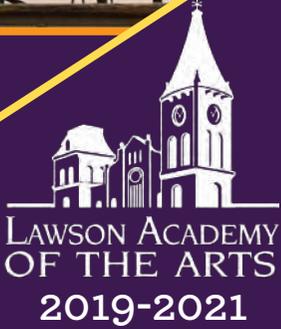




EXCELLENCE IN  
THE ARTS  
SINCE 1944



## History

The Lawson Academy of the Arts at Converse College has provided opportunities for arts education in the Spartanburg community for 75 years. Founded in 1944 by Alia Lawson as the Converse Pre-College, the program originally began as a “lab school” designed to train college music students in the art of teaching music. While this original purpose is still a significant part of our program, we have expanded to include so much more.

## From the Director

Thank you for considering the Lawson Academy! Our outstanding, dedicated faculty offer individual lessons in voice and nearly all instruments, as well as group classes in several areas. These opportunities cover every age range, from preschool to retired older adults and everyone in between. In the summer, Converse students staff our Fine Arts Day Camp, where children attend daily classes in visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, and theatre. The arts are so important in today’s society. Here at the Lawson Academy, we have something for everyone, whether it is taking private lessons, participating in a class or ensemble, or simply attending some delightful performances by our students and faculty. While our offerings may change throughout the year, the most up-to-date information will be available on our website, or you may call our office for a personal consultation. We can’t wait to have your family in our program!

## Contact Us

Janae O’Shields

Director, Lawson Academy and Fine Arts Day Camp

864.596.9022 | lawsonacademy@converse.edu | www.converse.edu/lawsonacademy

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

\* Member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education since 1984

\* National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accredited



## Register Throughout the Year!

- Private lessons in most instruments and group instruction in several areas
- Options available for students 14 months through senior adults
- Performance opportunities offered each semester
- Costs range from \$20 to \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available
- Lesson days and times vary by instructor
- Register by 16-week semester (some offerings vary or offer flexible semesters and prorating)
- Instructors listed may change by semester. Contact our office or complete a web inquiry to find your perfect fit!

## Keyboard

### Piano Lessons

- Students age 3 through adult welcome
- Some Suzuki Piano available for preschool students (focusing on listening skills and playing by ear)
- Special instruction available for sight impaired students
- Some teachers participate in STAR Celebration and other competitions and activities throughout the year



#### Instructors:

- |                |                       |                      |               |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| - Holly Barnes | - Erin Galloway       | - Alexandra Lee      | - Erica Pauly |
| - Susan Davis  | - Eranga Goonetilleke | - Natalie Longobardo | - Suzy Smith  |
| - Julia Eldred | - Karen Hampton       | - Shannon Longobardo |               |
| - Joy Finch    | - Sharalynn Hicks     | - Madeleine McEntire |               |

Contact our office about reduced rates with student teachers!



### Organ Lessons

- Age 4 through adults
- \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available
- Lessons held at Episcopal Church of the Advent, with opportunities to play on Converse campus
- Excellent supplementary study for pianists
- Ask about sample lessons!

**Instructor:** Brennan Szafron

Register online at [www.converse.edu/lawsonacademy](http://www.converse.edu/lawsonacademy), or call (864) 596-9022

## Strings

### Guitar

#### Private Lessons

- Classical and acoustic guitar for teens and adults
- \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available

**Instructor:** Michael Miller

#### Childbloom® Guitar Program

- Ages 5-12
- \$375 for 16 30-minute classes
- Group instruction builds solo and ensemble skills
- Parent involvement encouraged

**Instructor:** Michael Miller, 864.921.7815 or michaelmiller.childbloom@gmail.com

#### Spartanburg Bella Corda

- Guitar ensemble instruction (with instructor approval) - \$200 for 8 60-minute sessions

### Orchestral Strings

#### Private Lessons

- Students age 4 through adult welcome
- Costs range from \$20 to \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available
- Register by 16-week semester (some offerings vary)
- Lesson days and times vary by instructor
- Special instruction available in jazz and fiddle
- Some Suzuki Violin available for preschool students (focusing on listening skills and playing by ear)
- Some teachers participate in ASTA, STAR Celebration, and other competitions and activities
- Satellite instruction offered in Districts 6 and 7 depending on instructor availability

