Class Descriptions for Bridge to Core, Core, and Company Classes

Foundational Classes

Musicianship: This 45-minute class is for Bridge-to-Core students only. Class size is 4-6 students.

Musicianship class combines elements of piano and theory to provide the student with essential musical skills. The student will learn about pitch, rhythm, intervals, key signatures, chords, and music structure. These concepts will be applied to skills learned on the piano, such as scales, chord progressions and harmonizations, sight reading, solo repertoire, transposing, and improvising.

Piano lab: This 45-minute class is required for all Core and Company students. Class size is 3 or 4 students.

The goal of Piano Lab is to provide the student with practical and relevant keyboard skills that can be applied in other areas of music, such as composing, music theory, recording, and performance.

The skills taught in Piano Lab include sight-reading, scales, arpeggios, chord progressions, harmonizing a melody with chords and patterns, transposing, and solo pieces.

Students who take piano as their main instrument may choose to use their Piano Lab as a chance to study another genre such as jazz or pop.

Music Theory: This class is 45 minutes for Intro to Theory and levels 1 and 2, and 1 hour for Advanced theory. It is required for all Core and Company students, and the class size is typically 5-10 students.

In music theory class, CSC students learn to hear, read, write, analyze, and understand the language of music.

This supports everything they do from composing an original piece, to performing a Broadway number, to improvising a jazz solo.

Students are placed in the appropriate level based on performance on the written exam.
during juries the previous year (for returning students), or on a placement exam taken at the beginning of the semester (for new students).

**Studio Class:** This 45-minute class is required for all Bridge-to-Core, Core, and Company students. Class size is 10-15 students. Studio class is structured much like a master class in which each student has a chance to perform part or all of a piece of music they are working on in their lessons and practice time and then receive feedback from a Mentor.

Studio classes are organized into the different areas of study – voice, piano, percussion, instrumental, and jazz, and in each class the students will be exposed to a great variety of repertoire as well as have the opportunity to participate in weekly discussions on area-specific topics.

Studio Class is essential to the culture of CSC; it is used as a platform to make announcements and hold auditions in addition to manifest excellent performance practices.

Studio Class is also key to our peer-to-peer mentoring as eight-year-olds become inspired as they witness their older peers perform.

**Private lessons:** Private lessons are required for all Bridge-to-Core, Core, and Company students; it is optional for Novice students. Private lessons are half-hour for Novice, Bridge-to-Core, and Core, and 45 minutes for Company.

CSC offers lessons in any genre on voice, all instruments, theater, and recording arts.

In private lessons, CSC students receive rigorous year-round instruction in the area of their choosing that requires consistent daily practice.

We hold monthly recitals for students to present their private lesson material. Students can choose to participate in Royal Conservatory examinations up to three times a year.

Upon leaving CSC, each student has the goal to be playing or singing at a professional or near professional level so that they can successfully gain enrollment to the University or Conservatory of their choice.

The Mentor will work with the student on musicality, tone production, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, phrasing, pedagogy, and repertoire, as well as provide instruction on performance practices, historical relevance, and practice strategies.

Because of the unique 1-on-1 interaction, private lessons serve a key role in the mentorship of each student and their growth as musicians, artists, and human beings.
**Ear Training**: This 45-minute class is required for all Company students and is an elective for Core students. Class size is 6-10 students.

Ear training is an essential component of musical education. It is a skill by which musicians learn to identify, solely by hearing, pitches, intervals, melody, chords, rhythms, and other basic elements of music. Ear training can be applied in every aspect of music, whether it’s practicing, performing, composing, or simply listening.

**Elements of Performance NEW** This 1-hour and 15-minute class meets once a month and is required for all Company students. Elements of Performance is also offered as an elective for all Core students (see Electives below).

Topics covered in the class include but are not limited to: performance etiquette, stage presence, professionalism, movement on stage, understanding the performance space and how to best utilize it, how to engage an audience, and projection and communication.

