



WHY TAKE MUSIC, DANCE, & DRAMA LESSONS?

Increase memory & coordination skills,
enhance academic performance,
increase self-esteem, provide a
creative & emotional outlet,
build physical & mental
health.

SEE INSIDE:

Getting started, program
details, & more!

MUSIC THEORY COMPOSITION
MANDOLIN **PIANO** PRESCHOOL MUSIC
UKULELE **VOICE** Ballet
VIOLIN CONTEMPORARY
VIOLA **HIP HOP**
CELLO **GUITAR** JAZZ TODDLER DANCE
BRASS **DRUMS** ACTING
WOODWIND **ENSEMBLES** MUSICAL THEATER & MORE

WELCOME!

Dear Prospective Student:

Thanks so much for your interest in studying music, dance, and drama here with the Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts. Since 1978, we have brought the joy of the performing arts to thousands of families in our community. Our mission here at LAAPA is to instill a lifetime appreciation for the performing arts within each student.

If you are new to instruction in the performing arts, we highly encourage you to read on to learn about our wide variety of programs offered for all ages. Perhaps you are, or your child is, an experienced student. We're delighted to help you advance your training to the next level. Students sometimes reach a plateau, which can be difficult to break through. Our teachers at LAAPA use a variety of techniques to bring out the best in our students and ensure they reach their full potential.

LAAPA is consistently the Greater New Orleans' number one choice for private education in the performing arts, with over 600 five-star ratings on Google, Yelp, etc. After reviewing our brochure, we invite you to research our extensive website at www.laapa.com for even more in-depth information. Be sure to also visit us on social media at facebook.com/laapaface, instagram.com/louisianaacademy and youtube.com/laapatube to keep up with the latest at LAAPA!

Please don't hesitate to contact us or stop by our school for a tour during normal academy hours, especially if you have questions or would like more information on the programs we offer!



Ryan P. Cullen, Academy Director

GETTING STARTED IN LESSONS – Q&A

WHO DO WE TEACH?

Our programs are available to kids, teens, and adults, starting as early as 18 months with our Preschool Music I program. Students who are at least 18 months old and able to walk are ready for our Parent and Tot dance program. Most private music lessons begin at age 5. Acting classes begin at age 7. Adults may choose to study in any of our programs. See pp. 4-10 for a complete program/age guide!

WHAT IS LAAPA'S PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING?

Our faculty are here for one reason, and that is to help each student develop a love for the performing arts by sharing the skills necessary to play the songs, dance in the styles, or act & encapsulate the characters that YOU love. Because all students learn in different ways, each lesson is customized just for YOU in a FUN, RELAXED, and FIRST-CLASS teaching environment.

I'M A BRAND NEW BEGINNER, IS THAT OK?

Absolutely! We love beginners! Seeing the joy on their faces as they discover how to create new sounds for the first time or perform new steps is one of our biggest rewards as educators. Our faculty love getting students started on the right path to success! As all of our faculty members receive training from highly respected institutions, we are able to provide top rated instruction not only for beginners, but also for intermediate and advanced students as well. We are the school where students start and stay!

WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AT LAAPA?

We hold approximately 25-35 recitals/concerts/showcases each year. We also hold a festival called LAAPAFEST annually, where students are able to perform for a panel of judges, receive constructive feedback, and have a chance to be selected for our Honors Performance. All students who wish to participate in our recitals/concerts/showcases/contests are invited to perform! Performances are completely optional for our students as we want students to have an awesome first experience on stage when they are ready to do so!

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE TO MISS A LESSON?

LAAPA offers makeup lessons for any reason with or without advanced notice! LAAPA is the only school in the area to offer 1 hour makeup workshops for music students! Whenever you miss a music lesson, just inquire at the front desk to schedule a makeup workshop or sign up with our online portal. Dance and drama students may attend an alternate class for classes missed.

WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES LIKE?

All of our teachers have access to in-studio iPads and professional grade instruments/gear. Digital lesson planning is available to all students through our online software platform which allows teachers to share links to videos, audio, PDF, and a recap of each lesson. Teachers and students have access to our on campus recording studios for creating demos, full albums, music videos and more. Our campus performance halls with professional lighting and sound are available for our small productions.

**OUR MISSION HERE AT LAAPA IS
TO INSTILL A LIFETIME APPRECIATION FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS WITHIN EACH STUDENT.**

MUSIC

BRAND NEW TO MUSIC LESSONS?

Embark on a melodious journey with our dynamic music program! At LAAPA, we believe that music is more than just notes on a page: it's a powerful vehicle for learning, growth, and pure enjoyment. Our programs are crafted to blend the thrill of musical discovery with the joy of performance, providing students with an enriching experience that transcends the classroom.

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE TO START?

Adults can begin any program at any time. We teach many adult beginner students of all ages, even in their 60s and 70s. For children, starting at the right age is a key element to the success of their lessons at LAAPA. Some people will tell you "the sooner the better," but this is not always true. If a child begins lessons before they are developmentally or emotionally ready, their education could become more stressful than productive. Children who are older than the suggested earliest starting age usually do very well. These are the guidelines we have found to be successful in determining the age a child can begin taking music lessons.

PIANO LESSONS (AGES 5-ADULT)

At the heart of music is the piano, and it is no coincidence that the piano is often the first instrument of the beginning music student.

Its comprehensive and visual nature within the fundamental realm of music allows for an education that will translate well into any other area of music. Instruction is available in all styles such as classical, jazz, pop, blues, country, rock, contemporary christian, etc.





GUITAR/BANJO/UKULELE LESSONS (AGES 5-ADULT)

Ukulele lessons begin at age 5, while guitar, bass, banjo, and mandolin lessons begin between the ages of 6-7. Students will have a blast learning songs from their favorite bands and musicians, reading melodies, and constructing chords. Because of its smaller size, students ages 5-6 will have a much easier time and more fun learning ukulele for a year or two before switching to guitar at age 7. Their experience and progress on the ukulele will translate over to guitar and other larger stringed instruments perfectly.



VOICE LESSONS (AGES 5-ADULT)

Voice/singing lessons train, strengthen, and enhance the student's voice. For students between the ages of 5-12, lessons consist of learning fun traditional and popular music while ensuring that the student's developing vocal cords are not overburdened. For ages 13-up, the vocal cords are fully mature and students develop their full range of singing with a variety of warm ups, etudes, and of course whatever styles of music and songs are of interest!



VIOLIN/CELLO LESSONS (AGES 5-ADULT)

Our violin and cello lessons begin at age 5 and consist of both traditional and Suzuki based methods at our school so that students not only have access to the ease of learning key repertoire courtesy of the Suzuki method but also learn to properly read standard music notation. Instruction in viola and doublebass is also available for students ages 10-adult.



DRUM LESSONS (AGES 5-ADULT)

Does your child love to bang around on pots and pans in the house at all hours of the day? Do you constantly have a groove in your head that you feel the need to physically communicate? Instruction in drums/percussion is available in all different styles such as jazz, latin, rock, and more! Beginning students will typically begin their studies with the snare drum and gradually work up to learning the full set. Intermediate and advanced students will work from customized lesson plans to achieve weekly and long term goals.



WOODWIND/BRASS LESSONS (AGES 8-ADULT)

Instruction in the brass/woodwind families typically begins between the ages of 8-10 depending on the physical requirements of each instrument. When selecting a brass/woodwind instrument, students should consider not only his/her interest, but also his/her physical size. Instruments such as the trombone require a long enough arm to reach all the way out to 7th position. Instruments such as tenor sax, baritone sax, and tuba are fairly heavy! Researching instruments on YouTube is a great way to see and listen to various instruments of the brass and woodwind families to help you choose the best one for you.



PRESCHOOL CLASSES (AGES 4 & UNDER)

Preschool Music classes offer an excellent first formal introduction to music for toddlers ages 18 months - 4 years. Classes focus on the development of the whole child by listening to a variety of styles of music from around the world, creative games, singing, as well as an introduction to a variety of instruments. Our toddler music program follows an internationally recognized, age-appropriate music curriculum for toddlers, with a focus on early learning and the development of the whole child. Our goal is to nurture their skills and prepare them for private instruction at the age of 5, while having fun singing, moving, and enjoying our drums & other percussion instruments. All age ranges listed for class levels are general guidelines, as students learn and progress at different rates.

DANCE

BRAND NEW TO DANCE LESSONS?

Discover the rhythm of life with our vibrant dance program! At LAAPA, we believe that dance is not only an exhilarating form of self-expression but also a journey of discovery. Our classes are designed to be both enlightening and entertaining, offering students the opportunity to learn new skills while immersing themselves in the joy of movement.

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE TO START?

Adults can begin any program at any time. We teach many adult beginner students of all ages, even in their 60s and 70s. For children, starting at the right age is a key element to the success of their lessons at LAAPA. Some people will tell you “the sooner the better,” but this is not always true. If a child begins lessons before they are developmentally or emotionally ready, their education could become more stressful than productive. Children who are older than the suggested earliest starting age usually do very well. These are the guidelines we have found to be successful in determining the age a child can begin taking dance lessons.

R E C I T A L S

Each June, LAAPA dance students have the exciting opportunity to showcase their hard work and progress in our annual dance recitals! Students take the stage in full costume and makeup for a memorable performance, celebrating their accomplishments throughout the year.

The recitals each conclude with a special awards ceremony, recognizing our students and their achievements.





BALLET (AGES 7-ADULT)

Students focus on building a strong technical foundation in the ballet aesthetic while maintaining a fun and creative atmosphere. Our teachers continue to build and add to the basics established in pre-ballet, and help the students delve deeper into more complicated steps and terminology. The students learn fundamental alignment, body positions and vocabulary that will inform their future dance experiences as they move to the next level. In this class, we begin focusing on balance, one-legged work, two-footed turns, and movement combinations to begin teaching our students how to challenge themselves physically and mentally.



PRE-BALLET (AGES 4-6)

Students are introduced to basic ballet technique in a fun, creative way. They will learn the basics of barre (bar) work and center combinations, as well as across the floor movement all blended with fun imagination games and creativity. This class will teach your young dancer to explore movement, learn basic performance technique, proper class etiquette, imagination, while also building a solid foundation in terminology to help them in their dance journey. **Pre-Ballet/Tap combo classes are also available!**



TAP (AGES 5-ADULT)

Students are introduced to the basics of tap, learning how to isolate their foot movements while also working on balance. This class is accompanied by fun, popular music we all know and love that will make tappers want to get out of their seats and tap their feet. A big emphasis is placed on rhythm, listening to each other, learning how to put basic steps into combinations, and moving across the floor.



HIP-HOP/JAZZ (AGES 5-ADULT)

Hip Hop/Jazz combines street dance with funk and jazz in a fun, fast-paced environment. The class strives to equip students with the knowledge of various hip hop styles while also teaching the foundations of jazz technique and terminology. Students will learn the importance of isolations and dynamics to execute pop-and-lock and funk movements while also increasing endurance and flexibility. In addition, this class hopes to foster and improve skills such as self-discipline, spatial awareness in the center and across the floor, gross motor skills and social interaction in a fun environment.



CONTEMPORARY/ MODERN (AGES 5-ADULT)

Contemporary/Modern is a style that originated with ballet and is one of the true American art forms. Points of focus include core strength, flexibility, creativity, moving through the whole body, as well as introducing basic floor work. Students will also learn basic choreography techniques, how to make unique, creative decisions, and how to incorporate emotions and imagination into their dancing. Contemporary/Modern incorporates the long lines and technique of ballet, while also teaching students how to use that technique and turn it on its head through counter balance, contractions, turning in, and so on.



TODDLER CLASSES (AGES 3 & UNDER)

Toddler Dance classes offer an excellent first formal introduction to dance for toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years. This is a class tailored to our tiny dancers and their parents. Parent & Tot emphasizes the creative art of dance while providing an exciting new learning environment. In this class, we begin to teach our tiny dancers fundamentals of dance such as learning the parts of their body, musicality, body positions, how to wait in line, and imagination through incorporating the use of props, activities, & games. Skills learned and carried beyond the dance classes include communication skills, class etiquette, memory development, creativity and social involvement. The involvement of the parent is to help the student form a love for dance and feel comfortable around the instructor & classmates, while also learning the basics of dance so they can continue to be a part of their dancer's journey through our program.

DRAMA

BRAND NEW TO DRAMA LESSONS?

Step into the spotlight with our captivating drama program! At LAAPA, we understand that drama isn't just about putting on a show. It's about embracing creativity, building confidence, and discovering the power of storytelling. Our classes are designed to ignite imaginations, cultivate talent, and instill a lifelong love for the dramatic arts.

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE TO START?

Students can begin drama lessons at a variety of ages depending on the program and their individual readiness. For children, starting at the right age is an important element to the success of their lessons at LAAPA. Private lessons may begin as early as age 5, depending on reading and memorization abilities, attention span, communication skills, and overall readiness. Children older than the suggested starting age usually do very well. Adults of any age are welcome to study acting or musical theater through private lessons, allowing instruction to be tailored to their individual goals and experience. These are the guidelines we have found to be successful in determining the age a student can begin taking drama lessons.

PERFORMANCES - SHOWCASES / MAINSTAGES

Performances are held many times per year for ages 7-18! We host plays, musicals, and class-specific showcases every few months for all three of our campuses. Auditions are held for our larger scale plays and musicals, and students are encouraged to participate even if not currently enrolled at LAAPA! Many of these events are held at our private venue space, Three Rivers Theater. Rehearsals are held weekly leading up to each performance, and there is sometimes set building and costume-making in which students can partake! Visit laapa.com/drama/upcoming-shows to see our next available auditions!





ACTING (AGES 7-18)

Acting classes at LAAPA are offered at Level I (ages 7-11), Level II (ages 11-18), and Level III (ages 13-18; available by invitation/audition). Students receive 75 minutes of instruction each week. Classes are open to actors of all levels beginning through advanced and are an excellent way for shy and quiet students to build confidence and self-esteem in a low pressure and fun environment. Our acting classes focus on the essential skills of the actor. Theatre games and exercises foster the discovery of realistic ways to portray a character through physicality, voice work, movement, and line delivery. Classes prepare the actor for taking on a role through performance, scene study, script analysis from an actor's perspective, taking risks, and the study of dialect and verbal inflection. Our acting classes also present classic techniques like Meisner and Stanislavski and also help actors to create their own methods. Curriculum applies to both film and theatrical settings!



MUSICAL THEATER (AGES 7-18)

Musical theatre classes at LAAPA are offered at Level I (ages 7-11), Level II (ages 11-18, and Level III (available by invitation/audition). Students will explore a variety of Broadway style showtunes both contemporary as well as classics. The curriculum combines jazz technique with other varieties to create a "Broadway" style of dance. Classes include vocal warm ups, vocal technique, singing melodies, singing harmonies in a group, games, center floor work and combinations that combine some acting with dance. Students will explore creativity and use their imaginations to create expressive performance art as well as learning basic dance and vocal techniques and harmonization.



PRIVATE LESSONS (AGES 5*-ADULT)

Our private instruction offers a tailored approach to theatrical learning that accommodates students of all ages and levels. For adults seeking to hone their acting abilities or explore new aspects of the dramatic arts, our private lessons provide a flexible and supportive environment to delve into individual interests. From refining audition techniques to exploring character development, our experienced instructors offer personalized guidance and mentorship to help you achieve your artistic goals. For young actors and actresses eager to take their talent to the next level, our private drama lessons offer a focused and immersive learning experience that nurtures creativity and fosters growth. Whether it's mastering monologues, honing stage presence, or delving into script analysis, our instructors are dedicated to helping students develop their skills and confidence as performers.



FILM (AGES 11-18)

Our film classes focus on the essential skills of the filmmaker. A combination of technical and hands-on learning come together to provide a comprehensive education into the art of filmmaking. Week to week, instructors will cover topics through development, pre-production, production, and post-production. From screenwriting, to cinematography, to editing, and everything in-between, our film classes cover it all! Film history and analysis will also be applied to encourage active conversation and to enable students to apply their knowledge to the films they view as well as other mediums, such as television and theater.

SUCCESS STORIES

"The teachers and staff at LAAPA are all amazing and provide such a nurturing environment for children of all ages to grow in their love for music and dance. This is a new experience for my son. His teacher is so patient with him and tailors the lesson to suit his attention span and capabilities. I greatly appreciate his patience and I am excited to see my son grow in his love for music at LAAPA." ~ **Kerneisha Murphy**

"My 8-year-old son has been attending LAAPA, and I truly can't say enough good things about this dance company. From day one, the experience has been nothing short of wonderful. The teachers are not only incredibly talented but also so patient, encouraging, and passionate about what they do. They've created such a positive and inspiring environment where my son feels supported and excited to learn. It's amazing to see his confidence and skills grow each week." ~ **Bri Steilberg**

COMPLIMENTARY ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Enhance your artistic journey with our enrichment classes for music, dance, and drama students! These supplementary classes are offered at no additional cost, and all eligible students are encouraged to take them! At LAAPA, we understand that mastering your craft goes beyond traditional lessons. It requires exploration, refinement, and a holistic approach to learning. That's why we're proud to offer a range of specialized classes designed to complement and elevate your educational experience.

VOCAL LAB (AGES 7+)

Vocal Lab offers an inclusive environment for individuals to refine their vocal skills within a supportive group setting. With a diverse repertoire spanning various genres, participants explore different styles and expand their vocal versatility. Through collaborative exercises, ensemble performances, and personalized coaching, students develop technical proficiency and foster a sense of community.

DRAMA EDUCATION LAB (AGES 7+)

Drama Education Lab offers an engaging experience designed for our drama students, focusing on sharpening their skills in spontaneous performance. This class emphasizes building confidence on stage and adapting to various live-show settings. Through a series of interactive exercises, improvisational games, and scene work, participants sharpen their quick-thinking abilities while nurturing individuality and spontaneity. From comedic sketches to dramatic scenarios, this lab provides a versatile playground for students to explore their dramatic potential.

