



# 2024 – 2025 AfterWorks

## Parent & Student Handbook

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# AFTERWORKS

The Aspen Music Festival and School's AfterWorks program offers after-school, in-school, and summer programming in collaboration with Roaring Fork Valley schools to support music education. These programs are designed to complement the quality music instruction students receive from schools and private instructors.

Current program offerings include:

**BEGINNING STRINGS:** *After-school violin, viola, cello, and bass instruction for beginning students.*

**LEAD GUITAR:** *Classical guitar instruction in after-school classes.*

**MAROON BEL CANTO CHOIRS:** *After-school choir ensembles for upper elementary and middle school students.*

**CHAMBER MUSIC LAB:** *Chamber music experiences for intermediate string players.*

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## TEACHING TEAM

Meet the AfterWorks teachers [here!](#) Comprised of local music educators, private instructors, and teaching artists, our team is highly qualified in choral and instrumental music performance and pedagogy.

## AFTERWORKS REFUND POLICY

Once a student has applied and paid the tuition for an AfterWorks program (Beginning Strings, Chamber Music Lab, Lead Guitar, or Maroon Bel Canto Choirs), the following policy will apply to tuition refunds if that student chooses to leave the AfterWorks program:

- Before first class/rehearsal: full tuition refund
- Between first and third class/rehearsal: half tuition refund
- After third class/rehearsal: no refund

## SCHOLARSHIPS & PAYMENT PLANS

Tuition and instrument scholarships are available to students who demonstrate significant financial need. Tuition payment plans are also available and can be requested during the registration process.

# PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

- Bring your instrument (if applicable), music book/binder, and any additional music to class every week. If your student is a first year Beginning Strings student, they will receive these during the second semester. Chamber Music Lab, Lead Guitar, and Maroon Bel Canto Choir students will receive their music books/binders during the first week of classes.
- Handle instruments and materials carefully. String players and guitarists, please read the instrument care section below.
- Sign up for private lessons and/or small group lessons when you receive your private lesson teacher assignment. Only applicable to Beginning Strings and Chamber Music Lab students.
- Have a great attitude and try your best!
- Check your email for newsletters, which include a summary of recent classes, announcements, and tips for how to effectively practice at home.
- Complete supervised & productive daily practice (15 – 30 minutes is great!).

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Learning an instrument is challenging and new skills are presented each week; please make every effort to attend class consistently.
  - Please make us aware of an excused absence, illness, or emergency prior to the missed class, if possible. Please email [education@aspenmusic.org](mailto:education@aspenmusic.org). School calendar events (other concerts, musicals, sports games) are always excused.
  - After 2+ absences, we suggest attending a make-up class at another school or scheduling a private lesson to cover missed material.
  - If you have not tried to communicate or make-up missed information after excessive class absences (3+ absences), you may be asked to leave the class without a refund.

## **BEHAVIOR POLICY**

- Our hope is that students enjoy AfterWorks so much that disciplinary action is not necessary. However, if behavioral problems occur and a student is consistently disrupting the class or is acting in a way that could cause harm to the student and/or others, these procedures will be followed, after warnings are given:
  - First Occurrence: The student will be asked to put their instrument away for a portion of the class.
  - Second Occurrence: The student will be asked to put their instrument away for the entire class and a conversation will take place between the student and teacher during or after the class.
  - Third Occurrence: The student will have a meeting with an AMFS administrator and parents will be notified.
  - Fourth Occurrence: The student's parents will be required to attend classes for a set period to assist with behavior issues.
  - Fifth Occurrence: The student will be permanently dismissed from class without refund.

## **INSTRUMENT CARE**

Instruments are fragile! They are not toys and should not be played with or handled outside of their intended use. Other than accidents, most damage occurs when friends of the student are “playing” the instrument and end up mishandling, dropping, and breaking it. Keep your instrument safe in its case except when practicing.

If you are using an AMFS scholarship instrument, you are responsible for damages and the cost of repairs to the instrument or replacement, beyond normal wear and tear. Scholarship instruments should be returned to the program directly after the final spring concert. If you would like to keep the instrument over the summer, you will have that option at the spring concert.

