

Welcome to The Real School of Music!

We are excited to begin your child's musical journey together and share in the Yamaha Music Education Philosophy:

1. **Timely Education** - It's great to start at a young age! Yamaha introduces music fundamentals to children at a time when their hearing capabilities are rapidly developing.
2. **Group Learning** - Making music with friends is fun! The Teacher + Parent + Child triangle enables children to make friends through music, develop cooperativeness, and deepen their understanding of music through participation in ensembles.
3. **Nurturing Creativity** - Make your own music! Yamaha's comprehensive approach to music learning helps children develop musical sensitivity, imagination, and the ability to express themselves freely.



“A refreshing course for child and family to work together in music literacy and foster a healthy family atmosphere.”

- Andover Yamaha Parent

Class Descriptions

Music Wonderland - Ages 3 to 3.5

Music Wonderland is designed to provide children with an introduction to music in a positive and enjoyable atmosphere. Together with their parents, children experience singing, introductory keyboard activities, movement, and listening to music. Music Wonderland lays the foundation for a lifetime of enjoyable music-making through these carefully planned activities.

- Course length: 36 weeks over 2 semesters
- Class schedule: One 45-minute class per week
- Parent participation: Required
- Age: Children must have reached their 3rd birthday by September 15 for fall session classes and February 15 for spring session classes. This requirement helps ensure that children are enrolled in a course for which they are developmentally ready.



Junior Music Course - Ages 4 to 5

Junior Music Course is a 2-year program that provides an incomparable foundation for future musical study on any instrument. Children experience singing, music reading and writing, ear training, repertoire (keyboard pieces), ensemble playing, solfège (music language), theory, and music rudiments.

- Course length: 2 years leading to an advanced course
- Class schedule: One 55-minute class per week
- Keyboard requirement: a keyboard is required at home
- Parent participation: Required; this enables the parent to be an effective “at home” learning partner
- Age: Children must have reached their 4th birthday by September 15 for fall session classes and February 15 for spring session classes. This requirement helps ensure that children are enrolled in a course for which they are developmentally ready.



Young Musicians Course - Ages 6 to 7

Young Musicians Course is founded on the belief that every child loves music. During this three-year program, children participate in activities that teach basic musical skills and encourage independence, creativity, and self-expression. The course appeals to the imagination of a young mind and becomes an integral part of your child’s growth.

- Course length: 3 years, leading to an advanced course
- Class schedule: One 55-minute class per week
- Keyboard requirement: a keyboard is required at home
- Parent participation: Parents may attend the class, but are not required



Our year of music will culminate in a Yamaha Concert Day! Students have the opportunity to perform on stage with their classmates.

What will my child learn in Yamaha Music Class?

Musical Benefits:

- ❖ Singing
- ❖ Ear training
- ❖ Repertoire (keyboard pieces)
- ❖ Keyboard technique
- ❖ Theory
- ❖ Ensemble playing (group performances)
- ❖ Sight singing
- ❖ Sight playing
- ❖ Solfege
- ❖ Songs with words
- ❖ Understanding note names, pitch, and rhythm
- ❖ Musical foundation for *any* instrument

Social Benefits:

- ❖ General musicianship
- ❖ Musical appreciation
- ❖ Self discipline
- ❖ Communication skills
- ❖ Confidence in performance
- ❖ Social skills
- ❖ Cooperation
- ❖ Self expression
- ❖ Development of emotional sensitivity
- ❖ Sense of harmony

Yamaha Class Tuition

Music Wonderland (age 3): \$550 per 18-week session

Junior Music Course (age 4-5): \$649 per 18-week session

Young Musicians Course (age 6-7): \$649 per 18-week session

- Tuition includes: Yamaha book, CD, student practice binder, and a Real School bag!
- A discount of 10% is given for siblings enrolled in the school.
- Payment plans are available; please ask.
- Yamaha semesters run from September-February and February-June

Don't miss this opportunity - enroll your child TODAY!

Enrollment is available at the front desk; stop by in person or give us a call at: (978) 475-1223.

An academic calendar, attendance policy, class rules, and required materials will be provided the first day of class.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Yamaha Music Education System (YMES)?

Designed to meet the unique needs and developmental stages of each age group, Yamaha programs develop each student's comprehensive musical ability in an environment that inspires a love of music and a lifetime of active music participation.

How is Yamaha Different from Piano Lessons?