#### Instructors:

- Lyn Acosta, violin
- Ashley Flower, cello
- Kathy Foster, cello
- Mari Hashimoto, violin and viola
- Sharalynn Hicks, violin
- Zoe Kushubar, violin
- March Moody, violin
- Theresa Jenkins-Russ, violin, viola, cello, double bass

*Contact our office about reduced rates with student teachers when available!*

### Lawson String Ensembles

- Leveled ensemble instruction for strings students grades 3 through adult
- Provides essential ensemble experience to homeschool, public, and private school students
- Placement evaluation required for students new to the program (contact our office for requirements)
- Ask about our referral discount!

**Instructor:** Theresa Jenkins-Russ

**Intermediate Strings:** Mondays 4:30 – 5:15pm

**Advanced Strings:** Mondays 5:30 – 6:15pm

**Tuition:** \$125 per student per semester

**Materials Fee:** \$25 per family

**Fall Semester:** 12 rehearsals beginning in September; concert held first Tuesday in December

**Spring Semester:** 12 rehearsals beginning in February; concert held first Tuesday in May



## Wind and Brass

### Private Lessons

- Elementary through adult (requirements vary by instrument and instructor)
- Costs range from \$20 to \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available
- Register by 16-week semester, or ask about abbreviated semester study for Region/All-State prep
- Lesson days and times vary by instructor
- Some teachers participate in STAR Celebration and other competitions and activities

#### Instructors:

- Miranda Perry, flute
- Julie Keeling, flute
- Karen Hill, clarinet and saxophone
- Taylor Sexton, clarinet
- Jane Patterson, oboe
- Kelly Vaneman, oboe
- Frank Watson, bassoon
- Craig King, trumpet
- Myrella Samuels, trombone, baritone, and tuba

*Contact our office about reduced rates with student teachers when available!*

### Lawson Band Program

- Leveled ensemble instruction for band students grades 3-12
- Provides ensemble experience to homeschool, public, and private school students
- Twelve rehearsals and one concert per semester
- Placement evaluation required for students new to the program (contact our office for evaluation date and requirements)
- Opportunities for homeschooled students to participate in SCBDA events and other activities
- Ask about our referral discount!

**Beginning Band:** No experience required; Thursdays 3:45 – 5:15pm

**Intermediate Band:** One year experience; Thursdays 3:45 – 5:45pm

**Advanced Band:** Audition only; Thursdays 3:45 – 5:45pm

**Band Directors:** Sarah Brown    Jessica King    Dan Steadman    Frank Watson

**Tuition:** \$275 per student (full year)

**Materials Fee:** \$25 per family

**New Parent Meeting:** TBA (late August)

**Fall Semester:** Rehearsals begin in September; concert held first Monday in December

**Spring Semester:** Rehearsals begin in February; concert held first Monday in May



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## Vocal Study

### Private Lessons

- Students age 6 through adult welcome
- Costs range from \$20 to \$30 per 30-minute lesson; longer lessons also available
- Register by 16-week semester (some offerings vary or offer flexible semesters and prorating)
- Lesson days and times vary by instructor
- Faculty offer a wide variety of styles including classical, musical theatre, and sacred
- Individualized training in vocal technique
- Some teachers participate in NATS, STAR Celebration, and other competitions and activities
- Satellite instruction offered in Districts 6 and 7 depending on instructor availability

### Instructors:

- |                       |                      |  |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| - Wendi Arms          | - Natalie Longobardo | <i>Contact our office about reduced rates with student teachers!</i> |
| - Leala Blakeley      | - Shannon Longobardo |  |
| - Suzanne Brown       | - Lisa Louw          |  |
| - Anne Denbow         | - Valerie MacPhail   |  |
| - Eranga Goonetilleke | - Cathy Siarris      |  |
| - Sherami Harris      | - Laura Thomason     |  |



## Group Voice Classes



- Learn a variety of age-appropriate vocal music
- Practice with both solos and ensembles
- Perform for peers in a nurturing environment
- At least one recital performance per semester

