



Discover the
MUSIC WITHIN YOU

FALL 2026
PROGRAM GUIDE



2026-2027 Program
SCHOOL STARTS SEPT. 14 - 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, ear training and theory 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
- Beginner instrumental and voice students
- Students who have already started their music journey and are eager to deepen their skills
- Students who are seeking a diverse and more comprehensive music education beyond private lessons
- Students interested in making friends and having fun while collaborating and performing
- Students seeking to pursue a professional career in music
- Beginner adults or adults returning to hone skills

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES

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 9/16/26	11 - 11:40 am
1 Class: JCC Member \$21 Guest \$23	
5 Classes: JCC Member \$99 Guest \$110	
10 Classes: JCC Member \$189 Guest \$210	

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.

Sun I Starts 10/11/26	3 - 3:40 pm
Tues Starts 9/15/26	3:45 - 4:25 pm
Thu Starts 9/17/26	3:45 - 4:25 pm
1 Class: JCC Member \$32 Guest \$35	
5 Classes: JCC Member \$144 Guest \$160	
Sun Session (13 Weeks): JCC Member \$351 Guest \$390	
Tue and Thu (15 Weeks): JCC Member \$405 Guest \$450	



FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES:



EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES

MUSICAL GAMES & INSTRUMENTS

5-7 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 9/17/26
(15 Classes)

4:40 - 5:20 pm

MELODY MAKERS

7-8 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 9/17/26
(15 Classes)

5:30 - 6:10 pm

MUSICAL GAMES & INSTRUMENTS, MELODY MAKERS

JCC Member (15 Classes)

\$405

Guest (15 Classes)

\$450



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





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 two of the instruments! If space is available, pro-rated mid-year enrollment is possible.

Wed Starts 9/16/26 (30 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm
Wed Starts 9/16/26 (30 Classes)	5:15 - 6 pm
JCC Member \$1,035 Guest \$1,150	

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. This class prepares students for private piano lessons.

Sun Starts 10/11/26 (13 Classes)	2 - 2:45 pm
Thu Starts 9/17/26 (15 Classes)	3:45 - 4:30 pm

6-7 Years

Tue Starts 9/15/26 (15 Classes)	4:40-5:25 pm
Sun (13 Weeks): JCC Member \$445 Guest \$494 Tue and Thu (15 Weeks): JCC Member \$513 Guest \$570	

VIOLIN EXPLORATION

5-7 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. This class prepares students for private violin lessons.

Tue Starts 9/15/26 (15 Classes)	4:15 - 5 pm
JCC Member \$513 Guest \$570	



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
- Musicianship
- Composition
- Performance Ensembles
- Chorus
- Multiple Performance Opportunities
- Free Concerts, Master Classes

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**
- **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)
\$4,887	\$5,430
Strings, Wind, Brass, Voice**	
JCC Member	Guest (Non-JCC Member)
\$5,040	\$5,600



Thurnauer students are strongly encouraged to add one or more components, such as group classes, musicianship and theory, 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.

We offer rolling enrollment throughout the year for all our group classes. Tuition is pro-rated based on start date.



- **Cello Groups (4+ Years)**

- Yo-Yo Ma, Casals and Du Pré

- **Guitar Groups (Ages 4+)**

- 1, 2/3 and 4+ Levels
- Beyond Classical

- **Violin Groups (4+ Years)**

- Mozart, Bartok, Mendelssohn, Kreisler, Older Beginners

- **Flute Group (5-9 Years)**

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



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.

We offer rolling enrollment throughout the year. Tuition is pro-rated based on start date.

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 9/14/26 | 7 - 8 pm

COMPOSITION 1

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 9/16/26 | 5:30 - 6:15 pm

MUSICIANSHIP: THEORY AND EAR TRAINING

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. Small group instruction.

COMPOSITION 2

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.

Tue | Starts 9/15/26 | 5:30 - 6:15 pm

MUSICIANSHIP FOR GUITARISTS

12+ 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.

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 9/14/26 | 6 - 6:45 pm

LEVEL 3 | Sun | Starts 10/11/26 | 6:15 - 7:15 pm

ALL MUSICIANSHIP AND COMPOSITION (30 CLASSES)

JCC Member Without Private Lesson: \$891
JCC Member With Private Lesson: \$765
Guest Without Private Lesson: \$990
Guest With Private Lesson: \$850

FOR MORE ABOUT MUSICIANSHIP AND COMPOSITION:



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.



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 9/15/26 | 6 - 6:45 pm

JUNIOR COMMUNITY FLUTE CHOIR

5th-8th Grade

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

Tue | Starts 9/15/26 | 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 9/15/26 | 7:30 - 8:30 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 9/16/26

5:30 - 6:30 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 9/16/26

6:15 - 7:15 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

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 9/17/26

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.

Thu | Starts 9/17/26

5:15 - 7 pm

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT
PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES:



ALL ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRAS
(30 Classes)

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



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.

We offer rolling enrollment throughout the year. Tuition is pro-rated based on start date.

PRELUDE CHOIR

6-9 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 I Starts 9/14/26

4 - 4:55 pm

JCC Member \$720 | Guest \$800

CONCERT CHOIR (TREBLE VOICES)

10+ 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 I Starts 9/14/26

5 - 7 pm

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 I Starts 9/14/26

5 - 7 pm



CONCERT CHOIR, AMANI CHOIR

(30 Classes)

JCC Member Without Private Lesson	\$891
JCC Member With Private Lesson	\$747
Guest Without Private Lesson	\$990
Guest With Private Lesson	\$830

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT YPC@T:



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 9/8/26	7:30 - 8:30 pm
15 Weeks: JCC Member \$180 Guest \$200	
30 Weeks: JCC Member \$338 Guest \$375	

**SENIOR COMMUNITY
FLUTE CHOIR**
Intergenerational | See Page 11

**THURNAUER
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Intergenerational | See Page 12

**MUSICIANSHIP
FOR GUITARISTS**
Intergenerational | Online | See Page 10

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 meet with the Artistic Director 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 \$75 registration fee.

Tuition is pro-rated if you start mid-year. 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@jccotptorg

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!



 @JCCTHURNAUER

 @JCC_THURNAUERSCHOOLOFMUSIC

FOR MORE ABOUT THE THURNAUER SCHOOL OF MUSIC:



JUNE 2026

