Course Guide Spring 2027

Monday 4 January – Thursday 25 March 2027

LATEST CURRICULUM!









The Conservatoire

EARLY YEARS | CHILDREN | ADULT

Providing exceptional, welcoming and creative music and art tuition to South East London since 1881.

Registered Charity No: 1072627



Welcome

Here at the Conservatoire we are all too aware of what Art and Music give us – we know that music and art education isn't just music and art education! It is maths, science, languages, literature, history, geography and that's on top of the obvious areas of imagination, creativity and emotional wellbeing. But we also know we can take this for granted and could articulate it better (more throughout this edition), so we have spent the last few months thinking this through. We want to be clear, nurturing, and ambitious.

Every child who joins us is a **Young Artist** and a **Young Musician** who can now move through the stages of **Discover**, **Foundation** and **Specialism**. We believe that whatever their age, artists and musicians always start with the question ***'What if...?'*** and the Conservatoire is the place to explore this fundamental question.

More of this on the pages that follow, but whether you are with us for a couple of terms or years, as many are, we know we can nurture your seed of creativity.



Mairéad Sheerin
Artistic Director

Discover – age 6 months to 4 years

All children are natural explorers; they just need to be in a creative environment. Their cognition is developing faster than at any other time in their lives and at the Conservatoire we want to give our **Young Artists** and **Young Musicians** the freedom, opportunity, and imaginative space to explore in a supportive setting. Our **Young Musicians** and their parents [and carers] will discover a wonderfully revitalised programme with lots of exciting and rewarding new features.

Foundation – age 4 to 9/11 years

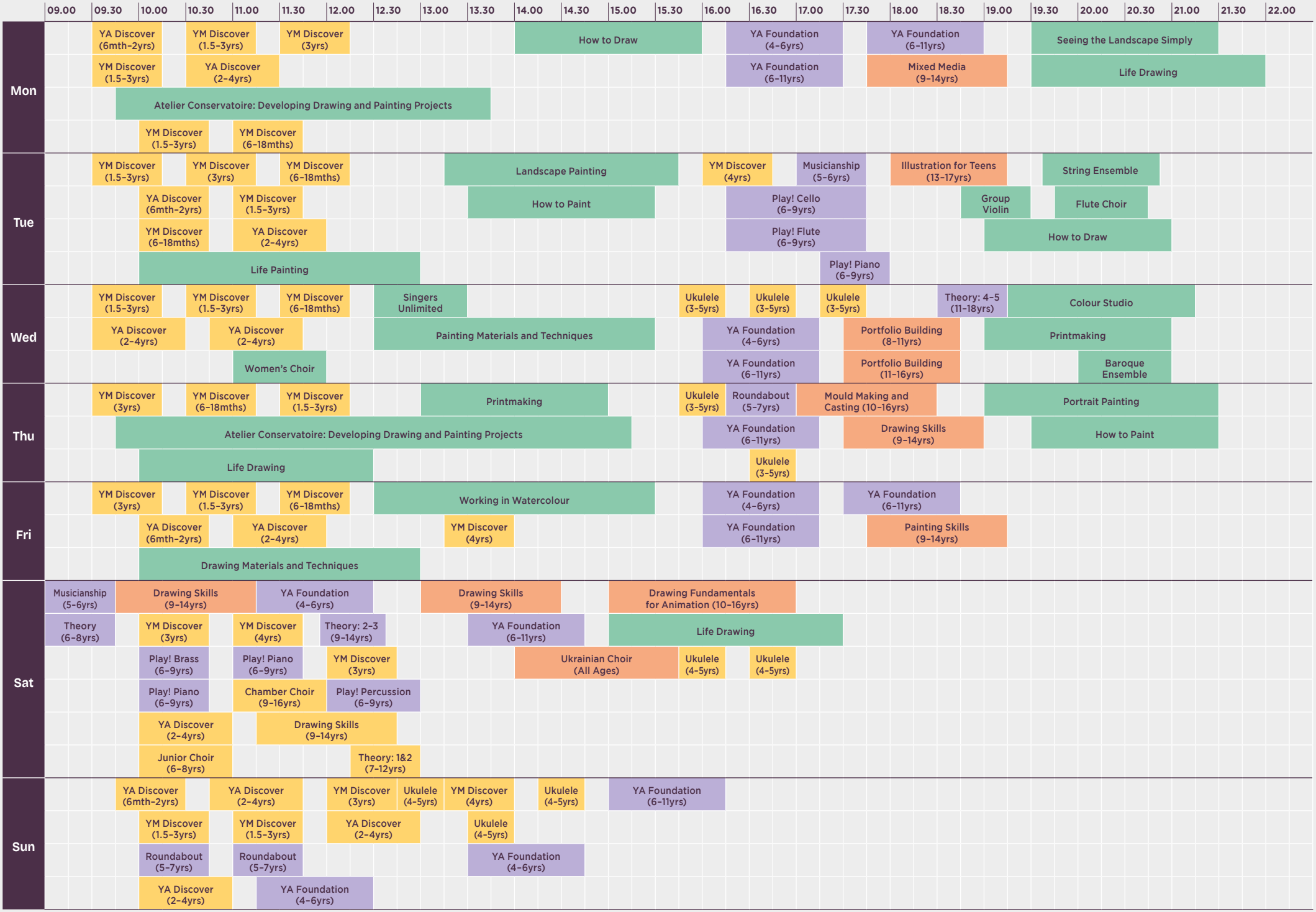
As our **Young Artists** and **Young Musicians** gain confidence, they are keen to pick up an instrument or paintbrush, and take their first independent steps, learning new skills. At the Conservatoire, we believe in the power of learning together as part of their musical and artistic **Foundation** – they learn by watching and listening to each other, as well as our expert teachers.

