

Dear **Instrumental Music** Students,

**Congratulations on being selected to attend the 2026 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 **Architecture + Design, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Film + Photography, Graphic Design, 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 **Northern Kentucky University** in Highland Heights, 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.

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### **GSA PREPARATION FOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**Make sure your name is clearly marked on ALL 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 pieces** in advance of the program. It is expected that these pieces are **fully prepared and performance-ready** before you arrive this summer. In addition, please **carefully number all the measures in your music** (m. 1 is always the first complete measure and is never the pick-up measure). We will distribute your ensemble pieces 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 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 pieces, 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! (*Pianists do not need to bring a keyboard instrument*)
- **hard-copy printouts of the assigned ensemble pieces you will receive before the program** (*electronic devices will not be allowed for music—you must use hard-copy printouts*)
- **folding music stand—EVERYONE (except for pianists) needs to bring their own folding stand—if you do not own one, you need to purchase one to bring to the summer program**
- pencils with erasers, music staff paper, notepaper, and a 1” three-ring binder
- metronome (*that is not on your phone, since no cellphones are allowed in studio*)
- tote bag, book bag, or backpack
- digital or analog wristwatch—not a smartwatch (*to keep track of time, since cellphones are not allowed in studio during instructional time*)
- 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*)
- spending money – though housing, meals, room, and board are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra spending money for GSA merch on campus or souvenirs during field trips
- 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.
- **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](mailto:gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org). We are happy to help!

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

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

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### **INSTRUMENT LOAD-IN INSTRUCTIONS**

Students with **LARGE INSTRUMENTS** must load these in on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** from **12pm-1pm ET** in the **Band Room** at the **SOTA** 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/staff will be available to accommodate you after 1pm.**

**LARGE INSTRUMENTS** include **all percussion, double basses, cellos, guitars, banjos, 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 directions on where to place them.**

Students with **SMALL INSTRUMENTS** (piccolos, flutes, clarinets, oboes, alto saxophones, trumpets, violins, violas) may also bring their instruments to the SOTA band room on Opening Day during the timeframe listed above, but if you choose not to, then you must bring these with you after breakfast on the first day of classes on **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Sincerely,

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

**Mr. Jim Corcoran** (*percussion*) – [kygsapercussion@gmail.com](mailto:kygsapercussion@gmail.com)

**Dr. Raleigh Dailey** (*piano*) – [raleigh.dailey@eku.edu](mailto:raleigh.dailey@eku.edu)

**Dr. Doug Drewek** (*woodwinds*) – [drewekd@beroa.edu](mailto:drewekd@beroa.edu)

**Dr. Mary Elizabeth Henton** (*strings*) – [maryelizabeth@lexphil.org](mailto:maryelizabeth@lexphil.org)