



*poco cresc.*

# Young Artist

# Program

Westminster  
Conservatory of Music

Westminster Conservatory is the community music school  
of Westminster Choir College of Rider University



**Music Theory and Ear Training** Students explore the structure of music from the earliest fundamentals to college level studies.

**Music History** Students study music history in both survey and seminar-style classes and examine how composers' lives and cultures shaped their music.

**Chamber Music** Students and a chamber music instructor meet weekly in small ensembles. Their work culminates in two chamber music recitals each year.

**Performance Class** Students experience varied repertoire and develop their solo performance skills in a master-class setting.

**Improvisation Class** Students are introduced to the various styles of jazz. They study the tools of jazz improvisation with the goal of becoming proficient improvisers.

**Recitals** Solo and chamber music recitals provide venues in which Young Artist students showcase their most polished work each semester.

**Workshops** Distinguished guest artists present workshops and master classes designed to inform and inspire students, while exposing them to the diverse world of music.

**Evaluation** At the conclusion of the year, each student performs for a panel of Westminster Conservatory faculty members and receives written evaluation of technique, musicianship, and repertoire achievements.

# The Young Artist Program



*The Young Artist Program strives to develop well-rounded and informed musicians and performers.*

is the honors music program of Westminster Conservatory of Music. The program is available to piano, voice, wind, brass, and string students from ages 8 to 18 who desire a comprehensive music program in addition to their weekly private lessons.

The program offers a unique opportunity for gifted and motivated students to develop and refine their musical knowledge, skills, and performance techniques. The program brings together like-minded young musicians in a nurturing and challenging environment.

The dedicated faculty members offer high caliber instruction in a professional atmosphere. Students receive individual and thoughtful placement within the program, which includes a structured, sequential curriculum in music history and theory as well as



# MUSIC THEORY

## Elementary

Theory students study the fundamentals of music, including music notation, clefs, intervals, scales, key signatures, chords, rhythmic values, and time signatures. Students study the organizing principles of music—melody, harmony, and rhythm. Students reinforce concepts through written exercises, in-class performance, singing, and clapping. Students' aural skills are cultivated through solfege and dictation. Hands-on techniques make theoretical material relevant to younger students, who graduate from this level with a foundation in the basic mechanics of music.

## Intermediate

Students delve deeper into the principles of melody, harmony, and rhythm through analysis and written exercises. Students continue to develop aural skills through dictation and solfege. Topics include: harmonic progressions, cadences, inversions, part writing and voice leading, seventh chords, modulation, non-harmonic tones, odd meters, and irregular rhythms. Students gain insight into the craft of composition by applying these concepts to their own, original compositions.

## Advanced

Students analyze compositions from various historic periods. They continue their regular practice of dictation and solfege. Students explore common forms and processes, such as sonata form, rondo, concerto, variation, canon, and fugue. Modal, tonal, and 12-tone pitch systems are also studied. From species counterpoint to serial composition, advanced students learn by doing, and they compose in diverse styles.

# Chamber Music

## Chamber Music

In chamber music class, students explore a new world of repertoire, while building special performing partnerships with other musicians. Students receive thoughtful placement in small ensembles. Each week an instructor coaches students on principles of ensemble playing. During their years in the program, students gain experience working with different instructors and chamber combinations. A highlight of every semester is the Young Artist Chamber Music Concerts, in which all students perform. Year after year, Young Artist students remark on how much they enjoy playing chamber music.

## Performance Class

Performance class provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable performance experience by playing for their peers. The class addresses issues which are frequently encountered in performance situations. Students are exposed to new repertoire and develop skills of critical listening and constructive commentary, while they support one another's musical growth. Both students and their private teachers appreciate this chance for the student to try out solo repertoire, and every student is required to perform regularly. In a relaxed setting, each student's performance is videotaped for the student's own viewing and study. The instructor also provides brief written comments for each student.

# Improvisation

## Improvisation

Improvisation strengthens musicianship, and Young Artist students are taught how to include it in their daily practice. Guided by their instructor, students are shown the tools of improvisation and gain valuable experience improvising with their classmates. Students are introduced to the various styles of jazz through critical listening and discussions of the genre's history. Both students who have some jazz experience, and others who are less familiar with jazz interact and learn about America's most indigenous music.

## Workshops

Several times each year, the Young Artist Program offers workshops, which are presented in either master class or seminar format. Students are offered opportunities to learn from visiting experts and to perform for and work with master teachers. Young Artist students have composed a mini-opera, studied Baroque ornamentation, improvised with a professional jazz trio, played a Javanese gamelan, explored stylistic similarities between painting and music at the Metropolitan Museum, and have learned about Romanian folk music from an ethnomusicologist. Workshops provide opportunities to meet and talk with musicians and to learn about some of the many careers in music.

# Music History

## Elementary

Students explore music of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th century periods through listening, discussion, reading and writing. Stories of the great composers provide fun and interest. Elements of style are emphasized and simple research is introduced. Students are encouraged to form and share their own observations about the music they encounter. Students have short weekly listening assignments.

## Intermediate

Beginning with a two-year history survey covering the Baroque period through the early 20th century, students explore various musical styles through the study of musical genres and major composers. Students prepare weekly reading and listening assignments. Connections between historical events and musical trends enrich each student's historical perspective.

## Advanced

In seminar-style classes, students are introduced to Early Music and continue their studies of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th Century periods. Topics are chosen to suit the needs of the students enrolled. Students prepare at least one analysis project, which they present in a lecture/performance for classmates. Senior year, students also complete a Senior Project or recital, in cooperation with their private teacher and the Young Artist faculty.

# A distinguished faculty

Young Artist students have the opportunity to work with an international faculty who are graduates of some of the world's finest musical institutions.



Excellent attendance is required for participation in the Young Artist Program. Young Artist students must devote Saturday mornings from 9:00-1:00 during the academic year. Chamber music partners depend on one another to make music. They rely on the presence of the complete ensemble to integrate their individual parts into a fine musical performance.

Students in the program must also be enrolled in a 45 or 60-minute weekly private lesson, whether the student studies with a private teacher from Westminster Conservatory or outside of it. Students audition for the program and are accepted on the basis of level and space availability.

# Commitment is Key

## The Anil Bharvaney Memorial Fund

Created to honor the memory of Anil T. Bharvaney, who lost his life on September 11, 2001, this fund enhances the Young Artist Program by providing financial assistance to deserving students, expanding the jazz component of the Program, and underwriting enrichment activities for all Young Artist Program students.

To learn how you can support the Anil T. Bharvaney Endowment, contact Westminster's development office at 609-921-3200.



## Westminster Conservatory

Westminster Conservatory of Music is the community music school of Westminster Choir College of Rider University, serving the Central New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania area with private and group instruction in five locations. It is a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.



*To learn more about  
The Young Artist Program  
or to receive application  
materials, please contact:*

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