



## The Music Department at ASFA

Graduates of the ASFA Music Department are currently active in virtually every professional musical endeavor: solo recitalists, symphonic musicians, conductors, opera singers, jazz musicians, composers, songwriters, band leaders, educators, music therapists, commercial music specialists, and recording artists. These successes are achieved through adherence to the ASFA Music Department's mission statement: through immersion in the most representative and inclusive repertoire, while remaining informed and inspired by the classics, our students create music in an array of musical settings. Our faculty, ensembles, and foundational classes ensure that an ASFA music student is thoroughly grounded in the world of music as it is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our approach is informed by an understanding and recognition of each student's abilities and aligns learning with each student's journey, from where they have come to where they aspire to be as artists.

ASFA music students work toward achieving their dreams and life goals through our ensembles, required courses and electives. Each student sings in the Choir and instrumentalists participate in either Jazz Ensemble, String Ensemble, or Orchestra. Vocalists in the award-winning ASFA vocal ensemble. Pianists and instrumentalists all participate in the Chamber Music training program. Students are required to take three years of Musicianship, including Class Piano, Theory and Ear Training, and Senior Music History. All vocalists and pianists take additional courses such as Diction and Studio Class to intensify focus on specific field of study needs. Electives in Advanced Theory, Composition, Songwriting, Conducting, and Jazz Combo are also offered for students that wish to enhance and expand their experiences.

When a student graduates from the ASFA Music Department, they are exceptionally well-prepared to meet the challenges of further study regardless of their higher education and career paths. They discover the type of artist, creative, and person that they aspire to be.

### Curriculum

The music program is comprehensive in its study of Applied and Practical Music. *Applied Music* consists of course work that relates to actual music performance such as one weekly private lesson, orchestra, choir, chamber choir, jazz ensemble, vocal and piano repertoire/literature and chamber music. *Practical Music* courses are more classroom-based and include music theory (basic through advanced), music history, aural awareness, sight-singing, and class piano. Students earn two credit units per semester, one for *Applied Music* and one for *Practical Music*.

### Application Procedure

To apply to the Music Department at ASFA, you must be a rising 7th–11th grader.

To complete an application, you must follow and complete STEPS 1, 2, & 3 as outlined on the school's website. If you are reading this document, you should have already completed STEPS 1 & 2. This document instructs you how to complete STEP 3: *Complete & Submit Pre-Audition Requirements*.

**Application Deadline: You must complete STEPS 1, 2, & 3 and ASFA must receive all required materials by January 31, 2025.**

### STEP 3: Complete & Submit Pre-Audition Requirements

**Video: Read Carefully – To meet pre-audition requirements**, the Music Department must receive a recording of the applicant performing the following:

#### **Piano/Instrument/Voice:**

The video recording must contain two to three contrasting movements or pieces of the applicant's choosing (no band or choir literature) for solo instruments.

- No scales should be performed on the recording.
- The video should be no longer than 8 minutes.
- The grade-level audition repertoire is *recommended*, but not required.

### How to Upload and Share Videos in Google Drive

#### From your computer:

1. Visit [www.drive.google.com](http://www.drive.google.com) on your computer and ensure you are logged into your Google account.
  - a. If you do not have a Google account, you can quickly create one at [www.myaccount.google.com](http://www.myaccount.google.com) and select "Create Account."
2. Click the "+New" button on the left-hand side and upload your video. If your video file is already uploaded to Google Drive, locate it in your drive's file list.
3. Click on the video file once to highlight it.
4. Right-click on the file name to open a menu of options (desktop).
5. Click "Share" from the options list.
6. In the pop-up window that appears, type in the contact email addresses of the people you would like to share the video with (see emails to share with below).
7. Click "Send."

#### From your phone:

1. Open the Google Drive app on your phone and ensure you are logged into your Google account.
  - a. If you do not have a Google account, you can quickly create one at [www.myaccount.google.com](http://www.myaccount.google.com) and select "Create Account."
2. Click the "+" circular button on the bottom right and upload your video. If your video is already uploaded to Google Drive, locate it in your drive's file list.
3. Click the "... " next to the video file.
4. Click "Share" from the options list.
5. In the pop-up window that appears, type in the contact email addresses of the people you would like to share the video with (see emails to share with below).
6. Click "Send."

For **MUSIC** share with:

- [kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us) (all videos)
- [afokkens@asfaschool.org](mailto:afokkens@asfaschool.org) (all videos)

**IMPORTANT:** The pre-audition requirements here in **STEP 3**, along with the information you completed in **STEPS 1 & 2**, will be reviewed to determine if you will be invited for a live, on-campus audition on **March 15, 2025**. If you want to learn about the live, on-campus audition requirements, you may continue to read into the next section.

## Live, On-Campus Audition Requirements

For those applicants invited to a live, on-campus audition, the requirements **differ** from the pre-audition requirements described above in STEP 3 of the application process. To access the live, on-campus audition requirements now, please visit the Admission page on the ASFA website by clicking [here](#) and locate the requirements for your specific instrument from the drop-down menu.

The live, on-campus audition also includes an applicant interview and an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions of the panel. During the interview, the panel seeks to ascertain the applicant's level of motivation, sincerity, confidence, and maturity.

The grade-level live, on-campus audition includes:

- Required repertoire
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Applicants in Grades 7 and 8: After your live audition, you and your parent/guardian will have a 10-15 minute interview with the Music Chair and other Music faculty.

## The Music Department at ASFA

### General Evaluation Criteria for Pre-Audition & Live, On-Campus Requirements

**TONE PRODUCTION/INTONATION:** For instrumentalists and vocalists this refers to both the quality of sound and the degree to which the soloist is able to match pitch with the piano and/or any other participating instruments or voices. For pianists, this refers to the evenness and quality of sound.

**DYNAMICS:** The range of volume from extremely soft to extremely loud and the skill with which the performer is able to control the volume.

**ARTICULATION:** The control of attacks and releases of sound. Diction and foreign language pronunciation are also considered for vocalists.

**PHRASING:** Inflection of the melodic line to communicate the composer's musical intent, analogous to the inflections of speech an actor would use to convey the essence of meaning in the words of a play.

**TECHNICAL FACILITY:** The degree of physical proficiency with which the music is executed, including memorization. Technical facility applies to all aspects of physical execution specific to each instrument and voice.

**ARTISTIC IMPRESSION:** The aural and visual effect of the presentation including the aesthetic qualities of the performance, appearance, and stage demeanor. The foregoing criteria are applied to each of the following items listed on the **Audition Repertoire Requirements Sheet**:

**Compulsory Scales • Compulsory Solo Repertoire • Free-Response Repertoire • Sight-Reading**

**For questions about completing applications contact**

Katie Gordon  
205.252.9241  
e-mail: [kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us)

**For questions about specific pre-audition or live audition requirements contact**

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