## STRING INSTRUMENT OVERVIEW:

- Instruments are made from wood and water-soluble glue. **Do not leave an instrument in your car for prolonged periods of time** (more than 1 hour). In the summer, the excessive heat can cause the varnish to bubble and damage the wood. In the winter, the wood can crack due to dryness and extreme temperature changes. Both repairs are costly and will be your responsibility.
- When your child is not practicing their instrument, it should be in its case and in a location away from vents, heat/AC units, or drafts from open doors/windows.
- When handling an instrument, hold it from the neck, sides, or back. Avoid touching the bridge or pulling on the strings. Violins, violas, and guitars should always lie on their back with the bridge and strings facing up since the bridge is extremely fragile. Cellos and basses can rest on their side.
- For bowed instruments, loosen the bow before putting the bow in its case and tighten the bow before playing. Two turns of the screw (bottom of the bow) to the right to tighten or left to loosen is enough.

## INSTRUMENT TUNING

- The instrument will likely go out of tune. It is not recommended that first year students tune their own instruments. Video tutorials are provided below, and a teacher is always willing to demonstrate the tuning process.
- From smallest to largest size (highest to lowest sound) the strings should be E, A, D, G on violin; A, D, G, C on viola and cello. On a classical guitar, from largest to smallest size (lowest to highest sound) the strings should be E, A, D, G, B, E.
  - A helpful tuning instructional video for violin can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWAFbV0bTrw>
  - A helpful tuning instructional video for viola and cello can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOooltdAjcw>
  - A helpful tuning instructional video for double bass can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d02sMXdWbwc>
  - A helpful tuning instructional video for classical guitar can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOooltdAjcw>
  - Each video utilizes a tuner. These can be purchased from Glenwood Music or Amazon, however a free app on your phone, computer, or tablet will work great, too. Recommended apps and websites: "Tuner Lite by Piascore" (free) or "Cleartune" (\$3.99) for violin, viola, and cello. Recommended for guitar: "GuitarTuna" (free).
- If you decide to tune it, *turn pegs slowly* while pushing in towards the instrument to avoid excessive pressure that can cause strings to snap. First, lower the pitch by turning the peg towards you, then raise the pitch to match the sound/pitch of the tuner while pushing in gently.
- If you are unsure or something goes wrong, contact your program teacher or [education@aspenmusic.org](mailto:education@aspenmusic.org) to assess the situation and properly fix the problem. We are here to help!

## PRACTICING: THE WHY AND HOW

Most young students do not *like* practicing! We get it. Yet, we encourage you to embrace this challenge and get creative with how to make practicing a fun and consistent part of your routine. Parent/caregiver involvement makes a huge difference and when you do it together, you are working collectively towards a goal with your student. You will both be able to see the progress! We are here to help with ideas and strategies in addition to those included below and in the weekly newsletters.

- Set a designated practice time and space (when possible).
- Make clear goals for the practice session. Practice smart, not hard!

- Mistakes are OK and an important learning tool. Not all beginning sounds are the most beautiful... that is OK! Encourage your child to self-analyze and try again until the desired goal is achieved. Then, Repetition, Repetition, Repetition!
- The weekly email newsletter will contain many practice prompts, goals, and helpful videos. Use these as a guideline. You do not need to get through every item each day. Mix it up!
- It's OK for 1-2 practice sessions per week to just be exploratory. See what sounds your instrument can make, try to 'make-up' your own song (improvising), or even "jam" with friends!
- Help draw analogies for your student that incorporate other activities or areas of life they enjoy, i.e., how can we relate playing music or something they are practicing to sports, food, family activities, media (we'll do this a lot in class as well!).
- For more advanced students, make a list of attainable short- and long-term goals for each practice session.
- Set a timer during practice time.
- "Perform" a piece for family and friends.
- Always, celebrate successes!

It is recommended to practice even five minutes every day rather than one hour a week on one or two days only. Consistent daily practice helps with muscle memory and retention of what is taught in class, especially when we move into music note reading.

Daily practice is an exercise in discipline, focus, intention-setting, and healthy self-evaluation. We hope that you will see an increased sense of your child's self-confidence and a recognition that their hard work has led to an accomplished goal that they are proud of. That's a job well done!

## HAVE AN ALLERGY?

Please inform your teacher if your child has a serious allergy. Thank you!

## LOCAL MUSIC RESOURCES

### **LOCAL MUSIC SHOP**

Glenwood Music

3102 Blake Ave. D, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

970-928-2999

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

If you have an AMFS scholarship instrument or want advice on your purchased instrument, please contact [education@aspenmusic.org](mailto:education@aspenmusic.org).

### **LOCAL MUSIC TEACHERS AND PERFORMERS**

The AMFS website provides [a list of local musicians](#) for hire to teach and/or play for events in the valley.

# BEGINNING STRINGS AND CHAMBER MUSIC LAB

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Beginning Strings** program is open to students in grades 2-5 who wish to study a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, and double bass), and to middle school students with past Beginning Strings experience. The program includes weekly after-school group classes, a series of private or small group lessons, and performance opportunities designed to showcase student progress.

