

MUSIC

The **Instrumental Music** major rehearses and performs music from a variety of historical periods and musical styles, with an emphasis on the standard literature for band and orchestra. Students focus on developing fundamental skills in tone production, performance technique, and interpretive musicianship. Students participate in various ensembles throughout the year. Activities include rehearsals, concerts, competitions, district and state festivals, and performances for local organizations.

The **Vocal Music** major studies and rehearses music from various historical periods and musical styles, with an emphasis on classical literature. Students focus on developing and improving the voice as an instrument through breathing techniques, tone and pitch enhancement, proper diction, and vocal projection. Students will perform literature written in various foreign languages including Latin, German, Italian, and French. Activities include rehearsals, concerts, competitions, district and state festivals, and performances for local organizations.

The **Piano/Guitar** major rehearses and performs standard classical literature with an emphasis on proper instrumental technique and sound production. Students are required to perform in various recitals and/or concerts.

Students will be able to:

- * Perform with a high degree of proficiency in large and small ensembles.
- * Meet admissions requirements for university and conservatory level studies.
- * Exceed the level of musicianship typical of an entering college freshman.
- * Speak from a historical and cultural perspective about music studied and performed.
- * Judge the quality of solo and ensemble music performances.
- * Compete for music scholarships and awards at state and national levels.
- * Present a portfolio of accomplishments to universities, colleges, conservatories, and prospective employers.

Note: All VPA Music students are required to enroll in Music Theory/Music History courses in order to satisfy the VPA requirement. In addition, all VPA Music students are required to perform one solo jury per semester.

Wind Ensemble

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. This course is an auditioned ensemble of students which will provide opportunities to perform more challenging and advanced levels of band literature. Performances are a requirement of this course. Multiple credits may be earned in Wind Ensemble, therefore the students need to sign up for the appropriate level on their registration forms (e.g., Wind Ensemble I, II, III, IV). VPA students are required to perform one jury per semester.

Symphonic Band

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. This course will provide students with opportunities to develop musicianship skills through performance in band. The content will include developing fundamental skills in tone production, instrumental performance techniques, musical literacy and music appreciation. Performances are a requirement of this course. Multiple credits may be earned in Band, therefore students need to sign up for the appropriate level on their registration forms (e.g., Band I, II, III, IV). VPA students are required to perform one jury per semester.

Guitar Master Class

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. Guitar students rehearse and perform standard classical literature with an emphasis on proper instrumental technique and sound production. VPA students are required to perform one jury per semester.

Concert Choir

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. The Concert Choir studies and rehearses music from various historical periods and musical styles, with an emphasis on Classical material. This course focuses on developing and improving the voice as an instrument through breathing techniques, tone and pitch enhancement, proper diction, and vocal projection. Students will perform literature written in various foreign languages including Latin, German, Italian, and French. Activities include rehearsals, concerts, competitions, and performances for local civic organizations. Students are eligible to audition for district and state music festivals. VPA students are required to perform one solo jury per term.

Piano Master Class

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. Piano students rehearse and perform standard classical solo piano, orchestral, and chamber music literature with an emphasis on proper instrumental technique and sound production. VPA students are required to perform one jury per term.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

The Vocal Jazz Ensemble is an extra-curricular ensemble that meets in the evenings and after school. Auditions are held at the beginning of each school year. The number of students accepted to the ensemble varies from year to year. It is possible that no new students will be auditioned into the ensemble depending on the number of returning members. The size of the group usually consists of 8-12 vocalists. Students currently in the ensemble are not required to re-audition unless such an audition is required by the director.

String Ensemble

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. String Ensemble rehearses and performs standard string, orchestral, and chamber music literature with an emphasis on proper instrumental technique and sound production. VPA students are required to perform one jury per semester.

Music Theory I

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. This course is required of all first year VPA Music students. Subjects covered include: basic music reading and analysis, scales, intervals, chords, sight-reading, sight-singing, harmonic devices, multiple part writing, rhythmic and melodic dictation.

