

ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Please note that campers on the orchestra track, and campers who elect to be in Jazz band will only receive one elective choice, while campers on the band and choir tracks will receive two elective choices

Breathing: This class will focus on one of the most important (yet sometimes overlooked) skills a wind player can possess. Proper breathing is an excellent tool for focusing before a practice session, for improving range and dynamics, as well as extending phrases. We will use tools developed for the book, "The Breathing Gym," and some yoga ideas. This class will also include proper stretching to avoid things like carpal tunnel and tendonitis.

Song Writing: Are you interested in writing music in a pop or rock style? We will use chord progressions found in typical pop songs, together with your lyrics, to create something all your own!

Conducting: In this class campers will develop basic conducting skills. Campers will learn beat patterns and conducting gestures to express musical elements to the ensemble. Campers will also learn how to read and analyze scores.

Music History/Appreciation: In this class campers will explore how music developed during the Medieval, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods. Twentieth Century music will be discussed if time permits. Campers will learn about key composers and compositions that shaped music, as well as learn aural distinctions between compositions from each musical period.

Jazz Band (by audition on day 1): In this two-hour daily class, campers will rehearse jazz music to be performed on the Friday evening concert. Campers will play a variety of styles and have the opportunity to improvise. Note that this class will replace your chamber music ensemble and one elective. *Class size is limited.*

Improvisation: In this class campers will develop skills in inventing melodies in major and minor patterns, blues patterns, and other modes to be used in soloing over different chord progressions and in different jazz styles.

Beginning Piano: This class is for campers with no, or very minimal, piano skills. Campers will work on piano basics including familiarity with the keyboard, hand position, and playing simple, two-handed melodies and chord progressions.

Sight Reading: This elective will help ease worries when it comes to sight-reading. During the week you will get tips and tools so that you can be more comfortable reading music for the first time. This class is mostly geared towards instrumentalists, but a vocal section can be opened if enough singers enroll.

More on Reverse

Singing for Instrumentalists: Instrumentalists will learn to sing simple songs with proper vocal technique including proper breathing, pronunciation, and tone. Knowing how to sing well can help you play your instrument better!

Music Theory (Beginning/Intermediate): In this class campers will gain understanding of how and why music looks and sounds the way it does. Campers will do hands-on activities to understand concepts like rhythms, melodies, time signatures, and key signatures.

Guitar (Beginning/Intermediate): Campers will learn the basics of guitar playing in this class. Guitars can be borrowed from SJSU. Class size is limited to the number of guitars owned by the School of Music and Dance. If you have your own guitar please consider bringing it for yourself so we can let more campers enroll!

Music Technology: In this elective, campers will get an overview of music technology programs potentially including Sibelius, Garage Band, iMovie, podcasts, and Audacity, among others. This class will be held in our computer lab and space is limited.

Social Dance: Campers will learn and develop fundamental social dance skills and knowledge. Dances will be selected from American Smooth (e.g. Waltz, Tango), American Rhythm (e.g. Rumba, Cha Cha) and night club (e.g. Hustle, West Coast Swing) dance categories. No previous experience is required. Please wear comfortable clothes that you can move in and have tons of energy!

Handbell Ringing: Have you heard handbells ringing during the winter season? Handbells are not just for Christmas! Learn basic techniques and become an instant percussionist! No experience required!

Audition Preparation: Students will learn to prepare for college and professional auditions, or even your school's top performing group. We will discuss what to expect at an audition, the types of audition processes, solo repertoire and orchestral excerpts, most questions commonly asked in auditions (appropriate to the instrument), and dealing with stage fright. Students will be asked to prepare a small amount of repertoire and experience a mock audition at the end of the camp week.

Brass Fundamentals: An introduction to proper brass playing techniques, focusing on sound and tone quality, endurance, strength and projection through warm-up and fundamental techniques and routines. (For Brass Players Only)