The Yamaha curriculum is broad compared to traditional private piano lessons. Children sing solfège, play the keyboard, sing songs with lyrics, move to music, play rhythm and keyboard ensembles and participate in music appreciation activities. They develop diverse musical skills without prematurely focusing on one instrument or style. This approach allows students to choose their future musical path when they are more physically and mentally mature. Yamaha students are often leaders in school orchestra, band, and choir programs.

Will My Child Learn to Play the Piano or Keyboard?

Yes! For ages 4 and up, an instrument is required at home (keyboard or piano). Children enjoy playing the keyboard and can become excellent pianists with Yamaha's holistic approach.

Are Students Required to Practice?

Yes. For ages 4 and up, Yamaha's programs require parents to spend time making music at home with their child. Students receive 'homework' to reinforce the classroom activities. This serves as a guide for parents as they begin to integrate fun, active music-making into the daily life of the family. We provide our parents with tools to support their time outside of the classroom.

How Do I Know If My Child Is Ready For Music Lessons?

We believe that all children can learn and are ready to begin music training at a young age. Our programs are carefully designed to meet the unique needs and developmental stages of each age group.

Should Parents Have a Musical Background?

Parents do not have to have a musical background to support their child's learning. In the first few years, parents are deeply involved and learn right along with their child. Parent support and commitment are the most important.

How Long are the Lessons?

Classes meet one time per week for 55 minutes (age 3/ Music Wonderland meets for 45 minutes). Each book lasts for one semester (fall or spring), and is 18 lessons.

What is the Tuition?

Classes range from \$25-30 per lesson. Students enroll for the semester or year and pay by semester. Payment plans are available. Please talk to any front desk staff.

How Many Children Are in the Class?

Classes are typically taught to groups up to 8 children. This format motivates children and provides an opportunity to develop ensemble skills and cooperation within a supportive community of friends and parents.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What is the Parent's Role?

Parental attendance facilitates accelerated growth. The parent/child partnership is active, not passive. Each partnership develops into a mini-ensemble, where co-learning, co-practicing and co-discovering can be enjoyed in class and at home.

How is Yamaha Different from Other Preschool or Elementary School-Aged Programs?

Most music programs share a common goal to introduce children to the joy of music making. Real School's Yamaha program is unique because:

- **Teachers** Our Yamaha faculty has a genuine commitment to teaching beginning musicians and are certified by Yamaha through extensive training and rigorous exams.
- **Fun and Rewarding** Children can have fun *and* achieve a high level of music proficiency.
- **Play** Performance opportunities are available in a wide variety of settings to increase students' confidence and create goals for the class.
- **Curriculum** Materials include books, CD's, DVD's and other materials that combine decades of experience with the most recent research in music education.
- **International History** We are part of a vibrant international network of Yamaha education centers in over 40 countries. More than 6 million students over 50 years have learned to play using the Yamaha method.

How is Yamaha Different from the Suzuki Method?

The Yamaha curriculum and the Suzuki Method both began in post World War II Japan. They share some core concepts, such as teaching music like a language (introducing music in a manner similar to native language acquisition, or 'mother tongue approach'), timely education (training at a young age) and a belief that all children can learn.

Some general differences include:

➤ **Group or Private Lesson**

Yamaha: emphasis on an immersion into the musical community through group classes, ensembles, parents, teachers, friends and concerts.

Suzuki: while the musical community is valued, the emphasis is on the individual lesson.

➤ **Early Emphasis on Comprehensive Musicianship or Instrument Technique**

Yamaha: systematic and comprehensive training model includes singing, ear training, movement and music appreciation. In the beginning, the keyboard is a tool to confirm a broad range of musical abilities. While private lessons are an important part of the curriculum, they are added later when the student is more physically and mentally mature. Yamaha students develop melody and harmony simultaneously.

Suzuki: students acquire fundamental musical skills. However, there is an early emphasis on specific instrument technique (violin, etc); during the lessons, time and effort is spent on holding the instrument, bowing, and producing a sound. The student develops a keen sense of melody, one line of music, rather than melody and harmony together.

➤ **Curriculum Materials and Assessment**

Yamaha: broad range of materials: method books and workbooks, CD's and DVD's in a variety of musical styles; integrated use of repertoire and tools to develop the child's musicianship. After two years, children may take the Yamaha Fundamental Skills Survey (FSS). As they advance through the curriculum, students may take the Yamaha Grade Exam.

Suzuki: in general, students learn musical concepts and instrument technique with a reliance on listening to and playing a single piece, rather than multiple pieces and styles.