The AMFS Beginning Strings curriculum is designed to get your student playing and to establish foundational skills in music such as ear training, singing, music reading, improvising and even composing their own tunes. We combine aspects of several music learning methods, including The Suzuki Method, Gordon Music Learning Theory, Mimi Zweig String Pedagogy, and others. Each student begins learning the instrument by ear, and then will move into the method book Essential Elements for Strings after they have learned the basics. Additional music is provided as students advance.

Ski Trail-inspired milestones (Green Circle, Blue Square, and Black Diamond) encourage students to achieve their best as well as self-assess through the curriculum. We choose to differentiate between levels so that students have clear goals for personal practice, group classes, and private lessons. Students receive instrument case tags that reflect their level as a reward for their work and an indication of current goals. You will receive more information once classes are underway.

Double Black Diamond students are invited to apply for our **Chamber Music Lab** program for older and more experienced string players. In this chamber music program you will work in small groups to develop ensemble skills, learn extended techniques, and expand your independent musicianship with a dedicated ensemble coach. Interested students will be formed into small ensembles according to age/grade level and experience/ability level. Small ensemble groups will meet weekly at locations and times based on student and coach availability.

*Looking for youth orchestra opportunities? Check out the programming with the [Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra!](#)*

Join our [AMFS Beginning Strings Facebook Page!](#)

## BEGINNING STRINGS SCHOOL SCHEDULES

### ASPEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mondays, starting October 14  
3:20 – 4:50 PM

### BASALT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wednesdays, starting October 16  
2:05 – 3:35 PM

### CRYSTAL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursdays, starting October 17  
3:20 – 4:50 PM

### GLENWOOD SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursdays, starting October 17  
3:35 PM – 5:05 PM

### RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

Wednesdays, starting October 16  
2:05 – 3:35 PM

### SOPRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tuesdays, starting October 15  
3:35 – 5:05 PM

## BEGINNING STRINGS AND CHAMBER MUSIC LAB CONCERT SCHEDULE

### **AfterWorks Winter Informances**

December 2024 – Date/Time TBA based on your Beginning Strings school or Chamber Music Lab ensemble!

### **Solo Recital (*Select students invited to participate based on work in private lessons*)**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Location: Harris Concert Hall, 960 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Aspen, CO

### **Chamber Music Lab Recital**

Friday, February 28, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Location: TBA

### **Spring Showcase Concert for AES/BES Students and ALL Chamber Music Lab ensembles:**

Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM (Beginning Strings) and 6:30 PM (Chamber Music Lab)

Location: Harris Concert Hall, 960 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Aspen, CO

### **Spring Showcase Concert for CRES/RS/SES/GSES Students:**

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

Location: TBA

## AMFS ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

**Heather Kendrick Stanton**  
**Vice President of Education and Community Programs**  
[hkstanton@aspenmusic.org](mailto:hkstanton@aspenmusic.org)  
970-205-5057

**Lindsay Bobyak**  
**Manager of Education and Community Programs**  
[lbobyak@aspenmusic.org](mailto:lbobyak@aspenmusic.org)  
970-205-5055

**Veronica Lopez**  
**Education and Community Programs Coordinator**  
[vlopez@aspenmusic.org](mailto:vlopez@aspenmusic.org)  
970-205-5059

**Timothy Hsu**  
**Housing Director, Education and Community Administrator**  
[thsu@aspenmusic.org](mailto:thsu@aspenmusic.org)  
970 205 5028

## PRIVATE &/OR SMALL GROUP LESSONS

**All students will receive three 30-minute private lessons and/or small group lessons, thanks to the AMFS's generous donors.** This is a \$120 value; please do not take this wonderful opportunity lightly. When it is your time to receive lessons, you will be emailed the information to sign up by your private lesson teacher. After the three lessons have been completed, you may continue to study with your private teacher at your own expense. We recommend the rate of \$40 per 30-minute lesson (this can be negotiated with your teacher directly and is not a requirement).

We often have lesson scholarship money remaining for extra private lessons after January 30. These lessons will be offered to students based on teacher recommendations. You will be notified by email if you are awarded extra lessons.

If a student cannot make a scheduled lesson for any reason, parents are expected to give 24-hour notice to the instructor to be granted a rescheduled lesson. If less than 24-hour notice is given, the instructor has the right to consider that lesson forfeited, and it is up to their discretion as to whether it be rescheduled. Our teachers are multi-tasking superheroes; please respect their limited time by communicating promptly and honoring scheduled appointments.



