

THURNAUER SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DISCOVER
THE MUSIC
WITHIN YOU



2025-2026 Program Guide

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: SEP 15 — ONGOING ENROLLMENT

WELCOME

In an environment of personal success, friendship, and fun, the JCC Thurnauer School of Music promotes the understanding, performance, and enjoyment of music for students as young as 3 months old to adults. As one of New Jersey’s leading community music schools, Thurnauer is open to everyone with a desire to learn about music.

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THURNAUER HELPS STUDENTS:

- **Engage Early** - Watch your little one's eyes light up in infant and toddler music classes
- **Find Their Musical Voice** - Introductory classes help children discover which instrument speaks to their heart and mind
- **Learn From the Best** - Our accomplished faculty is sensitive to each student's learning style and potential
- **Grow Together** - Supportive and collaborative instrumental groups, creative musicianship and composition classes, ensembles, choirs, and orchestras enrich our curriculum
- **Inspire Artistry** - Dedicated time to build confidence and connect with music through recitals, concerts, master classes, and special performances
- **Find Their Community** - Experience the warmth and inspiration of our musical community

**WHY THURNAUER?**

Students of all ages and levels of study are welcome, including:

- Families of young children who are seeking early exposure to music and the opportunity to learn from experts at the very beginning of their music education
- Beginner instrumental and voice students
- Students who have already started their music journey and are eager to deepen their skills and embrace new challenges
- Students who are seeking a diverse and more comprehensive music education beyond private lessons
- Students interested in making friends and having fun while collaborating, performing and making music with their peers
- Students seeking to pursue a professional career in music
- Beginner adults or adults returning to hone skills

**OPEN TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY
AND ANYONE WHO HAS A PASSION TO LEARN.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES

TOT SHABBAT

3-36 Months

Drop-In; Pre-Registration Required To Attend Each Class

Celebrate Shabbat musically! Through traditional Shabbat songs, singing games, fingerplays, rhythmic exploration, and movement, children explore their voice, learn to keep the beat, and develop imagination and creativity. All classes end with the Shabbat prayers, challah, and grape juice!

Fri | Starts 10/10/25

9:45 - 10:25 am

Members and Guests | Free

MUSIC MAKERS

3-36 Months *Drop-In with Class Packs*

Blend of interactive melodies, rhythmic games, and sensory experiences designed to spark joy and nurture your little one's development. Watch your baby giggle, clap, and sway to the captivating tunes in a supportive, fun-filled environment.

Wed | Starts 9/17/25

11 - 11:40 am

Sun | Starts 9/21/25

9:45 - 10:25 am

1 Class: JCC Member \$19 | Guest \$21

5 Classes: JCC Member \$90 | Guest \$100

10 Classes: JCC Member \$170 | Guest \$190

SING AND PLAY!

3-4 Years

Nurture your child's ability to use language and participate in dramatic musical play. Children sing, move, play instruments, and improvise through musical activities and storytelling that build alertness and creativity.

Thu | Starts 9/18/25
(15 Classes)

3:45 - 4:25 pm

Sun | Starts 9/21/25
(15 Classes)

10:30 - 11:10 am

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO
REGISTER FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD CLASSES:**



EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES



MUSICAL GAMES & INSTRUMENTS

5-6 Years

Children build their voice and music skills through songs, games, movement, instruments, and guided listening. They explore notation and create simple songs to develop literacy, focus, memory, and self-expression.

Thu Starts 9/18/25 (15 Classes)	4:40 - 5:20 pm
Sun Starts 9/21/25 (15 Classes)	1 - 1:40 pm

OUR FACULTY

Our faculty are dedicated to taking the time to understand every student's goals and learning styles. In addition to their excellent training and experience, our teachers are caring and enthusiastic.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY





MELODY MAKERS

6-7 Years

Classes are filled with movement, musical games, and carefully scaffolded lessons on listening and singing music and writing music. By year's end, students can read and compose with simple notation.