Specialism – 9 and beyond

With strong **foundations**, our **Young Musicians** are ready to move on to one-to-one lessons and develop their music theory and choral and ensemble skills. Our **Young Artists** can now choose areas in which they would like to **specialise** and they also have the option to continue in the more general Foundation classes up to age 11, which are designed to adapt to suit all of the ages covered in the class.

Adults – Forever!

Anyone who has been in our building will know that we are the home of lifelong learners. We know what it gives them – a boost to their mood, wellbeing and creativity, feeling a connection with others, achieving something in what can be a difficult world – and we hope they know what it gives us, a vibrant building where students and tutors thrive! From 9am to 9pm it feels like the building hums with the creativity of these adults still thinking ***'what if...?'***


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Mon
YA Discover (6mth–2yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (3yrs)
How to Draw
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Seeing the Landscape Simply
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Mixed Media (9–14yrs)
Life Drawing
Atelier Conservatoire: Developing Drawing and Painting Projects
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (6–18mths)
Tue
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (3yrs)
YM Discover (6–18mths)
Landscape Painting
YM Discover (4yrs)
Musicianship (5–6yrs)
Illustration for Teens (13–17yrs)
String Ensemble
YA Discover (6mth–2yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
How to Paint
Play! Cello (6–9yrs)
Group Violin
Flute Choir
YM Discover (6–18mths)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
Play! Flute (6–9yrs)
How to Draw
Life Painting
Play! Piano (6–9yrs)
Wed
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (6–18mths)
Singers Unlimited
Ukulele (3–5yrs)
Ukulele (3–5yrs)
Ukulele (3–5yrs)
Theory: 4–5 (11–18yrs)
Colour Studio
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
Painting Materials and Techniques
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)
Portfolio Building (8–11yrs)
Printmaking
Women's Choir
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Portfolio Building (11–16yrs)
Baroque Ensemble
Thu
YM Discover (3yrs)
YM Discover (6–18mths)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
Printmaking
Ukulele (3–5yrs)
Roundabout (5–7yrs)
Mould Making and Casting (10–16yrs)
Portrait Painting
Atelier Conservatoire: Developing Drawing and Painting Projects
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Drawing Skills (9–14yrs)
How to Paint
Life Drawing
Ukulele (3–5yrs)
Fri
YM Discover (3yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (6–18mths)
Working in Watercolour
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
YA Discover (6mth–2yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
YM Discover (4yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Painting Skills (9–14yrs)
Drawing Materials and Techniques
Sat
Musicianship (5–6yrs)
Drawing Skills (9–14yrs)
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)
Drawing Skills (9–14yrs)
Drawing Fundamentals for Animation (10–16yrs)
Theory (6–8yrs)
YM Discover (3yrs)
YM Discover (4yrs)
Theory: 2–3 (9–14yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
Life Drawing
Play! Brass (6–9yrs)
Play! Piano (6–9yrs)
YM Discover (3yrs)
Ukrainian Choir (All Ages)
Ukulele (4–5yrs)
Ukulele (4–5yrs)
Play! Piano (6–9yrs)
Chamber Choir (9–16yrs)
Play! Percussion (6–9yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
Drawing Skills (9–14yrs)
Junior Choir (6–8yrs)
Theory: 1&2 (7–12yrs)
Sun
YA Discover (6mth–2yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
YM Discover (3yrs)
Ukulele (4–5yrs)
YM Discover (4yrs)
Ukulele (4–5yrs)
YA Foundation (6–11yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YM Discover (1.5–3yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
Ukulele (4–5yrs)
Roundabout (5–7yrs)
Roundabout (5–7yrs)
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)
YA Discover (2–4yrs)
YA Foundation (4–6yrs)

