

# pcm

PORTLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



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# welcome to pcm

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**We're so glad you're here.** At PCM, we believe Everyone is a Musician—and that means you. Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time or honing years of skill, you're now part of a vibrant community dedicated to musical growth, discovery, and excellence.

Every musician's journey is unique, and we're here to walk that path with you. For most, that journey begins—and is grounded—in the one-on-one lesson. It's the heart of what we do at PCM, where deep connections between teacher and student are forged, and where artistry is shaped over time.

As you explore this booklet, we hope you start to see your own

pathway unfolding. You'll find a range of opportunities designed to broaden your experience and strengthen your skills—from ensembles across genres and levels, to inspiring concerts right here in our beautiful performance space, to programs that connect you with the greater musical world beyond our walls.

Becoming the musician you're meant to be is a process of dedication, discovery, and joy. It takes time and effort, but the rewards are immense—and you won't be doing it alone. You're now part of the PCM family, and we're excited to support you every step of the way.

**Let's get started.** 

## Quick Facts

- Ages 3+
- All levels
- Weekly lessons

# private lessons

**At the heart of every musician's growth is the one-on-one lesson.** This is where the magic happens—where you connect closely with a teacher who sees your potential, understands your goals, and helps you move toward them, step by step.

Private lessons at PCM are open to students of all ages and levels, from absolute beginners to advanced musicians preparing for college auditions or professional work. Lessons are offered year-round, and we match each student with a faculty member based on instrument, experience, musical interests, and learning style. Our faculty are some of the most accomplished and dedicated musicians in the region—people who don't just teach music, but have a deep passion for it. They're here to guide you, challenge you, and celebrate your growth.

You don't need to know where your musical path will lead—only that you're ready to begin or keep going. Private lessons are a foundation, a launching point, and a place to return to again and again.

Whether you're learning your first notes or diving deeper into repertoire, we're here to support your progress—and make the journey meaningful, personal, and full of discovery.



# performance opportunities

**Performance is an essential part of growth**—not just a final step, but an integral part of the learning process. That's why we offer a range of supportive and inspiring opportunities to get up and play. All included with your tuition. All designed to help you grow.



## PERFORMANCE LAB

Think of this as PCM's version of an open mic: low-pressure, low-stakes, and entirely about progress. Whether you've got a polished piece, a rough draft of a movement, or a few measures you're just starting to shape, monthly Performance Labs are your space to test it out. You'll play for an audience of fellow students and supportive faculty, and get more comfortable expressing yourself musically—mistakes, breakthroughs, and all.

## RECITAL WEEKS

Twice a year—in January and June—we celebrate our students' hard work with Recital Weeks, a series of 10+ performances showcasing both individual and ensemble achievement. You'll hear everything from solo piano to jazz combos, cello choir to the Middle Eastern ensemble. These are proud, joyful events where families, friends, and the entire PCM community come together to witness your progress and passion.

## COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, we bring music out into the wider world. PCM students have the opportunity to perform off-site at community events, public spaces, and partner venues across Greater Portland. It's a chance to share your music beyond these walls, connect with new audiences, and experience what it means to be an artist in the community.



- Ages 10+ (or younger w/ instructor approval)
- 3+ years of experience
- Must be able to read music

- Weekly coachings & rehearsals
- Perform in Jan and Jun Recital Weeks



# chamber music

**There's something extraordinary about chamber music**—The way it demands communication, deep listening, and trust between players. At PCM, our Chamber Music Program gives musicians of all ages and experience levels the chance to explore that rich, collaborative world in small ensembles coached by our expert faculty.

Whether you're playing in a string quartet, a wind trio, or a creative mix of instruments and voices, you'll learn to rehearse with intention, problem-solve as a group, and shape a shared artistic vision. All ensembles perform in our Chamber Music Recitals, held during PCM's Recital Weeks in January and June—milestones that celebrate your ensemble's growth and artistry.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

If you've got at least three years of experience on your instrument and solid note-reading skills, this program is for you. We welcome a wide range of skill levels—from early-intermediate students to seasoned adults—and we work carefully to match each group by ability and musical maturity. To help with placement, new participants may be asked to submit a brief recording of their playing after registration. It's not an audition—just a way for us to get a sense of where you are so we can form a well-balanced group.