Music Theory II/Music History

This is a FULL YEAR COURSE. This course is required of all second year VPA Music students. Students will alternate days between Music Theory II and Music History. Music Theory II is a continuation of Music Theory I and will cover more advanced compositional material, more complex harmonic construction and devices, as well as more advanced sight-reading, sight-singing and analysis. Music History will cover the composers, music, art, politics, and world views from the Medieval time period through the 21st Century.

Booker High School VPA Music Program

*****Go To:bookerhighschoolmusic.com for complete and specific
audition and course information*****

Concert Choir

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Focus: Ensemble singing. Most of the material performed will be of the "Classical" idiom, however a variety of styles including Broadway Show, Jazz, and Contemporary may be covered during the course of the year.
- * Students will sing in multiple languages
- * Students are required to perform one vocal jury per term.
- * Students are expected to be in attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and festivals.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

- * **Entry is by audition.**
- * The ensemble will consist of 4-15 singers. Limited openings will be available depending on graduated members on a given year and vocal balance/timbre among current members.
- * All rehearsals are held after school and in the evenings. Members are required to be at all rehearsals, concerts, festivals, and meetings.

Music Theory

- * Definition: Music Theory students learn to read, write, and analyze music, as well as develop extensive ear-training skills.
- * All VPA students are required to take Music Theory.
- * Basic college-prep Music Theory will be taught to all students.

Piano Master Class

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Each piano student has choice of singing in the chorus for 2 days a week to improve/develop singing skills .
- * Students work on 2 to 5 pieces appropriate to the student's level each semester.
- * During the class, students improve on sight playing, sight tapping, technique, and ensemble experience.
- * Grade is based on class assignment, student's progress, and jury grade.
- * Jury is held once a term.

Wind Ensemble

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Focus: Ensemble playing. Most of the material performed will be of the "Classical" idiom, however, a variety of styles including Broadway, Jazz, and contemporary may be covered during the course of the year.
- * Students are required to perform two juries a year.
- * Students are expected to be in attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and festivals.

Jazz Ensemble

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Focus: Ensemble playing, improvisation. All students will learn jazz chords and modes and how to apply them in a jazz solo. This is done through both big band and small group playing.
- * All Wind and Percussion players must audition for Wind Ensemble. Jazz Ensemble auditions are held at the beginning of the school year.
- * VPA students are required to perform two juries a year.
- * Students are expected to be in attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and festivals.

Guitar Master Class

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Students rehearse and perform standard *Classical* guitar literature on acoustic guitars.
- * During the class, students improve on sight reading,, technique, and ensemble experience.
- * Grade is based on class assignment, student's progress, and jury grade.
- * Jury is held once a semester.
- * Students are expected to be in attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and festivals.

String Ensemble

- * **Entry is by audition. Non-VPA students are still eligible through an audition.**
- * Focus: Ensemble and solo performance.
- * Standard *Classical* string and orchestral literature is performed.
- * VPA students are required to perform one jury per semester.
- * Students are expected to be in attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and festivals