"Fantastic school. The instructors are very patient, accommodating, and are willing to work with you to get you where you want to be. The administrative staff is very attentive and will work with you to ensure you have a great experience. The new location on Lee Road is absolutely beautiful!" ~ **Hunter Devillier**

MUSIC THEORY LAB (AGES 5+)

Music Theory Lab offers a journey into the world of music theory, carefully structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of its foundational elements. With a focus on rhythm and dedicated ear training exercises, participants sharpen their skills and refine their auditory perception. Beyond these focal points, the lab also explores melody, harmony, form, and other aspects of musical theory, offering students a holistic perspective.

SONGWRITING LAB (AGES 7+)

Songwriting Lab is designed for students who have a foundation in music theory and are eager to explore the art of song creation. This class provides a dynamic environment where budding songwriters can refine their skills and unleash their creativity. Through guided exercises and workshops, participants will learn to craft melodies, write lyrics, and structure compositions across various genres. With personalized feedback and guidance, students will discover the joy of expressing themselves through original music.

CHOREOGRAPHY LAB (AGES 8+)

Choreography Lab is a tailor-made haven for our dedicated dance students. In this dynamic class, participants will embark on a journey of originality and expression, honing their skills in designing and developing a myriad of dance styles. Through hands-on exercises, collaborative projects, and guidance, students will unlock their artistic potential and discover their unique choreographic voice.



Google



Check out our
600+ FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

Register NOW!



ARE ALL PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS THE SAME?

There are many considerations to be made when selecting a school of the performing arts or a private arts teacher. We invite you to compare all programs, features, and options to see why we are Greater New Orleans' number one choice for music, dance and acting classes with thousands of students each week achieving success and developing a lifelong love of music and dance!

Voted "Best Music Lessons" in the area from Northshore Parent and Sophisticated Woman Magazines.

Louisiana's largest private school of music, dance, and drama with lessons in piano, voice, singing, guitar, violin, viola, cello, drum, bass, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, composition, music theory, preschool music, choir, rock/jazz band classes, ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, acting, and musical theatre classes in one location!

The most diverse & inspiring faculty in New Orleans who make learning FUN! With over 60 instructors on staff, we are guaranteed to have an instructor who will be a perfect match to each student's personality and educational needs.

Proven track record of success with over 45 years of teaching in the community and hundreds of thousands of lessons taught since 1978.

We teach the songs, styles, steps, and scenes YOU are interested in learning!

Optional concerts, recitals, showcases, and mainstage productions held each year in professional auditoriums so that your family and friends can share in the student's progress.

Never lose your assignments again! Digital lesson plans via our OPUS.io & LessonMate assignment platform saved to your personal portal which include video, audio, PDF, etc.

Largest selection of music, dance, and drama programs & lesson times in the area 6 days a week. Families are able to save hours of precious after school time by enrolling in a variety of programs all under the same roof! Early afternoon times available for adults and homeschoolers!

A private 100-seat theater for music, dance, and drama performances year round - Three Rivers Theater in Covington, LA. State of the art LED wall display, sound, lighting, and many more tech features. ↘



The most technologically advanced and completely stocked lesson studios in New Orleans with Yamaha, Kawai, Steinway, and other select American pianos, drumsets, iPads, premium amps, and more.

The safest and most secure classrooms in the area. security and safety are one of our top priorities. All faculty and staff members undergo a thorough state and national background check. All studios have observation windows as well as closed circuit television cameras that are recording at all times.

Outstanding customer service by our front desk staff so that our teachers focus only on what they are best at: teaching.

Custom floating and slip-resistant maple dance floors prevent injuries to/stress on the lower body in turn ensuring the finest possible classroom experience.

Free and unlimited makeup workshops for all private music lesson students.

Free weekly enrichment classes offered to all students enrolled in music, dance, or drama lessons.

Option to participate in our annual festival, LAAPAFEST, as well as other opportunities to earn a variety of certificates, pins, and trophy awards.



**Since
1978...**

**Over ten
thousand
families and
hundreds of
thousands
of lessons
taught!**



LAAPA
MUSIC • DANCE • THEATER
LAAPA.COM



Get started today!

LAAPA Covington

73115 LA-437
985.590.4545

LAAPA Mandeville

105 Campbell Ave #3
985.674.2992

LAAPA River Ridge

2020 Dickory Ave #200
504.738.3050
contact@laapa.com