## ALREADY PLAY WITH A GROUP?

Fantastic. Bring your existing ensemble into the program and work with a PCM coach to take your group to the next level. You'll gain new tools for collaboration, musicianship, and performance—and deepen your connection as an ensemble.





- Ages 12+ (or younger w/ instructor approval)
- 2+ years of experience
- Tuesday night rehearsals

- Perform in Jan and Jun Recital Weeks

Quick  
Facts

# jazz ensembles

**PCM's Jazz Ensembles give students the opportunity to explore one of America's most vital and dynamic musical traditions—together.** Open to instrumentalists and vocalists with at least two years of experience and a working knowledge of their instrument, these small groups are grounded in ensemble playing, improvisation, and personal expression.

You'll rehearse weekly with a faculty coach, dive into classic and contemporary jazz repertoire, and develop skills in listening, timing, and communication—on and off the bandstand. Each group is tailored to the interests and experience levels of its members, with placements made through a short playing sample submitted after registration.

## **ALREADY PLAY WITH A GROUP?**

If you're part of an existing group, you're welcome to bring your combo into the program and take advantage of PCM's expert coaching. We'll help you refine your sound and strengthen your group dynamic.



# other performing ensembles

**At PCM, your musical journey doesn't have to follow a traditional path.** In addition to our Chamber and Jazz Ensembles, we offer a range of unique group experiences that highlight the diversity and depth of music from around the world—and the power of collaboration.

Some ensembles are ongoing staples of our semester programming, like the Middle Eastern Ensemble or Cello Choir. Others evolve based on interest, faculty specialties, and student

creativity. What they all share is a focus on learning together, building community, and performing music that expands your horizons.





# other classes

**Not every musical experience fits into a lesson or ensemble—and at PCM, we like it that way.** Throughout the year, we offer a range of classes designed to expand your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and connect you with new ideas and approaches.

These offerings vary by semester and are shaped by student interest and faculty expertise. Whether you're diving into the structure behind the music or picking up a new style for the first time, these classes provide fresh ways to grow as a musician.

## **PAST AND OCCASIONAL OFFERINGS HAVE INCLUDED:**

### **Music Theory**

Build a stronger foundation in how music works, from rhythm and harmony to form and analysis.

### **Fiddle Classes**

Learn traditional fiddle styles and techniques in a fun group setting.

### **Ear Training & Musicianship**

Improve your ability to listen, recognize, and respond to musical elements.

### **Special Topic Workshops**

Short-term classes focused on specific skills, genres, or traditions.

We're always listening for what our students are curious about, and for new ways to support your growth. Keep an eye out for classes that spark your interest—and don't hesitate to tell us what you'd like to see next!



# suzuki

**The Suzuki Method is rooted in the belief that every child can learn to play music—**Just as every child learns to speak their native language. With the right environment, loving support, and consistent exposure, musical ability is not a rare gift—it's something that can be nurtured in everyone.

At PCM, our Suzuki Program offers young students and their families a holistic and time-tested approach to music education. Designed for children as young as three years old, Suzuki is about

much more than learning an instrument—it's about cultivating character, discipline, listening, joy, and shared experiences.

- Ages 3+
- Weekly Private Lesson & Thursday Group Classes
- Perform in Jan and Jun Recital Weeks

## Quick Facts

### WHAT MAKES SUZUKI DIFFERENT?

#### Learning by Ear Comes First

Just like spoken language, students first hear music long before reading it. Daily listening is key, and memorization is expected and celebrated.

#### Group Class + Private Lessons

Students attend weekly private lessons and group classes. Group classes reinforce skills, foster motivation, and create community—learning from and with peers in a joyful, supportive setting.

#### Parents as Learning Partners

Parents are essential. They attend all lessons, take notes, and guide daily practice at home. No musical background is needed—just commitment and encouragement.

