

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



PERIPATETIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

This booklet provides information on the private music instruction program at BIS-NY. Should you have further questions, contact the Head of Music, Gianna Viola, at g.viola@bis-ny.org



THE BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
OF NEW YORK

Peripatetic Instrumental Lessons

The British International School of New York offers private music instruction for the following instruments:

- Cello,
- Clarinet,
- Cornet
- Flute,
- Guitar (classical, electric & bass),
- Horn
- Piano,
- Percussion,
- Saxophone,
- Trombone
- Viola,
- Violin,
- Voice.

BIS-NY is privileged to have world-class performing artists on our teaching staff who are specialists in their field, devoted teachers, as well professional freelance musicians.

We encourage BIS-NY families to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to expand their children's education and talent.

To sign up for lessons, please contact Gianna Viola at g.viola@bis-ny.org

Billing, Scheduling and Attendance

Billing

- Lesson rates are \$60 per half hour. Students may opt to take hour long lessons if they desire.
- There are two billing cycles per year, each of between approximately 12-18 lessons. The billing cycles run approximately between October to February, and February to June.
- Two makeup lessons are scheduled each cycle, to cover lessons that are missed due to absence at no extra charge.
- A \$30 registration fee is charged each session to pay for the processing of lessons, as well as to supply students with books, manuscript paper, and basic accessories. Occasionally, teachers will ask parents to purchase extra materials in support of the student's learning.
- It is possible for new students to start peripatetic lessons part way through the billing cycle. The appropriate number of remaining lessons will be calculated. Please email g.viola@bis-ny.org to inquire further.
- If you should decide to discontinue lessons mid-session, please give your teacher and Ms. Viola at least 2 weeks' advance notice. Your account will be charged for the lessons that were held.
- Parents are NOT BILLED for days when school is not in session, holidays, or mandatory school events.

Scheduling

- Peri lessons are scheduled through the Music Department at the beginning of each semester. These lessons will be scheduled in consultation with the peripatetic teacher, Head of Music, and student's family.
- Lessons are offered on campus before school (8:00 - 8:30am), during afternoon playtime breaks (11:45 – 1:00pm) and after school (4:00 – 5:00pm).
- Lessons are offered virtually and are scheduled directly with the teacher and family after school hours.
- Campus studio space is limited and lessons will be scheduled on campus based on the discretion of the Head of Music, taking into account student level of study, teacher and student schedules, and spatial limitations.
- We will try to accommodate all specific scheduling requests, but all requests cannot be guaranteed.
- If there are no suitable scheduling slots, you can be added to a waitlist in order to receive the first available, appropriate slot.
- Some teachers are available for lessons in their own private studios and in accordance with their own fees, schedules, and locations. Please contact the teachers directly if you are interested in organizing lessons outside of the BISNY Peri system, billing, and campus.

Attendance

- Attendance is required for every lesson. The teacher has reserved a time slot and room for your student for the entire term.
- In the event of a child being absent due to illness, parents/guardians are responsible for directly contacting the peripatetic teacher to provide as much advance notice as possible, either via e-mail or telephone.
- Last minute scheduling conflicts are not considered excused absences.
- The number of makeup lessons will be limited to two per billing cycle. Any further absences will only be made up at the discretion of the specific peripatetic teacher.
- Any and all absences incurred by the teacher will be made up by the end of the cycle at no charge, and will not be considered part of the two allotted makeup lessons.

Instruments and Preparation

Instruments

- Parents are responsible for providing students with an instrument for their Peri lessons.
- Pianists: It is essential that you have a proper instrument at home in order to fully benefit from the weekly lessons. A piano can be easily rented or purchased. More information is available upon request from your teacher.
- Percussionists: Having a drum kit at home will aid progress, although alternative options are viable. More information is available upon request.

