

September 1, 2021

Dear Music con Brio Students and Families,

Happy Back-to-School! I hope you all had a fun and restful summer, and are ready to come back to Music con Brio! I have missed all of you during the break and I look forward to seeing you soon.

As excited as we all are to come back, there are some important changes happening at Music con Brio this year. Before you fill out the [Fall 2021 Online Registration Form](#), please take a few minutes to read about these changes here.

First, I am thrilled to tell you that we will be back at Emerson in person this fall, beginning on Monday, September 13! We are very grateful to the Emerson staff and administration for making this possible. To make this work, we must adhere to the following rules:

1. Only Music con Brio staff and currently enrolled students may come inside the Emerson building. Parents, caregivers, siblings, and friends are unfortunately not allowed inside the building at this time due to COVID mitigation efforts.
2. All Music con Brio staff and students must wear masks at all times while in the Emerson building.
3. All Music con Brio staff and students will observe social distancing as much as possible while inside the Emerson building.
4. Students will be admitted to the building using the buzzer and intercom system at Door 3A. Students must come directly to their classroom, and must leave the building after class. If necessary, students will be escorted by a Music con Brio teacher while inside the building.

Second, we recognize that we are still in the middle of a global pandemic, and that every family has different needs for managing this. Out of respect for the varying needs of our families, we are offering four different program options this year. All students must choose just one program option for the year. (Please note that the full price per 15-week semester is listed here, but remember that all program options are eligible for reduced fees on our sliding scale, based on household need.)

All in-person lessons and classes will be held at Emerson Elementary School, and online lessons will be held using Zoom. As outlined above, Music con Brio staff and students will adhere to all applicable COVID safety and infection mitigation protocols for in-person lessons and group classes.

### **The Music con Brio program options for 2021-22 are:**

1. The ONLINE option, which includes online weekly 30-minute solo lessons only (No group classes and no Community Concert participation) (\$405 per semester)
2. The IN-PERSON option with partner lessons, which includes in-person weekly 30-minute partner lessons and in-person weekly 45-minute group classes, plus participation in Community Concerts (\$425 per semester)
3. The IN-PERSON option with solo lessons, which includes in-person weekly 30-minute solo lessons and in-person weekly 45-minute group classes, plus participation in Community Concerts (\$625 per semester)
4. The HYBRID option, which includes online weekly 30-minute solo lessons and in-person weekly 45-minute group classes, plus participation in Community Concerts (\$625 per semester)

**\*\*\*Please note that first year students are ONLY eligible to register for the in-person option with partner lessons and group classes. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer an online or hybrid first-year experience.\*\*\***

Third, we are planning to bring back the Community Concert Series this year – but we must adhere to all necessary and appropriate COVID guidelines and restrictions. We’re “playing it by ear,” and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work to make safe performance plans for our participants!

Fourth, we recognize that all of our in-person plans may need to be flexible in the case of school-wide quarantines or shut-downs. (Obviously, if Emerson is closed, we cannot hold lessons or classes there.) To prepare for this possibility, we will also be making a backup, “online-only” schedule for all Music con Brio students, regardless of program option chosen. For any regularly scheduled weeks where we cannot meet at Emerson due to school quarantine/closure, we will pivot to this “online only” schedule for lessons.

Fifth, we remain strongly committed to our Music by Black Composers project, and we are thrilled to bring it back this year! Students will have the opportunity to learn one new-to-McB piece of music by a Black composer for both the Fall and Spring Community Concerts, plus the option to learn a third piece for our Spring Solo Recitals! More information about this exciting project, along with other curriculum updates, will be coming later in the year.

Finally, there will be some staffing changes this year. I am thrilled to welcome Ms. Catherine back to teaching piano with us, but sadly we must say goodbye to Mr. Brian as our cello teacher. He is moving on from teaching into more performance and composition-based projects. However, I am happy to announce that he will be staying on our team as the in-house arranger/engraver for our Music by Black Composers project! So, we are looking to hire a new cello teacher. Additionally, we are looking to hire a second piano teacher and a second violin teacher. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in applying for any of these positions, please send them our way!

If you have any questions or concerns about our programming this year, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me by phone or email. I want to do everything I can to make Music con Brio accessible to every child who wants to learn music with us! I am deeply grateful to all the members of our community for sticking with us throughout this unprecedented time of hardship. Thank you so much for reading this long letter, and especially for coming back – or starting with us! – this year!

Musically yours,  
Ms. Carol