#### No Auditions or Aptitude Tests

Suzuki is open to all students—no “talent” required. We believe ability is developed, not pre-determined.

#### Early Start, Lasting Impact

Most children begin between ages 3–5, but the method supports learners at any age. Many continue well into advanced playing levels.

#### Well-Trained Teachers

All Suzuki instructors at PCM are registered with the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) and trained to teach in alignment with the method's philosophy and pedagogy.

One of the hallmarks of the Suzuki experience is group class. These sessions, held consistently throughout the year, provide students a chance to play together, review familiar pieces, observe others, and grow in confidence. Group classes are not optional—they're central to the method and the sense of shared journey it creates.

Public performances, both formal and informal, are built into the experience. Frequent performance normalizes stage presence and helps students become confident, expressive musicians—without the pressure of competition.

If you're looking for a nurturing, structured, and joyful way to begin your child's musical journey, the Suzuki method offers a powerful foundation—and a community to walk with you every step of the way.

**Quick  
Facts**

- Ages: Adult
- 3 performance cycles/year

# southern maine new horizons band

**Your best is good enough!** The Southern Maine New Horizons Band (SMNHB), in residence at PCM, offers a welcoming and supportive environment for adults who want to make music—whether you’re picking up an instrument for the first time, returning after years away, or just looking for a new way to connect and grow.

The program is part of the international New Horizons Music movement, which is built on one powerful idea: music-making is for everyone, at every stage of life. No auditions. No pressure. Just the joy of learning, playing, and performing together.

Whether you’re returning to music or starting fresh, Southern Maine New Horizons Band offers a joyful, low-pressure way to play, grow, and belong. Join us—you’re never too late, you’re never alone, and YOUR BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH.

**SMNHB IS OPEN TO ADULT MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS, INCLUDING:**

**Absolute beginners**

**Those returning to their instrument after a long break**

**Experienced players seeking a supportive ensemble**



# workshops & masterclasses



**Throughout the year, we offer workshops and masterclasses** that bring students face-to-face with inspiring performers, seasoned educators, and thoughtful leaders in the musical world.

These one-time or short-term experiences are designed to spark insight, expand perspective, and give students the chance to engage more deeply with their instrument, their body, their creativity—and each other.

Some sessions are open to all; others are tailored to specific instruments, genres, or levels. What they all share is a spirit of exploration and a chance to learn directly from artists at the top of their field.

## **PAST WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES HAVE INCLUDED:**

### **Piano Masterclasses**

Learn from concert pianists and pedagogues in live coaching sessions, where students perform and receive feedback in front of peers and community members.

### **Jazz Workshops**

Offered in conjunction with PCM's Dimensions in Jazz concert series, these sessions have featured internationally recognized artists leading hands-on improvisation clinics, listening sessions, and genre deep-dives.

### **Collaborative Piano**

Explore the art of working with other musicians—vocalists, instrumentalists, and ensembles—through skills-based classes for pianists.

### **Intro to Chamber Music**

For those new to chamber playing, this workshop introduces the fundamentals of small ensemble collaboration, communication, and preparation.

### **Intro to Somatics for Musicians**

Learn how awareness of posture, breath, and body mechanics can improve your technique, reduce tension, and prevent injury.

### **New Orleans Jazz**

Dive into the roots of jazz through workshops focused on traditional New Orleans styles—where rhythm, melody, and community come together.

Workshops and masterclasses are a chance to step outside your routine, challenge yourself, and connect with artists and peers in new ways. When you're ready to stretch, we'll be here with the next opportunity.

# adult classes



**Music lessons aren't just for kids.** At Portland Conservatory of Music, we welcome adult learners at every stage of life—whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time, returning after years away, or pursuing the next level of your artistry.

We believe music is a lifelong journey, and adult students are an essential part of the PCM community. You bring focus, curiosity, and a deep personal connection to your studies—and we're here to support you with programs that are flexible, engaging, and tailored to your goals.

### **Why Study Music as an Adult?**

Research confirms what lifelong musicians already know: learning music as an adult has wide-reaching benefits. It sharpens memory and focus, lowers stress, improves coordination, and builds meaningful social connections. Most of all, it brings joy and a renewed sense of purpose.

