



# **Family Handbook**

## **2022-2023**

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## **History and Purpose**

Hailed as one of the Top 10 “Can’t Miss” Classical Musical Festivals in the US by NPR (npr.com), Bravo! Vail is the only Festival in North America to host four world-renowned orchestras in a single season. In 2022, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the St Paul Chamber Orchestra featured programs of the great classics, plus jazz and pops. Stellar chamber music artists, including members of resident orchestras, came together with musicians from our Chamber Musicians in Residence and Piano Fellows programs in an eclectic chamber music series.

While audiences come for a variety of reasons, they stay with Bravo! Vail for the ultimate trifecta: enjoying extraordinary music in the company of great friends and the natural beauty of the Vail Valley. Become a part of the Bravo! Vail community and attend as many concerts, educational programs and community engagement events as possible.

Bravo! Vail celebrated its 2022 season June 23<sup>rd</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of Artistic Director Anne-Marie McDermott. Bravo! Vail is a 501©3 Colorado non-profit organization, founded in 1987. It relies on the generous support of patrons and donors to maintain its status as one of the best music festivals in the world.

As stewards of extraordinary orchestral and chamber music in the Vail Valley, Bravo! Vail is proud to continue the tradition of providing the very best Education & Engagement programs for youth & adults. Inspiring a music-loving community, in which the finest performers, composers, instruments and instruction are accessible to everyone, is Bravo! Vail’s mission. The community support of this mission continues to help make music and the arts central parts of the Vail Valley. For young people especially, music can help to improve academic achievement, students’ self-esteem and their problem-solving skills. Like all of the arts, music inspires new generations to shape the world in which they live. Bravo! Vail is committed to making its programs fun, relevant and fulfilling.

## **Program Overview**

Hands-on, engaging, and energized, Bravo! Vail's **Music Makers *Haciendo Música* (MMHM)** goes far beyond playing an instrument. Exploring music at a young age can promote creativity, build self-esteem, and improve academic performance. Bravo! Vail is thrilled to provide MMHM to students living within the Eagle and Lake County School Districts.

Our teachers provide students and families the best possible learning environment in music, and act as leaders for our students in music and in this community. We celebrate the idea that each class brings a new opportunity for teachers & students to share musical experiences together. Our commitment combined with your support as parents will create the safe and inspiring space where our students can thrive as they explore the world of music.

The main goal of MMHM is to encourage and instill a lifelong love of classical music in each of our students while guiding them in their own musical growth.

### **Active Participation will allow a student to:**

- ❖ Gain an understanding of basic music theory; including rhythm & musical notation
- ❖ Be introduced to different areas of the performing arts and develop a lasting appreciation for the arts
- ❖ Receive quality musical instruction and build basic performance skills
- ❖ Build confidence and musical proficiency through performance opportunities
- ❖ Develop a diverse set of skills through the study of music
  - Building positive and respectful relationship with adults & fellow students
  - Public speaking/presentation/performance
  - Responsibility & preparedness
  - Perseverance

### **Student responsibilities:**

- ❖ Have all books prepared before the start of class
- ❖ Practice at least 15-30 minutes per day for at least 5 out of 7 days in the week (actual recommended time will be determined by the class level and student experience)
- ❖ Arrive 5 minutes early so class can start on time
- ❖ Be respectful of teachers, classmates, and instruments
- ❖ Let your teacher know if you are having a challenging day.
- ❖ Protect and store your instrument in safe spaces away from extreme temperatures, pets and curious siblings
- ❖ Thank your teacher for teaching you!

### **Parents/Guardians/Families, we encourage you to:**

- ❖ Provide a quiet and well-lit space for daily practice sessions
- ❖ Jointly choose and encourage a consistent time for daily practice. Progress will occur with increments of steep incline vs plateau vs regression vs defiance and even moments of refusal. On difficult days, choose to listen to music instead of practicing, or consider tapping out rhythms, or playing musical games as recommended by your teacher. The goal being that music becomes a culture in your home by being a part of every day.
- ❖ Protect and store the instruments in safe spaces away from extreme temperatures, pets and curious siblings
- ❖ Ensure that student has all materials ready for each class
- ❖ Support the student's involvement in classes and performances by communicating with your teacher, providing transportation, and attending performances.
- ❖ Communicate with teaching staff about any absences and/or other concerns that may affect a student's attention in class including learning challenges, life changes, social/school issues.
- ❖ Read Bravo! Vail emails for important information about our program and upcoming events.
- ❖ Participate in our Parent Association or Volunteer as needed.
- ❖ Be a Parent Ambassador-if you are enjoying your experience, let others know about us! Like our Facebook and Instagram, share our posts!

## Student Policies

### Attendance

Absences due to illness or emergency should be reported to teaching staff PRIOR to the absence if possible (*contact information for all staff members listed on the contact page of this document, please email and/or text*).

- **3** absences are permitted for any reason
- **4** absences: Teaching Staff and Director of Education will meet with the student's family to discuss specific situation, possible solutions and come to a decision as to next steps, if it becomes applicable
- **5** absences: Student will forfeit their spot in MMHM without a refund

### Behavior

#### **Step 1**

Barring any specific challenges that the teacher has been made aware of regarding a student, if a student requires teaching staff's repeated attention during class to be reminded of classroom expectations in terms of respecting equipment, classmates, and teacher, the student will be reminded of expectations during class up to two times and informed of Step 2 if behavior continues to third time and/or subsequent classes.

#### **Step 2**

Student requires further reminding of behavior expectations from teaching staff in subsequent classes. The student will then be asked to step back from the class group activity and quietly observe the remainder of the class so as to continue absorbing knowledge without the increased stimulation/expectation of participation.

Following class, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian directly to discuss the issue addressed in class and come to a solution for teacher and student to address the challenge and agree to a plan.

#### **Step 3**

If a student continues to struggle meeting the behavioral and classroom expectations of the program or is unable to accomplish Step 2, the student, class teacher, Director of Education and Engagement, and student's parents/guardians will meet to discuss the student's additional challenges, provide additional support if appropriate, or provide plan for transition from the program.

## **Communication**

All communication between parents and teachers will be through our Sawyer Tools online portal with the name **Bravo! Vail Education via Sawyer** or the **Bravo! Vail Education** email. Be sure to check your SPAM or JUNK and add the following addresses to your contact list: [education@bravovail.org](mailto:education@bravovail.org) and [info@trn.hellosawyer.com](mailto:info@trn.hellosawyer.com) Parents must check their personal email accounts for WEEKLY TEACHER UPDATES and any other announcements (i.e. weather cancellations, etc.).

**Classroom or Assignment Questions**-contact your Class Teacher

**Program, Schedule, Instrument, Registration or Scholarship Questions**-contact Amara Sperber, Programs Coordinator

**Administrative, Financial or any other issues that cannot be resolved by above contacts**-contact Aileen Pagán-Rohwer, Director of Education and Engagement

## **Materials**

Students are expected to bring their assigned books to class EVERY WEEK. These and any extra materials (hand-outs, activities) should be kept organized at home and be prepared ahead of the class start time.

After receiving these items at the beginning of the year it is the student's responsibility to bring all to each class. The student/family will be responsible for replacing lost items at normal purchasing price.

Teachers will monitor preparedness and if the student is having difficulty getting to class prepared, teachers may speak with parents to develop a solution.

Students with dual households may request additional materials for the second household. If possible, please consider making a donation to Bravo! Vail Education to cover the additional costs of the materials. Inform your teacher that you need additional materials.

Violin strings, shoulder rests, rosin, etc—we keep a minimal stock of replacement violin supplies at our Bravo! Vail office located in West Vail for students in need of emergency supplies. Call our office at 970.827.5700 or email us at [education@bravovail.org](mailto:education@bravovail.org). Alternatively, if you know what you need, you can contact Luther Strings to have the item shipped or replaced at their office.

## **Refund Policy**

If you and your student decide to leave MMHM, you must notify your teacher and the Director of Education and Engagement. If you cancel in the first two weeks of the program you will receive a full refund. If you cancel after the first two weeks but before January 1<sup>st</sup>, you will receive a half refund. If you cancel after January 1<sup>st</sup>, you will not receive a refund.