



# THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT MUSIC SCHOOL FOR YOUR FAMILY

Discover the “Heart and Soul” of Music,  
the Nutley School of Music Way

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**KYONG LEE**



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# DEDICATION

To all of my students. Thank you for trusting me as your teacher and friend. You are our future. Keep music in your hearts always.

To all the music moms and music dads. You are truly our heroes. Thank you for your love, dedication, support, and trust. Keep the music alive with your kids and your whole family!

And...

To my high school music teacher, Mrs. Delia Robinson, who believed in me when I was new and afraid of my new life in the states. You made a difference in my life so I can pass on your generosity and kindness to the next generation of musicians and music teachers.

To my band teacher, Mr. Sal Ulivella, who gave me so many opportunities to perform at recitals, live

shows, and competitions. Your dedication and commitment to music education really opened my eyes to the world of music performance.

To my piano teacher, Mrs. Emma Tiongson, who gave me private lessons in high school, treated me like family, and drove me to my audition to enter college at Montclair State University. Your amazing tutelage allowed me to attend college with a full scholarship and lead me on the path of a pianist and a teacher.

To my college professor, Dr. Ruth Rendleman, who opened my eyes and ears to the wonderful world of classical piano. You welcomed me as a student when I was just getting started on this endless journey as a pianist. Your love for the piano and your kind spirit inspires me to share this art with my students.

To my Jazz professor, Mr. Chris White III, who believed in me when I was not sure I was good enough to play Jazz. You threw me in the Jazz band and made me find my way around the complex world of Jazz.

To all the music teachers, thank you for believing in your students, especially when they don't think they are any good.

Without music teachers, there will be no music.



# PART 1

WELCOME

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“My 9- and 12-year old sons go to Nutley School of Music and love it! Their teachers are great, plus they get the opportunity to participate in other fun programs, like recitals, camp, and even being in a rock band. I have seen both of them develop tremendously as musicians and can't wait to watch them develop even more.”

—Christina

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## FOREWORD

**H**ow do you get to Carnegie Hall? I know, practice, practice, practice! But it's not always so easy when you're trying to get your little darling to practice the piano instead of playing another game of Mario Kart™. Having the right motivation makes all the difference in the world! This short book is exactly what you need to help you find the music school that's the perfect fit to motivate your child.

As a graduate of the Yale School of Drama with years of experience working as an actress in theatre, television, and film, I know firsthand how important rigorous and engaging training is. But an even more personal reason for my wholehearted endorsement of Kyong Lee and Nutley School of Music comes from my experience as a parent. Both of my kids (now 18 and 20) have studied piano, guitar, and singing there

with spectacular results. My daughter started piano lessons as a seven-year-old, graduated to the Steinway Recitals, played in many Rock Shows and is now on her way to freshman year at one of the country's most prestigious music schools—Berklee College of Music in Boston.

One of the most important things my parents did for me and my four siblings was insisting that we all learn to play the piano and read music. Thank goodness for Dorothy Bronson and Mr. Barta in rural Scottsbluff, Nebraska. I'm not a great piano player today, but I've always been confident that I can read music and plunk out a tune. It has often amazed me when my adult friends don't have this ability. Often, I've heard people say they lost interest and just couldn't stick with it.

The structure and approach that Kyong and Tom use at NSM is a huge reason why it's a great music school for a lot of types of kids. They offer so many different workshops, seminars, and classes to keep kids interested and invested, such as songwriting workshops, recording sessions at professional studios, photo sessions, and Rock Show concerts in a real club. These are just a few examples of the "extras" that keep kids motivated and engaged—and actually wanting to practice!



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It has been an absolute blast to see our daughter belting out a “Guns and Roses” song and our son playing a passionate rendition of Jimi Hendrix’s “Fire” on the guitar. But we’ve also benefitted so much from Kyong and Tom’s guidance in preparing for rigorous and high-pressured college entrance auditions. These pros handle that kind of pressure with aplomb! When I called Kyong last summer, panicky about all of the requirements for the prescreen auditions (a jazz combo?!?), she very calmly said, “No problem, I’ve got the place and professional musicians, and I even have good lighting!” And don’t forget the results—Berklee College of Music.

Kyong and Tom sparked our kids’ interest, developed their love of music and did it in a fun and creative way. What more could you ask for in a music school for your children? Well, we got even more than that with their expert advice, guidance and resources, which they were more than happy to share.

—**Susan Knight Carlin**

"I have known Kyong since I was exactly three and three-quarters years old; I cannot find the words to express how incredible of a teacher she is and how much piano has meant to me in my life because of her. She knew exactly what I needed at each stage of my life to make me a better pianist and fall in love with music. She was strict when she had to be, and she gave me freedom to play pieces I liked and was passionate about, while still ensuring I became a well-rounded musician.

"She taught me theory so I understood what was going on as pieces became more complex. She highlighted my strengths (musicality) and helped strengthen my weaknesses (reading music). She always challenged me, ensuring each piece we went through was met with proper technique, phrasing, and voicing as they got more and more difficult.

"I took lessons from Kyong for (give or take) 16 years; I am 25 years old and still play every day! I have had piano teachers in both high school and college, and none have come close to the quality of teaching that Kyong has. What sets her apart is her open-mindedness to the student she is teaching, such that she is able to make a unique course and path for them so that they flourish to their full potential."

**—TJ Stanton**

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## WHO SHOULD READ THIS BOOK?

**T**his book is written for parents, guardians, and other family members looking for the best music school for children. There are a lot of music teachers and music schools out there. You can ask your friends and neighbors where they go for their lessons. However, if you are one of those people who likes to do some research before jumping into action, this book is designed just for you. When you finish reading this book, you will have a better idea what to look for when making that important choice for your family.

Many adults have had positive music lesson experience as children. For the last 30 years of being in the music lessons space, I have heard countless adults who seek the similar music lesson experience for their children as they had when they were young. On the other hand, some parents really wanted to

take music lessons when they were young but were not able to because of financial limitations or lack of interest on the part of their parents. Very often, parents tell me they took music lessons only to quit a couple of years later. These adults regret quitting lessons and desperately wish their children would continue with music.

Regardless of what experience you may have had, if you are someone who agrees with the following points, you are the right person to read this book.

1. You love and enjoy music.
2. You want to share the joy of music with your children.
3. You believe music lessons should be fun and enjoyable.
4. You believe learning music helps children grow emotionally and intellectually.
5. You and your family are ready to give full support to your children to help them succeed.
6. Your main goal for music lessons is to enrich the lives of your children and your family.
7. You want them to enjoy the process and learn the skills to improve the whole person.
8. You want your children to develop a deeper

understanding and appreciation for music.

If you said “yes” to all of these questions, let’s dive right in and explore what a great music school can provide for you, your child, and your whole family. I will show you what programs will benefit your child, how to choose the right teacher, the benefits of one-on-one lessons versus group lessons, and how learning to perform music is a great preparation for future challenges of life ahead.

I am excited to show you all the wonderful benefits of attending a music school and partaking in a comprehensive music program. I truly believe children should stay with music lessons throughout their childhood. They can gain knowledge and skills to enable them to enjoy music-making as adults and so much more!

