

Dear **Instrumental Music** Students,

Congratulations on being selected to attend the 2025 Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts (GSA). We are looking forward to working with you this summer. **Please read the following letter carefully and share it with your parents and private teacher, as there is a great deal of information in this letter for which you are responsible.**

GSA is different from traditional music camps. Our program will **1)** offer instruction in the specific discipline for which you have been selected and **2)** introduce and integrate all the art disciplines represented at the school.

You will be involved daily with students and activities from other disciplines at the school, which include **Creative Writing, Design, Drama, Film + Photography, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, and Vocal Music.** It is very important that you come with an open mind, a readiness to work, a positive attitude, and a willingness to participate in the artistic community.

The GSA faculty and staff have planned an intensive program of activities and events for the summer. We will be located at the **University of Kentucky** in Lexington, which offers a beautiful campus setting as well as access to many cultural and recreational opportunities in the area.

Instructional activities in the instrumental music discipline are varied and include the following:

- coaching sessions on chamber music
- guest artist masterclasses by instrument area (woodwinds, brass, strings, percussion, piano)
- instruction with GSA residential or adjunct faculty who are professionally trained on the instrument for which you have been selected
- classes in music theory and music history
- seminar presentations on practice techniques, college selection and preparation, auditions, careers in music, résumé preparation, and competitions and summer programs
- guest artist presentations and clinics (e.g., composition, music therapy, conducting, etc.)
- music performances
- interdisciplinary collaborations

Since you will be rehearsing and practicing many hours each day, you must come to GSA rested and in good shape. While you will work on your technique at GSA, you will be expected to dedicate the bulk of your time and attention specifically to GSA assignments and repertoire.

GSA PREPARATION FOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Make sure your name is **clearly marked** on your personal belongings **before** you come to GSA, *especially* your **metronome, tuner, and folding music stand**. Percussionists will also need to mark their instruments, sticks, mallets, and stands.

ALL STUDENTS will be assigned **ensemble piece(s)** in advance of the program. It is expected that these pieces are **fully prepared and performance-ready** before you arrive this summer. In addition, we need you to **carefully number all the measures in your music** (if not already done for you). We will distribute your ensemble piece(s) via email, so we ask that you **please check the emails you provided to GSA periodically.** Additionally, **you may receive a phone call from a GSA faculty member** to discuss your music and the instruments that you will need to bring to the program. Lastly, we would like for you to look up all the foreign terms on your music and know what they all mean before you come to GSA this summer.

PIANISTS will perform a **solo recital piece** (in addition to your assigned ensemble piece(s)), so we ask that you select and prepare one solo from the **standard piano repertoire** (you may use your audition piece for this). Your piece must be approximately **5 minutes long** (with no cuts), **memorized**, and **performance-ready** before you arrive this summer; however, you should still bring a **hard-copy printout of the original score** with you.

ITEMS FOR **EVERYONE TO BRING TO GSA**

- **your instrument(s) in good working order!** (*please have these checked before you come*)
- GSA is not currently planning to require **face masks or coverings**, but if a student would like to wear one at any time, they are welcome to do so. If you would prefer to wear masks while at the program, please pack enough masks for general use to last all three weeks, as well as **performance masks** for any rehearsals and concerts.
- **spending money** – though housing, meals, room, and board are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra money for GSA merch on-campus or souvenirs during field trips
- **folding music stand—EVERYONE** (except for pianists) **needs to bring their own folding stand!**
- **pencils with erasers, music staff paper, notepaper, and a 1” three-ring binder**
- a **metronome and tuner** (*that are not on your phone, since no phones are allowed in studio*)
- **tote bag, book bag, or backpack**
- **padlock or combination lock** for your instrument (*not all instruments will have lockers*)-*optional*
- **refillable water bottle** for daily hydration (*with your name clearly marked on your bottle*)
- **umbrella, poncho, and/or raincoat** (*it rains A LOT!*)
- **walking shoes and rain boots/shoes** (*at least one pair of each*)
- **clothes for final day performances** should be dressy but comfortable (*No jeans, shorts, t-shirts, flip-flops, sneakers, or caps/hats allowed for final day performances*)
- **hard-copy printout of the assigned ensemble piece(s) you will receive before the program** (*electronic devices will not be allowed for music—you must use your hard-copy printouts*)
- **WOODWIND** players should bring plenty of good **reeds** or **reed-making materials/equipment**
- **BRASS** players should bring plenty of **valve oil, slide grease** and **all your required mutes**
- **STRING** players should bring **rosin, extra strings, shoulder rests, mutes, cello/bass rock stops**, and a **cleaning cloth**
- **PERCUSSIONISTS** should bring your **stick bag** (with all your **sticks** and **mallets**). (*You may also be asked by the GSA percussion instructor to bring extra percussion instruments if feasible*)
- **PIANISTS** should bring an **additional black 1” three-ring binder** (*for final day music*)

NOTE – If you are unable to purchase any items above due to financial reasons, please send GSA your detailed request **IMMEDIATELY** to gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org. We are happy to help!

NOTE – We would like for you to all download and print off a copy and bring with you to GSA the following 2 pdf documents. You can find links to these 2 documents on the GSA webpage where you found this letter:

- 1) GSA IM SEMINARS.pdf
- 2) GSA IM Music Theory Study Guide.pdf

INSTRUMENT LOAD-IN INSTRUCTIONS

Students with **LARGE INSTRUMENTS** must load these in on **Sunday, June 8th** from **12pm-1pm ET** in **Band Room 22** at the **Fine Arts Building** (a campus map will be provided to you at move-in). **We ask that you do not arrive later than 1pm ET, as no GSA faculty or staff will be available to accommodate you.**

LARGE INSTRUMENTS include **all percussion, double basses, cellos, guitars, banjo, tubas, euphoniums, bass trombones, tenor trombones, french horns, baritone saxophones, tenor saxophones, and bassoons**, or anyone who is bringing multiple instruments. Someone will help you load-in your instruments and **provide direction on where to place them.**

Students with **SMALL INSTRUMENTS** (piccolos, flutes, clarinets, oboes, alto saxophones, trumpets, violins, violas) must bring these with them to the first day of class on **Monday, June 9th**.

We've also included a brief message from our counselors-in-residence:

GSA is an experience like no other with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health.

- Even though your brain might go into “summer mode” after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren’t like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest, healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it’s a smoother adjustment.
- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We’re your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1!
- As it applies to you, don’t forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it’s not overly disruptive to your studio schedule.

Best wishes, and we look forward to seeing you at UK this summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rich Byrd (*brass*), *Instrumental Music Chair* – rich.byrd@eku.edu

Mrs. Tiffany Budke (*piano*) – tbudke@emporia.edu

Mrs. Nancy Campbell (*strings*) – njcviola@icloud.com

Mr. Jim Corcoran (*percussion*) – kygsapercussion@gmail.com

Dr. Doug Drewek (*woodwinds*) – drewekd@berea.edu