Preparation

- Music lessons are a commitment made jointly by students, parents and teachers.
- Students' progress on their instrument is contingent on their acquisition of regular practice habits so that they may extend the learning that occurs in lessons. Please help the children to incorporate practice into their daily routine. The length of time required will increase as they progress.
- If you are unable to supervise their practice sessions, please help them to practice more efficiently by reviewing their notebooks with them.
- Please make sure that all materials and instruments are brought to every lesson. If a student is not prepared, progress will be severely impaired.
- Regular communication between parents and teachers is a necessary and important part of supporting students' music study.

ABRSM Practical Music Exams

Each year, the BISNY Music Department offers students the opportunity to participate in the graded practical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Associated Board practical exams provide a progressive system of assessments, beginning with a Prep Test and moving up through 8 grades to the awarding of diplomas. The exams are designed to motivate students at all levels by providing clear, attainable goals. The grades are recognized as international benchmarks, and are valued by teachers and institutions all over the world. Grades 6 and above even translate into UCAS points when applying to a British University.

We highly encourage any interested student to participate in this valuable learning and performing experience!

- Exams can take place virtually through a recording submission, or in person at various locations in NYC.
- There are additional fees for the ABRSM exams.
- BIS-NY will organize the registration process and provide an accompanist for the students if needed on the day of the exam.
- If you are interested in having your child participate in the ABRSM series, you must contact your child's teacher to discuss further.
- More detailed information about the philosophy of the ABRSM exams, specific requirements and fees can be found at www.abrsm.org.

Peripatetic Staff



Suzanne Saba Hughes, Cello

Suzanne Saba-Hughes is a cellist and music educator based in New York City and performs with ensembles including American Ballet Theatre at Lincoln Center and American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall. She has played with members of the Metropolitan Opera, Dancers of The Met, and musicians from The New York City Ballet. Ms. Saba-Hughes is a founding member of Corvus Ensemble, a trio that has premiered new works and presented concerts of diverse traditional and contemporary chamber music, with performances at the Artscape Music Festival, The Maryland Science Center, The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and The Howland Cultural Center. She has given performances in Europe, and was assistant

principal of the Rome Festival Orchestra.

Ms. Saba-Hughes has a Master of Arts in Music and Music Education from Teachers College Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University, where she was principal cellist and soloist of The Georgetown University Orchestra and chamber ensembles. She received her Suzuki Certification from The School for Strings, and studied chamber music at Mannes College of Music with the Alaria chamber ensemble. In addition to teaching at The British International School of New York, Ms. Saba-Hughes is on the faculty at Bank Street School for Children, and has a private studio in New York City. She has also been a Midori & Friends Teaching Artist, a member of the cello faculty at The Spence School, a cello coach for The InterSchool Orchestras of New York, and a judge for the NYSSMA Solo Festivals and New York Music Competition.

Emma Reinhart, Woodwinds

Emma Reinhart is thrilled to join the music faculty at BISNY this year! She moved to New York in the spring of 2022 after performing the woodwinds chair on the 1st National Tour of Jimmy Buffett's Broadway musical, *Escape to Margaritaville*. Since arriving in the city, Ms. Reinhart has performed at Radio City Music Hall (2022 Christmas Spectacular), on Broadway (Moulin Rouge), and Off-Broadway (Cornelia Street at Atlantic Theater Company). Ms. Reinhart is currently a teaching artist with the New York Pops Educational Program and a faculty member at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA (working remotely).



