



*maggie's
music academy*
Serving Macon, Jackson, & Swain Counties

2018-2019

MUSIKGARTEN ACADEMY

FAMILY MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

FAMILY MUSIC FOR BABIES & TODDLERS | Birth to 3 years

Mondays 6:30-7pm, East Franklin/Cowee Mtn Location TBA

Wednesdays 3:45-4:15pm, Franklin (Location TBA)

Fridays 9:30-10:00am, Iotla Methodist Church

THE CYCLE OF SEASONS | 3 to 5 years

Mondays 10:15-11:00am, Maggie's Home

Fridays 10:15-11:00am, Iotla Methodist Church

All family music classes are designed for children and their grownup.

PIANO & VOCAL ACADEMY

PARTNER PIANO (Ages 5-8)

PRIVATE PIANO & VOICE

Monday | First lesson begins 11am. Last lesson ends 5:30pm

Thursday | First lesson begin 9:00am. Last lesson ends 7:00pm

Summer Flex Pass- 5 lessons June through July (returning students only)



MUSIKGARTEN CLASSES

Two 15-Week Semesters (Fall/Spring)

*Prices listed below are for fall semester only
Registration fee (\$20) waived for fall semester

Family Music for Babies and Toddlers, Ages 0-3 | 30 minutes/week

\$95/family, \$35 Family Materials

\$40/semester for each additional child

The Cycle of Seasons, Ages 3-5 | 45 minutes/week

\$95/family, \$42.50 Family Materials

\$40/semester for each additional child

Family Music for Babies, Toddlers and Preschool, Summer Session, Ages Birth to 5

Six 30 to 45 minute sessions (mid-June thru end of July)

\$55/family, \$30 Family Materials

\$20/each additional child

PARTNER PIANO

Recommended for beginners ages 5-7

60 minutes weekly @ \$65/month

PRIVATE VOICE & PIANO

Private 30 minute (beginner piano) lessons @ \$65/month

Private 45 minute lessons for voice or intermediate pianists @ \$75/month

Private 60 minute lessons for voice students or combo lessons @ \$85/month

Summer Flex Pass (returning students)

Five 30 minute lessons - \$95

Five 45 minute lessons - \$105

Five 60 minute lessons - \$115

Contract Rate- \$25/60-minutes voice, piano or music tutoring as needed



Maggie's Music Academy serves to provide opportunities in the performing arts to students in Jackson, Macon and other surrounding counties. Ms. Maggie's soapbox is the lack of availability of a sequential and cohesive music education for all children in Western North Carolina. She affirms that:

1. Participating in music creation daily and at an early age is critical in the development of speech, reading, and neuro-connections in the brain!
2. Everyone has a "voice"—a talent to express with, and with a message to express!
3. Music is relevant and meaningful to all humankind. It has the unique ability to inspire and relax, heal and reset. What an awesome power and honor musicians have—the power to influence others!

Why is participating in music making so important?

Did you know the ability to hear and process sound is one of the first senses we acquire while in the womb? It is also one of the last things to go at death. I wonder why...

Music is a powerful stimulant of the brain. Simply listening to music has the power to encourage, empathize, energize, inspire, bring peace, and trigger memories. It is a powerful tool in therapy worldwide.

However, **the active work of creating music delivers the biggest benefit.** Being the one behind the instrument can diminish the effects of brain aging and enrich connections between the left and right hemispheres. It has also been shown to boost executive brain function, strengthen speech processing and language development, and magnify memory. Studies continue to show a strong link between the understanding and manipulation of musical notes, chords, octaves, rhythm, and meter and mathematics and spatial-temporal reasoning (Stevens, 2015).

Additionally, music lessons teach us discipline, persistence, goal setting, and self-improvement. It helps us learn how to present ourselves and gives us coping skills for appropriately handling nerves.

Music instruction should focus more than just on the instrument. A musician who cannot hear pitch or recognize musical components cannot make music! I am a fan of Edwin Gordon's Music Learning Theory (great thing to Google!) and therefore I use a lot of ear training strategies in lessons. Piano students will probably find themselves singing at some point! Music theory comes last in the learning sequence, and is a result of an understanding of the natural patterns of music.

