



Welcome to Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music!

The ALF Instrumental Music program is one of the most rewarding and exciting educational opportunities offered for our students! ALF is proud to continue its support and administration of this program. We have made the change to a virtual program in light of COVID-19. With COVID restrictions and one-third of LCUSD students Virtual Learners for the year, it is unlikely there will be physical gatherings, although things are ever evolving and we will continue to re-evaluate. We thank you for your patience as we navigate new educational methods designed with the utmost safety in mind.

In the following pages you will find information to help your child be successful and get the most out of being a part of the Instrumental Music program. If you still have questions about the overall program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gunther, Instrumental Music Chairman 2020-2021

Joanna Petroff, Instrumental Music Assistant Chairman 2020-2021

instrumentalmusic@alflintridge.org 818-790-2211 Message Anytime

Topics

1. Introduction of Teachers & Contact Information
2. Schedules & Calendar
3. Is the ALF Instrumental Music Program Right for your Student?
4. Instruments
5. Class Information
6. Attendance & Commitment
7. Practice Expectations, Private Lessons
8. Behavior Standards

For future reference, be sure to download or bookmark this Student Handbook as well as the <https://alflintridge.org/programs/instrumental-music/> home page.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Music Staff

Michael Davis - Brass Instructor

La Cañada native Michael Davis enjoys a diverse career both performing and teaching. As an orchestral musician Michael has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Santa Barbara Opera, New West Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, WildUp, the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra, the Partch Ensemble and the Philip Glass Ensemble. Michael can be heard on recordings with the Hollywood Epic Brass, Roger Reynolds, Irvine Arditti, Devendra Banhart, Megapuss, Little Joy, and The Jim Reynolds Band. Michael was a featured soloist in Frances Stark's 2017 staging of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. As an educator Michael has taught for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's YOMP program, the Young Musician's Foundation, La Cañada Unified School District and Assistance League of Flintridge for the last 12 years. He has lectured internationally at the International Trumpet Guild Australia, multiple universities in South Korea and at the Oberlin Trumpet Institute. Michael can also be found lecturing at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Michael earned the degree of Bachelor's of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master's of Music from the USC Thornton School of Music.

davism_music@alflintridge.org *

Ruth Kasckow - Woodwind Instructor

Ruth Kasckow has been teaching ALF woodwind students for 6 years. Ruth received her BA in Music from Goucher College and MFA in Flute Performance from California Institute of the Arts. A flutist, Ruth is a frequent performer in orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and solo recitals throughout Southern California. She performs chamber music and solo recitals frequently at the Noon Series at Pasadena Presbyterian Church and Glendale Noon Series, and has played in Burbank Symphony, Santa Monica Symphony, Opera a la Carte, Orquesta mexicana de la juventud in Mexico City. Ruth was on the Pasadena Conservatory of Music faculty for many years, and now maintains her own private teaching studio in La Cañada and is on the faculty of La Cañada School of Music. She received the 2019 "*Finest Music Teacher Award*" by the readers of Crescenta Valley Weekly. One of Ruth's passions is helping other musicians improve their playing and avoid injury with healthy movement. As a licensed Andover Educator she teaches the innovative educational technique called Body Mapping for Musicians. Ruth has published *The Flute Duet Practice Books* and *Chinese Folk Song Suite for Flute Quartet*, and has recorded two solo CDs with pianist Christopher Brennan: *French Impressions for Flute* and *German Expressions for Flute*.

<https://www.flutemuse.com/>

kasckowr_music@alflintridge.org *

Sean Moriarty - Percussion Instructor

After graduating from La Cañada High School in 2012, Sean Moriarty became a part of the percussion staff with the LCHS Band for the 2012-2013 school year. Later he attended Glendale Community College with a major in Music. Currently, he plays drums for the local band Ryder Buck & The Breakers, and formerly with the Hollywood based Hard Rock/Pop trio Varna which has received acclaim from the LA Music Awards and the North American Independent Rock Music Awards. He also teaches privately, does recording sessions, and works as the Strategic Entertainment Manager for MAC Creative Management. Sean joins the ALF Instrumental Music program for his fifth year as a percussion instructor.

moriartys_music@alflintridge.org *

Sahak Karapetyan - Strings Instructor

Sahak Karapetyan graduated with a Masters in Music Performance from Komitas State Conservatory. He has served as Concertmaster of several symphonic and chamber orchestras. Sahak is a founder and Music Director of the St. Gregory chamber orchestra as well as the Bravo String Quartet. He is a member of the Santa Barbara, Redlands, and San Bernardino symphony orchestras, and has taught violin, viola, and piano privately for over thirty years. Among his students are distinguished musicians who have won grand prizes in music competitions and many who have subsequently devoted their lives to professional playing. Sahak joins ALF for his fifth year as a strings instructor.

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Ripsi Yepremyan - Strings Instructor

Ripsi Yepremyan earned her Master's degree in music performance and has been teaching violin and piano privately for numerous years. She is also a performing violinist with local professional orchestras. Ripsi's devotion to her work is genuine and her approach to musical study promotes confidence and enthusiasm. Students are empowered to deal with the challenges of mastering an instrument and inspired to persevere through the difficult stages of practice that ultimately bring success. Ripsi is beginning her fifth year as a strings instructor for ALF.

yepremyanr_music@alflintridge.org *

Colin Ring - Percussion Instructor

A graduate of La Cañada High School, Colin Ring has continued his studies at PCC and USC. His professional percussion training includes programs at the Jamie Font School of Music, Colburn School of Music, and the Berklee School of Music in Boston. Colin is a drummer for various hard-rock and metal bands. He organized and produced a benefit concert, "Rock for Peru," which raised money for a medical mission to Peru. He has been giving private drum lessons for the last 12 years. Colin first worked with ALF in 2008-2009 as an assistant in the Brass and Percussion class. This is Colin's fifth year as a percussion instructor.

ringc_music@alflintridge.org *

Phillip Yao - Brass Instructor

With over 1,500 credits in Film, Television and recording, USC graduate Phillip Yao has worked with many of the world's top composers and musicians including John Williams, James Horner and Jerry Goldsmith. Mr. Yao can also be heard on recordings showcasing a variety of artists from all genres, Hilary Hahn, Barbra Streisand, Aerosmith, Josh Groban and Ray Charles, to name a few. In addition, he has years of orchestral, opera, ballet and Broadway show experience having played with the Pasadena Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Phantom of the Opera and Wicked. Phillip returns for a third year with ALF Instrumental Music as a brass instructor.

yaop_music@alflintridge.org *

Shahid Osuna - Woodwind Instructor

Shahid Yasser Osuna is an LA-based flutist, arranger, and teacher. He received a certificate in Music Performance at the Coil School of Music in Riverside, CA in 2017, where he was the two-time winner of the President's Honor Recital and played principal in the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble from 2015-2017. In 2019, Shahid graduated from California State University, Northridge with a degree in Wind Performance. During his time at CSUN, he won the 2019 Upper Division Concerto Competition. Shahid has toured across the world and has played flute with several ensembles including Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, Song of Angels Flute Orchestra, Whittier Regional Symphony, and LA Symphonic Winds. In addition, he often gigs on his doubles, oboe, saxophone, and clarinet. Currently, Shahid teaches with New West Symphony Education through the Laby Harmony Project as the Flute Teaching Artist, and coaches

with CSUN Youth Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, Shahid will complete his Master of Fine Arts degree in Instrumental Arts at the California Institute of the Arts. Shahid joins ALF for a second year as a woodwind instructor.

osunas_music@alflintrdge.org *

* Put ALF in the subject line when communicating with Music staff

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Is the ALF Instrumental Music Program Right for Me?

Parents: There are many avenues to choose from while pursuing an educational experience in music for your child. The ALF Instrumental Music program is a fun, economical, and enriching educational opportunity! It requires dedication and commitment from both you and your child. Please take the time to sit down with your son/daughter and go through the following list. Hopefully it will help you determine whether or not your student will benefit from this program.

For the Prospective Music Student: Does This Describe You?

1. I am very interested in learning to play a musical instrument.
2. I will try my best to practice every day without being told and I have room in my daily schedule to do so. I understand that practicing at home by myself is the key to my success in the music program.
3. I am a good listener and I have good concentration skills, including in an online situation. I don't need to be reminded to listen.
4. I can commit to being ready with my materials to enter my online class on time.
5. I am respectful of my teachers and other students.
5. I understand that a musical instrument is not a toy and should be treated with care.
6. I am very supportive of others and enjoy working as a team. I try my best to always have a positive attitude!
7. I can behave and work independently while the teacher is working with another student.
8. When I get frustrated, I don't give up. I understand that learning to play an instrument is not easy and I am willing to commit to the program and stick with it the entire year!
9. I am looking forward to a good experience in music!

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Choosing an Instrument

When you register online, you will be able to choose the instrument your child is interested in learning. Below you will find the different instruments available for you to choose from.

The following is a list of instruments appropriate for this age:

Strings - Violin, Viola, Cello

Woodwinds - Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Oboe

Brass - Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone (a miniature Tuba)

Percussion - Percussionists will be introduced to Bells, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Drum Set, Cymbals and other percussion instruments. Students will be using a Drum Pad.

Having a balance of instruments is vital to the sound of any orchestra or band, although with the COVID restrictions this year, it's highly unlikely there will be any ensemble and concert experiences. The most popular instruments are the flute, clarinet, trumpet and violin. The less often picked instruments, the viola, cello, oboe, saxophone, French horn and baritone are among the most fun to play. We strongly encourage your student to visit the links to listen to the different instruments before making a final decision. If your student wishes to learn one of the more popular instruments and for them there is no alternative, we recommend registering early.

More Information

A great website for demonstrating an instrument with pictures and descriptions is www.dsokids.com. Click on LISTEN, then click Listen by Instrument. You can also take a field trip to a music store and check out the instruments you may be interested in. On October 19th, ALF will provide a link to our Virtual Petting Zoo where you can meet our instructors and their instruments. Be sure to look at the less well-known instruments listed above ~ you may find an unexpected instrument that excites you.

Assistance League® of Flintridge

Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Getting an Instrument

You are expected to provide a good-quality instrument, in working order, for your student. Here are your options for obtaining one:

Rent from Assistance League of Flintridge (ALF)

ALF has instruments available for rent. The cost of the rental is \$200 for the school year, and if selected, this charge will be added during the registration process. This is a significant savings as compared to a store rental. However, there are a limited number of instruments available to rent and there is a chance that there may not be enough for all students who want them. In the case of limited instruments, they will be distributed based on when a student registers, starting with beginners. If an instrument is not available for a student, the Rental Fee will be refunded.

Instrument Rental Day

Saturday, November 7, 2020

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Depending on Instrument

Lanterman Auditorium Parking Lot

Detailed pick-up plans, following all safety protocols, will be sent later, but there will be specific times assigned for each instrument category.

Percussion - ALF DOES NOT RENT PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS. Percussion students are required to have their own Percussion Kit, which includes a practice pad, bells, drum sticks and mallet sticks. ALF does not have these available for rent. Contact your instructor for guidance in renting or purchasing.

Strings - String students must attend Rental Day and be measured for the appropriate size instrument.

In accepting a Rental Contract, parents are assuming responsibility for the rented instrument and agree to repair or replace it, if necessary. Students must also take responsibility for the care of their instrument to prevent damage or loss. Rented instruments are due back on the last day of class or after Summer Rental in July. A late fee may be assessed for any instruments returned after the designated rental return day.

Rent from a Local Store

There are several stores in the area that rent and sell instruments. Included below is a list of music stores for you to investigate. Call around for prices as rental costs are all different.

Purchase an Instrument

There are several places to look for buying an instrument. For some, this may be a more economical choice. We HIGHLY recommend that at this age, you do not purchase a brand new or professional model instrument. It is the same consideration as purchasing a new car. The instrument immediately depreciates in value, and chances are, your son/daughter will change instruments several times in the future. If your child is a string player, the instrument size changes as the player grows. You can get a very good quality used professional or student-model instrument for anywhere from \$150 to \$1,000 depending on the instrument and how much searching you are willing to do. Many stores offer both new and used instruments for sale. Use caution when buying new instruments for sale online. Many of these instruments look beautiful but do not play well and are poorly built. It is much better to buy an instrument from a music store to ensure quality and some kind of warranty. If you would like recommendations for brands to look at for purchase, please feel free to e-mail your instructor.



Assistance League of Flintridge Instrumental Music

MUSIC STORES

The following stores rent musical instruments locally:

Benning Violins/Studio City Music
11340 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604
818-762-1374

Bertrand's
(Formerly Pedersen's)
2618 West Burbank Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91505
818-848-9665

Bertrand's
(Formerly Old Town Music Co.)
145 Vista Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-793-4730

Bertrand stores rent string and band instruments

Charles Music Store & Studios
421 North Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA 91206
818-242-6597

Ferguson Music/The Horn Guys
408 Pasadena Avenue, Suite 1
Pasadena, CA 91105
626-765-6666

Metzler Violins
604 South Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204
818-246-0278

Metzler specializes in all stringed instruments

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Sahak Karapetyan - Strings Instructor

Ripsi Yepremyan - Strings Instructor

Beginning Strings – Curriculum

1. Music book - Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 with online option * for violin, viola, or cello
2. Know the parts of the instrument
3. Know how to properly care for the instrument
4. Know and understand the following music fundamentals
 - a. Line, staff, and clef signs
 - b. Measures and measure numbers
 - c. Reading music from the staff
 - i. be able to identify by sight all notes learned in class
 - ii. be able to figure out names of notes not learned in class
 - d. Rhythm
 - i. be able to count and perform accurately rhythms consisting of whole, half, dotted half, quarter and eighth notes in various combinations
 - ii. ties
 - e. Time signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff and what the numbers mean
 - f. Key signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff
 - ii. understand the information it gives
 - g. Repeat signs
 - i. first and second endings
 - ii. repeats within a section
 - h. Rests
 - i. be able to identify and perform whole, half, and quarter rests
 - i. Accidentals---sharps, flats, naturals
 - j. Play a D Major scale
5. Fingering
 - a. Know the names of the strings and the notes on the G, D, and A strings
 - b. Know proper left-hand position
 - c. Know the fingerings for the notes on the G, D, and A strings
6. Bowing
 - a. Know the parts of the bow
 - b. Be able to hold the bow properly
 - c. Be able to keep the bow straight and play in different parts of the bow
 - d. The symbols for Down and Up bow
7. Musical Terms
 - a. Pizzicato, Arco
 - b. Solo, duet, tutti
 - c. Tempo – Andante, Moderato, Allegro
 - d. Melody, Harmony
 - e. Crescendo, diminuendo, retard, fermata
 - f. Dynamics – piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte
8. Conducting – Be able to follow a pattern of 2/4, 3/4/ or 4/4 time

* Students are given a music book at the beginning of the school year. If lost, the book must be replaced by the family at their own expense. Replacement books are available at some local music stores or through the publisher at <https://www.halleonard.com/ee/strings/book1.jsp>.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Michael Davis - Brass Instructor

