

# WELCOME

# HANDBOOK

## PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS



# 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**

Student Services Coordinator

[registration@artsplus.org](mailto:registration@artsplus.org)

704-377-4238

I.

# Welcome to ARTS+

Dear Students and Families,

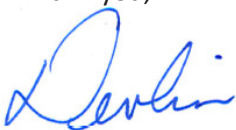
Welcome to Arts+, formerly Community School of the Arts! We are thrilled to have you join our creative community. Arts+ began fifty years ago in the basement of First Presbyterian Church. Our founder Henry Bridges wanted to give students who wouldn't otherwise have the chance, the opportunity for a high-quality music education.

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 program was so successful that it quickly expanded to offer tuition-based opportunities for families. The model worked and since then Arts+ has been offering private lessons as well as a variety of other programs such as summer camps, workshops and group classes. 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. Half of those students receive their education at reduced or no cost thanks to our generous outreach and financial aid initiatives. This commitment to equity reflects our mission of unleashing creativity, transforming lives and building community through outstanding and accessible arts education.

I know the world has been completely transformed by COVID-19 and Arts+ is striving to offer our high quality programming in the safest way possible. By adapting to virtual lessons and programming, Arts+ stays true to its mission of offering arts education for all in Charlotte. 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 will be keeping you informed as we navigate the year in the wake of the pandemic. Thank you for being a part of Arts+!

Thank you,



Devlin McNeil  
President & Executive Director

# II.

# About ARTS+

## 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, when he stepped away from administrative duties and became a full time piano teacher in the Piedmont Courts Public Housing Project. In 1998, Arts+, which had long been an independent non-profit housed at First Presbyterian Church, moved to new offices and studios at Spirit Square, providing a high profile downtown location for programs. 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 Children's 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 practice toolbox
  - Honing **creative interpretation** and expression
- Recitals/Performance Opportunities
- Pursue individual interests
- Audition Preparation

## 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.

### **ASSISTING 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 his/her 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 a job well done.

## 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

- \$35 per student for the year (fall – summer) or \$25 per student/per semester fee for private lessons
- Charlotte Children’s Choir students have a one-time \$35 fee for the year
- Family rate: families with 4+ students fee waived on fourth student, fifth student and so on
- Registration fee is non-refundable

## LATE FEE

- \$25 late fee for payments made past first lesson/class

## PAYMENT POLICY

- Tuition is due at time of registration
- All payments must be made no later than 24 hours prior to first lesson/class  
Payments made by: credit card, check or money order
- Visa, MasterCard and American Express
- All payments run through a secure server  
**Private Music Lessons:** automated credit card payment plan offered for balances of more than \$200.00
- Initial deposit of 50% at time of registration
- 3 additional equal installments scheduled (*for credit card users only*)

## FINANCIAL AID

- Provided based on availability of funds
- Primary deadline is mid-April for the following school year
- Check out the Resources Tab on our website for more information about Financial Aid and to find the application form
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year  
*Arts+ makes its financial aid awards based on availability of funds and on a sliding scale similar to the one public schools use to determine eligibility for free/reduced school lunches*

## REFUNDS

### Private Lessons

- Partial refund available if student withdraws before the third lesson
- Arts+ is unable to issue refunds after third lesson

### Group Classes

- Refunds only available if request is submitted one week before the first class
- Arts+ is unable to issue refunds once group class has begun

## MISSED LESSONS

- Students are expected to attend all lessons
- No make-up policy  
If a student misses a lesson or class, Arts+ will not issue a refund, and instructors are not required to teach make-up sessions
- Teacher illness/emergency  
Teacher will schedule a make-up lesson at no additional cost to the student
- Grace Period: Instructors and students are asked to observe a 10-minute grace period before labeling the lesson a “no show” and leaving the premises.

# V.

# PARENT AGREEMENT

## MISSED LESSONS

Students are expected to attend all lessons. **Arts+ has a no make-up policy: If a student misses a lesson or class, 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 at no additional cost.

## PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS

Payment for lessons is due prior to the first lesson of each semester. Failure to pay the full balance or set up a payment plan prior to the first lesson 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.

## 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](http://www.artsplus.org), Arts+'s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/artsplus.clt](http://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.

## 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.

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS OF PRIVATE MUSIC 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.