Children have a wonderfully rich and unique opportunity and need for musical growth. "A rich and appropriate music environment for young children that includes purposeful singing, chanting, body movement, and rhythm and tonal patterns acculturation influences a child's potential to learn music" (Lowe, 2015). Unfortunately, school systems in our area are often depleted of musical acculturation. It is important for parents to seek out these opportunities for their children!

There are so many more benefits to studying music! Can you think of any? The bottom line... making music is fun and good for us all!

References:

Stevens, Sidney. "10 Reasons Why Making Music is Good for Your Brain." Online, Mother Nature Network, mnn.com. April 2, 2015.
Lowe, Marilyn. "Music Moves for Piano: Keyboard Games for Beginners, Book A." Music Moves LLC/GIA Publications, 2015.

The purpose of individualized lessons: As with any new skill, individualized direction and feedback is essential to growth! At the beginning of the year, I will sit down with the student and family and we will discuss goals for the upcoming year. It takes everybody involved to ensure a successful outcome! The role of the teacher is to direct, challenge, take you out of your comfort zone, encourage and hold the student accountable for growth and progress. The role of the student is to practice daily, have an open mind to use the methods the teacher recommends, and hold himself/herself accountable to accomplish and achieve growth. **Parents are an essential part of this learning experience too.** Parents must hold their child accountable for daily practice (nag, offer incentives, do what you do!), *encourage them to persist* and communicate with me when they are struggling or challenges come up. Together, we create something that is meaningful and beneficial to the student...something we are all proud of!

**“The dream begins with a teacher
who believes in you,
who tugs and pushes and
leads you to the next plateau,
sometimes poking you
with a sharp stick called “truth.”**

-Dan Rather

Tuition:

Please keep in mind that these lessons literally clothe and feed my family and meet our daily needs.

Therefore:

- **Payment is due at the last lesson of the month** for the next month, or online at MaggiesMusicAcademy.com. (There is a \$1.85 fee for each online transaction—helps cover the cost of this great feature!). Tuition not paid by the last day of the month is considered LATE.
- Tuition is assessed in MyMusicStaff on the 20th of each month for the month to come. The price is the same whether there are four or five weeks, holidays or not. Invoicing is available (see online registration form). Reimbursement for books/materials are assessed to the account as they are distributed and are due with the next tuition payment.
- I receipt all tuition payments so you can count them on your taxes. Statements are also available at any time through your MyMusicStaff portal.
- Tuition does not include books. Please budget \$30-55/year for private beginner piano students, \$51/semester for buddy lesson books & materials, and \$40-65/year for intermediate/advanced piano or vocal students for books as the need arises. I will usually place the order (often times I can get these cheaper). *Student/family is responsible for reimbursement of these materials with the next month's tuition, as assigned in your MyMusicStaff account.*
- **You are committing to lessons for a full term, which is a school-calendar year (September thru the end of May).** If you feel the need to leave the studio in the middle of the term, I request you come speak with me prior to making the decision. Often times a small change in direction can yield big results!
- A four-week notice is encouraged and appreciated should you need to leave mid-term. This will enable me to fill your spot before my next month's bills become due.
- Cash, checks, and major credit cards are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Maggie Jennings. Again, payment is also available online at MaggiesMusicAcademy.com. Let me know if you need your login information reset.

Attendance/Absence Makeup Policy- *Consistency in attendance is vital* when building a new skill! It takes patience and persistence to build muscle memory and neuro-connections (learn new things), and as with anytime build a habit, *it is easy to feel like giving up!* I whole-heartedly encourage parents and students to commit to an entire year of lessons (September thru May), and stick it out through the “low

momentum/morale/focus” times. Those times will come! If at the end of the year you still feel like this isn’t for you, let’s talk about it. However, sticking it out and finishing a task and commitment (to ourselves too!) develops discipline and “grit,” traits that are invaluable in all areas of life (and especially when learning a new skill)!

A makeup credit will be given for some absences. Because my family plans their evenings around your lesson time, I request you let me know a week in advance if you will be missing lesson the following week. At that point, we can reschedule and make adjustments. **No makeup credit will be given for less than 24 hours notice.** I prefer to make up the absence the same week if possible.