# MAROON BEL CANTO CHOIRS

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW: MAROON BEL CANTO CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Maroon Bel Canto Children's Chorus (MBCCC) gives students in grades 3 through 5 the chance to participate in a traditional children's chorus with other young singers and learn the foundation of choral singing in a fun, supportive, high-energy environment. Singers rehearse weekly at their chosen MBCCC school site and then join with singers from across the valley in two mass rehearsals and a performance. The choir is open to all students with a desire to sing!

All Roaring Fork Valley students are welcome to sing in an MBCCC or MBCS ensemble at any participating school. Please note that rehearsal dates and times are subject to change.

### BASALT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Grades 2-4
- Mondays, starting October 21
- 3:45-4:45 PM
- Directed by Katie Sansone, [kathrynsansone@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynsansone@gmail.com)

### CRYSTAL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Grades 2-4
- Tuesdays, starting October 15
- 3:25-4:25 PM
- Directed by Annie Muir, [a1muir@rfschools.com](mailto:a1muir@rfschools.com)

### GLENWOOD SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Grades 3-5
- Tuesdays, starting October 15
- 3:45-4:45 PM
- Directed by Emma Leake-Parker, [eleake@rfschools.com](mailto:eleake@rfschools.com)

### TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- Grades 3-5
- Tuesdays, starting October 15
- 3:45-4:45 PM
- Directed by Cailey Arensman, [carensman@rfschools.com](mailto:carensman@rfschools.com)

### SOPRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Grades 3-5
- Thursdays, starting October 17
- 3:45-4:45 PM
- Directed by David Parker, [parkerd@rfschools.com](mailto:parkerd@rfschools.com)

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW: MAROON BEL CANTO SINGERS

Maroon Bel Canto Singers (MBCS) is a smaller, more select ensemble for older students, with or without prior choral experience. In this choir for sixth through eighth graders (with select fifth grade students from AMS and Riverview), singers will rehearse weekly at their chosen MBCS school, participate in three MBCS Workshops, and perform in two concerts. With the focus squarely on older middle-school singers, we learn challenging and fun repertoire, develop sight-reading skills, and move quickly through advanced choral techniques. Starting in the second week of October and ending before Spring Break, MBCS is designed so busy middle school students can sing in the ensemble and still participate in other after school activities and athletics.

### **BASALT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Grades 5-8
- Wednesdays, starting October 16
- 2:15-3:30 PM
- Directed by Katie Hone Wiltgen, [katie@fortelessons.com](mailto:katie@fortelessons.com)

### **CARBONDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Grades 5-8
- Thursdays, starting October 17
- 3:15-4:30 PM
- Directed by Madison McCutcheon and Madi Ciesielski, [madison.mccutcheon@artistyear.org](mailto:madison.mccutcheon@artistyear.org), [madi.ciesielski@artistyear.org](mailto:madi.ciesielski@artistyear.org)

### **RIVERVIEW SCHOOL**

- Grades 5-8
- Tuesdays, starting October 15
- 3:45-4:45 PM
- Directed by Jen Sutton, [jsutton@rfschools.com](mailto:jsutton@rfschools.com)

***The AMFS would like to thank local music teachers and choir directors for their involvement in leading Maroon Bel Canto rehearsals at schools throughout the Roaring Fork Valley!***

**Join our [AMFS Maroon Bel Canto Facebook Page!](#)**

### **CONCERT SCHEDULE**

March 12 and/or 19, 2025 – **Maroon Bel Canto Choirs Workshop & Showcase Concert** | Location TBD

*\*Maroon Bel Canto rehearsals end after the Showcase in March.*

### **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

Singing in a group should be fun! The purpose of Maroon Bel Canto Choirs is to sing and make music, to learn and grow one's musical knowledge and ability to sing, and to have a lot of fun in the process. To help ensure this is the norm for each ensemble, we ask that certain expectations outlined below are followed by each director and their ensemble.

As in any class setting, a choir ensemble can only be as productive as they are respectful, as successful as they are focused, and as fun as they are polite. We expect all Maroon Bel Canto Choirs singers to act in a way that is beneficial to the rehearsal process. Any behavior that is not beneficial to the rehearsal process is inappropriate.