Young Music Discover Tutors



Hilary Dolamore

Hilary trained at the Royal College of Music as a post-graduate singer, and then in the Opera Department. Her singing work has taken her all over the UK in touring operas, and all over the world as a recitalist to Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Hilary ran a community adult and baby music group in Catford for many years before joining the Conservatoire in 2017, first as a tutor, and then in 2020 becoming our Early Years Music programme lead. Hilary takes great care to gently encourage and give space to those who need it, and always affirms every moment of progress, no matter how small.

"Our offering is very unique. From the earliest age group of six months, we combine lots of joyous music making with real musicianship which is accessible and transferable. There are very few children who are not beguiled by the rhythm, routine, and repetition in each class – not to mention our delightful selection of fun puppets, cuddly teddies, and exciting percussion instruments to 'jam' with!"



María José Andrade

María José Andrade is a British-Chilean theatre director working in theatre, performance, music, and sound experimentation. She has taught and mentored young people in London and the USA. She is a singer and guitarist with a passion for Latin American folk rhyme and tunes.

"Children's curiosity inspires me to create fun, interactive sessions for discovery and experimentation."



Jas Ratchford

Jas Ratchford is a singer-songwriter from Greenwich. Since studying music at Cambridge she has worked in various settings delivering early years music and drama workshops, as well as writing and recording her own folk project and performing around the UK.

"It's a privilege to welcome parents and carers, fostering joy and bonding as their little ones explore rhythm, rhyme, pitch, and dynamics."



Jo Girdlestone

Jo G trained at Drama Studio London and has worked in theatre and music education at top venues like the National Theatre, Young Vic, and V&A. She specialises in creating original work for young people. A singer and acoustic guitarist, she also performs on the live music circuit.

"The classes are fun and inclusive, so babies and toddlers begin to know about music before they know they know about music, making their onward musical adventure a natural progression."



Lyle Sauer

Chicago-born and London-based, Lyle Sauer is a multidisciplinary music educator and Rose Bruford graduate. They sing, play multiple instruments, and have taught drums across all ages. Their work—spanning bands, composition, and pit percussion—is rooted in inclusivity, informed by experience as a SEN teaching assistant and early efforts creating accessible instruments.

"I believe music is a powerful tool for connection, self-expression, and healing. It gave me confidence and belonging—and I'm honoured to pass that on."



Young Artists and Young Musicians

Discover

– the home of natural explorers

What is Discover?

In **Discover** classes, with our expert tutors guiding but standing back when needed, the children are discovering and creating, expressing feelings they may not be able to verbalise. As their minds explore and express, their bodies are responding: building up motor skills, developing hand-eye co-ordination and, as they make patterns (both musically and artistically), count and play with textures, shapes and sizes, beats and rhythms, and use tools and puppets; they are also making their first forays into the worlds of maths and science.

Discover Skills

Through art, music and imagination, they start to use language and express themselves through stories and word repetition. With their classmates they are learning to share, listen, problem-solve, take turns and help each other. With their parent or carer, they are strengthening that bond in a new way. And parents are creating too! Together, the groups build a sense of community.

Young Musicians

In our music classes, through stories, song and percussion, our **Young Musicians** [and the parent or carer who accompanies them] explore tempo, pitch and rhythm. Our new programme draws upon well-established music pedagogies together with our Team Lead's own experiences as a musician, Early Years practitioner and parent. Here are some of the highlights:

Makaton hand signs: Our tutors have been trained in Makaton for Singing to support communication between adults and pre-verbal babies or speech-delayed bilingual children.