Will a makeup credit be given?	
<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A week’s notice is given- Contagious illness/incapacitated- Inclement weather (see inclement weather policy)- Teacher has to cancel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Less than 24 hours notice (see first column for exceptions)- I forgot my lesson- Lack of ride

Additionally:

- Makeup credits expire after 30 days.
- Makeup credits cannot be combined to replace tuition.
- I prefer to make up the absence the prior or following week if possible by scheduling an additional lesson in the middle of lesson-week.
- There are no makeup credits in the Summer Flex Package.

“People often say that motivation doesn’t last. Well, neither does bathing— that’s why we recommend it daily.” –Zig Ziglar

Lesson Times:

This year I am teaching **partner and private** lessons **Mondays 11am-5:30pm** and **Thursdays 9am-7:00pm**, and Musikgarten group classes several times throughout the week (see MaggiesMusicAcademy.com for full Musikgarten schedule). **Please submit the online enrollment form and pay the first month’s tuition to reserve your spot in the studio.** Returning students receive priority when scheduling. For ALL students, please make sure you indicate on the online enrollment form your lesson type and a first and second choice of lesson times. I will do my very best to accommodate everyone, but I cannot guarantee your first choices. Thank you for understanding!

Group Lessons/Recitals/Performances:

We typically have a **class lesson** once a quarter. Class lessons are designed for all private/buddy lesson students to come together as a group and perform for each other. These are designed without parent presence so that students will not feel pressured to perform well (other than in front of their peers). We typically have music games and snacks and play for each other.

This year we will be having a **spring recital** at New Savannah Baptist Church, about a half-mile from Ms. Maggie’s studio. We will announce the date and time well in advance so our families can invite all their friends and family to join us in this joyous occasion!

Although we recognize December as a busy month for most families, we also recognize the value musicians can bring to others. We will be looking for the opportunity for our families to join together to sing Christmas carols at skilled nursing facilities in the area.

Curriculum/Books:

Each learner brings with him/her their own unique learning style. I reserve the right to try several different books with your child to ensure the best fit for him/her. If you already have books that you're eager to use, let's try them! If not, my teaching method follows the sound-before-sight-before-theory approach. In other words, (especially with our younger students), I believe that in order to understand what the notes on the page do, we must understand what they *sound like*. Therefore we will do a lot of activities to train the ear (playing instruments, movement and games) as we learn the notes on the page.

Location:

I give voice & piano lessons out of my home: 50 Fox Trace Drive, Sylva NC.

Directions from Franklin:

Take the Sylva Rd (US Hwy 441 north) over Cowee Mountain. From the top of Cowee Mountain, go approximately 5 miles into Jackson County. Take a right onto Fox Trace Drive (across from the Dollar General store). We are located in the first house over the bridge: 50 Fox Trace Drive.

Directions from Sylva/Hwy 74:

Take US Hwy 441 South (exit 81). From the Dillsboro bridge, travel approximately 5 miles towards Franklin. At the Dollar General store turn left onto the turn-around and immediately onto Fox Trace Drive.

Musikgarten locations:

lotla Methodist- From Downtown Franklin:

Take US Hwy 28 North towards Cowee. From downtown, go approx. 4.5 miles and turn left onto lotla Church Road. Destination will be 1.2 miles on the right, directly across from lotla Valley Elementary School.

lotla Methodist- From Sylva/Hwy 74:

Take US Hwy 441 South over Cowee Mountain. Turn right at the bottom of Cowee Mountain onto Sanderstown Rd. (Beside Clayton Homes on the right.) After 3.2 miles when the road dead-ends, turn left onto Hwy 28. At approx 1 mile, turn right onto lotla Church Road. Destination is approx 1.2 miles on the right, directly across from lotla Valley Elementary School.

Partner/Private Lesson Weekly Procedures:

Please be on time for your lesson. Restrooms are available. Should you arrive early, feel free to take advantages of our seating area in "the den" (entry room) while you're waiting on the student before you to finish. It is also a great play area for small children.

Bring with you to your lesson: spiral bound notebook & pencil, your lesson books, and any accompaniment tracks (voice students especially) or extra materials you will need or are using for the repertoire you are working on.