Thu Starts 9/18/25 (15 Classes)	5:30 - 6:10 pm
Sun Starts 9/21/25 (15 Classes)	3 - 3:40 pm

SING AND PLAY!, MUSICAL GAMES & INSTRUMENTS, MELODY MAKERS

JCC Member Without Private Lesson (15 Classes)	\$500
JCC Member With Private Lesson (15 Classes)	\$395
Guest Without Private Lesson (15 Classes)	\$555
Guest With Private Lesson (15 Classes)	\$442





How do I choose the right instrument for my child?

To choose an instrument, start by considering your child’s interests, personality, and physical capacity. Before committing to a specific instrument, expose them to different types of instruments, listen to music in every way possible, and attend concerts. Age and size are also important factors, as some instruments require more physical strength, lung capacity, dexterity, coordination or hand size than others.

When should my child start?

The chart below is a guide to when a child can begin to learn an instrument.

Instrument	Age to Start
Violin, Cello, Flute	3+
Guitar, Piano, Percussion (including drum set)	4+
Harp, Recorder, Viola	5+
Ukulele, Voice (Choir)	6+
Clarinet	7+
Oboe, Saxophone, Trumpet, Double Bass, French Horn, Bassoon (depending on size of student)	8+
Baritone Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium	10+
Voice	11+

Ways Thurnauer can help you start your instrument discovery and music education path:

- 1) Join us at one of our student recitals and hear Thurnauer students of different ages perform. Student recitals are free and require no tickets.
- 2) Come and talk to one of our Music School staff members who can consult and help start your child’s musical path. To schedule an appointment, email thurnauer@jccotp.org or call 201.821.8466.
- 3) Register for one of our Introductory Instrumental classes.

FOR OUR
UPCOMING
RECITALS:



INTRODUCTORY INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

INSTRUMENT EXPLORATION

4-6 Years

Explore the guitar, piano, violin and flute, in a small group setting and receive 7-8 weeks of instruction on each instrument! If space is available, pro-rated mid-year enrollment is possible.

Wed Starts 9/17/25 (30 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
Wed Starts 9/17/25 (30 Classes)	5:15 - 6 pm
JCC Member \$970 Guest \$1,070	

PIANO EXPLORATION

4-6 Years

Discover the fun of playing the piano and learning simple songs in a small class setting. Students explore the basics of piano technique, rhythm, and musical expression.

Thu Starts 9/18/25 (15 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
Sun Starts 9/21/25 (15 Classes)	2 - 2:45 pm
JCC Member \$500 Guest \$555	

VIOLIN EXPLORATION

4-6 Years

Students take their first steps toward proper violin position and playing in a small class setting. Rhythm and pitch patterns drawn from the first Suzuki songs are also introduced.

Tue Starts 9/16/25 (15 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
JCC Member \$500 Guest \$555	

GUITAR EXPLORATION

4-6 Years

Students learn to play and sing simple songs, develop sensitivity to pitch, rhythm and musical expression in a small class setting.

Tue Starts 9/16/25 (15 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
JCC Member \$500 Guest \$555	

CELLO EXPLORATION

4-6 Years

Students take their first steps toward proper cello position and playing in a small class setting. Rhythm and pitch patterns drawn from the first Suzuki songs are also introduced.

Tue Starts 9/16/25 (15 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
JCC Member \$500 Guest \$555	

CLARINET EXPLORATION

6-8 Years

This class uses the pocket clarinet, which serves as a great entry point to the regular clarinet. Students learn the basics of instrument care, proper breathing and posture, finger placement, and how to play simple notes and melodies.

Sun Starts 9/21/25 (15 Classes)	10 - 10:45 am
JCC Member \$500 Guest \$555	

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO
REGISTER FOR INTRODUCTORY
INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES:**



YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

Open to all ages
and levels of study

Our Young Artists Program offers:

- Private Music Instruction
- Instrumental Group Classes
- Creative Musicianship
- Composition
- Performance Ensembles
- Chorus

Private lessons provided for:

- **Strings** - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp, Guitar, Ukulele
- **Piano**
- **Percussion** - Drums and Drum Set, Xylophone, Marimba, Timpani, Hand Drums and Hand Percussion
- **Winds** - Flute, Recorder, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon
- **Brass** - Trumpet, Baritone Horn, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium
- **Voice**
- **Creative Musicianship and Composition**

The school year starts in September, but enrollment is ongoing throughout the school year.

