



*Outstanding*

**MUSICAL  
EXPERIENCES**

*for All Ages*

**FIRST  
ACADEMY  
OF MUSIC**



**PARENT /  
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK**

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Dear Music Student and Family,

Welcome to First Academy of Music. We are honored to be in service to you as a student of music. Our aim is to provide you with high quality musical instruction in a Christian environment. First Academy of Music is a hybrid ministry of music and mission at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs. Our desire is to nurture musical talent, which we believe is a gift from God.

This booklet details the history of our academy, as well as policies and procedures that will be important for you to know over the course of the school year. Should you have further questions, please contact us and we'd be delighted to assist you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bauer, director

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9751 Bonita Beach Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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The mission of the First Academy of Music of First Presbyterian Church is to provide high-quality musical instruction in a Christian environment for students of all ages and levels of skill, for the purpose of personal enrichment and for providing opportunities to serve God and His church.

**VISION**

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First Presbyterian of Bonita Springs is uniquely positioned to offer to the Southwest Florida area a community music academy that develops God's gift of music for future generations.

Benefits of a music academy are building a community of fellowship among participants in music programs and reaching music-oriented individuals to welcome them into the church. The First Academy of Music and all arts programs of the church have both an outreach and a service component.

## OFFICE HOURS, LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The First Academy of Music is housed on the campus of the First Presbyterian Church:

9751 Bonita Beach Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

(east of 41 and west of interstate 75 (exit 116), adjacent to Spanish Wells Country Club)

The music office is open from 9 - 5 M - Th. and 9 - 1 pm on Friday.

Lessons are offered Monday - Saturday

Music office/director's direct line: (239) 992-3410 x232

FAM check-in desk: (239) 992-3233 x233.

email: [fam@fpconita.org](mailto:fam@fpconita.org)

[facebook.com/firstacademyofmusic](https://facebook.com/firstacademyofmusic)

## TUITION

### • INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE LESSONS

Individual private lessons are given once each week during a 16 week semester fall semester, a 20 week spring semester and an 8 week summer term. Students may elect 30, 45, or 60-minute lessons.

## REGISTRATION and PAYMENT POLICY

Returning students may re-register by phone, email or mail. New students must contact the music office directly. Tuition for private lessons is charged by the semester. Group instruction payment must be received prior to the first class of each session. We accept personal checks, credit or debit cards and Google or Apple pay. Payments can be made at the FAM check-in desk or in the music office.

There are two payment options for private lesson fees.

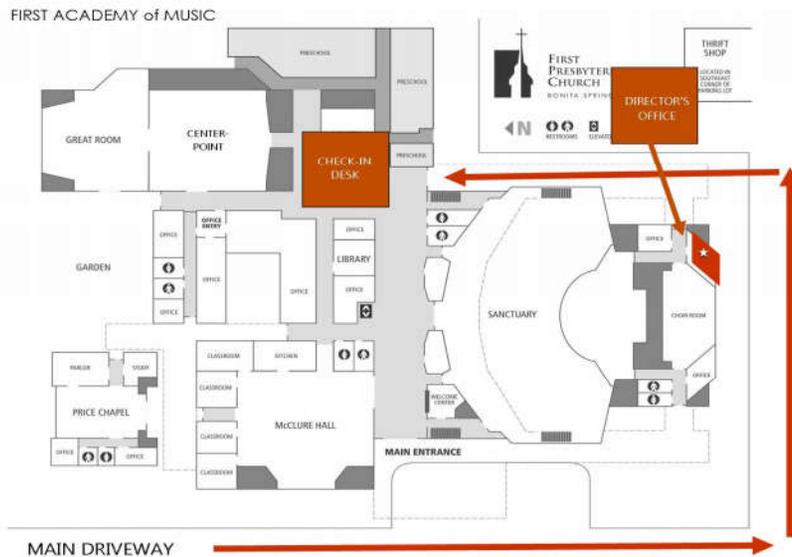
Option #1 Pay all fees at registration.

Option #2 Pay in monthly installments – 1st payment includes the \$10 registration fee and is due before the semester begins.

