

Policies and Procedures

REGISTRATION (Academic Year)

The academic year begins the Monday after Labor Day, and ends sometime between the last week of May and the third week of June, depending on the day of the week and its corresponding holidays and snow days.

Students must enroll for the full academic year, or for the full length of the course for which you are enrolling. New students may enroll at any time during the year for most programs and tuition will be prorated. A non-refundable registration fee is required for all courses of study at NCMC, as follows:

Private Lessons (academic year): \$40/student; \$65/family (*per year*)

Private Lessons (summer only): \$15/student (*waived for students continuing from previous academic year*)

Group Classes, Ensembles & Workshops: \$15/participant (*per season*)

A completed and signed registration form, registration fee, and deposit must be received by NCMC prior to the student attending any lessons or classes. Students wishing to apply for financial aid should do so prior to registering, as scholarships are not awarded retroactively.

Tuition may be paid in full or in installments using a credit or debit card (through our secure online Stripe terminal). Students enrolling for seasonal classes or ensembles must pay in full upon registration.

Recipients of financial aid and/or multi-enrollment households who would like to arrange a modified payment plan should contact the Registrar.

Quarterly Payment Due Dates:

25% of tuition, plus registration fee due upon enrollment

25% of tuition due Nov 10

25% of tuition due Jan 10

25% of tuition due Mar 10

Overdue balances that cannot be rectified by NCMC with a valid credit card will accrue surcharges at a rate of 5% per month. To avoid suspension from a program, students are urged to contact the Executive Director promptly to discuss any problems with payment. Students with outstanding balances may not register for any additional programming at NCMC until full payment is remitted.

MISSED LESSONS & MAKE-UP POLICY

Regular attendance is expected of all students. It is common courtesy to give teachers 24 hours notice if you cannot attend a lesson for any reason. Students are financially responsible for all lessons, including those for which they are absent. Students who miss two consecutive lessons without notification will be withdrawn at the Director's discretion and no refund will be issued.

Lessons or classes canceled by the teacher or by NCMC will be made up at a later date. Make-up lessons that are scheduled but then missed by a student will not be rescheduled, and that lesson will be forfeited by the student without a refund. In cases of inclement weather, lessons and classes held prior to noon at NCMC will be canceled when the Northampton Public Schools close. For cancellations after noon, please call the NCMC office for recorded announcements. Teachers may offer students online instruction as an option during inclement weather.

Students are expected to avail themselves through the month of June for make-up lessons. Students who anticipate being unavailable in June must notify the Registrar upon enrollment, so other

arrangements for make-up lessons can be made earlier in the year, where possible.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

PRIVATE LESSONS: Within 48 hours of a student's first private lesson with a teacher, the student may withdraw without further financial obligation. Otherwise, students may, with two weeks' notice, withdraw from private lessons without penalty before October 31 (or within 30 days of a student's first lesson of the academic term). After this date, an early withdrawal fee equal to 25% of the tuition for the remaining lessons will be applied.

GROUP CLASSES: Group classes (choruses, ensembles, young child classes, etc.) can only run when a minimum enrollment is met, so once registered all participants are expected to regularly attend classes, rehearsals and/or performances, practice at home, and complete the term for which they have enrolled. Out of fairness to others, withdrawals from group classes and prorated refunds will not be granted.

If a medical condition prevents a student from continuing, a written request for a withdrawal without penalty must be made to the Executive Director immediately. In-house credits issued by NCMC's Registrar or Executive Director must be used within the academic year they are issued (or specified window), after which they will be nullified.

FINANCIAL AID

Students with limited financial resources are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid.

It is the intent of the Music Center that no serious student should be unable to study because of financial constraints. Financial aid is awarded on an annual basis and is applied to all remaining lessons

and classes for the academic year, plus the subsequent summer. Until an application has been processed, full tuition applies. NCMC cannot award financial aid retroactively.

Returning students reapplying for financial aid must be in good standing to be considered for a financial aid award. Unpaid account balances, excessive absences, or other issues may result in an application denial.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

NCMC admits students of any race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical ability, religion, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, nor does NCMC discriminate in its hiring of faculty or staff, or in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

PHOTO/VIDEO

NCMC routinely photographs its programs and events, including individuals partaking in them for promotional purposes. If any student objects to being photographed or filmed, we ask that they submit this request in writing upon registration, and we will do our best to honor their request.

A NOTE ABOUT RECITALS AND OUTREACH PERFORMANCES

Studio recitals may be scheduled by teachers, and are free and open to the public. Students who are interested in performing should make arrangements with their teachers. Tuition fees do not cover the cost of accompanists to rehearse or perform with students. When necessary, an equal portion of the required fee will be collected from each student who requires this service.

NCMC faculty members and students are encouraged to engage in special community outreach opportunities organized by NCMC (for example, student performances at local nursing homes as part of NCMC's Beverly Pickering Music & Alzheimer's Project). These opportunities benefit fellow non-profit organizations and individuals, while at the same time providing a unique educational experience for the students participating. On occasion, with NCMC's permission, a teacher may substitute a student's regular lesson for their participation in such an event.