TUITION FOR 60 MINUTES PRIVATE LESSONS PER WEEK*

Piano, Guitar, Harp, Percussion	
JCC Member	Guest (Non-JCC Member)
\$4,810	\$5,340

Strings, Wind, Brass, Voice**	
JCC Member	Guest (Non-JCC Member)
\$4,900	\$5,440



Thurnauer students are strongly encouraged to add one or more components, such as group classes, creative musicianship, composition, performance ensembles and/or chorus to complement their private lessons and enrich their musical experience.

* Tuition varies by private lesson total length of time per week and could be less than 60 minutes or more. Lesson length and frequency depend on the student and the recommendation of the teacher or director.

** Tuition for strings, wind, brass, and voice lessons include accompanist for student recitals including recital preparation.

FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT PRIVATE
MUSIC INSTRUCTION:



INSTRUMENTAL GROUP CLASSES

Group classes are essential components that build on and complement the learning that takes place in private lessons, foster a collaborative approach and include performance opportunities.

To join our instrumental group classes, students must be taking private lessons concurrently at Thurnauer or outside Thurnauer. Placement evaluations are required for new students.

All ages indicated are recommended for each instrumental group but have flexibility. Group classes may not be taken on their own as introductory classes.



- **Cello Groups (4+ Years)**
 - Yo-Yo Ma, Casals and Du Pré
- **Clarinet Group (8+ Years)**
- **Flute Group (5-9 Years)**
- **Guitar Groups (Ages 4+)**
 - 1A, 2/3 and 4+ Levels
 - Beyond Classical
- **Oboe Group (8+ Years)**
- **Piano for Non-Pianists (13+ Years)**
- **Violin Groups (4+ Years)**
 - Mozart, Bartok, Mendelssohn, Kreisler, Older Beginners

**FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL
GROUP CLASSES:**



PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES



Students sharpen their listening and interpretation skills; learn to lead, follow and collaborate; build expressive confidence; and deepen their musical sensitivity.

Ensembles welcome students from outside Thurnauer. Ensembles require an audition. All ages indicated are recommended for each ensemble but have flexibility.

For more information, audition requirements and to schedule an audition, email thurnauer@jccotp.org.

JUNIOR COMMUNITY FLUTE CHOIR

5th-8th Grade

Practice and performance collaborations for middle-school-aged flutists.

Tue | Starts 9/16/25
(30 Classes)

6:45 - 7:30 pm

SENIOR COMMUNITY FLUTE CHOIR

High School to Adults

Practice and performance collaborations for flutists of high school age to adults.

Tue | Starts 9/16/25
(30 Classes)

7:30 - 8:30 pm



CELLO CHOIR

10+ Years

Focusing on advanced techniques, such as precise intonation, advanced bow control, and dynamic expression, students perform classical and contemporary repertoire and explore complex, multi-part cello ensembles pieces.

Tue | Starts 9/16/25
(30 Classes)

6 - 6:45 pm

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

STRING CAMERATA

7+ Years

A first orchestral experience for intermediate string players, students experience the joys of making music and performing together in a small ensemble setting.

Wed | Starts 9/17/25
(30 Classes)

5:30 - 6:30 pm

CHAMBER MUSIC

7+ Years

Students learn chamber music while cultivating sophisticated listening skills, individual expressiveness and ensemble cohesion. Thurnauer arranges and pairs chamber music groups featuring 2-6 student musicians.

Day of Week TBD
(30 Classes)

TBD

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

8+ Years

Students at all levels of percussion share melody, harmony and rhythm playing drums, marimba, timpani, hand drums and hand percussion.

Thu | Starts 9/18/25
(30 Classes)

6:30 - 7:30 pm

THURNAUER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

12+ Years, Intergenerational

Students gain a strong understanding of orchestral music and develop their ensemble skills to perform standard symphonic repertoire, popular selections and contemporary works.

Wed | Starts 9/17/25
(30 Classes)

5:15 - 7 pm

VIDEO GAME ORCHESTRA

13+ Years

From orchestral melodies to 8-bit chip tunes, jazz and more, students engage in the music they love and recognize from video games.