Families anticipating applying for financial aid should consider option #2.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial assistance is available to new or continuing students aged 18 years and younger enrolled in private lessons. FAM will provide a financial aid application upon request. Awards are based upon a rating system that considers family income, number of students enrolled in FAM, extenuating circumstances, community service and student performance evaluation. All information on the application form remains strictly confidential. Financial aid applications are due no later than the third week of the semester.



One annual merit scholarship, the Johnston Scholarship will cover the total cost of a 30 minute private lessons for one academic school year. Students in grades 9 – 12 are eligible. Invitations to apply will be sent to families of all 8 -11 grade students in the spring semester. Interested families/students must complete the application and contact their teacher for his/her input. Teachers will evaluate students on such qualities as effort, progress, preparation, commitment, attendance, punctuality, etc. The winner of the Johnston Scholarship will be announced at the spring recital. Recipients of the Johnston Scholarship will be expected to perform in music school programs.

Financial assistance awards are made possible by the support of First Presbyterian Church, by Fine Arts Series ticket sales, and by generous patrons of the First Academy of Music.

Donations to the scholarship fund are gratefully accepted at any time. Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "FAM scholarship fund" in the memo line.

## **YEARLY CALENDAR**

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For private lessons, the school year is divided into semesters. The fall semester runs from mid August through early December followed by a makeup week and a hurricane makeup week if needed. The spring semester runs from early January through May. One makeup week follows the final week of the Spring semester. Recitals are held in December and May. Additional performance opportunities are announced as they arise. For private lessons, a prorated semester is available for seasonal residents or students who register after the beginning of the term.

Group instruction sessions and schedule vary. Sorry, no refunds are given for incomplete sessions where the student misses or drops classes.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

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First Presbyterian Church has a child protection policy; all music faculty are required to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in the church's child protection policy. All faculty have undergone a background check to the satisfaction of this policy. There is a church security person on campus as well as a FAM check-in receptionist manning the desk during lesson hours.

## **ADMISSION**

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The First Academy of Music operates under the 501 (c)(3) status of First Presbyterian Church and is open to all students regardless of race, sex, religion, age or national origin. Instruction at FAM is open to all interested students, regardless of their religious affiliation or commitment. Individual faculty members determine the student age at which they will begin private instruction.

## **ABSENCE and MAKE-UP POLICY**

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For private lessons, students are allowed one absence per semester that will be made up during the make-up week. Additional absences beyond this one allowance will be forfeited by the student. All teacher cancellations will be made up.

Please provide your teacher or the office 24 hours advance notice for an absence. An additional "hurricane make-up" session is offered in the fall, if necessary. Lessons cancelled beyond the standard allowance stated above will not be made up.

For group instruction, no refunds are offered for absences or dropped classes. No prorated balance from a prior class will be carried forward for application to any other class or program.

## **STUDENT DELIVERY AND PICKUP**

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Please do not park in handicapped spaces. Music students enter through the doors beside the preschool on the east side of the building, adjacent to the playground. The FAM check-in desk/receptionist is located just inside the entry doors. We require the parent walk the child to sign-in desk and sign them in with the receptionist. Parents are encouraged to observe their child's lesson or wait outside in the adjacent waiting area. If a parent is not staying in the building, we require they leave a cell phone number with the receptionist. Children must be signed out by a parent at the conclusion of the lesson. This policy is for the protection of our children. Adult students and self-driving teens are responsible for signing themselves in and out with the receptionist.

## **BABYSITTING POLICY**

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First Academy of Music does not offer babysitting services for siblings or younger children during a student's lesson time. Parents must supervise younger children and siblings at all times so that the student taking a lesson is not disturbed. Due to the many activities, classes and events held on campus, we ask FAM-ilies to wait in the café area. Running or roaming is not permitted.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

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This document has been supplied in an effort to answer many of your questions. Please contact the director if you have additional questions. The music office direct line is (239) 992-3410 x 232. Voice mail is always available. The check-in desk is staffed during lesson hours - phone (239) 992-3410 x 233.

## **HISTORY OF FIRST ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

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The Community Music School was founded in 1998. The school was renamed "First Academy of Music" in 2007 to more accurately reflect the relationship of the school to the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Peter Lewis served as director of the music school from 2000-2011. The current director is Cheryl Bauer.



[www. rstacademyofmusic.org](http://www.rstacademyofmusic.org)

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Email: [fam@fpcbonita.org](mailto:fam@fpcbonita.org)