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Music Faculty Profiles

Ned J. Rosenblatt (Department Chair, Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Technology, Composition, Arranging) holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and a Masters Degree in Jazz Pedagogy from the Berklee College of Music and The Boston Conservatory. This is Mr. Rosenblatt's first teaching position in Florida. Mr. Rosenblatt has taught Chorus, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation, Music Theory, String Ensemble, Orchestra, Show Choir, Composition, Arranging, and Music Technology. Mr. Rosenblatt has served as Director, Music Director, Vocal Coach, and Accompanist on numerous musicals, and is the Founder and Director of All-Cape Theatrical Productions in Massachusetts which produced its final performance in July, 2004 with Mr. Rosenblatt's relocation to Sarasota. Recent productions include Les Misérables, Chicago, Jekyll and Hyde, A Chorus Line, and 42nd Street. Mr. Rosenblatt has conducted Schubert's Masses in G major and Eb, Beethoven's Mass in C, Haydn's "Heiligmesse" and "Lord Nelson Mass," Rutter's Gloria, and the Mozart Requiem with his high school performing ensembles. As a freelance musician and director Mr. Rosenblatt has accompanied and arranged for the 1987 Connecticut Music Educator's Association Middle School Chorus, accompanied many solo recitals, accompanied and managed the 2001 Massachusetts All-Cape and Islands Festival Chorus, founded and served as manager of the Massachusetts All-Cape and Islands Jazz Festival from 1999-2003, has served as a vocal coach, has been a featured performer, and has arranged for both instrumental and vocal ensembles in the jazz, classical, pop, contemporary, and Broadway show idioms. Mr. Rosenblatt is a published Composer and Arranger with UNC Jazz Press. Mr. Rosenblatt served as guest conductor of the Vermont Music Educator Association District VI Festival Jazz Choir in November, 1999. Mr. Rosenblatt frequently serves as an adjudicator for classical and jazz festivals. Mr. Rosenblatt also carries an extensive background in electronic/computer music and has served as a clinician lecturing and training teachers and students to use technology in music.

Mr. Rosenblatt's high school Vocal Jazz Ensembles have won numerous awards including back-to-back wins at the highly acclaimed Berklee Jazz Festival (Boston, MA) in 2001 and 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 with Booker High School, have been featured on television, and have been selected to perform at the Massachusetts All-State Conference. Mr. Rosenblatt's Jazz Combos have also won at the Berklee Jazz Festival in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Mr. Rosenblatt's students have been recognized nationally, are consistently accepted to highly esteemed music and theatre collegiate programs, and are traditionally well represented in State Music Festivals. Mr. Rosenblatt has been twice nominated for the Disney American Teacher Awards and three times awarded a position as one of the Who's Who in America's Teachers.

Sung Choe (Piano, Music Theory) is an active music teacher in the district. Currently, she teaches at the Booker High School, Manatee Community College, Sarasota Music Center, and privately at home. During the 2002-2003 season, she also taught at the Florida West Coast Symphony's youth program. She is involved in many activities. She is the CO-chair person for the Creative Music Festival, was a chairperson for the concerto competition in district division, and a member of SMTA and MCMTA. She adjudicated and accompanied many students in

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numerous competitions and festivals. She is originally from South Korea and received her music education from Mrs. Sandra Lawler locally. She worked with professor Uriel Tsachor and got her BA and MA from the University of Iowa with the emphasis on the Piano Performance and minor in the Pedagogy of Music Theory. She teaches piano master class and both written and aural music theory I and IV (Advanced Placement theory) at the BHS.

Thomas Koch (Classical Guitar) received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education from the Hochschule für Musik Köln, and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover, both in his native country of Germany. He also studied with Maestro Alberto Ponce at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France. Thomas has established himself as an inspirational teacher of the classical guitar and his students have received grants and scholarships from institutions like the Sarasota Music Teacher Association, the Andrew Vincent Messina Foundation, Stetson University and other organizations. Thomas is on the Faculty of Booker High VPA since 2003 and the Hecht School of Music since 2000. Prior to his arrival in the United States, Thomas taught at two German conservatories. Thomas performed recitals in Paris, Berlin, New York (Carnegie Recital Hall), and at the German Embassy Auditorium in Washington DC. Since taking up residence in Florida, Thomas has performed as soloist with the Port Charlotte Symphony, Venice Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Anna Maria Community Orchestra. Locally, Thomas performed recitals at the Church of the Redeemer, the First United Methodist Chapel, Sainer Pavilion at New College of Florida, Selby Public Library Auditorium, David Cohen Hall at the FWC Symphony Center, Selby Garden Outdoor Concert Series and Neel Auditorium. Thomas has worked closely with composers like Takashi Ogawa, John King and Paul Fetler, who wrote and dedicated works to him. In 1997, Thomas' CD Souvenir de Paris was featured during a half hour radio show on German International Radio.