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"I spent 9 years as a Nutley School of Music student on 3 different instruments (piano, bass, and voice). During this time, the staff and students felt like a family to me and always made me feel welcome. I was able to learn at a pace that worked for me, and the musical knowledge gained during my time at NSM will last a lifetime.?"

—Lindsay

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## MY PROMISE TO YOU

**T**his book will show you what to look for when choosing a new music school for your child and how to find your dream school with a well-balanced approach to music learning. I will share tips and guidelines you will need to select the best fit for your child as you embark on your journey as a music parent.

This book will help you achieve one of your top priority goals as a successful parent and provide the best music learning experience and education possible for your child. I understand you have at least two loves: your child and music. Whatever brought you to this point in your life to search for a reputable music school, I am here to assure you I have some insight in this matter and would be delighted to walk you through some very important steps.

We will explore the following important points of a great music school for your child.

1. Core program: one-on-one lessons customized to each individual student's need and preference. In-person and online options.
2. Support system with an amazing team of teachers and staff to guide you and your child.
3. Qualified teachers with experience and ongoing training.
4. Teacher background checks.
5. Choice of teachers to find the perfect match.
6. Teacher office hours for extra support.
7. Online live support for practicing.
8. Group classes for theory, sight-reading, rhythm, and composition.
9. Security camera in each lesson room and waiting area 24/7 for safety.
10. Clean/sanitary and pleasant facility.
11. Performance opportunities, such as recitals and shows.
12. Ensembles for social interaction.
13. Quality materials and books on site for convenience.
14. Fun social events.



## INTRODUCTION

**H**ello, my name is Kyong Lee. I am a pianist, teacher, and music school owner/program director. I have worked with almost a thousand students in the last 30 years. I have taught about 30,000 hours of private piano lessons. My job, as a director, is to make sure we serve families like yours with a purpose of nurturing, encouraging, and educating young children in an environment in which they will thrive in music and in life.

Our goal is clear. We want to make sure every student at our school is met with the ideal teacher, a success plan, and the most inspiring and nurturing environment. Our students' success is our success. We are always very proud when we know our students are happy with learning music and they can't wait for their next lesson.

I am writing this book to share what you should look for when searching for the perfect music school for your child. I am confident that I can give you the information you need to make this very important decision in your child's life. A bad teacher in any subject can really turn a student off. In the case of music, it is extra sad since you can miss out on the joys of music when you don't succeed in finding your perfect music school for your child.

So, let's get started on our quest to check off all the boxes on that list of "must haves" in a music school.



## PART 2

THE NUTLEY SCHOOL  
OF MUSIC WAY

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“My experience at Nutley School of Music was so unique because I didn't just learn piano—I became a part of the environment, picking up new instruments and having a dedicated staff to help me shape my own path in music. As I grew, they helped me learn how to interact with the younger generation and bring it full circle as I taught them. NSM ultimately is a musical family, working with each student based on their interests and needs, and helping us realize our true potential.”

—Alex

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## CHAPTER 1

# WHY MUSIC LESSONS?

**Y**ou are a mom or a dad, maybe a grandparent, or an aunt or an uncle. You are searching for a music school for your loved one, such as a son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, godson or goddaughter. Whomever the lessons are for, first I want to say “Thank you” for making the first step toward offering the gift of music to someone you love.

Music has been a part of human experience since the beginning of time. Although written music has been known to be in existence for only the last 500–600 years or so, we know that music is the very soul of humanity. Regardless of location on the globe, there has been music in all cultures in so many unique and wonderful variations. Music is powerful. It can make connections in your brain. It can trigger an old memory like a time machine. When you listen

to a familiar piece of music, it takes you to a place where you heard it instantly whether you like it or not. It always makes me think of the time, location, and people I was with. Music gives so many different thoughts, pictures, and emotions. It may even tell an interesting story. Whatever your reason is, music lives and breathes in us all. We don't play music to accomplish something else. We do it for our own pleasure or connection with our own feelings. We do it for others' enjoyment or entertainment. It inspires people if they choose to accept this phenomenon.

For children, music has many benefits as they form their early years with their developing minds. Music lessons introduce children how to work with a teacher in a one-on-one setting. For example, students at our school learn to set goals when they prepare for next lessons, recitals, and tests for the reward program. Music lessons offer much more than just learning to play songs. There are many benefits to music lessons. It promotes cognitive, creative, emotional, social, and physical (fine motor) development, only to name a few. Problem solving, focusing, self-awareness, self-confidence, self-expression... and so many more benefits. Learning music develops the whole person. It is something quite remarkable.

If you look up the definition of the word "music," it basically suggests that music is sound organized by rhythm, melody, and harmony to express emotion.



This is a pretty accurate description. I think there is a lot more to music than its definition. It makes you think, feel, move, remember, wonder, reflect, and dream. It takes you to a whole other time and place in your mind. Above all, music makes you happy. Even when you hear a sad song, it touches your heart and can console you. It is in our heart and soul. It is a big part of all of us, humans.

So, is learning music a good idea? Absolutely! Understanding and appreciating music is one of the best skills you can learn as a person. Music has been with us throughout history. Music is present in so many aspects of our lives. There are endless applications for music, and it is everywhere we go. It is essential to our lives, and it bonds us all.

It feels amazing, yet I can't really explain it in words. That's just it! Music is its own language that I can use to communicate with other humans. Music absolutely has healing elements and the ability to put someone in a specific mood instantly. I think everyone should take music lessons to connect with themselves. I love playing the piano because it allows me to express my feelings in ways that are beyond spoken words.

Music lessons are not just about learning a formula or putting things together to make something. It involves getting in touch with your emotions, requiring special care for the whole person. It cannot

and must not be simply a transaction of information or activity. Music is not a tool or a road to success. Music lives and breathes in us all. We cannot survive without music. It helps us understand who we are.

## CHAPTER 2

# MUSIC SCHOOL VS. THE LADY UP THE STREET

**W**hen I was five years old, my mom asked me if I wanted to take piano lessons with a lady that lived up the street who was a piano teacher. I clearly remember walking to the teacher's house with my piano bag full of books. I dragged this little red tote bag up and down the street until I eventually wore out the bottom with huge holes.

Picture this... I am five years old. I think piano is fun and easy. I walk into her small house, and I am taken to her living room where her shiny black upright piano is. My teacher and I begin the lesson. Five minutes later, I hear a baby cry. It's her baby across the room. She runs to check on her baby. I am left alone to keep going with my song. She comes back and we continue. The baby cries again. She runs to her and I am left to practice alone again. And on and

on, it continues... I am only five years old. I think this is normal.

I took lessons with her for a year or so then started to attend a music school. At this school, I had one-on-one lessons, practice sessions, theory/reading classes, choir, recitals, and competitions. It was pretty intense but really much more exciting than the lady up the street.

Some private music teachers manage to run home studios extremely professionally. No interruptions, no pets, no babies, no other family members, separate entrance, etc. You get the idea. I am not criticizing the professionals by any means. There are definitely really amazing teachers out there. I am just making you aware that when you are looking for music lessons for your child, there is a list of things you may need to check before you hand over your child to the “lady up the street” or a well-established music school near you.