# Lead Guitar

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Lead Guitar is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded by guitarist-composer-educator Brad Richter. Lead Guitar partners with arts organizations and higher education institutions to provide students with experiential learning opportunities at top-notch facilities. Lead Guitar is proudly offered locally in collaboration with the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Lead Guitar students learn classical guitar technique, music theory and literacy, performance skills, and ensemble playing in group classes, through which they develop their self-discipline, self-esteem, and ability to work as a team - attributes that help them realize success throughout their lives! The Lead Guitar curriculum emphasizes music reading, allowing students to become independent musicians, capable of taking their guitar skills to any style of playing. The program is designed for students in grades 5 and up. Responsible 4th-graders are welcome to apply but will only be accepted on a space-available basis.

Join our [AMFS Lead Guitar Facebook Page!](#)

## CLASS STRUCTURE

Each class includes a warm-up routine, weekly lesson objective, and clear practice strategies as students move through the thoughtfully designed Lead Guitar curriculum.

**Green Circle:** Students in their *first* year of Lead Guitar instruction always participate in the Green Circle class. In Green Circle, we start at the beginning of Lead Guitar Method Book 1, learning proper set-up, music reading skills, and left/right hand independence on the first songs, progressing into songs with increasing rhythmic complexity. Students' progress to the Blue Square class level when they can confidently play Method Book 1 Level One and most pieces in Level Two.

**Blue Square:** Students in the Blue Square class have had at least one year in Lead Guitar class and can demonstrate proficiency on all Method Book 1 Level One pieces and most Level Two pieces.

- Some students in their second year of Lead Guitar instruction will be ready for the Blue Square class, while some will be better served through a refresher in the Green Circle class.
- All students will be reassessed during the first week of class to ensure they are placed into the correct class level.

**Black Diamond:** Students who can confidently play Leyenda (in Level Four of Method Book 1; thumb and fingers) are invited to participate in the select Black Diamond ensemble (below).

## TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nick Lenio**, Lead Guitar Director of Instruction & Basalt Middle School Instructor, [nicklenio@leadguitar.org](mailto:nicklenio@leadguitar.org)

**Ashton Taufer**, Two Rivers Community School Instructor, [ataufer@rfschools.com](mailto:ataufer@rfschools.com)

**Tim Caskin**, Carbondale Middle School Instructor, [tcaskin@rfschools.com](mailto:tcaskin@rfschools.com)

**Mateo Sandate**, Riverview School Instructor, [mateosandatemusic@gmail.com](mailto:mateosandatemusic@gmail.com)

**Harris Jackson**, Ross Montessori Instructor, [harrisjmusic@gmail.com](mailto:harrisjmusic@gmail.com)

**Veronica Lopez**, AMFS Education and Community Coordinator, [vlopez@aspenmusic.org](mailto:vlopez@aspenmusic.org)

## SCHOOL SCHEDULES

### BASALT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mondays:

- 3:40-4:25 PM - Green Circle class
- 4:30-5:15 PM - Blue Square class

Wednesdays:

- 2:10-2:55 PM - Green Circle class
- 3:00-3:45 PM - Blue Square class

Classes begin Wednesday, October 16 | Taught by Nick Lenio | Location: BMS Band Room

### ROSS MONTESSORI SCHOOL (CARBONDALE)

Mondays and Wednesdays

- 3:40-4:25 PM - Green Circle class
- 4:30-5:15 PM - Blue Square class

Classes begin October 16 | Taught by Harris Jackson | Location: Classroom #143

### CARBONDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- 3:20-4:05 PM - Green Circle class
- 4:10-5:55 PM - Blue Square class

Classes begin October 17 | Taught by Tim Caskin | Location: Band room

### RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

Mondays:

- 3:40-4:25 PM - Green Circle class
- 4:30-5:15 PM - Blue Square class

Wednesdays:

- 2:10-2:55 PM - Green Circle class
- 3:00-3:45 PM - Blue Square class

Classes begin October 16 | Taught by Mateo Sandate | Location: Think Tank (across from the main music room)

### TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Mondays and Thursdays

- 3:45-4:30 PM - Green Circle class
- 4:35-5:20 PM - Blue Square class
- Classes begin October 17 | Taught by Ashton Taufer | Location: Classroom #130

## BLACK DIAMOND ENSEMBLES

- **Basalt**
  - Wednesdays, 3:50-5:05 PM (or at an alternate time depending on student/teacher availability), starting October 16
  - BMS Band Room; Taught by Nick Lenio
- **Carbondale**
  - Tuesdays, 4-5:15 PM, starting October 17
  - Location TBD; Taught by Mateo Sandate

## CONCERT SCHEDULE

December/January – **Lead Guitar Winter Informances** | Dates vary by school and are forthcoming

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – Lead Guitar Showcase** | Harris Concert Hall (Aspen)

*\*Lead Guitar classes end after the Lead Guitar Showcase in April.*