Ms. Reinhart's musical foundation is in concert saxophone, and she has performed saxophone and clarinet with the New World Symphony (Miami, FL), Music Academy of the West (Santa Barbara, CA), and the American Youth Symphony (Los Angeles). Originally from Palm Springs, CA, Ms. Reinhart earned her Bachelor of Music degree in classical saxophone performance from the University of Southern California and two Master of Music degrees in multiple woodwinds and in contemporary improvisation/jazz from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In her free time, Ms. Reinhart loves to hike, explore NYC, and spend time with her family dog, Sadie. reinhartmusic.com



Midori Larsen, Piano

Classically trained pianist Midori Larsen has been teaching students of all ages and backgrounds for more than 15 years. With unique trainings in Japanese taiko drumming and flamenco dancing, she is an active performer, scholar, and educator in New York City and Japan, her native country. Having studied extensively the use of the body and movement in piano playing, she wrote her dissertation titled "The Pianist's Embodiment of Rhythm and Harmony: Incorporating Body Movement into Learning Manuel de Falla's *Fantasia Bética*" at New York University where received her Ph.D. in Piano Performance.

As a performing artist she has been especially praised for her performances of music by Albéniz, Granados, and Falla in solo and chamber music in the US, Italy, Spain, and Japan.

Her recent performances include chamber music concert with members of the Chiara Quartet and solo recital at Bruno Walter Auditorium in Lincoln Center.

Ms. Larsen presents in conferences nationally and internationally such as the College Music Society. She is interested in research topics including piano pedagogy, music-movement connection, and musical identity.

Formerly on faculty at NYU, Ms. Larsen has been teaching at the British International School of New York since 2010. She enjoys teaching students of all levels and interests, using various genres of music and approaches to music learning. Ms. Larsen lives in New York City with her husband Charlie, daughter Erika, and their pet fish.

Maria Manzano Gomez , Piano



María Manzano is a Spanish pianist whose restless and dynamic temperament has brought her to some of the world's most important musical schools in cities such as Cadiz, Granada, Madrid, Barcelona, Paris and New York.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance (Liceu Conservatori in Barcelona), two master's degrees in Piano Performance and Music Performance Education (New York University and Andalusia International University) and postgraduate studies in Piano and Chamber Music Performance (Liceu Conservatory) in Piano Pedagogy (L'École Normale Supérieure de Musique de Paris), "Experto Universitario"

(Andalusia International University), and Professional Studies (Manhattan School of Music), where she graduated with the best results (Dean's List).

She has given concerts in major European concert halls, such as Salle Cortot in Paris, Collège d'Espagne at La Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, Fondation Biermans-Lapôte of Belgium and Luxembourg, Liceu Auditorium and Gaudí's La Pedrera Concert Hall in Barcelona, The National Concert Hall in Madrid, Euskalduna Palace in Bilbao, and others. She has appeared in Classical Music programs on TV and has played before such personalities as Her Majesty the Queen Sofia of Spain. María has also given recitals in important American venues in New York such as Carnegie Hall, Provincetown Playhouse, Blackbox Theater and Saklad Auditorium and at the Seattle International Piano Festival.

After being selected as the best pianist at the Ferrer-Salat Music Competition in Barcelona, the foundation decided to support her studies in Barcelona, Paris and New York with full tuition scholarship, which made a turning point in her career. She has been awarded other scholarships and prizes by important institutions: Pedro Pons Foundation, Spanish Association for Performer Musicians, New York University (NYU Talent Scholarship), Andalusia International University Talent Scholarship, Artmusic, Madrid Conservatory First Prize, Spanish College

Music Competition at the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, "Paper de Música" International Competition and "Cambra de Barcelona" Competition. She has recently been awarded the Culture Prize - Chiclana City Award, an award of merit for her career, granted by the Chiclana City Council.

María has always had a strong passion for teaching, she has over seventeen years experience teaching privately and in music schools, conservatories and universities in Europe and United States. She has been a member of the Adjunct Piano Faculty at New York University and is regularly invited to serve as a jury member in piano exams and competitions such as Seattle International Piano Competition, New York International Music Competition, New York Youth Arts Festival, Piano Teachers Congress of New York, etc.