Tue | Starts 9/16/25
(30 Classes)

5 - 5:45 pm

COLTRANE SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE

12+ Years

For advanced saxophone students, this ensemble plays and performs repertoire ranging from jazz to classical, pop, and beyond.

Wed | Starts 9/17/25
(30 Classes)

6:15 - 7 pm

ALL ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRAS (30 CLASSES)

Tuition for performance ensembles vary. Tuition for each of our ensembles is viewable on our Performance Ensembles webpage.



FOR MORE INFO ABOUT
PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES:



THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S CHORUS @THURNAUER

Come sing with us! YPC@T is Bergen County’s premier youth choir. We welcome students enrolled at Thurnauer and those from the broader community. Choristers perform frequently throughout the year.

PRELUDE CHOIR

6-10 Years

Choristers in Prelude perform at least five times during the year and sing a variety of classical, folk, pop, and jazz pieces with choreography! Lessons in team building, sight reading, and vocal development are included in every rehearsal.

Mon Starts 9/15/25 (30 Classes)	4 - 4:55 pm
JCC Member \$660 Guest \$710	

AMANI CHOIR

11 + Years

Designed for those with lower voices, or changing or already changed voices, the Amani Choir helps navigate the male vocal changes of youth. With a more advanced repertoire from around the world, Amani choristers learn to sing in multiple parts and languages, read music in harmony, and produce a long-lasting healthy vocal sound.

Mon Starts 9/15/25 (30 Classes)	5 - 7 pm
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CONCERT CHOIR (TREBLE VOICES)

11 + Years

With more advanced repertoire from around the world, Concert choristers dance, learn to sing with choreography in multiple languages, read music in harmony, and produce a long-lasting healthy vocal sound.

Mon Starts 9/15/25 (30 Classes)	5 - 7 pm
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CONCERT CHOIR, AMANI CHOIR	
JCC Member Without Private Lesson (30 Classes)	\$730
JCC Member With Private Lesson (30 Classes)	\$660
Guest Without Private Lesson (30 Classes)	\$810
Guest With Private Lesson (30 Classes)	\$710

FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT YPC@T:

CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP AND COMPOSITION



Students develop musical literacy through theory, ear training, sight-singing, and composition, and gain a deeper understanding of how music is put together - knowledge that supports their instrumental or vocal studies and builds confidence as musicians.

CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP

8+ Years

Students learn about hearing the sounds of written music before they are played (sight singing), translating heard sounds into notation (ear-training), and making creative decisions on how to choose and combine sounds (composition) to build a complete musical fluency. Various class levels offered.

CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP FOR GUITARISTS

10+ Years, Including Adults | [Online](#)

This class bridges the gap between music theory, ear training, sight-singing and composition and what you play on the guitar. Students learn how the building blocks of sound (intervals, scales, and chords) are organized into patterns and shapes on the fretboard.

LEVEL 2	Sun Starts 9/21/25 (30 Classes)	6:15 - 7:15 pm
LEVEL 3	Tue Starts 9/16/25 (30 Classes)	6:45 - 7:45 pm

FOR MORE ABOUT
CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP
AND COMPOSITION:



AP MUSIC THEORY PREP

15+ Years

This course is a thorough study of musical elements that are on the AP Music Theory exam and includes in-depth ear training and weekly assignments, culminating in a practice exam review.

Mon | Starts 9/15/25
(30 Classes)

7 - 7:45 pm

COMPOSITION

Designed to give young musicians the knowledge and confidence to craft original compositions for one-to-multiple instruments. Students explore what makes music "work" through analysis and hands-on activities and develop their own creative ideas.

8-12 YEARS	Wed Starts 9/17/25 (30 Classes)	5:30 - 6:15 pm
12-17 YEARS	Tue Starts 9/16/25 (30 Classes)	5:30 - 6:15 pm

COMPOSITION: IMPROVISATION

9-13 Years

Students learn how to create melodies and accompaniments spontaneously on their primary instrument. This class focuses on learning music by ear, with hands-on activities.