1. There are no regulations/certifications/permits required for piano teachers up the street out there in the real world. Literally, anyone can teach music anywhere. Scary, isn't it? I have heard many horror stories about at-home lessons from both parties over the years, many stories of teachers complaining about parents and home environments as well as parents complain-

ing about teachers or their home environments which are not what they expected. At least, get a recommendation from students who have lesson experience with the teacher, and get as much information as you can. Find a reputable music school that administers background checks of the teachers.

2. Does the music school provide a clean, safe, and distraction-free environment for learning? Schedule a visit to the location to see the facility in person to get the feel of the school. Check if they have surveillance cameras in each lesson room. Do they clean the piano keys in between each lesson? Do they have a hand sanitizer at the entrance? Does everything look safe and clean?
3. You need to be careful not to follow the cheapest price around. They are cheap for a reason. It usually means they don't have enough experience or they are not able to hold on to their students year after year, therefore, they have to keep searching for new students. The damage these cheap teachers can do are not worth the money you are saving each week. Please find a qualified music school/teacher to ensure the solid future in music education for your child.

4. Some music professionals prefer not to teach the beginners. High level teachers tend to be less qualified to teach young beginners since they are impatient and demanding. Of course, there are exceptions. Ask what ages the teacher is comfortable teaching, or find out the ages of the students who take lessons with this teacher. You can also find out the number of years the students stay with the teacher.
5. Check if your prospective teacher holds recitals regularly. Some teachers don't like to do recitals because it takes a lot of effort to plan and organize big events. Performance opportunities are one of the major components of music learning since music is a performing art. More on this topic a little later in this book.

### Here Are Some of the Common Home Lesson Issues

- The teacher keeps canceling, not showing up, or rescheduling lessons.
- The teacher is always late.
- The teacher and student have a hard time focusing on the lesson due to noise/smells in the house.

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- They keep getting interrupted by siblings and pets.
- The student at home does not take the lesson seriously.
- The home lesson does not offer interaction with other kids for ensembles.
- There are no group performance opportunities.
- Recitals may not be an option.
- There is no guarantee of teacher qualifications, background checks, and teaching style/method.
- There is no structured system for levels and rewards.

### Music School Advantage

- There is consistency and strict scheduling.
- Teachers go through a qualification process and on-going training.
- Multiple teachers are available. Siblings can take lessons at the same time.
- There are structured incentives/levels and reward and promotion programs.
- There are no distractions by parents, pets, and siblings.

- There is a clean and professional learning environment.
- There is a sense of community with social events.
- There are ensembles to play, creating bonds with peers of similar ages and interests.
- There are lots of performance opportunities.
- There are many choices for instruments to select from.
- There are books and materials available on-site for purchase for your convenience.
- There is a practice program to help busy parents with their children's daily practice schedule.



## CHAPTER 3

# TEACHER/STUDENT COMPATIBILITY

**A**s a parent, you probably have a lot of questions about making the best decision for your child when it comes to choosing the best music teacher. The harsh truth is there are no rules on who can teach your children music lessons.

### ANYONE CAN TEACH MUSIC!

This is a frightening thought as you can imagine, but don't worry—we have your back.

At our school, we have 30 teachers who I personally selected and train to teach our 600-plus students. Our teachers are professional musicians with bachelor's and/or master's degrees or experienced as professional musicians and educators. I make sure they are very kind, well-trained, and in good communication with me to keep up with the quality of lessons we require at our school.

We run background checks on all of our teachers. We currently have students between the ages of four and all the way up to high school seniors enrolled to study various instruments. Many of our students take multiple instruments and get personalized attention to make sure they get the best instruction possible. The choice of teacher is based on the student's personality, energy level, age, instrument choice, and interest in musical style.

Since we have so many teachers available at our school, we have the good fortune of matching your child to the most compatible teacher. Most of our teachers have many years of experience and are able to tailor to all kinds of personalities and learning styles of the different students. We are also sensitive to emotionally, physically, and/or cognitively challenged children. Teachers who are studying music therapy and teachers who work with special needs children are also available at our school.

We appreciate any information you can provide us to make sure we have a good match for you. You may want to give us a brief history of your child and what you are looking for. This information from you really helps us to assign the perfect teacher for your child. Communication between teachers and parents is essential to the success of your child's music lesson experience. We talk to the parents after each lesson to update on the progress of the student as well as a

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text message/email to the parents on the lesson plan/homework for the week with some encouraging words to the students.

We are a school that strives to keep up with the latest, up-to-date ideas and tools to help our students succeed in music lessons. I, as the director of the school, provide ongoing teacher training and discussion sessions to improve our school program.

You can rest assured that finding the perfect teacher for your child is easier with a big music school like ours. If for any reason, you would like to try a different teacher after taking lessons for some time, we can set that up for you as soon as you request it. We know not every teacher is good for every student. We don't blame anyone. Teacher/student chemistry is a real thing, and we understand it happens sometimes.

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“Nutley School of Music provides an encouraging, supportive environment for students to have a great time playing and performing music. It was such a great opportunity for me to study there for 12 years surrounded by such wonderful musicians who are passionate about their students and their progress!”

—Alexa

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## CHAPTER 4

# PRIVATE LESSONS VS. GROUP LESSONS

**Y**ou may have already decided that one-on-one lessons are the best choice for your child. You may be wondering, “But what about that class they are offering at our public school for dirt cheap?”

Group lessons work too, but it has some downfalls. Yes, it is cheaper, and it may be fun because there are other children in the same room. Here are some of the major issues.

1. There is a lack of individual attention.
2. Progress rate is based on that of the group. What if your child is the most advanced or the least advanced?
3. There is a limited or no choice of songs/pieces. Maybe the students are playing the same songs for weeks on end.

4. A student may feel lost or alone while the teacher's attention is on another student.
5. There are interruptions and distractions from classmates who may disturb the class.

Here are the private lesson advantages at a good music school. In my opinion, all music students should study with a good private instructor dedicated to the needs of the individual student. There is no comparison with private lessons to group lessons.

1. The student is given 100% attention.
2. Progress is made at your perfect pace.
3. The lesson plan is customized just for you.
4. You get to pick your own songs.
5. There are no interruptions and distractions at all.

Group lessons or classes are great when the students are listening to the teacher and working well with other classmates. A public music teacher once told me, "Teaching a music class is exhausting. We spend 80% of the time policing the kids and 20% on actual music learning." Well, I am sure it depends on the group and the teacher's experience to command the class. Still, I vote for private lessons for the maximum result for serious music students at any age.

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Small group ensembles, such as rock bands, string ensembles, percussion ensembles, and singing groups are a different story. When individual students become somewhat proficient, they should definitely participate in ensembles. We also offer musicianship classes where students at any proficiency can gather to learn and share their progress with the teacher and fellow students of similar ages. They learn theory, composition, and performance practices in these classes. Group learning works as supplements to the main private lessons.