And no—you're not too late.

You don't need to have childhood training. You don't need to be "talented." You just need the desire to learn.

Music is for you—right now, right where you are.

### **WHAT WE OFFER:**

#### **Private Lessons**

One-on-one instruction with professional faculty. Lessons are open to all levels, on most instruments and voice.

#### **Chamber Music & Jazz Ensembles**

Collaborate with other adult musicians in small groups with faculty coaching, a welcoming space to rehearse, perform, and grow as a group player.

#### **Southern Maine New Horizons Band**

A concert band designed specifically for adult musicians—beginners and returners alike. No auditions. No pressure. Just the joy of playing together.

#### **Cello Choir**

A dynamic ensemble for adult cellists of mixed levels, focused on building skills, boosting sight-reading, and experiencing the joy of playing as one resonant voice.

#### **Middle Eastern Ensemble**

An inclusive group for adults exploring the music of Turkey, Armenia, and the Arab world. No prior experience with the genre required—just curiosity, collaboration, and a love of rhythm and melody.

#### **Classes**

Depending on interest, classes offered could include music theory, musicianship, somatics, and more.

#### **Workshops & Masterclasses**

Dive deeper with short-term opportunities in improvisation, technique, and more. Offerings vary by semester and are open to all interested adults.

#### **Performance Opportunities**

From informal performance labs to formal recital week performances, adults at PCM are encouraged—but never required—to share their music publicly in a supportive setting.

# perks & benefits

**Being a PCM student means more than just weekly lessons or rehearsals.** It means joining a vibrant, supportive community with access to meaningful musical opportunities that go far beyond the classroom. Every current PCM student is eligible for a wide range of perks designed to enrich your experience, deepen your learning, and connect you with the music and people that make this place special.

## ALL PCM STUDENTS RECEIVE:

### Free Tickets to All Dimensions in Jazz & Classical Dimensions Concerts

Use the code PCMSTUDENT when reserving online for complimentary admission to these world-class performances.

### Discounted Tickets for Family Members

Invite your family to join you—tickets are just \$10 with the code PCMFAMILY for all Dimensions in Jazz & Classical Dimensions Concerts.

### Recital Performances

Perform in formal Recital Week concerts twice per year—open to all private lesson students and ensemble members.

### Monthly Performance Labs

Play in informal, low-pressure “open mic” style labs designed for experimentation, progress, and peer support.

### Masterclasses & Dimensions in Jazz Workshops

Access a range of special learning opportunities throughout the year—from guest artist sessions to jazz intensives.

### Use of PCM Studios

Practice in one of our well-equipped studios during building hours when space is available.