Wed | Starts 9/17/25
(30 Classes)

6:30 - 7:15 pm

COMPOSITION: SCORING

13-17 Years

Students study music written for films and video games, and compose original music to accompany a moving image. Their final compositions will be performed live in the spring.

Mon | Starts 9/15/25
(30 Classes)

6 - 6:45 pm

ALL CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP AND COMPOSITION (30 CLASSES)

JCC Member Without Private Lesson: \$875

JCC Member With Private Lesson: \$660

Guest Without Private Lesson: \$960

Guest With Private Lesson: \$710

MUSIC FOR ADULTS



PRIVATE LESSONS

Adult students can enroll for a package of 10, 20 and 30 lessons. Instruction is available in all instruments and voice, as well as theory, ear training and composition. Lesson lengths can be 30, 45 and 60 minutes.

SHIRAH COMMUNITY CHORUS

One of the largest independent Jewish choruses in the United States, SHIRAH performs Jewish repertoire in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, and Ladino, in three and four parts.

Tue Starts 9/2/25 (15 Classes)	7:30 – 9:30 pm
JCC Member \$165 Guest \$185	
Tue Starts 9/2/25 (30 Classes)	7:30 – 9:30 pm
JCC Member \$300 Guest \$335	

**SENIOR COMMUNITY
FLUTE CHOIR**
Intergenerational | See Page 10

**THURNAUER
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Intergenerational | See Page 11

**CREATIVE MUSICIANSHIP
FOR GUITARISTS**
Intergenerational | Online | See Page 13

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROGRAM!

Have an idea? We would be pleased to organize a program for you and your friends. Past courses have included ukulele for beginning students and group voice for the study of vocal technique. We have formed ensembles for jazz players and coached sessions for chamber musicians.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT
MUSIC FOR ADULTS:



REGISTRATION

NEW FAMILIES ENROLLING IN PRIVATE LESSONS, INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS OR ENSEMBLES

All students new to the school must first meet with a music school staff member prior to enrollment. Once we have met, you will receive instructions for creating your account, enrolling in your programs, and setting up a payment plan.

FAMILIES ENROLLING ONLY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, INTRODUCTORY INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES OR ADULT PROGRAMS

You can enroll directly on the Kaplen JCC website.

- If you already have an account with the JCC, log in and complete the enrollment step by step.
- If you do not have an account, click on Create Account, and add the information for the student taking the class. If you will be enrolling more than one child, or if your child will be taking more than one class, please contact the music school staff, so we can help you enroll while receiving the appropriate discounts.



DEPOSIT AND REGISTRATION FEES

Each student taking a private lesson program must pay a refundable \$100 deposit plus a non-refundable \$75 registration fee.

Initial payment for classes or ensembles taken without private lessons is the first month's payment (approximately 1/8 of the total tuition for 30-week classes or 1/4 for 15 weeks).

WHO TO CONTACT

INTAKE QUESTIONS: To meet with the music school staff for guidance about programs or scheduling an initial meeting, email thurnauer@jccotp.org.

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS: Email djatovsky@jccotp.org for help in registering and enrolling.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT



The Kaplen JCC on the Palisades strives to be an inclusive community. If you require special accommodation, please contact the Guttenberg Center for Special Services at 201.408.1489 or 201.408.1490 to discuss your needs and how we may be able to support your participation.



THURNAUER CONTACT INFORMATION

Mai Abe, Director

201.408.1453 | mabe@jccotp.org

Emma Brondolo, Artistic Director

201.408.1460 | ebrondolo@jccotp.org

Michael Reingold, Associate Director | 201.408.1461 | mreingold@jccotp.org

Dan Jatovksy, Financial Manager | 201.408.1466 | djatovsky@jccotp.org

Robyn Searles, Scheduling Director | 201.821.8466 | rsearles@jccotp.org

Dorothy Kaplan Roffman, Founding Director and Director Emerita | droffman@jccotp.org

CONCERTS AND EVENTS

A wealth of opportunities to connect with music through student recitals, concerts, master classes and special performances. See a list of our upcoming events and join us!



@JCC_THURNAUERSCHOOLOFMUSIC



@JCCTHURNAUER

FOR MORE ABOUT THE THURNAUER SCHOOL OF MUSIC:

