Please read the following information. By submitting an application to ISA you agree to these terms.

Overview

Illinois String Academy instruction is based on the Suzuki method and teaching philosophy, the work of Paul Rolland, Mimi Zweig, Ivan Galamian and traditional methods.

Students enrolled in the full program attend a private lesson and a group class each week. Group classes are currently available for Beginners and Suzuki book 1-2 level violin students. More advanced students may enroll in private lessons with optional chamber music opportunities and/or music theory courses. Private instruction is currently available for the violin and viola. All students are provided consistent opportunity to perform throughout the year.

Interested parents and students should contact the program’s director, Aaron Jacobs, to determine the best course of study. An introductory consultation and/or trial lesson may be scheduled free of charge.

Registration

New Students (Beginners)
Parents of interested students should review the information in this document and may complete an application at any time. We encourage you to complete your application no later than August 21, 2015 to avoid a delayed start to the semester.

New beginning students are generally accepted between the ages of 5 and 8, but there are exceptions, and inquiries are welcomed from all. Parents and students are encouraged to schedule a free introductory consultation and/or trial lesson.

Transfer Students (Students with previous playing experience)
There are many different methods and approaches of learning how to play a stringed instrument. The Illinois String Academy has a specific curriculum that all students enrolled in group classes learn. An incoming transfer student can start working with a private teacher right away, but may need to spend some time learning the curriculum before participating in group classes. A certain amount of group class observation may also be involved. The way in which a transfer student is integrated into the program will vary depending on a student’s background and is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes students are referred to standard private lessons without group classes. Please contact the Director or the Office of Public Engagement for more information and to schedule a free consultation and/or trial lesson.

Scheduling
Private lessons are scheduled directly with your private teacher. Group classes for beginners will take place on Wednesdays at 5:30 throughout the academic year. As this is a new program, group classes for non-beginners will be scheduled based upon need and enrollment.

**Tuition**

- Spring private lesson tuition – includes 15 weekly lessons, and up to one hour of rehearsal time with an accompanist.
  - 30 minute lessons | $330
  - 45 minute lessons | $480
  - 60 minute lessons | $625
  - 90 minute lessons | $900
- Spring group class tuition – includes 13 weekly group classes
  - 60 minute classes | $195
- Billing for extra lessons, summer lessons, or chamber music options, to be arranged as needed.

**Billing Options**

- Payment may be made by check (payable to “University of Illinois”) or credit card through a U of I secure credit card site.
- Tuition may be paid in full at the start of the semester or in two installments due at the beginning of the term and during the 7th week (Feb. 22, 2016).

**Registration Deadline**

Applications are considered at any time, but we encourage enrollment no later than the Friday before each semester begins in order to avoid delay in joining the class.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Illinois String Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, gender, ethnic origin or religious belief in its admission, student aid or other educational practices.

**Finding an Instrument**

*Do not purchase an instrument without your teacher’s approval!* A well set-up instrument is essential to the development of young string players. Your teacher will also help to determine the correct size of instrument that is needed. Smaller is better than larger.

**Suggested Instrument Providers**

William Harris Lee Violin Shop  
410 South Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(800) 447-4533  
info@whlee.net  
www.whlee.com

Shar Music
For purchase: Franz Hoffman Etude series or higher recommended
For rent: premium outfit or higher recommended
2465 S. Industrial
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(800) 248-7427
sharway@sharmusic.com
www.sharmusic.com

**Policies & Guidelines**

**Parental Involvement**
Consistent evidence and extensive experience has shown that the amount learned and the speed with which it is learned is directly associated with the amount of parent involvement. Parents are highly encouraged to attend private lessons and group classes, take notes for students during lessons, and assist students during at-home practice sessions. Studying the instrument along side your son or daughter is also encouraged for those who are interested. As students grow and mature, the amount of parental involvement required gradually lessens.

**Concurrent Study**
Students enrolling into the Illinois String Academy cannot be concurrently studying that same instrument or discipline with another private teacher without the approval of the Director.

**Accompanists**
Tuition supports the engagement of pianists at group classes, master classes and associated performances. Private lesson tuition covers up to one hour of rehearsal plus any Academy performances for the semester. For any additional rehearsals, private lessons or outside performances, you may need to hire a pianist. Please consult with your private teacher before hiring a pianist.

**Private Lesson Attendance**
Student will be granted a specific time and day each week for private lessons, to be agreed upon with the private teacher. It is expected that the day/time chosen will remain a constant weekly time throughout a given semester, with the exception of published university breaks.

- Only one cancellation is permitted per semester, for any reason. Teachers are not obligated to make up additional cancelled lessons and no refund will be issued.
- If the teacher cancels a lesson, it will be made up.
- Parents are encouraged to trade lessons with other students when conflicts arise.
- Parents are responsible to give reasonable notice to their teacher in the event of a cancellation or traded lesson.
- Extenuating circumstances will always be taken under consideration at the discretion of the private teacher.

**Group Class Attendance**
- Group lessons are an integral part of the learning experience for the student, and for that reason attendance is required.
- Students are billed for group classes regardless of attendance.
- If a student misses more than two group classes in a semester, discussion with the teacher will need to occur to determine the students continued level of involvement.
- If a student is not adequately prepared for a performance due to frequent absences, they may not be allowed to participate.
• If a group class is cancelled due to extenuating circumstances, every effort will be made to reschedule.

Behavior
The lobbies and hallways serve as both a waiting area for students prior to classes and a meeting place for parents, students and faculty. Students should speak quietly in these areas to prevent interference with instructors in nearby studios.

Parents are responsible for curtailing running, loud play and any dangerous or annoying behavior on the part of their youngsters. Young children must be supervised by their parents or an adult at all times.

Concert Etiquette
Students must arrive on time and stay for the entire concert as a courtesy to the other performers. Students should dress appropriately for a concert. It is requested that cameras without flash be used, or if flash must be used, please wait until the end of the performance. Please respect other performers while they are playing by not talking, rustling papers, or leaving or entering the room.

Withdrawal
We encourage students to complete the entire semester session. The general policy is no tuition refund for withdrawn students. Extenuating situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Withdrawal requests must be made in writing and approved before a refund or credit is issued.

Dismissals
We reserve the right to dismiss any student due to delinquent payment of tuition, frequent absences or tardiness, failure to practice, behavioral problems, etc.

Conflicts
Parents/students should make every effort to resolve instructional or personal issues with their private teacher. Teachers will do their best to respond to individual needs. The Office of Public Engagement is available for consultation in case of serious need.

Revised: June 18, 2015