**Electives**

**Composition NEW** This is a 1-hour class with a class size of 6-8 students, and is open to all Core and Company students ages 14-18.

This class focuses on all elements of composition, including form, structure, melody, harmony, counterpoint, and orchestration.

**Elements of Performance NEW** This 45-minute class is offered as an elective for Core students only. Class size is 8-15 students. Note: Elements of Performance is required for all Company students and meets once a month for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Topics covered in the class include but are not limited to: performance etiquette, stage presence, professionalism, movement on stage, understanding the performance space and how to best utilize it, how to engage an audience, and projection and communication.

**Recording Arts**: This class is 45 minutes for Bridge-to-Core, 1 hour for ages 10-13 (Core and Company), and 1 hour 15 minutes for ages 14-18 (Core and Company). Class size is 6-8 students.

The mission of the Recording Arts component of the CSC programming is to provide students with a relevant synthesis of all the core components of the Conservatory – piano, music theory, and performance practices.

Additionally, the Recording Arts component affords students a meaningful platform to learn
to truly listen, give and receive critical feedback, respect and collaborate with their peers.

The goal of Recording Arts is to learn and progress in the skills necessary to write, perform, and record music. These skills include arrangement, songwriting, critical listening, music theory, ear training, time management, goal setting, collaboration, acceptance of critical feedback, and use of music technology.

**Theater**: This class is 45 minutes for Bridge-to-Core, 1 hour for ages 10-13 (Core and Company), and 1 hour 15 minutes for ages 14-18 (Core and Company). Class size is 8-12 students.

Our Theater Program staff consists of working professionals who have experience on and off Broadway, National Tours, and European Tours.

This class focuses on musical delivery, character work, vocal technique, ensemble work, audition technique with emphasis on monologue and song choice in an effort to build a working portfolio of audition ready pieces.

**Ear Training**: This 45-minute class is required for all Company students and is an elective for Core students. Class size is 6-10 students.

Ear training is an essential component of musical education. It is a skill by which musicians learn to identify, solely by hearing, pitches, intervals, melody, chords, rhythms, and other basic elements of music. Ear training can be applied in every aspect of music, whether it’s practicing, performing, composing, or simply listening.

**Singer/Songwriter**: This is a 1-hour class with a class size of 6-8 students, and is open to all Core and Company students ages 14-18.

This class is offered for CSC students who are interested in developing the art of accompanying themselves while they sing original songs or songs composed by other artists.

Students compose their own songs as well as arrange songs by well-known artists from the entire history of popular, rock, R&B, and folk music.

Students have numerous opportunities to perform their solo works and collaborate with peers and mentors on concerts and outreach events throughout the year.

**Ensembles (for Company students only)**
**Cabaret**  
NEW This ensemble meets twice a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is open to all Company voice students.

Cabaret is a performing vocal ensemble that will include elements of musical theater, ensemble, solo and backup singing, and harmonizing. Students will be exposed to a great variety of styles and genres, including classical, musical theater, pop, choral, a cappella, and much more.

As one of the premiere performing groups at the Conservatory, the Cabaret ensemble will have the opportunity to perform on numerous occasions at recitals, gigs, and special events.

**Chamber Music**  
NEW This ensemble meets twice a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is open to all Company string, woodwind, brass, and piano players.

Chamber Music will consist of small instrumental groups (2-5 students) that will receive coachings from CSC instrumental mentors. Students will focus on how to communicate and create music with others. As with all CSC ensembles, performance will be a major part of the Chamber Music groups.

**Jazz Combo**  
This ensemble meets twice a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is open to all Company students.

CSC Jazz Combo students learn to play and improvise over jazz standards in a small combo consisting of piano, guitar, drums, bass, horns, and vocals.

Students learn a wide variety of jazz standards as well as how to arrange and perform them.

They participate in 6 official CSC jazz nights per year where they perform as a student group and have the opportunity to "sit in" with the faculty quintet.

In addition, CSC jazz students perform 25-50 times a year at community functions.