Nathan Frantz (Orchestra) has been a member of the Sarasota Orchestra since 1999. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from Northwestern University, Mr. Frantz completed his Master's degree in Music Performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. In addition to his career as an orchestral musician, Mr. Frantz maintains a rich chamber music performance and teaching schedule. During his summers away from Sarasota, he is a faculty member at the Luzerne Music Center. Additionally, his string quartet, *mob*, has released a successful children's CD entitled "Music Tales," which is in post-production for a highly anticipated sequel.

VPA MUSIC AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Concert Choir:

- * Take a short and basic Music Theory test.
- * Perform the required audition material (download at www.bookerhighschoolmusic.com).
- * Perform a two minute excerpt of a piece of the auditionee's choosing. This piece can be in any style, but please try to choose something that shows off the voice in terms of range and technique.
- * A range check and pitch matching exercise will be conducted.

Wind Ensemble:

- * Take a short and basic Music Theory test.
- * Perform the required audition material for your instrument (download at www.bookerhighschoolmusic.com).
- * Perform a short excerpt (at least 32 measures) of a piece of your own choosing. This piece should preferably be from the FBA Solo and Ensemble List. Excerpts from band class literature are NOT accepted; SOLO REPERTOIRE ONLY!
- * Perform the following scales: F, Bb, Eb, Ab, C, and a Chromatic Scale (You can start on a note of your own choosing). Percussionists will play their scales on the Xylophone.
- * Perform a short sight reading etude.

*** Percussion only:**

- * Play BOTH the Snare Drum and Xylophone excerpts (download at www.bookerhighschoolmusic.com).
- * Play an accelerated and decelerated double stroke roll on the snare drum.
- * Sight read an excerpt on BOTH the Snare Drum and Xylophone

Orchestra:

- * Take a short and basic music theory test.
- * Perform three major scales of the player's choice. Violins and Violas - three octaves. Celli and Bass - two octaves.
- * Choose one etude from any of the standard etude books (such as Kreutzer, Mazas, Wohlfahrt, Campagnoli, Gavinies, etc.) or a solo piece of your choosing. This piece should adequately demonstrate proficiency on the instrument.
- * Perform a short sight reading etude

Guitar:

- * Take a short basic music theory test.
- * Perform the required piece (download at www.bookerhighschoolmusic.com).
- * Perform a C major scale in the first position.
- * Perform basic chords in the first position, like C, G, D, A, E, B7, a-minor, d-minor, e-minor etc.
- * Sight-read a simple and short melody line.
- * Perform one piece of the applicant's own choice. The piece should not be longer than 3 minutes. The style of the composition should be classical or finger picking style. No plectrums, please.
- * The performance should be on a classical (nylon string) guitar. No electric guitars or steel string guitars, please. In case the applicant has no classical guitar available, the school will provide an instrument for the duration of the audition.

Piano:

- * Take a short and basic Music Theory test.
- * Play one set of Scale and or arpeggio out of 3 sets chosen by faculty (E major/c# minor, B Major /g# minor, and Eb Major/c minor.) Students may play hand separately or hands together for one octave or more both ascending and descending.
- * Perform one or two piece(s) of the auditionee's choosing. This piece must be in classical style which exhibits student's abilities and strengths.
- * Sight read a short and simple excerpt of a piece.

A superior audition for all areas will consist of strong demonstration of the following:

- * Tone
- * Technique
- * Reading skills

In addition, the following items are required for a complete application to the VPA program:

- * Interview
- * Two Letters of Recommendation (one from a general academic teacher, one from an arts teacher)
- * Demonstrated 2.0+ GPA (copy of most recent report card)