MyMusicStaff.com

Each family and student at Maggie's Music Academy receives his own FREE MyMusicStaff.com account! Students can use this online tool to track their practice time and keep track of assignments, and families can sign up for text reminders for their lesson time and can track and pay their tuition online!

Once I receive your online registration, you should receive an email with your login instructions.

I LOVE this great tool! I think you will too!

Available technology:

Free Wi-Fi is available upon request while at Ms. Maggie's. The password is located at the piano.

From time to time, we may use the following technologies in our lesson to help us track improvement (and to brag on our progress!): laptop/internet, Bluetooth speaker system, CD/aux system, digital audio/video recording. Also, I LOVE to post our brags on Facebook! Like us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/MaggiesMusicAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/MaggiesMusicAcademy) for brags, great tools, articles and resources regarding practicing and musicianship and special offers! And please like and share our page!

Meet the Teacher:



"Ms. Maggie" Jennings has a rich history in music education and children's music. She began her teaching career in 2005 as an elementary music specialist in Summerville, SC, where she also worked with her church youth choir and taught piano and voice lessons. During her tenure there, she had the privilege of starting a music program at a brand new elementary school, and over then next three years she wrote and received over \$60,000 for her program in public and private grants. There she was also named Teacher of the Year by the Parent Teacher Association for 2008-2009. In 2009, she married her amazing husband Kyle Jennings and they moved close to his hometown of Franklin. Once in NC, she completed her graduate degree and taught high school chorus and theatre for six years. Her choirs earned consistent Superiors in performance and sight-reading at both state and national contests. She also led and directed several musicals including "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Annie," and "Once Upon a Mattress." In 2017, she stepped down from teaching in public schools to raise her young children full-time. In May 2018, she was named the new Children's Choir Director at Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin.

Ms. Maggie has worked privately with singers and pianists of all ages since age 16. Her students are award-winning, with a number of them having been accepted into the SC Elementary Honors Chorus, the NC High School Honors Chorus and more having received additional honors and scholarships throughout the years.

Ms. Maggie is super excited to be bringing the Musikgarten program of early childhood music and movement to Franklin and WNC! She knows the importance of early music experiences and she regrets that there are so few opportunities for this in Western NC. Her own children are ages 2 and 5, and she hopes that in addition to providing rich musical experiences for them, she can share the excitement and enrichment with other families as well.

Ms. Maggie has an M.A.Ed. in Music (Western Carolina University), a B.A. in Music Education & minor in Spanish (Gardner-Webb University), & is a National Board Certified Teacher (2014). She is a certified licensed Musikgarten instructor and she is also a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the National Association for Music Education, the North Carolina Music Educator's Association, and the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association.

Please complete and submit the Online Registration Form (or snail mail the one attached) with your first month's tuition to register! We look forward to having you!



REGISTRATION FORM

Student's name _____ DOB _____

Parent name (if student is under 18) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Mom Cell: () _____ Dad Cell: () _____

Email _____ Texting? Yes No

If someone else will be bringing your child to class, what is his or her name?
_____ Relationship _____

Lesson/Class Day and Time (see Schedule of Classes):

Lesson type & length: _____

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

Student is: _____ New _____ Returning

How did you find out about us, or whom may we thank for referring you _____

Please tell us any other information that might be helpful (allergies/sensitivities (i.e. oil diffusion), learning challenges, likes/dislikes, etc.) _____

School or preschool & grade: _____

Sibling(s) (names and birthdates) _____

Musical background of family (list any instruments you play):

Send reminder emails? (circle one) Yes No Send reminder texts? (circle one) Yes No

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Maggie's Music Academy policies and agree to the terms therein. I wish to register my child for the class indicated above. I understand and give my permission for photographs taken in class may be used without financial compensation for promotional, unless otherwise indicated in writing. My signature below also indicates my agreement that I will not hold Maggie's Music Academy or Maggie Jennings responsible for any loss, damages or injury incurred directly or indirectly from participation in the Maggie's Music Academy program or class. I am enclosing a check made **payable to Maggie Jennings** for first month's tuition in the amount of (see tuition schedule) \$_____.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this form and your check (payable to Maggie Jennings) to our mailing address:

Maggie's Music Academy
50 Fox Trace Drive
Sylva, NC 28779
mjennings09@gmail.com | 843.412.0582