**Young Beginners:** 5K-1st grade; Tuesdays 3:00-3:45pm

**Beginners:** 2nd-4th grade; Tuesdays 4:00-4:45pm

**Intermediate:** 5th-7th grade; Tuesdays 5:00-5:45pm

**Instructor:** Suzanne Brown

**Tuition:** \$200 for 14 45-minute classes

## Musikgarten

- Sing, play instruments, dance, and imagine
- Uses Montessori principles to foster active listening, taking turns, and building confidence in self expression
- Teaches age-appropriate ear training and music language, laying a foundation for future instrumental or vocal music lessons
- Saturday morning classes offered for newborns through age 7 depending upon enrollment and instructor availability; contact our office for full schedule of current class offerings

**Instructors:** Leala Blakeley and Jessica King

**Tuition:** \$150 per student per 8-week session

**Materials Fee:** \$35 per family



## Lawson Dance

The Lawson Academy is excited to offer a unique dance program to the Upstate, bringing diverse dance styles to students of all ages. Our dance classes feature experienced and dedicated teachers and are designed to be affordable and accessible. Class offerings are subject to change by semester, so contact our office for an up-to-date listing and schedule of all available dance opportunities!

## Rhythms of India

- Ages 7 and up
- Mondays 5:00-6:00pm
- An introduction to Bharathnatyam (Classical) and Bollywood (Modern) Indian dance forms
- Experience both high-energy and graceful movement and a taste of Indian culture and heritage

**Instructor:** Sunitha Raj, star of over 50 Indian films and teacher here and abroad for over 25 years

**Class Fee:** \$120 for 12 60-minute classes



## Ballet

- Private lessons and group classes offered
- Contact our office for a full listing and schedule of current offerings

**Instructor:** Maryanna Caggiano

**Lesson Fee:** \$25 per 30-minute private lesson  
\$35 per 60-minute private lesson

## Music Therapy

The Lawson Academy offers one-on-one therapy sessions with a board certified music therapist, serving individuals of all ages. Music Therapy can address areas such as socialization, speech and language, motor skills, emotional and behavioral needs, memory, attention, academic skills, and more. Contact our office to learn more or to set up an initial assessment with our music therapist!

**Therapist:** Cassidy Murphy, MT-BC

**Assessment:** \$80 for 60-minute initial assessment session (required for new clients)

**Sessions:** \$30 per 30-minute individual session  
\$60 per 60-minute individual session

*Group sessions also available; contact our office for information on group pricing and procedures.*



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## Instrumental Petting Zoo

- Free, interactive event for children of all ages to try out instruments
- Presented by the Delta Omicron Music Fraternity of Converse College's Petrie School of Music
- Held each year on a Saturday morning near Halloween; contact our office for this year's event date
- Costumes are encouraged!

## Fine Arts Day Camp

- Age 3 through rising 6th grade
- All-day summer care provided by Converse students
- Daily classes in art, creative writing, dance, music, and theatre
- Varying themes provide something new each session
- Creative alternative to traditional daycare at a comparable cost
- Sessions culminate in Family Day performance showcases
- Volunteer programs available for middle and high school students



### **FADC 2020:**

- Session 1: "Decades on Broadway" June 1-12
- Session 2: "Brick by Brick" June 15-26
- Session 3: "We Could Be Heroes" July 6-17
- Session 4: "Let the Games Begin" July 20-31
- Session 5: "Across the Universes" August 3-14

### **FADC 2021:**

- Session 1: "Toon Time" June 7-18
- Session 2: "Shipwrecked!" June 21-July 2
- Session 3: "Take a Look in a Book" July 12-23
- Session 4: "Far Out Fine Arts" July 26-August 6
- Session 5: "A Week in the Wild" August 9-13

**Full fees:** \$385 per two-week session

*\*Discounts for siblings, multiple sessions, and more!*

**Hours:** Weekdays 8:30am-4:30pm

*\*Extended care 7:30am-5:30pm (\$35 extra per session)*



## Scholarships and Financial Aid

The Lawson Academy awards competitive scholarships and financial assistance to students during each academic year. We are grateful for the endowments and scholarships provided to our students by many generous individuals and organizations who help us continue the legacy of arts education in Spartanburg. All required forms are available on our website and at our office.

**Competitive Scholarships:** Applications due in late March  
Auditions held in late April

**Financial Aid:** Applications due in early August  
Recommendation required