María Manzano is the President - Director of Barcelona Piano Academy (BPA) - non profit organization established in 2012, dedicated to provide learning and professional opportunities to talented pianists from all over the world. BPA offers a music program, recitals and a piano competition featuring concerts, masterclasses and workshops with an internationally acclaimed piano faculty and music specialists from all over the world.
(www.barcelonapianoacademy.com). More info: mariamanzanopianist.com

Karina Azatyan, Voice and Piano

Karina Azatyan teaches voice and piano at BIS-NY. A graduate of Manhattan School of Music, Degree in Piano Accompanying (class of Warren Jones) and of Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music, Degree in Piano Solo Performance (class of Alexander Tamir), she also studied classical voice at the Rubin Academy with Professor Rashel Shulova. In addition, Ms. Azatyan studied church organ and harpsichord.



Ms. Azatyan, a native of Armenia, began her music education in Ukraine where her first teacher was her grandmother, a professional pianist, teacher, and conductor. Karina grew up watching her grandmother teach piano to students and work with professional opera singers.

A huge passion of working with children, inherited from her grandmother, carries on through Karina's life. She loves sharing her musical skills and knowledge with the young generation.

Years of experience in working with children in Israel and USA led her to serve as Musical Director for Educational and Community Outreach Program at Virginia Opera Spectrum Young Artist Program in Norfolk, Virginia. Karina was involved in fully-staged children's productions of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" and "Alice Through the Opera Glass" where she was also responsible for children's vocal preparation before each performance. For the past four years Karina Azatyan held the position of children's chorus director at Edith & Carl Marks Jewish Community House (JCH) in Brooklyn, NY. In Israel, Ms. Azatyan was a part of the "Eer Menagenet" (The City Is Playing) project in Jerusalem, Israel - an instructional program which introduced musical education to young children in the Jerusalem public school system.

In addition to teaching voice and piano at BIS-NY, Karina works at the Manhattan School of Music as a vocal coach and piano accompanist, and teaches privately. She regularly collaborates with professional classical singers in concerts and preparation, and is frequently invited to accompany master classes with renowned vocal artists. Ms. Azatyan has accompanied master

classes with such artists as Vera Rozsa, Veronica Villarroel, Sherrill Milnes, Diana Soviero, Fedora Barbieri, Licia Albanese, Anna Moffo, Lucine Amara, Catherine Malfitano, Lauren Flanigan, Mignon Dunn, Rashel Shulova, Ubaldo Fabbrì, Michael Cordovana, Martin Isepp, Martin Katz, Brian Zeger and John Wustman.

Yuliya Basis, Piano

Yuliya Basis, a New York-based pianist and educator, has been teaching private piano at the British International School since 2010, and at the United Nations International School, since 2008. Born in Orel, Russia, to a family of professional musicians, Ms Basis went to Moscow at the age of 15 to study music and earned her Master's Degree at Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory where her mentors were Victor Merzhanov (piano performance) and Tatiana Gaidamovich (chamber ensemble). Ms Basis taught piano in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in 2002-2003, worked for American Language Center in Moscow in 2005-2006, and served on the faculty of The Piano School of NYC from 2006 to 2010.



Besides teaching, she also loves collaborative piano: she has worked as an accompanist at Kaufman Music Center for over 15 years and appeared in recitals at numerous New York City venues, as well as abroad. An avid chamber musician, she is featured on two CDs with her husband, violinist and composer Andrii Didorenko.



Steve Picataggio, Drums

Steve Picataggio is a jazz, cabaret, theater drummer, and educator in NYC. Since finishing his Master's Degree in Jazz Performance at New York University in 2013, he released his debut album "Two Feet On The Ground" and has performed at such clubs as The Blue Note Jazz Club, The Kitano, Cornelia Street Cafe, and Birdland Jazz Club. He is the drummer for Broadway actress Lesli Margherita and has played in a variety of OffBroadway shows in New York.

Steve Picataggio has a strong passion for Music Education and is an active teacher, ranging from early childhood percussion classes as well as private drum lessons for all ages from ages 3 years old to adults.