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“My experience at Nutley School of Music was definitely something I’ll never forget. I’ve developed amazing music skills, and made some great friends in the process. The instructors are determined to help you get the most out of your lessons. I highly recommend NSM to anybody who is interested in learning an instrument, and then some.”

—Matthew

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## CHAPTER 5

# MUSIC IS A PERFORMING ART

**P**erformance opportunities, such as recitals, local events, talent shows, school musicals (plays), live streaming events, and charity events are great ways to share your music.

Part of the music learning is sharing with people you care about. Just imagine how happy your child will be sharing their first recital with their grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins or close friends. I know it may be a little scary for the young students to perform in front of other people at first. While some children are born rock stars and will have no trouble being in front of a crowd, many children can shy away from performing. I have witnessed many performances by students who were really scared but performed anyway. After they were done, they felt so excited with feelings of self-confidence to have per-

formed their first recital successfully! They received their trophy and celebrated further at the reception with cookies and juice! What a great moment to cherish with their families! These are the times that are most rewarding as a director of a music school. This is why we have a music school. Happy families and happy memories.

Performing is a part of music learning. If being on stage is too much for some children, we encourage them to hold home recitals with just the immediate family members or extended family as fans. Students can make video recordings of their favorite songs and send it to grandparents as gifts. You can watch recorded live recitals together with your children. Maybe you can attend other students' recital sections to experience it so they can try to get the fear out of performing. Take them to live shows. Get them accustomed to the idea of performing. Don't give up. I have seen many children have successful performances over the years. You can help your child appreciate the performance side of music if you keep exposing them to the real thing. Some of my seasoned high school students told me recitals don't scare them anymore since they have done them so many times while growing up at our school.

At our school, we normally hold student recitals every 4 to 6 months on our Model A Steinway grand piano, 2 Rock Shows per year at the Debonair Music

Hall in Teaneck (in January and June), and an advanced classical student recital at Montclair State University's Leshowitz Hall. Many of our students are established performers who regularly perform at local musicals, talent shows, nursing homes, school concerts, and also local events, such as singing the national anthem at a baseball game or a parade. Our students have volunteered to sing Christmas songs at the Santa's Arrival at the Nutley Oval, performed rock/pop/classical variety at the Veterans Day event hosted by Nutley High School Patriot Club at the Knight of Columbus Hall in Nutley, and performed rock songs at the Nutley Farmers Market.

Public speaking is known to be the number one fear for most people. As professionals, we all may have to make a speech or presentation at some point in our career or at an important life event. Performing music can help children battle stage fright/performance anxiety and become able to share ideas with confidence with an audience. It is an important life skill to master.

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"I started at 4 years old. My teacher was strict but fun. She let me pick my songs and always pushed me to practice hard. She always challenged me, and because of that, I played songs I didn't think I could play. She helped me all the way through my college auditions, and because of the way she taught me, I was accepted into 7 different music schools including my top school and program which I am attending now for undergrad."

—Melody

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## CHAPTER 6

# SUCCESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS VIA MUSIC LESSONS

I have already talked about the importance of performing as a life skill in the last chapter. There are so many other important benefits of taking music lessons.

When a student signs up for lessons, they are scheduled for one-on-one sessions with a teacher. One teacher will be assigned to your child for consistency. Lessons are scheduled at the same time every week. The lesson is typically 30 minutes long. This may be the only 30 minutes during the week where your child will be getting undivided attention from another adult person. Needless to say, this is a very special time, especially for a child who may have younger siblings who may need to be looked after by busy parents like yourselves. Our teachers know to make this half hour a very special time for your child.

At the top of the lesson, the teacher will greet the student and ask about their day. The teacher can gauge how much small talk is appropriate at each lesson because some children are comfortable with minimal talking while some can be very chatty. The idea is to put the students at ease so they are relaxed. We use method books (textbook) to make sure we are following a set program to ensure the progress of the student.

Consistency is important for all students of all ages. There are many levels of books to follow during the first few years of lessons. (Voice lessons may consist of vocal exercises and songs rather than method books.) In addition to the method books, favorite songs or instrumental music from all genres are incorporated into the lessons. All repertoire is selected carefully to make sure it is age appropriate and fitting for their levels and interest. There are endless selections to choose from. Students are encouraged to play a part in selecting their songs with their teacher to bring more fun into their lessons.

Teachers set their routine for each individual student to fit their needs. The core lesson material will be covered mostly in each lesson. A lesson may go like this, for example:

**2 minutes:**

Greeting while unpacking instrument/books.

**5 minutes:**

Warmups/drills/exercises.

**10 minutes:**

Review of previous songs—with some corrections/suggestions.

**10 minutes:**

Learning of new songs—tips on how to practice the new song.

**3 minutes:**

Summary of the lesson. What to look out for and a plan for the week.

This is not set in stone; however, it is a goal for the teacher and the student. They may add some ear-training games, theory, and reviewing current week's assignments. Each teacher has a set plan for each student, and the lesson plan may vary when the student has a recital or a test coming up. The lessons are set with a week-to-week progression plan and clear goals.

We recently added online practice sessions that students can join to work on their practice plan for the week. This is available daily, online over Zoom meetings. These sessions are free with their membership when they sign up for lessons. Most parents love it because they no longer have to fight with their kids

to practice. Instead, they just sign up for the reminder text to be sent to their phones. Consistent practice leads to consistent progress, which is the key to success. We are the only school in our area that uses the Musical Ladder System<sup>®</sup>, created and licensed by Mr. Marty Fort. He is my mentor and a director/owner of 3 very successful music schools in Columbia, South Carolina, with over 1500 happy students.

The Musical Ladder System is a reward program with wristbands, certificates, and trophies to recognize progress as students “climb up” the ladder. Students will achieve their levels every 3 months for the first 2 years of their enrollment.

Our students love getting their wristbands and certificates. Trophies are ordered individually when achieved as milestones each year for 10 years. The Musical Ladder System is also free with your lesson membership. This has been very successful at our school since our students love achieving their new levels every few months. We also have teacher office hours where students can drop by and ask a teacher questions they may have during the week in between lessons. Weekly musicianship classes are also available for third graders and above to gather to share ideas, learn theory and composition and practice performing for each other. ALL FREE with membership. These are some of the many benefits of being a student at our music school.



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THE RIGHT MUSIC SCHOOL FOR YOUR FAMILY

Getting in the routine of music lessons and classes, the students will learn valuable skills including:

1. Showing up/accountability/responsibility.
2. Following directions.
3. Paying attention/focusing on the task.
4. Fine motor skills/hand-eye coordination/reading skills.
5. Consistency/setting routines for practicing.
6. Goal setting/dream building.
7. Time management.
8. Task management.
9. Perseverance.
10. Following through/reporting.
11. Creativity/composing.
12. Communication/self-expression.
13. Teamwork/working with peers.
14. Social skills and leadership skills.
15. Self-confidence/performance skills.

As they become more advanced in their levels, they will be able to join ensembles and work with other students. They will learn other skills that are required to manage, such as teamwork, social and leadership.

