

Dear Instrumental Music Student,

Congratulations on being selected as one of the instrumental students 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 your private teacher, as there is a great deal of information in this letter for which you are responsible.

The Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts is different from traditional music camps. GSA's 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, Dance, Design, Drama, Film + Photography, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, and Vocal Music. It is very important that you come with an open mind, 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 either the 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.

You will work on your technique while at GSA; however, you will be expected to dedicate your time and attention specifically to GSA assignments and repertoire.

We ask that everyone make sure your name is clearly marked on all your personal belongings before you bring them to GSA this summer, especially your metronome, tuner, and folding music stand. Percussionists should mark their name on all their sticks, mallets, instruments, and stands.

Piano students will perform a solo recital piece in addition to ensemble repertoire. Please select and prepare a solo piece from the standard piano repertoire. Your audition piece may be used as your performance solo. Please bring the original score. Your solo piece must be approximately 5 minutes in length (with no cuts), **memorized, and performance ready before you arrive this summer.**

You should bring ALL the following items with you this summer:

- your instrument, in good working order
- folding music stand (not necessary for pianists, unless you are at GSA for two instruments)
- pencils with erasers, music staff paper, notepaper, and a 1" three-ring binder for notes
- a metronome and tuner (that are not on your phone, since no phones are allowed in the studio)
- tote bag, book bag, or backpack
- padlock or combination lock for your instrument (not all instruments will have lockers)
- extra spending money
- personal refillable water bottle for daily hydration, with name clearly marked
- umbrella, comfortable walking shoes, shoes/boots to wear when it rains (we are taking a walking field trip)
- clothes for performances should be dressy but comfortable. No jeans, shorts, t-shirts, flip-flops, or caps/hats.
- **Everyone must print out and bring the assigned ensemble piece(s) that you receive before the program begins and number all your measures. Electronic tablets will not be allowed for music.**
- **Woodwind players** should bring plenty of good reeds or reed-making materials/equipment for three weeks
- **Brass players** should bring all your mutes, valve oil and slide grease
- **String players** should bring rosin, extra strings, shoulder rests, mutes, cello/bass rock stops, cleaning cloth
- **Percussionists** should bring your stick bag with all your sticks and mallets, and may 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)
- 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.

It is expected that any assigned ensemble piece(s) given to you in advance of the program will be fully prepared and performance ready before you arrive this summer. Please carefully number all your measures in all your music (unless it is already done).

BE SURE TO CHECK THE E-MAIL YOU PROVIDED US, AS THAT IS HOW WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING YOUR MUSIC. Additionally, you may receive a phone call from a GSA faculty member to discuss your music and instruments you are bringing this summer.

NOTE: All Instrumental Music students must load in ALL LARGE instruments they are playing during GSA on Sunday, July 6th, ONLY DURING 12:00-1:00 pm EST in the Band Room 22 in the Fine Arts Building (please do not arrive at 1:00pm or later), which include all percussion, double basses, guitars, cellos, tubas, euphoniums, trombones, baritone and tenor saxophones. There will be someone there to help you load in and direct you as to where to place your instruments. (All other smaller instruments must bring their instruments to the first day of classes on Monday.)

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. Doug Drewek, Discipline Chair (woodwinds) drewekd@berea.edu

Dr. Tze-Ying Wu (strings) tzeying.wu@uky.edu

Professor Jim Corcoran (percussion) kygsapercussion@gmail.com

Dr. Emily Britton (brass) emily.britton@yahoo.com

Dr. Raleigh Dailey (piano) raleigh.dailey@uky.edu