Jeff Miles, Guitar and Bass

An American guitarist, composer and educator from California, Jeff Miles is a Berklee College of Music alum and the winner of the 2008 Montreux Jazz Guitar competition. A teacher for over 20 years and featured on numerous recordings, Jeff is sought after for his orchestral pallet of sounds and blistering, evocative improvisations. He has performed around the world in venues such as The Berlin Philharmonie, The Monterrey Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Saulkrasti Jazz Festival, Thelonious Lugar de Jazz, Blues Alley, Birdland, 55 Bar and Smalls Jazz Club. He currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.



John Henry Lambert, Trumpet and Brass

A native of NYC, John attended the LaGuardia HS of Music and Art, and graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in 1978 as a trumpet performance major. Following college graduation, John auditioned and won a position in the trumpet section of the Orquesta Sinfonica Del Estado De Mexico, and served for nearly two seasons in the Mexico City region.

Returning to NYC, John had the opportunity to bring many professional brass colleagues together with the launching of Gramercy Brass Orchestra in 1982. Gramercy Brass celebrated 40 years of service in 2022, and received a coveted "Proclamation" from the NYC Council.

As music director of Gramercy Brass Orchestra, John has conducted performances at Alice Tully Hall and was the featured performing ensemble for the official NYC welcome to the new millennium on New Years Eve 2000 presented at Lincoln Center. Also in 2000, the Dave Brubeck Jazz Quartet teamed up with Gramercy Brass Orchestra in celebration of Dave's 80th Birthday held at Madison Square Park and Bryant Park.

John continued to appear in concert with Gramercy Brass Orchestra on tour at venues such as Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard Music Festival, the historic Majestic Theatre in Gettysburg PA, Shandalee Music Festival in NY State, and many concert series locations in the region.

Along with Gramercy Brass Orchestra, John directed four commercially released recordings which can be found on most digital platforms from YouTube to iTunes and Amazon Music. John retired as the HS Band Director from the United Nations International School after serving 33 years on the music faculty.

Thomas Verchot, Trumpet and Brass



Internationally, Thomas Verchot was Principal Trumpet of the Czech avant-garde ensemble, Ostravska Banda for 10 years. With Ostravska Banda, resident ensemble for Ostrava Days and New Opera Days Ostrava festivals, he appeared at the Prague Spring Festival, performed on numerous tours of Europe and gave master classes in Czechia. He was co-principal trumpet of the Festival dei Due Mondi In Spoleto, IT for 6 seasons, and was a founding member of the Orquesta Filarmonica del Bajio in Guanajuato, MX.

Closer to home, Mr. Verchot is Second Trumpet of the Greenwich Symphony. He was Principal Trumpet with Amor Artis Orchestra for more than a decade and was Principal Trumpet with the St. Patrick's Cathedral Orchestra for 3 seasons. He has played with NYC Opera, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Oratorio Society of NY, Musica Sacra, New Jersey Symphony, Opera Orchestra of NY, Philharmonia Virtuosi, Bach Aria Group, Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola, Orchestra of St. John the Divine, Hartford Symphony, and Springfield Symphony and has appeared as guest Principal Trumpet with Ridgefield and Bridgeport Symphonies.

A frequent soloist for Bach's Second Brandenburg Concerto, he can be heard on the recording, *Early*, released by the American Festival of Microtonal Music.

Bruno Peña, Violin & Viola



Bruno Peña is a Spanish violinist based in New York City who has received critical acclaim for his performances across the US and Europe. He has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera House, and Lincoln Center, and collaborated with renowned conductors such as JoAnn Falletta, Kurt Masur, and Leonard Slatkin. He regularly performs with notable organizations like the American Ballet Theater, American Symphony Orchestra, and Philharmonia Orchestra of New York. Peña is also passionate about using music for humanitarian purposes and has performed in hospitals and for charitable causes. He has won several prizes and has also appeared in highly acclaimed Broadway musicals.