# VI.

# LOCATION INFORMATION

## +NORTH CHARLOTTE

### DAVIDSON COLLEGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 North Main Street, Davidson, NC 28036

## +SOUTH CHARLOTTE

### LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

### SHARON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5201 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210

## +MATTHEWS

### MATTHEWS COMMUNITY CENTER

100 McDowell Street, Matthews, NC 28106

## +MYERS PARK

### PROVIDENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2810 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

### TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3115 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

### CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1412 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28207

*Entrance: When you arrive at the Church, enter through the main door with columns on the right. There will be a reception desk when you walk in (not usually staffed after 5pm though). Turn left and continue down the hallway past the Good News Shop and straight through the double doors. Turn left and continue down hallway (you'll pass a door to the parking lot on your left). Turn right and walk down short hallway. Take either the elevator on left or stairs on right to the Upper floor and you'll find Arts+'s classrooms there.*



# VI.

# LOCATION INFORMATION

## + PLAZA MIDWOOD

### HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1900 The Plaza, Charlotte, NC 28205

*Entrance: Follow Arts+ signs on the left side of building, and classrooms are up the stairwell on the second floor.*

*Entry code: Press 2 & 3 together, followed by 1, then enter.*

## + BALLANTYNE

### ELON PARK RECREATION CENTER

11401 Ardrey Kell Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

*Entrance: The Elon Recreation Center is located behind the Elementary School. Proceed down the side road by the soccer fields, around the corner to the left, and you'll reach the Recreation Center building.*

### SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

601 Bryant Farms Rd, Charlotte, NC 28277

## + WEST CHARLOTTE

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WEST

1801 Oaklawn Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

## + NoDa

### THE BRIDGE

4100 Raleigh Street, Charlotte, NC 28213

# VII.

# 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 music and visual art private lessons, group classes, summer camps, and workshops, as well as the Charlotte Children’s Choir. Nearly half of those 4,500 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 art supplies for our young artists and preparing mailings for supporters. Monthly volunteer days are held the second Thursday of every month from 1 to 4 pm. Arts+ also has special one-time volunteer opportunities. Please contact Michelle Williams at [mwilliams@artsplus.org](mailto:mwilliams@artsplus.org) to be added to our volunteer email list or to sign up for a monthly volunteer day.

*All monthly volunteer days and in-person opportunities are suspended indefinitely as a result of COVID-19.*



## Ways to Give

- Donate securely online through our website under the “Give Now” tab
- Mail a check to: Arts+  
c/o Development Office  
PO Box 32757  
Charlotte, NC 28232

## Support Arts+ while you shop!

### AmazonSmile

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you’ll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com. By shopping through the Arts+ organization link on Amazon, Arts+ will receive .5% of your purchase.

### Harris Teeter

Through Harris Teeter’s Together In Education program, Harris Teeter contributes a percentage of your purchase of select Harris Teeter Brand products to Arts+. To support Arts+ while you shop, link your VIC card to Arts+ by visiting the Harris Teeter website. The Arts+ school code is: 5360.

+ For any questions on how you can support Arts+, please contact us at [development@artsplus.org](mailto:development@artsplus.org)

# VIII.

# ARTS+ COMMUNITY

## PROGRAMS

**Our primary programs are listed below, all of which were taught by professional artists and arts educators.**

### **Private Lessons**

Arts+'s private lesson program reaches more than 300 students each semester. Weekly music lessons are taught on 17 different instruments in traditional, Suzuki, and Rock 'n' Blues 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.

### **Group Music and Visual Art Classes**

Arts+ offers music and visual art classes for all ages, including adults. Classes have included topics such as Alternative Photography Processes and Open Life Drawing for Adults, and a variety of other kids and adult music and visual art classes.

### **Charlotte Children's Choir**

CCC consists of three choirs: Harmony Choir – a training choir, Lyric Choir – an intermediary choir, and Concert Choir – an advanced choir. In 2019, Arts+ introduced CCC@Your School, bringing the choir into local schools, primarily Title I.

### **Studio 345**

Studio 345 is a free, creative, out-of-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.

### **Workshops**

Arts+ offers one-off workshops for families as well as for adults, including Adult Beginning Guitar, DIY Valentine, Holiday Make n Take, and Musical Saturdays. These workshops – the majority of which were offered for free – provide unique opportunities for families and individuals to engage with Arts+.

### **Music Around and PAL**

Arts+ provides supplementary in-school music and arts programming to preschools, private schools, and charter schools. Through Music Around, schools contract with Arts+ to have our faculty lead weekly music classes. Through the Preschool Arts Lab (PAL), area schools bring their students to our Spirit Square art studio once a month for a hands-on, literacy-based arts lab. The School also offers PAL 'On the Go,' which takes the Preschool Arts Lab out of our art studio and into the schools.

