



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6. HOW DO GROUP CLASSES WORK?

Our group classes are 30 minutes long and have only 2 students in the class. If we have one student starting the class by themselves, they receive 20 minutes of individual instruction with the teacher at the same group class rate, until we add the second student. We don't teach the class as a group, rather our teachers provide individualized instruction for each student. All our classes have students of different levels and ages. This unique approach combines the traditional one-on-one instruction with affordability of the group setting.

Structure

The teacher works with one student for a few minutes, then that student practices by themselves to solidify what they just learned, while the teacher works the same amount of time with the other student. Students are engaged with their instrument for the full duration of the class. Some theory or music history aspects are addressed with everybody as a group, but actual instrument training is tailored to fit each individual student, their needs and their learning pace, just like in individual lessons.

Are there levels or age groups?

NMA does not divide classes by levels or ages. We find the levels somewhat arbitrary, so we do not use them in our teaching styles. (For example, there are numerous piano and violin methods, and each method defines levels differently.) The small number of students in our long classes, allows us to give each student individualized attention and take them to very high levels of learning. We have piano students playing songs from books Level 4 in their group classes, and our guitar, voice, violin, and drum students regularly win prizes at IMA Competitions while taking group classes at NMA and diligently practicing at home. We find that mixing levels and ages allows the classes to be interesting and unpredictable, thus keeping students' attention.

*Please feel free to call us or e-mail if we have not provided sufficient answers
and we will be more than happy to offer additional clarifications.*

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