Attending music lessons at our school will help the students become more confident, responsible, and accountable. Music learning requires the skills

listed above to become stronger over time. These skills can be applied to their schoolwork for other subjects and later at their higher education situations and throughout their adulthood. Music is a great way to develop a whole person in so many ways. Cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development are built into the system as students are learning music at our school. All of us at our school wholeheartedly believe that music can benefit everyone and support all of our students and parents toward achieving all their goals as we welcome them to our school.

## CHAPTER 7

# HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN MOTIVATED TO STAY WITH MUSIC LESSONS

**I**t makes me wonder why some students stay with music lessons from kindergarten to their high school senior year and some quit as soon as they reach middle school.

At our music school, many students stayed with music lessons until they graduated high school. Not all of them have gone on to pursue music as a career even though they were at a level which could have made it possible for them to major in music. Some alumni have told me they love and appreciate music more because they can still enjoy it as a hobby and not as a career musician.

A lot of parents told me that they really want their children to enjoy music, and that's all they want. I find the parents who were relaxed about the whole idea of lessons had better success than those parents

who complained they are not practicing and pressured them to do more and be better. I think finding the balance of how much to push your children versus just letting them figure it out themselves is a really tricky business as a parent. Every child is different, and every child needs a different amount of quiet support versus pushing them to do more. The homework for us is to figure out what inspires the students and provide all we can to support their musical success the best we can.

Music is a great vehicle that can take us beyond our imagination. It changes lives and can take us on the most amazing journeys. I am proud to call myself a music teacher and have this opportunity to share the love of music with our young students. I have also been privileged to have worked with so many wonderful mentors, and I am committed to doing the best that I can to make sure we are the best music school in our area.

I want to thank you for reading my book so far and discovering all the things we want you to check as you are deciding to register your child for music lessons. This is a very exciting time for your family. I want to leave you with some thoughts on keeping them motivated to stay with music.

**Here are some suggestions for the students to enjoy lessons:**

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1. Create musical experiences for them. Go to live concerts and musicals. (Watch music videos at home if you can't go to concerts.)
2. Live music is so much more enjoyable than recorded music. Go to local events if big event concerts and musicals are challenging for you to attend.
3. Find out what they enjoy listening to these days. What songs are on their playlist? Share that list with the teacher.
4. Show interest in their lessons and assignments to help them stay focused. Make videos of them playing or singing. Childhood is relatively short. Capture these special moments!
5. Help them set up a routine to practice regularly without you reminding them. Sign up for our daily practice sessions.
6. Help them participate in recitals.
7. Set up musical play dates with friends who also take music lessons.
8. Plan home recitals for grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, etc. Set up a fan club.
9. Give them a lot of praise.
10. Set up a reward system to earn cool prizes. (The Musical Ladder System is perfect for this.)

**Don't do these:**

1. Don't force them to take music lessons.
2. Don't fight with them to practice.
3. Don't threaten them that you will pull them out if they don't practice.
4. Don't say they are wasting your money.
5. Don't be critical on their accuracy.
6. Don't compare them to another student who is better than them.
7. Don't make them practice for too long.
8. Don't use practicing as a punishment.
9. **DON'T LET THEM QUIT WHEN IT GETS HARDER.**

Be creative! Come up with your own ways to motivate your children to love music. Share with them what kind of music you enjoy. Tell them stories of your musical experiences and journeys. The most important thing is to build positive connections to music lessons.

You are giving the gift of music to your children. I thank you again for your attention and wish you the very best in your quest in finding the right music school and the right music teacher for your child who deserves the best this world can offer.

**BEST OF LUCK TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**



## PART 3



# THE PATH FORWARD

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"I've been with Nutley School of Music for about 8 or 9 years, and it has definitely pushed me to evolve my guitar playing for the better. All the teachers are super passionate about what they do. I was challenged not only to better my guitar playing but also to improve my work ethic, songwriting, creative thinking, and more. Through the lessons, the rock shows, and camps, it was always a fun and fulfilling experience, and it made me even more so passionate about music."

—Rita

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## CHAPTER 8

# HOW WE SERVE OUR STUDENTS

Established in 1999, we offer private lessons on various instruments for beginners through advanced students. We also offer classes, such as music theory, ear-training, ensembles, RCMDP assessments, student recitals, audition preparation, solo student recitals, and college prep courses for high school students entering college as music majors.

Many of our students will have opportunities throughout the year to participate in performing at our student recitals, local events, and the Rock Show. All of our teachers are trained professionals who are experienced educators.

Our mission is to provide quality music instruction in a friendly learning environment for children and adults. We believe everyone can benefit from a positive music-making experience.

## What We Believe

At Nutley School of Music, our primary method of teaching is with one-on-one, private instruction. Each lesson is tailored individually, for the way the student learns best. We take into account age, experience, personality, and learning style. We teach ages 5 to adult! It's never "too late" to learn how to play music.

## One-on-One Attention

Students in private lessons are able to learn the type of music they personally are most interested in. Our teachers can focus 100% of their attention on each student to ensure that hand positioning, posture or the understanding of a particular concept are correct. If a student has a particular difficulty in one area, the teacher can work on it without hampering the progress of a class of students, and alternatively, if a student is excelling in one area, the teacher can move on. We offer 30-minute, 45-minute, and 1-hour lessons.

Our school is equipped to offer music lessons for students of all ages and abilities, from beginners to very advanced students. We offer every style of lessons from classical to jazz and pop.

## Group Learning/Ensembles

While private lessons are ideal and necessary for the greatest amount of progress, we also believe additional group classes and ensembles serve an important role in music education. Learning in a group environment creates an additional element of fun in the learning process and allows students to interact, create friendships, and appreciate music together. It is also a great way to increase an individual student's motivation to play and helps them learn the importance of teamwork.

## Guitar Lessons

We teach acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar and ukulele!

Our guitar teachers teach rock, blues, metal, country and classical guitar lessons on electric and acoustic guitars. Beginner students can expect to work on chords, simple songs and melodies, sight reading, and theory. We balance musicianship and fun by making sure that each lesson the students are challenged with includes a new technical or theory concept but always end with something fun, such as their favorite riff or song. We use a variety of guitar method books to accomplish this and encourage students to bring CDs or their iPod to their lesson to learn their favorite tunes.

## Piano Lessons

Our piano teachers teach a variety of styles from classical to popular music. Whether you want to learn a classical sonatina, rock chords, or popular sheet music, our teachers are happy to help you become the pianist you want to be. Our piano faculty will show you the fundamentals of sight reading, technique and theory, but they will also incorporate your favorite songs into your lessons. Our piano teachers have warm personalities and enjoy sharing their love for the piano with you.

It is ideal if you do have a piano at home before starting lessons, but you can start lessons with our piano teachers by using an electric keyboard to practice on. Most of our students rent or buy small electric keyboards to practice on at home. We recommend a keyboard that has regular-sized keys and a touch sensitive response. A touch sensitive keyboard means if you press a key harder, it will play louder, and if you press a key softer, it will play quieter.