### **Summer Camps and Workshops**

Each summer Arts+ delivers a variety of music and visual art summer camps including our popular Youth Art Camps and Band and Orchestra Camp.

# IX.

# ARTS+ COMMUNITY

## **ArtsReach**

ArtsReach is one of Arts+'s oldest outreach programs, through which we offer completely free music and visual art programs to at-risk children and seniors at local community centers, Title I schools, and centers for behavioral healthcare. The program brings arts education directly to hundreds of children and seniors who face a variety of barriers to accessibility.

## **Project Harmony**

Project Harmony is a collaboration between Arts+ and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra based on the El Sistema program of Venezuela that offers an after-school orchestra program to 170 students in four low-income neighborhoods.

## **Financial Aid and Scholarships**

Arts+ offers need-based aid for all our paying programs to roughly 100 students annually. In addition, Arts+ offers audition-based merit scholarships to roughly ten students each year.

## **The Bridge**

Arts+ offers a variety of classes and workshops, including one-off and drop-in programs, at The Bridge, our new creative arts lab. The Bridge allows Arts+ to engage with new communities and pilot new music and visual art programs, including free and accessible programs for the surrounding neighborhoods.

## **Arts for All**

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

## **Culture Blocks**

Arts+ brings free community workshops, projects, and choirs to libraries and recreation centers in neighborhoods that lack access to cultural programming.

## **Social Series Workshops**

Arts+'s free Social Series Workshops (Ukulele Sip+Strum and Social Choir) are designed to create a casual, accessible environment for Charlotteans to come together to create music in local breweries.

## **AIR**

The AIR program reaches asylees, immigrants, and refugees through visual art programming offered in community gathering locations for the populations being served.

## **FOCUS Garinger**

FOCUS Garinger is a non-traditional high school program for students at risk of not completing high school. Arts+ provides regular visual art and music experiences for FOCUS Garinger students. This year the students completed a collaborative mural with accomplished artist Sharon Dowell.

# IX.

# ARTS+ COMMUNITY

## BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Butlak, Board Chair

Melissa Abernathy

Nick Anderson

Arielle Brown

Rob Cox

Rob Crane

Amy Fistner

Sarah Floyd

Angela Frederick

Leslie Gillock

Carol Hamrick

Patty Lambert

Jon Lindvall

Anne McPhail

Michelle Mendoza

Mark Miller

Anna Mills

Cynthia Montgomery

Tamysha Nixon

David Page

Susan Shimp

Rick Starling

Scott Stevens

Erika Templeton

RaLynn Walters

Anna Wheeler

Eve White

Linda Weisbruch

Eugene Young

*Barringer Construction*

*Duke Energy*

*Pesta, Finnie, and Associates*

*Carolina Pediatric Therapy*

*Bradley*

*C Design*

*Bank of America*

*Luquire George Andrews*

*Atrium Health*

*Wray Ward*

*Lifetime Member, Civic Leader*

*Civic Leader*

*US Bank*

*Novare Capital Management*

*Duke Energy*

*Lat Purser & Associates*

*Wells Fargo*

*Truist Bank*

*Wells Fargo*

*Rodgers Builders*

*Civic Leader*

*Robinson Bradshaw*

*Pamlico Capital*

*Civic Leader*

*Wells Fargo*

*KPMG*

*White Ideas*

*Civic Leader*

*Wells Fargo*

# IX.

# ARTS+ COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*Arts+ is proud to partner with the following organizations to expand our reach and increase our community impact.*

Alexander Youth Network  
Amity Presbyterian Church  
Arts & Science Council - Culture Blocks  
Bechtler Museum of Modern Art  
Blumenthal Performing Arts  
Carolina Voices  
Charlotte Area Transit System  
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool  
Charlotte Community Services Association  
    @ First Baptist Church West  
Charlotte Lab School  
Charlotte Latin School  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools  
Charlotte Music Club  
Charlotte Preparatory School  
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Dilworth CDC  
Edwin Towers  
First Presbyterian CDC  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Day School  
First United Methodist Church

Greater Enrichment Program  
Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church  
Lakewood Preschool Cooperative  
Levine Children's Hospital  
Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation  
ONE Voice Chorus  
PACE of the Southern Piedmont  
Plaza Presbyterian Church  
Providence United Methodist Church  
Renaissance West Community Initiative  
Sharon Towers Retirement Community  
SlamCharlotte  
Southminster Retirement Community  
Speech Garden  
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church  
The Arts Empowerment Project  
The Learning Collaborative  
Thompson CDC  
Tosco Music  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
University City United Methodist Church  
West Charlotte Recreation Center  
Wing Haven Gardens