Welcome
to the
Beginning Strings
Program
at
Eastman Community Music
School

Summers & Recess Week Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

What is the “EBS” program?
The Eastman Beginning Strings (EBS) program offers a comprehensive musical education to students, in grades K-6, who are learning to play the violin, viola, cello or bass at a beginning and intermediate level.

What does the EBS program offer?
- **Private lessons** teach students to practice effectively and perform regularly, building artistic excellence.
- **Instrument group classes and string ensembles** offer a social atmosphere and help students learn to listen while making music.
- **Age-appropriate classes** boost learning of the fundamental skills, such as rhythmic movement, singing and note-reading, with plenty of fun!

Why choose Eastman?
- Expert instruction in a wide variety of instruments, styles and fields of musical study.
- Faculty that is committed to developing students’ individual talent.
- Beautiful performance spaces, including Hatch Recital Hall and Kilbourn Hall.
- Mentoring by professional musicians and instructors as students grow. ECMS offers a high-school diploma program. UR transcripts are available to demonstrate achievement.
- Safety-screened faculty and accompanists.
**EBS for Pre-K through K**

**Private Lessons:** It is recommended that parents work with an instructor, who specializes in teaching younger children. Parents should be ready to devote regular practice sessions each day at home, guiding their child through exercises taught at weekly, 15-30 min. lessons.

**String Starters for Kindergarteners!**
Weekly 45 min. classes for kindergarteners with an accompanying adult will introduce basic skills of string-instrument playing. No instrument rental/purchase is required. Available only with registration for Clef Club.

**Enriching Class Options:**
- **Age-specific Early Childhood Classes (ages 4 mos- K):** are based on an understanding of children’s developmental stages. They encourage a child’s connection to music through play, exploration and movement.
- **Theory In Motion Classes (grades K-6):** teach basic musical principles, such as rhythm and pitch, through singing and guided movement.
- **Introductory Piano Classes (ages 4 and older):** introduce children to note-reading and basic musical concepts and coordination at the keyboard.

**EBS for Grades 1-6**

**Private Lessons:** ECMS offers flexible options for lessons of 15 to 60 min, tailored to the student’s ability and developmental stage. Students may expect to practice each day and prepare to perform in recitals and annual evaluations of progress (exams). Instructors are experienced performers and teachers, who may offer studio classes, recitals and a longer-term commitment to teaching a student. Interns, selected Eastman School of Music graduate students who specialize in pedagogy, offer a lower-cost alternative for private instruction.

**Ensembles:**
- **Beginning level group classes** reinforce basic techniques, provide a social atmosphere and offer children the opportunity to learn by observation.
- **EBS String Ensembles:** advanced beginning and intermediate level players with instructor recommendation rehearse weekly and perform several concerts throughout the school year. Performing in an ensemble helps students learn to listen while playing music and to react to visual and aural cues from a leader.

**Enriching Class Options:**
- **Theory in Motion (grades K-6):** basic musical structure through listening, singing and rhythmic movement.
- **Introduction to Music Theory/ Dalroze Class (school grade 6-8, following Theory in Motion):** basic musical notation and ear training. Recommended for students to prepare for the ECMS high school diploma program requirements.
- **Eastman Young Children’s Chorus (grades 2-4) and Eastman Children’s Chorus (grades 5-8):** help students develop a sense of rhythm, pitch and ensemble.
- **Introductory Piano Class (ages 4 and older) and Private Piano Lessons (recommended start at 7 and older):** foundation for learning pitches and basic organization of music.