inspired by the El Sistema youth and community development program of Venezuela. Since 2017, Arts+ and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra have partnered to offer the program to build pathways to success for Charlotte-area youth through music.

ArtsReach

ArtsReach has provided free music and visual art programming to thousands of children through their local community centers, Title I Schools, and behavioral health centers at absolutely no cost.

Arts for All

Thanks to funding from PNC, Arts+ provides music and visual arts education in four Charlotte pre-schools that serves low-income populations.

Music Around and PAL

Through Music Around, schools contract with Arts+ to have our faculty lead weekly music classes. Through Preschool Arts Lab (PAL), our talented musicians and artist teach students to develop large and fine motor skills, critical thinking, and creative problem solving through music and visual art projects in-school and at field trips to our Uptown studios.