Phillip Yao - Brass Instructor

Ruth Kasckow - Woodwinds Instructor

Shahid Osuna - Woodwinds Instructor

Sean Moriarty - Percussion Instructor

Colin Ring - Percussion Instructor

Beginning Band Instruments – Curriculum

1. Music book - Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 with online option * for clarinet, flute, alto saxophone, oboe, trumpet, trombone, baritone, French horn, or percussion
2. Know the parts of the instrument
3. Know how to properly care for the instrument
4. Know and understand the following music fundamentals
 - a. Line, staff, and clef signs
 - b. Measures and measure numbers
 - c. Reading music from the staff
 - i. be able to identify by sight all notes learned in class
 - ii. be able to figure out names of notes not learned in class
 - d. Rhythm
 - i. be able to count and perform accurately rhythms consisting of whole, half, dotted half, quarter and eighth notes in various combinations
 - ii. ties
 - e. Time signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff and what the numbers mean
 - f. Key signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff
 - ii. understand the information it gives
 - g. Repeat signs
 - i. first and second endings
 - ii. repeats within a section
 - h. Rests
 - i. be able to identify and perform whole, half, and quarter rests
 - i. Accidentals---sharps, flats, naturals
 - j. Articulation – tonguing and slurring
5. Know and understand what a Round is
6. Know and understand “Theme and Variations”
7. Understand how to read a fingering chart
8. Musical terms
 - a. Solo, soli, duet, tutti
 - b. Melody, harmony
 - c. Tempo
 - d. Accent
 - e. Fermata
 - f. Staccato, legato
 - g. Crescendo, decrescendo
 - h. Dynamics - piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte
9. Understand and be able to follow a conducting pattern in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time

* Students are given a music book at the beginning of the school year. If lost, the book must be replaced by the family at their own expense. Replacement books are available at some local music stores or through the publisher at

<https://www.halleonard.com/ee/band/book1.jsp>.

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Instrumental Music Students Will Need to Furnish the Following:

STRINGS

Violin, Viola

1. A proper-sized instrument (see music professional for sizing) with chin rest
2. Fine tuner on E string (violin) or A string (viola) with additional fine tuners as necessary (depending on string type)
3. A proper-sized bow with full hair and quality rosin
4. Durable case with bow holder
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil, cleaning cloth, shoulder pad (Kun highly recommended)

Cello

1. A proper-sized instrument (see music professional for sizing) with A string fine tuner (additional fine tuners as necessary)
2. Proper-sized bow with full hair and quality rosin
3. Cello strap or floor stop
4. Durable case
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil and cleaning cloth

BAND

Woodwinds - Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone

1. All keys, pads, corks, joints in good condition
2. Six new reeds – size 1 ½ or 2 strength (except flute)
3. Cork grease (except flute)
4. Cleaning cloth
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil

Brass - Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, French Horn

1. All valves, slides, water key with cork in working condition
2. Valve or slide oil and a cleaning cloth
3. Snake, mouthpiece brush
4. Music stand for home study
5. Pencil

Percussion

1. Percussion Kit – includes practice pad, bells, drum sticks *
2. Music stand for home study
3. Pencil

* Consult instructor for rental/purchase guidance

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Parent Communication

Good communication between Instructors, the Music Chairman, staff and parents is vital to the success of ALF Instrumental Music. We regularly send communications and updates to parents via email. Be sure to check your spam filter for emails from Active.com, our registration company, instrumentalmusic@alflintridge.org, programs@alflintridge.org or the individual instructors. Do not "unsubscribe" or you may not receive important notifications from ALF.

Throughout the year, we also post the same communications on the <https://www.alflintridge.org> website. You may wish to bookmark your student's class page. If you missed an email, look for the information there. If your email address or phone numbers change, you can make the correction yourself by going to your Online Account using the link on the class confirmation email you received after registering. It is critical to be able to reach you if any issue with your student should come up.