Songs for Grown-Ups in our 6–18-month classes: a moment for adults to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of singing in a supportive group in the knowledge that their little ones are cocooned in sound.

Solfa and Kodály hand signals for our 4-year-olds to support pitch, sight-singing as well as getting ready for our **Foundation** classes: **Musicianship**, **Roundabout**, **Play!** and **Junior Choir**. Also, for the first time they will experience a stringed instrument – the ukulele, [which they can also have fun with in our Ukulele for age 3+].

Young Artists

Our art classes are a playful creative start to art for children ages 0–4. Each week has a loose theme inspired by special days and seasonal events, although overall these sessions are child-led. They explore a variety of techniques including drawing, painting, printing, 3D, cutting and sticking, with lots of help and tips to inspire mark making, colour, texture and storytelling. They provide a fantastic opportunity for self-expression, and parents can breathe a sigh of relief that the mess stays with us!

What if I mix these colours? What if the bear has a loud booming singing voice but moves quickly? What does it feel like when I dip this sponge into this paint? What if I help the tutor hand out the tambourines to my classmates? What if we carry this curiosity throughout our whole lives…?



Welcome to the Conservatoire, the home of natural explorers

- Small class sizes
- Unique and specialised curriculum devised to develop with your child from birth to adulthood
- Exceptional tutors who are professional performers, artists and early years specialists
- Child-centred approach, inspiring a love of art and music
- Children develop listening, imaginative, cognitive, speech and language and co-ordination skills
- Makaton hand signs, Solfa and Kodály hand signals for our Young Musicians
- Termly exhibition for our Young Artists
- Sociable and fun for children and parents alike
- No tidying up!
- Accompanied classes that give parents and carers the opportunity to connect creatively with their child, bring Music and Art into their home and families, and provide a nurturing basis to move on to our more independent **Foundation** stage.



Young Artists Discover (6mths–4yrs)

YA

A wonderful introduction to the world of art. These child-led, exploratory sessions will enable you and your child to discover different materials, textures and art forms in an engaging and stimulating environment. Children acquire new skills on a week-by-week basis and gain more confidence in the vocabulary they use to describe what they see and feel.

Activities are kept relevant and interesting by linking classes to seasonal activities and celebrations and stations focused on different inventive skills and activities are set up for children to explore at their leisure (with support from our fabulous artist-tutors). They can make as much or as little mess as they want on their creative journey! As they get older, they can move on to our Foundation stage.

Please note, these are not drop-off sessions, and parents and carers are expected to stay and join in.

Young Artists Discover (6mths–2yrs)

Tutor(s): Sue Harris, Florence Tambini Cooper, Sally Ann Petts

Mon: 09.30 – 10.15, 11 sessions, £115.50

Tue: 10.00 – 10.45, 11 sessions, £115.50

Fri: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £105

Sun: 09.45 – 10.30, 10 sessions, £105

Young Artists Discover (2–4yrs)

Tutor(s): Sue Harris, Florence Tambini Cooper, Fiona Berry, Sally Ann Petts, Harry Whitelock

Mon: 10.30 – 11.30, 11 sessions, £132

Tue: 11.00 – 12.00, 11 sessions, £132

Wed: 09.30 – 10.30, 11 sessions, £132

Wed: 10.45 – 11.45, 11 sessions, £132

Fri: 11.00 – 12.00, 10 sessions, £120

Sat: 10.00 – 11.00, 10 sessions, £120

Sun: 10.00 – 11.00, 10 sessions, £120

Sun: 10.45 – 11.45, 10 sessions, £120

Sun: 12.00 – 13.00, 7 sessions, £84

"Discover is a great mix and really helps build a feeling for music and rhythm, and confidence too."



Young Musicians Discover (6mths–5yrs)

YM

Please note, these are not drop-off sessions, and parents and carers are expected to stay and join in.