## Drum Lessons

Our drum instructors will teach rock, metal, jazz, funk, blues and many other styles. Drum language can be complex, and our instructors will challenge any drummer with a wide variety of technical exercises designed to improve your speed and comfort. All

drummers may bring in their favorite drum parts to learn in their lessons and theory and is encouraged.

We also offer percussion lessons, which is a wonderful addition to any school band program, rock band, or worship band.

You do not have to purchase a drum kit to take lessons (though owning one at home will greatly benefit your lessons). Beginning students can learn with a drum pad and sticks for about \$40. And we sell them at the studio! Choose a rubber or plastic practice pad. A plastic pad has more natural response but makes more sound.

AFRAID of the NOISE? You can purchase an electronic set and use headphones!

Students use our drum set at their lessons and do not have to bring anything except their drum sticks and a notebook.

If you are just starting out, here are a number of ways you can keep sound levels down while you practice and do it affordably:

1. Start on a rubber practice pad.
2. Put rubber pads on cheap drums.
3. Purchase an electronic drum kit.

## Violin, Viola and Cello Lessons

Our string instructors will teach all styles of music, from learning to play by ear to reading music.

If you want to play classical music or the fiddle, we have a teacher for you. Students can be as young as 5 years old, or younger with the teacher's approval. Our students love learning the fundamentals as well as incorporating favorite songs into their lessons. Our violin teachers have friendly personalities and love working with children, teens and adults!

Your child will change instruments as they grow. Our teachers will help you choose the right size violin for you!

## Brass/Woodwind Lessons

For all woodwind and brass instruments, we teach a mixture of methods with emphasis on reading music, handling and care of the instrument and learning a repertoire appealing to the student.

Although we utilize method books to structure lessons, we also allow the student to choose the type of music they want to learn to play. We feel you can learn your instrument from the music of Disney or Broadway Musicals just as effectively as you can from Bach, Beethoven or Brahms!

Please let us know if you do not have an instrument as we can help direct you to area businesses where you can rent or purchase them.



## Voice & Singing Lessons

Our private voice teachers primarily focus on popular music and musical theatre songs. If you have always wanted to be a better rock, pop, country, jazz, gospel, theatre, or R&B singer, then we have the right voice teachers for you!

Voice students spend time each week doing physical exercises to improve their vocal range, ear training, breath control, vibrato, tone production, enunciation and more.

All voice students set goals with their teacher to work on sounding like their favorite recording artists, preparing for a theatre audition, or if they prefer, to develop their own unique voice.

Looking for voice & singing lessons “near me”? We’re the top choice for voice & singing lessons in Nutley! We’ll have the ideal vocal teacher for you!

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“Our family has been with Nutley School of Music for over 14 years. The instructors we have had are excellent teachers and excellent musicians—a truly valuable combination—who foster both technical mastery and musical expression. NSM instills in their students a lifelong love of music and affords many exciting opportunities for sharing it—recitals, the famous Rock Show, performances at community events, workshops and ensembles.”

—Barbara

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## CHAPTER 9

# THE NEXT STEP

**Y**ou made your way to the end of this book. Thank you and congratulations! Now you know more about choosing a perfect music school for your child. Hopefully, you are excited to get started with the music lessons at our school, or maybe you will continue your journey to find out even more about how music lessons work and how it can benefit your child and your whole family.

I am very excited to offer you the 3 bonuses listed in this book. All you have to do is visit the link below and book a time with me for your 30-minute consultation. During the consultation, I will ask you some questions to get a good idea to determine which teacher would be the best fit for your child. We will discuss and decide on the instrument if not decided yet. We'll set some goals for the first year and talk

about what kind of music is most exciting for you and your child.

We will set up your FREE trial lesson with the recommended teacher. After the lesson, you can decide if you will be enrolling your child for lessons long term with us at Nutley School of Music.

Thank you again for taking the journey with me to explore what to look for when choosing the right music school for your child. I look forward to hearing from you very soon. Please “Keep the music going!” for yourself and your family.

Here are the 3 easy steps to take to go forward with your music lesson plans for your family. You can also reach our office by texting or calling (973) 667-7155 at any time.

**Step #1:** Book a time with me for the FREE consultation. \$125 value. Visit:

<https://kyongnutleymusic.youcanbook.me>

**Step #2:** Book a FREE 30-minute trial lesson with the recommended teacher for your child. \$40 value.

**Step #3:** Register for ongoing lessons. The registration fee of \$35 will be waived with a special offer with this book!

## ABOUT KYONG LEE

**K**yeong Lee is the head piano teacher and the director/owner of Nutley School of Music. She and her husband, Tom Harney, founded their music school in 1999, under the name “TK Music” in Nutley, NJ. TK Music/Nutley School of Music has helped hundreds of students during their 20-plus years in the business. Some of their dedicated students have become successful professional musicians, and many of them have gone on to appreciate music and their musical abilities as adults after graduating from Nutley School of Music.

Kyeong is originally from Seoul, Korea. She began her piano studies at 5 years old. She attended a music school (similar in size to her own school now) from ages 6 to 9 years old. She moved to the US with her family in 1984 at the age of 14 and continued study-

ing the piano the following year, when she was in the 9th grade, with the encouragement of her choir teacher, Mrs. Delia Robinson, at Dickinson High School in Jersey City, NJ. She became a member of her high school pop ensemble as a keyboardist and performed at numerous concerts and competitions.

With the help of her piano teacher, Mrs. Emma Tiongson, she competed at the Teen Arts Festival and won 1st place in Hudson County. She was awarded a full scholarship to attend Montclair State University as a piano performance major. In college, she studied piano with great professors, such as Murray Present, Mark Pakman, Dr. Ruth Rendleman, and Olegna Fuschi. After college, she studied with Dr. David Witten at John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, and Dr. Marc Silverman, Chairman of the Piano Department at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music.

Kyong has performed at Steinway Hall in NYC during her college years and had the joy of returning to the Steinway Hall stage recently in October of 2019 in their brand-new facility to perform her favorite Chopin piece, “Fantasie Impromptu.”

She has been a piano teacher for over 30 years since 1991 and building her school for 21 years since 1999. Her goal is to make Nutley School of Music the best school possible to offer the best music program and environment to every child and adult that attend

her school. Nutley School of Music now schedules over 600 lessons per week, employs 30 teachers and staff members, and is growing to become one of the biggest and most successful music schools in the area.

She is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and founding member (founding school) of Royal Conservatory of Music, USA. Kyong lives in Passaic, NJ, with her husband, Tom, and her dear cat, Deedee, who is 18 years old this year.

## PART 4



# APPENDIX



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How much are the lessons?**

Our current monthly membership cost is \$154 per month for 30-minute, one-on-one, weekly lessons on any instrument. \$298 per month for 60-minute, one-on-one, weekly lessons on any instrument. There is a \$35 one-time registration fee at signing. (These prices are subject to change without notice.)

## **How long does it take the students to play a whole song after they start lessons?**

It depends on the ability of the student, interest level, and amount of practice. Stay patient and songs will be played soon enough (sometimes on the first lesson or in a couple of weeks). It also depends on the instrument.