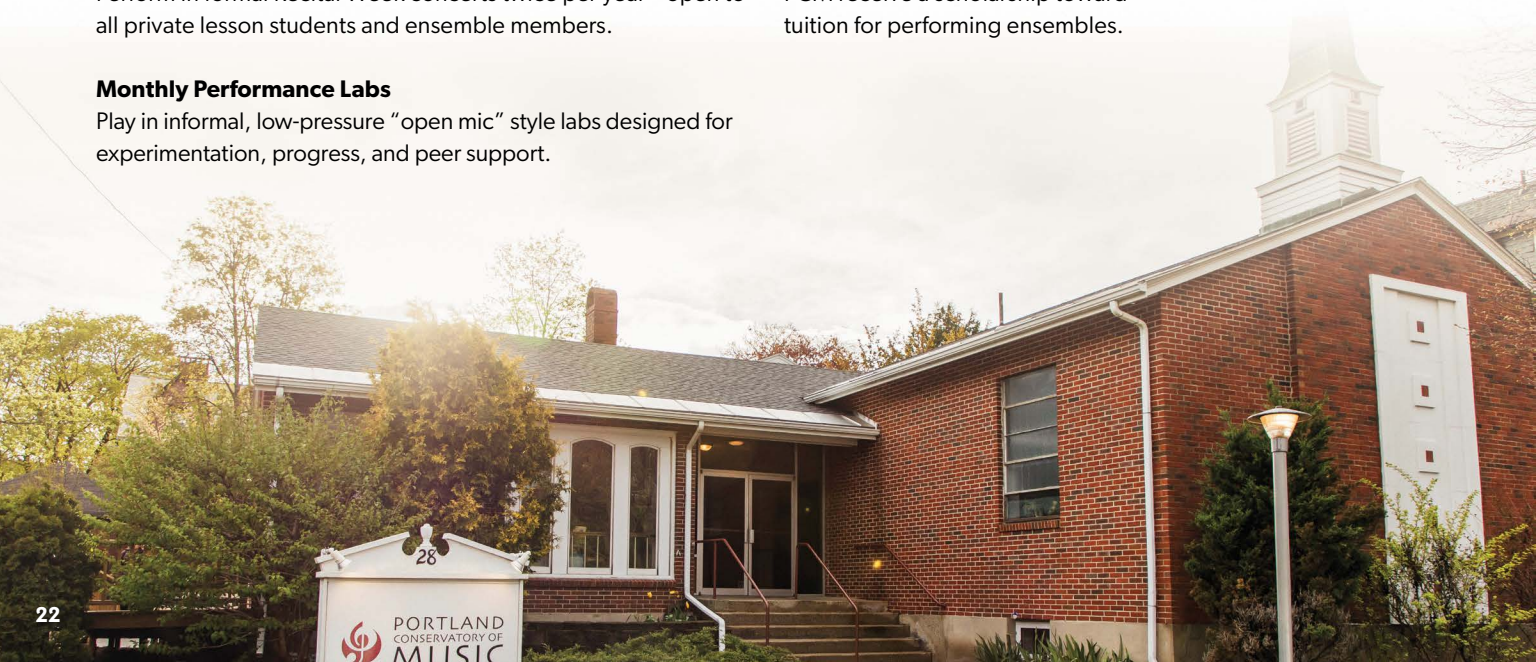
### Ensemble Scholarships for Private Lesson Students

All students taking private lessons at PCM receive a scholarship toward tuition for performing ensembles.



Whether you're here to grow, perform, explore new genres, or just enjoy the process, PCM provides the tools, access, and encouragement to make your experience meaningful—inside and outside the lesson room.

These perks aren't extras—they're part of what makes PCM a true musical home.



# policies & procedures

**At Portland Conservatory of Music, we strive to create a welcoming and well-organized environment for all students, families, faculty, and staff.** We welcome learners at every stage of life—whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time, returning after years away, or pursuing the next level of your artistry.

These guidelines are designed to ensure clear communication, mutual respect, and a shared understanding of how we work together as a community. Because our policies may be updated from time to time to reflect new programs, feedback, or evolving needs, we encourage all current and prospective students to review the most up-to-date version on our website.

**FOR THE MOST CURRENT POLICIES, PLEASE VISIT:**

[pcm.org/student-policies](https://pcm.org/student-policies)

**THERE YOU'LL FIND FULL DETAILS ABOUT:**

**Tuition and payment information**

**Cancellations and make-up lessons**

**Attendance expectations**

**Studio use and facility guidelines**

**And other important information**

If you ever have questions about how something works—or what's expected—please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, and we want your experience at PCM to be positive, productive, and enjoyable from start to finish.



# your student portal

**Manage Your Musical Journey in One Place.** PCM uses registration software to make managing your schedule, payments, and class registrations simple and accessible.

Through your portal, you can view your account details anytime—giving you control over your family's musical journey with just a few clicks.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

**View and pay invoices**

**Set up a payment plan**

**Apply credits to future payments**

**Register for classes, ensembles, and workshops**

**Track completed lessons**

**Stay updated on any changes to lesson times**

**Review past enrollments**

**Add or update family member accounts**

**How to Access Your Portal**

Click on the STUDENT LOG IN button on the PCM homepage to access your portal. If you need help logging in or navigating your account, we're happy to assist—just reach out to the PCM office. Managing your music education should be as smooth and flexible as the learning itself.



**pcm.org**

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