



KAPLEN JCC on the Palisades

Kaplen JCC on the Palisades, Taub Campus, 411 E. Clinton Avenue, Tenaflly, NJ 07670

www.jccotp.org



JOB TITLE: JCC Thurnauer School of Music - Musicianship and Composition Teacher / Department Chair

SUPERVISOR: Emma Brondolo, Artistic Director

STATUS: Part time, administrative salary + hourly teaching pay

The JCC Thurnauer School of Music is a school within the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades.

The JCC Thurnauer School of Music is renowned as a center of artistic and educational excellence open to all. Since 1984, the school has inspired thousands of students and families—transforming lives and sharing the joys of music. Through outstanding instruction, concerts, master classes, community events, and partnerships with local schools, Thurnauer offers opportunities for everyone in our community—from infants to senior citizens—to connect with the world of music.

Musicianship and Composition Teacher, Department Chair JCC Thurnauer School of Music at Kaplen JCC on the Palisades — Tenaflly, NJ

Position Overview

As the Creative Musicianship and Composition Teacher, Dept Chair at the JCC Thurnauer School of Music, this person will guide students in developing their musical skills, knowledge, and creativity through fundamental music theory, ear-training, composition, and improvisation.

Using a Walden inspired curriculum, this person will teach students ranging from beginning to advanced levels, helping them build a strong foundation in improvisation and general musicianship, with a focus on composing original pieces appropriate to their level. For advanced students, this includes orchestral composition.

In addition to teaching several classes per week, this person will provide leadership and strategic direction for the department, mentoring faculty, developing curriculum, and driving student engagement. This person's role is to inspire students to explore new ways of understanding music, using the school's curriculum as a foundation, while creating a supportive, engaging environment where students feel empowered to enjoy and express themselves musically.

Key Responsibilities

Teaching

- Plan and teach lessons exploring music theory, creative composition, orchestration, and improvisation across beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels using our Walden inspired curriculum and method
- Guide students in understanding key concepts including the overtone series, note names, pitch, harmony, keyboard knowledge, melody, rhythm, and form
- Instruct advanced students in orchestral composition, including instrumentation, score preparation, and arranging for ensembles
- Foster a collaborative, inclusive, and creative classroom environment
- Maintain accurate records of student progress and attendance
- Prepare students for and attend the annual "Musicianship Madness" year-end demonstration/celebration
- Prepare composition students for their annual Composition Recital, featuring the original works by our students and performed by our faculty and students
- Special Project: Each year our students write the musical score for silent film shorts at the Barrymore Theater in Teaneck, NJ
- Maintain regular communication with parents regarding their child's progress, helping them understand how Creative Musicianship and Composition supports their child's growth in learning an instrument

Leadership and Department Management

- Oversee the department's operations, including scheduling of faculty and students and curriculum development
- Mentor and support faculty members, providing guidance and feedback to ensure high teaching standards

- Coordinate and lead regular faculty meetings to discuss departmental goals, student progress, and program improvement
- Represent the department in coordination with other departments and school administration

Student Engagement and Development

- Support and guide students in their musical development, including providing feedback, and addressing individual needs
- Organize and lead the individual assessments of new and returning students. Each student is assessed for placement into the appropriate musicianship level.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Music Composition, Music Theory, or related field (Master's preferred)
- Demonstrated experience composing for orchestral or chamber ensembles
- Strong grounding in music theory, ear-training, and improvisation pedagogy
- An understanding of the Walden musicianship approach
- Prior teaching experience with students across a range of ages and skill levels
- Prior leadership, mentoring, or department/program management experience preferred
- Proficiency with notation software (e.g., Finale, Sibelius, or Dorico)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Passion for fostering creativity, confidence, and musicianship in young composers

Additional Information

- Schedule based on student enrollment and departmental leadership needs
- Location: Kaplen JCC on the Palisades, Tenafly, NJ
- **Salary Range: \$12,000 for administrative salary (10 hours per week), and \$62.00 per class for teaching**

This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive, and the Suzuki Violin Instructor will also perform other reasonably related business duties as assigned by its supervisor or other management, as required. The Kaplen JCC reserves the right to revise or change job duties as needs arise. This job description does not constitute a written or implied contract of employment. The Kaplen JCC is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. In keeping with our Jewish values, we are dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment on the basis of

race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, marital status, citizenship, veteran's status, physical or mental disability that does not prohibit the performance of essential job functions (with or without reasonable accommodation) or any other basis protected by federal, or applicable, state or local law. We welcome everyone interested in our mission to join us. If you require accommodation, please contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

Don't meet every single requirement? Studies have shown that women and people of color are less likely to apply for jobs unless they meet every single qualification. At the Kaplen JCC, we are dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive, and authentic workplace, so if you're excited about these roles but your past experience doesn't align perfectly with every qualification noted above, we encourage you to apply. You may be just the right candidate for this or other positions.

- **To Apply:** Please submit your resume, cover letter highlighting your relevant experience, and references to Emma Brondolo at ebrondolo@jccotp.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

KAPLEN JCC ON THE PALISADES

The Kaplen JCC is a welcoming home away from home for all who pass through its doors in Tenafly, NJ and for the wider community. We are a leading nonprofit, charitable organization deeply rooted in Jewish values and tradition, and are a vibrant and welcoming home for the Jewish People. We are a place that welcomes all, cultivating the social, intellectual, physical, and spiritual well-being of the entire community. We are a strength-based organization and pride ourselves on our inclusive and welcoming workplace that celebrates the diversity of our employees. We stress a supportive environment in which people are treated with appreciation and respect and positioned to do their best work every day. Our vision is to be the center point of Jewish life in our community and to engage all generations in our mission and values. We serve 3,000+ membership units and over 750,000 people each year in our 200,000 square foot building and acres of outdoor grounds and facilities.