### **How can I help my child when I have no knowledge of music?**

You can take lessons for a few months on basic music theory and an instrument of your choice. Please contact our office (973) 667-7155 if interested. You can ask for help at the Musicianship class and practice sessions. We have teachers who can help.

### **Do you teach theory and note reading?**

Yes, we do teach theory and note reading. We have workbooks the students can work with. We also recommend some great phone/tablet apps that can also help with theory, harmony, and note reading. Theory and note reading are part of the lessons and also available in the Musicianship classes.

### **Where can I get a keyboard/guitar/violin, etc.?**

We can recommend beginner instruments. We carry beginner Casio brand keyboards at our school. Amazon can deliver a beginner Yamaha guitar right to your door. Check out our “How to Choose Your First Guitar” video on YouTube. We also have an instrument rental program that provides any major orchestral/concert/marching band instrument.

Text or call our office (973) 667-7155 if you need help deciding what to do about instruments.

### **Are the lessons one-on-one?**

All lessons are one-on-one lessons. We offer online lessons as well as in-person lessons. It is always your choice.

### **What qualifications/degrees do your teachers have?**

Our teachers are experienced in teaching lessons to all levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Most of our teachers have a bachelor's or master's degree in music. Some are seasoned music teachers at public or private schools in our area. Some are professional musicians who love teaching. We have continuing teacher training available for them year-round to ensure quality of lessons.

### **How much should they practice?**

Depending on their age, level, and energy level, we recommend starting them at 15 minutes a day. We offer online practice sessions which you can sign up for. Practicing regularly ensures progress, which is the key to music learning success. Always check with your teacher to determine what would be best for each student.

### **Do I need a piano at home to start lessons?**

Having a piano is great if you own one already. It's totally okay to start with a keyboard at first, and upgrade later when it's appropriate.

### **Can I sit in on the lessons?**

Parents can sit in on the lessons if so desired in the first couple of weeks. We recommend you do not sit in on the lessons since students can get very distracted. Some parents watch the lessons from their car via an online conferencing app, such as Zoom. Please let us know if you would like to watch the lessons online.

### **Can I take a month of lessons to see if my child likes it?**

There is no contract, so you are only committed to lessons one month at a time. You may stop the lessons by letting us know by the 15th of the month. We will stop the upcoming monthly payment right away.

### **What if my child doesn't like the lessons/instrument?**

First, we will talk to the teacher and you to understand what the issue is. We may recommend trying a different teacher or a different instrument to see if we can spark a new interest for the student.

### **Do you teach the Suzuki method? What method do you use?**

We use a variety of method books (textbooks) for a variety of instruments we teach at our school. There is no one book that fits every situation since everyone is different. We make sure whatever book we use is age appropriate and leading toward the genre of music the students will be interested in. We use Suzuki books for string instruments, such as violin, viola and cello; however, we do not offer the Suzuki method.

### **What is the best age to start piano lessons? Is a 4-year-old too young?**

We can assess the readiness for a 4-year-old student at our initial meeting/trial lesson. Each child is at a different stage of readiness, so we would like to meet you and your child to determine what would be the best plan for everyone. In general, 5 years of age is appropriate to begin piano lessons. We often meet older beginners as well. You can start at any age. It's never too late to start. Please contact our office at (973) 667-7155 if you want to ask us what ages to start lessons on other instruments.

**Here is our general age guideline per instrument (some exceptions may apply).**

- Piano, violin: 4 and up
- Piano/voice combo: 5 and up
- Piano/drums combo: 5 and up
- Voice, guitar, bass, and drums: 8 and up
- Saxophone, clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, etc.: 11 and up



## WHAT OUR STUDENTS & PARENTS SAY...

**Shevy F.**

My son loves coming here; it really boosts his confidence!!

**Tim B.**

I absolutely love Nutley School of Music. The staff is top-notch and take music education very serious yet know how to make it fun. My son has been going for over a year now and loves it. He's made remarkable progress in drums and enjoys his weekly sessions like nothing else before. This is without a doubt the best music school around.

**Michael A.**

Nutley School of Music is one of the best music schools in the area. The teachers are great and have

progressed both of my kids in their instruments. They are patient, encouraging, and very professional. My children have found a passion and love for music.

**Paula M.**

My daughter attends violin lessons here, and this was her first year. She has continued her love of music with her instructor, Ms. Ashely. Staff and owner are always accommodating and well organized. I'm looking forward to her first recital. Definitely check this place out!

**Susan A.**

Talented and welcoming staff! Great place for all from beginners and advanced musicians!

**Julie S.**

Professional and friendly staff, very easy to talk to. Have recommended them to my friends and will still recommend them.

**Magaly F.**

Professional and friendly staff, my daughter's piano teacher, Mrs. Angie, is excellent and keeps her motivated.

**Fulya A.**

My daughters are taking piano lessons for almost 3 years. They started at an early age, and the teachers were so professional and friendly for that age group.

We are very happy with the place, and we love our teachers. They are very patient, encouraging and make the lesson fun for the kids. During the pandemic, we continue with zoom lessons with no problem at all, and they run everything so professionally. Definitely, it is a place that I recommend to my friends.

**Jeffrey A.**

Nutley school of music has really taught my daughter how to play the guitar. They have taken her to a level in music that she never thought she had. It is operated by the two nicest people you can ever meet, and they also listen to any of your concerns. My daughter and I love this school and give it our highest recommendation!

**K. C.**

Our kids have a great and very rewarding experience here at Nutley School of Music. They learn and have fun doing it. Kyong and Tom try to find new and innovative ways to incorporate new teaching methods into the traditional ones. Staff members, like Mr. Dean and Matt, are integral supports to the entire model. Awesome through and through!

**Rahul P.**

My daughter has been taking music classes since over 5 years. I highly recommend Nutley School of Music to everyone. They have the best music teachers and wonderful staffs.

**Dave H.**

Instructors are top-notch. School is clean and very well run. Very friendly. Would highly recommend.

**Edward F.**

Mr. Colby is an excellent teacher. I enjoy music class both virtually and in person. Thank you!

**Arlene M.**

Nutley School of Music provides students with great instructors. My son receives voice and guitar lessons and absolutely enjoys it.

**Francis M.**

They are passionate of what they are doing!

**Philip A.**

Nutley school of music is the best music school I've ever been to. My son had been going here for almost two years, and the progress he has made playing the piano is unbelievable. The owner and the staff are

amazing. They truly care about the students, and it really shows. The recitals they have throughout the year are a ton of fun and a great way for the kids to showcase their talent while gaining experience performing in front of people. An easy 5 stars for me!!!

**Bruno F.**

My son Sebastian has been learning to play guitar there for years. The place is conveniently located next to major highways. The facility is well kept, clean, and the staff is courteous. The teachers are very talented, and most importantly, they know how to adapt to all levels. I recommend this music school.

**Lori A.**

I am very impressed by the quality of instruction at Nutley School of Music. My daughter has taken piano, voice and violin here. She loves her instructors and continues to improve each week.

**Soumya M.**

Great place to learn. Very good teachers. My 6-year old daughter is a student of Nutley School of Music, and she is always happy and excited about her guitar classes.