Consult the ALF Instrumental Music Calendar <https://alflintridge.org/music-calendar/> for the most up-to-date event days and times.

Informational Parent Meeting

Parents of both new and returning music students will benefit from attending the Informational Parent Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Please plan to join us via Zoom to learn more about this season of ALF Instrumental Music. This is a great opportunity to meet the Music Instructors and to get your questions answered. Sign up on the ALF website after October 12 to attend the online meeting.

Attendance

For the full benefit of the program, students are expected to attend class each week. It is extremely important that students are prepared with their instrument, music, and supplies in order to enter their Zoom class on time.

If your student is absent, contact the Music Instructor by email to let them know, so they are not waiting for your child to join their Zoom class.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

What You Will Need for Class

Music Folder & Music
Pencil
Instrument, Bow, Rosin (Strings)
Shoulder Rest (Violinists & Violists*)
Cleaning Cloth
Valve or Slide Oil (Brass)
Snake & Mouthpiece Brushes (Brass)
Cork Grease & Spare Reeds (Woodwinds)

Reminder - Class will start promptly and will end promptly. Please be ready **BEFORE** your Zoom class time begins.

And - Be sure to use a music stand at home for practice.

* Students playing a violin or viola will benefit greatly from the use of a recommended shoulder rest rather than a sponge. We strongly suggest purchasing a KUN shoulder rest in the appropriate size at one of the local string supply stores. Please call first to make sure that they have one in stock. Your instructor can guide you in determining the correct size. You do not need the most expensive Kun. The least expensive one will do just fine. The collapsible one is very convenient for fitting in the case. You can also purchase one online. Just be sure it is the right size. Local stores where you can purchase the KUN are:

Charles Music Store & Studios
421 North Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA 91206
818-242-6597

Metzler Violins
604 South Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204
818-246-0278

Bertrand's
145 Vista Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-793-4730

Southwest Strings <https://www.swstrings.com/>
Shar Music <https://www.sharmusic.com/>

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Practice, Practice, Practice!

Practicing on a daily basis is absolutely essential to your child's success in the music program. Students who practice retain information better and improve at a significantly faster rate than students who do not. Learning to play an instrument is a skill that requires coordination. There are hundreds of stories of students who at first didn't think they would ever be able to play, but because they practiced daily, they rose to the top of their class. Then there are students who never picked up their instrument between classes and ended up quitting due to frustration. Music should be a positive experience. Please help your child to get the most out of this opportunity.

Students are required to practice 4 days per week. Please encourage them to practice and check that they have completed their assignments. Any questions you have may be addressed by sending an email to the Instructor.

Practice Tips

1. Set aside a regular time of day that is "music time."
2. Have a special space in the house where your child will practice every day.
3. Purchase a music stand to encourage good playing posture.
4. Never criticize, only encourage!
5. 20 minutes a day of practicing is standard, however the focus should be on improvement, not on the amount of time spent practicing.
6. After they are finished practicing, please make sure they have completed their assignments.
7. Violinists and Violists should always practice while standing.
8. Brass and Woodwind students may sit or stand while practicing.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2020-2021

Behavior Standards

The Instrumental Music program is intended for students who are genuinely interested in learning to play an instrument. Because of the responsibility placed on each student and because of the necessity for harmonious group interaction, any student who is discourteous, disruptive or uncooperative will not be retained. Students are also expected to be fully prepared and on time for their Zoom class and to follow online protocols during their class time.

Procedure

If students are discourteous, disruptive or uncooperative, the following steps will be taken:

1. First infraction: The student will be warned and the warning recorded.
2. Second infraction: The student will be warned and parents notified. The warning will be recorded.
3. Third infraction: The student will be excluded from further participation in the program. The parents will be notified. Any rented instrument must be returned immediately.

As an acknowledgement of the above, parents sign the Behavior Standards agreement as part of the online Music Registration process.

Keep this explanation of behavior standards for your records.