Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: My son/daughter is currently in 8th grade. Should I register him/her for the WCU Middle School Summer Music Camp or the High School Summer Music Institute?

A: Current 8th graders should register for the Middle School Summer Music Camp. The Middle School Camp is intended for students currently in grades 6 through 8, while the High School Summer Music Institute is intended for students who have completed at least one year of high school.

Q: My son/daughter plays more than one instrument (e.g. cello and piano). How should I list this on the application?

A: The primary instrument/voice that you list on the application will be the instrument/voice on which your son/daughter will take his/her private lessons and studio masterclass. Your son/daughter will also perform on his/her primary instrument/voice in the small ensemble coached by their private lesson teacher. If your son/daughter plays more than one instrument, you should choose the instrument on which you feel your son/daughter would most benefit from the time spent at the Institute. Please email us at summermusiccamps@wcupa.edu with any questions.

Q: How do I determine which music theory class will be the best fit for my son/daughter?

A: The advanced music theory class is intended for students who have taken an AP-level music theory course at their high school (or the equivalent amount of private/independent study). The beginning theory class will focus on scales, major and minor triads, seventh chords, harmonic progression, beginning sight singing, etc. The advanced theory class assumes that the student has a working knowledge of the aforementioned topics, as it focuses on harmonic analysis, musical form, advanced sight singing, etc.
Q: I am not sure which elective class to choose. What is the focus of each elective?

A: Though the curriculum is determined by each faculty member, here is an overview of each elective class:

**Jazz Improvisation** focuses on the blues scale, chord structure, harmonic progressions, etc. and their application in improvisation. Students will learn scale and arpeggio patterns which form the basis for improvisation.

**Beginning Piano** (limited to 10 students) introduces proper technique/hand position, correct fingering, scales, cadences and beginning two-hand piano repertoire.

**Beginning Guitar** (limited to 10 students) addresses correct technique and fingering, reading standard notation and tablature, and playing beginning melodies/chord progressions. The University will supply guitars for this class.

**Listening to Great Music** introduces students to music from various style periods, including baroque, classical, romantic and twentieth-century. There will also be a discussion of American classical music, jazz, and rock & roll.

**Intro to Music Composition** focuses on the creative process used when writing music. Students will analyze various composers’ works while comparing and contrasting compositional styles.

Q: My son/daughter is enrolled as a commuter for the HS Summer Music Institute. What time should he/she be dropped off and picked up each day?

A: Commuters should be dropped off at 8:25am each morning, in time for the 8:30am individual warm-up time. Commuters should eat breakfast at home, as they will only receive lunch and dinner on campus. Commuters are encouraged to stay for the evening activity (generally concluding around 9:30pm), though they may leave at 8pm following the elective class with prior approval. All students (including commuters) will perform in the small ensembles concert on Friday evening, July 10th. Please note that commuter students are not permitted to bring a car to campus- a parent or guardian must drop off and pick up the student each day.

Q: My son/daughter has a food allergy. Will the University’s dining hall accommodate students with dietary restrictions?

A: The University’s dining hall is well versed in offering options for students with food allergies. Please email us at summermusiccamps@wcupa.edu to inform us about any food allergies.

Q: Can my son/daughter submit a CD (instead of a DVD) for the Honors Track audition?

A: A DVD is recommended, but a CD will be accepted. If you are not able to burn a DVD of your son/daughter’s audition video you can upload it to YouTube (as a private video) and email the direct video link to summermusiccamps@wcupa.edu.
Q: My son/daughter submitted an Honors Track audition recording with his/her application. When will we find out if he/she was admitted to the Honors Track?

A: Students will be notified about the status of their Honors Track application in late June. Students who are admitted to the Honors Track will be assigned to an advanced chamber music ensemble or they will be guaranteed a spot on the Solo Recital. Students who are not admitted to the Honors Track will still be eligible to audition in person for the Solo Recital (auditions take place the first night of the Institute). Please understand that if a student is not admitted to the Honors Track they are still enrolled in the Institute- the Honors Track decision does not, in any way, impact the student’s participation in the standard Institute programs.

Q: My son/daughter applied for one of the partial scholarships that are mentioned in the brochure. What is the amount of the scholarship and when will I be notified if my son/daughter was awarded one of the scholarships?

A: We typically award $100 scholarships to three students based on financial need. Scholarship applicants can expect to be notified in mid-June. In order to be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit a letter requesting financial assistance along with a letter of recommendation from the student’s high school music teacher (in addition to the Institute’s application and deposit).

Q: My son/daughter attended last year’s High School Summer Music Institute. How do I take advantage of the referral discount for the 2015 Institute?

A: As the parent of a child who attended the 2014 High School Summer Music Institute, you will receive a referral form along with your 2015 Institute invitation letter and brochure. Please write your child’s name in the “referred by” section of the form, then pass the referral form along to a parent who might be interested in our program. If that parent registers their child for the 2015 Institute, you will receive a $20 credit toward your child’s 2015 Institute tuition. We can only offer one $20 referral credit per student, for a maximum referral discount of $20 (in addition to any Early Registration Discount). Referral forms, applications and deposits from new students must be postmarked by June 5, 2015.

Q: If my son/daughter receives a Rising Senior Scholarship, what amount will we receive?

A: The amount of these partial scholarships varies based on several factors. Last year we awarded three Rising Senior Scholarships, each of which was valued at more than $100.

Q: My son/daughter is applying for a Rising Senior Scholarship. Does he/she need to register for the High School Summer Music Institute before the Rising Senior Scholarships are awarded?

A: No, Rising Senior Scholarship applicants can wait until the scholarships are awarded before registering for the Institute (if the scholarship determines whether or not the student will be able to attend the Institute). Rising Senior Scholarship application emails and recommendation forms are due by June 5, 2015. Scholarship decisions will be made by June 15th. Scholarship recipients who have yet to register for the Institute must then submit the High School Institute application and deposit by June 22nd.
Q: Due to a prior commitment (e.g. sports camp, community theater rehearsal, etc.), my son/daughter will need to miss a day of the Institute. Can I still register my son/daughter for the Institute?

A: Yes, we can accommodate your schedule. We will need a signed letter from a parent/guardian detailing exactly when the student will be picked up from the Institute and when they will return to campus. We are not able to discount the Institute fee due to missed time.