**David K.**

It's is an awesome place in which future musicians are getting quality education. NSM teachers are so friendly, professional, and experienced. This school is clean and safe. My sons, Raphael and Vincent, are making huge progress every week.

**Robert H.**

I have been a student at Nutley School of Music for about 6 months. The school offers instruction for almost every instrument. I am taking piano lessons. I had no prior musical or piano experience. Jeff, my teacher, keeps it fun, is super friendly and patient and easy to work with.

**Prudence P.**

My daughter, Maya, has been a student at Nutley School of Music for 4 years. She has grown so much under Mr. Edwin, Mr. Tom, and Kyong's tutelage. Our family is extremely grateful for all of the guidance and support they have given her. Nutley School of Music is an amazing opportunity for kids of all ages to grow as a musician!!

**Jorge M.**

My children have been going to NSM for years. Every year has been better than the next. They teach beyond music.

**Heather N.**

This is a wonderful school! My son has only been attending for a couple of months now, but he absolutely loves it and has already learned so much!

**Jerry R.**

Both my kids study here, and they love it. Great school with great teachers.

**Luis R.**

We have been part of Nutley School of Music for 17 years! Tom, Kyong, and the rest of the staff are wonderful, friendly and very professional. We couldn't be happier with the great experiences and memories that both of our sons have from their years at the school. We highly recommend it!

**Gwen B.**

Great school, amazing instructors, strong support and communication with parents and students. My daughter has learned so much in the few months she has been attending this school.

**Erickson D.**

Best school of music ever, teachers are great, very confident and helping students and parents to improve in every aspects of life.

**Isadora G.**

Nutley School of Music is an amazing place! All staff are friendly, and all teachers are professional.

**Christina S.**

Great school. Great teachers. Great programs. Highly recommend it!

**Elizabeth B.**

Nutley School of Music is just hands down the best! They have top-notch staff that really cares about teaching music to kids and adults too. The facility and instruments they use are impeccable. It's such a warm and inviting establishment. They never put pressure on the kids to perform. It's more about encouragement, and really, that's what you want in a music school. The couple that run it are so knowledgeable about all instruments and at what age to start, and offer incredible guidance to whomever crosses their paths. Give them a call and book a lesson for yourself or child; you won't be disappointed!

**Bella S.**

They are well organized and respond to your inquiries very quickly. Mrs. Angie and Mr. Colby are really awesome teachers.



**Cash P.**

I love Nutley School of Music. My son wanted to learn to play the sax and they were so accommodating. The teachers are knowledgeable and patient. The director is very accommodating and seeks to solve and resolve every problem. They now have this new thing that they do called, Practice Champs. My son needed some extra help getting the “D” note out so he gets to practice everyday with a coach for free! Thank you, Nutley School of Music. My son is always excited and ready to practice!

**Betsy C.**

My daughter had her first piano class tonight, and Ms. Aurora was fantastic! She was kind, patient, and my daughter already learned a ton! She is excited to go back!

**Alex G.**

Cool place with cool people! They work with passion to develop skills of their students.

**Ra C.**

Very talented staff, warm and welcoming atmosphere, great parking. Awesome place to expose kids (and grown ups!) to the arts.

**Paul G.**

My son really loves this school; it is very good. His teacher is very responsible... For sure, I recommend this school!!!!

**Linda B.**

My son really enjoys going here! There is very nice staff who take pride in their work. They are totally awesome, and I would highly recommend them!

**Mary R.**

A wonderful environment that really fosters a love for music. Very professional staff with high expertise in multiple styles of music.

**Vella C.**

Great school. The kids love it, and they are doing so well.

**Sue T.**

We love Nutley School of Music! We have been taking lessons here for 3 years, and we appreciate the caring teachers and staff. Thank you!!

**Catia S.**

Great school and great teachers! My daughter has learned so much since she joined the program!

**Zoe M.**

Best music school! Mrs. Tamara and Mrs. Carol are the best teachers. We have been here since 2014, and my girls love it!

**Marty V.**

Great music school, very professional and personable. They have plenty of options to fit your musical desires. Our son has been taking various lessons for several years and keeps adding/swapping to more instruments, but drums remain the emphasis. Plus the Rock Band and Summer Rock Camp are fantastic options also available too. We love Nutley School of Music!

**Johnny C.**

The instructors at NSM are really dedicated and accommodating. My kids enjoy the lessons and are learning so much musically. A great place all around!

**Susan V.**

My son has been coming here for some time now, and he loves his weekly lessons. The instructors and staff provide such a supportive environment.

**Mythreyee P.**

My son has been going to this school for a few months now. The staff is friendly and accommodating. He goes to drums class and his instructor is professional. So far we are having a good experience.

**Rachel S.**

My daughter is 5 years old, and the school is perfect for her! Her teacher is very patient and caring towards her. The school is organized, clean and has great layout. My daughter will be here for years to come!

**Kasia P.**

The kids enjoy taking classes here. It has already been a few years! Everyone is friendly and supportive. I would recommend this place!

**Argie S.**

My daughter has been taking guitar classes for 3 months now, and she really likes it! Her teacher, Nelson, is very nice and easy to work with. I would definitely recommend Nutley School of Music!

**Felinda P.**

My daughter started a month ago for violin lessons. The place is very clean and staff are nice. Bella liked her teacher a lot.

**Dave H.**

We couldn't be happier with Nutley School of Music. Both my daughter and I are students, and the instructors are great. They genuinely care about the students and enjoy working with them. We highly recommend this school to anyone interested in learning an instrument.

**Nino T.**

I learned a lot in this spectacular school. I have a great teacher (Ms. Tam) and passed all the tests because she taught me so well. I have done great in the recitals by reviewing again and again until I did everything right. This is a perfect school to learn music.

# VALUABLE BONUSES!

I've put together a special set of bonus gifts for readers of this book, including:

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**Bonus #2**—FREE 30-minute trial lesson with a teacher (\$40 value).

**Bonus #3**—FREE registration when you register at the time of your FREE trial lesson (\$35 value.)

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## THIS BOOK WILL HELP YOU CHOOSE THE BEST MUSIC SCHOOL FOR YOUR FAMILY!

Established in 1999, Nutley School of Music offers private lessons on various instruments for beginners through advanced students. We offer classes and programs, such as music theory, ear training, ensembles, RCM DP assessments, student recitals, audition preparation, solo student recitals, and also college prep courses for high school students entering college as music majors. All of our teachers are trained professionals who are experienced educators.



Kyong Lee is a pianist, teacher, and the owner/director of Nutley School of Music in Nutley, NJ. She has worked with hundreds of students and their families over the last 30 years of her teaching career. Kyong started studying the piano as a 5-year-old in Seoul, Korea. She moved to New Jersey as a teenager with her family in 1984. She founded her school in 1999 with her husband, Tom Harney, whom she met while pursuing her piano performance degree from Montclair State University. She has had the privilege of studying under amazing teachers, such as Dr. Ruth Rendleman, Ms. Olegna Fuschi and Dr. Marc Silverman.



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