Young Musicians Discover (6mths–18mths)

Tutor(s): Hilary Dolamore, María José Andrade, Jo Girdlestone, Lyle Sauer, Jas Ratchford

Our youngest children are being cocooned in a mini-world of sound and action co-created by adults and the tutor. You will focus on a theme; perhaps it will be travel, a visit to the farm or springtime? Musicianship topics such as stopping and starting, high and low pitches, steady beat and loud and soft will be gently incorporated through song, percussion instruments and movement. You will notice your tutor using Makaton hand signs in the session to support non-verbal communication. Later in the session, whilst the babies are busy with our play bag, grown-ups can take a moment for themselves and sing a variety of world songs in unison or canon, led by the tutor – Songs for Grown-Ups.

Mon: 11.00 – 11.45, 11 sessions, £121

Tue: 10.00 – 10.45, 11 sessions, £121

Tue: 11.30 – 12.15, 11 sessions, £121

Wed: 11.30 – 12.15, 11 sessions, £121

Thu: 10.30 – 11.15, 11 sessions, £121

Fri: 11.30 – 12.15, 10 sessions, £110

"As a parent, I was thrilled to see my child's creativity flourish under the guidance of the instructors."

Young Musicians Discover (18mths–3yrs)

Tutor(s): María José Andrade, Hilary Dolamore, Lyle Sauer, Jo Girdlestone, Jas Ratchford

This term the children might be sheltering from the wind and rain, hunting for mini-beasts or looking out for the first signs of Spring. Umbrellas will be up and wellies on as they get out and about in the classroom. As your tutor leads you through these and other stories, families will be unconsciously experiencing pitch, pulse, dynamics and other musicianship concepts. Together, week-by-week you will create a Song Box – a box full of small objects and puppets that remind us of all our favourite songs learnt throughout the term. Your tutor may also incorporate some Makaton hand signs into each lesson. There is so much to Discover!

Mon: 09.30 – 10.15, 11 sessions, £121

Mon: 10.00 – 10.45, 11 sessions, £121

Mon: 10.30 – 11.15, 11 sessions, £121

Tue: 09.30 – 10.15, 11 sessions, £121

Tue: 11.00 – 11.45, 11 sessions, £121

Wed: 09.30 – 10.15, 11 sessions, £121

Wed: 10.30 – 11.15, 11 sessions, £121

Thu: 11.30 – 12.15, 11 sessions, £121

Fri: 10.30 – 11.15, 10 sessions, £110

Sun: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £110

Sun: 11.00 – 11.45, 10 sessions, £110

Young Musicians Discover
(3 & 4 yrs)

YM

Tutor(s): Hilary Dolamore, María José Andrade, Lyle Sauer, Jo Girdlestone, Jas Ratchford

Using a selection of carefully curated books as a passport, children and adults are going on magical musical journeys with the tutor as the tour guide. It could be a trip to Kenya where some greedy animals help us learn about dynamics; or perhaps a night-time flight to a mysterious playroom where the toys teach us about pulse; there is a sleep-deprived bear whose stomping feet help us understand notation and a weather-loving elephant who with his friend Eddy helps us understand rests. Gradually we are learning more consciously. Over the term we will also create a Song Box of "treasures" to remind us of certain songs as we learn Solfa, which will improve sight-reading. The four-year-olds will, for the first time, move away from percussion and experience their first stringed instrument as they learn the rudiments of the ukulele.

Please note, these are not drop-off sessions, and parents and carers are expected to stay and join in.

Young Musicians Discover (3yrs)

Mon: 11.30 – 12.15, 11 sessions, £132
Tue: 10.30 – 11.15, 11 sessions, £132
Thu: 09.30 – 10.15, 11 sessions, £132
Fri: 09.30 – 10.15, 10 sessions, £120
Sat: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £120
Sat: 12.00 – 12.45, 10 sessions, £120
Sun: 12.00 – 12.45, 10 sessions, £120

Young Musicians Discover (4yrs)

Tue: 16.00 – 16.45, 11 sessions, £132
Fri: 13.15 – 14.00, 10 sessions, £120
Sat: 11.00 – 11.45, 10 sessions, £120
Sun: 13.15 – 14.00, 10 sessions, £120

"The programme is expertly designed, with great props, instruments, and fresh nursery rhyme arrangements."





Ukulele (3–5yrs)

In this class, the children learn basic techniques on this little instrument in an engaging and fun way. Together as a group, we explore all the sounds a ukulele can make, as well as strumming open string pieces and plucking with simple chords. We even work together to write our own little pieces of music. Best of all: ukuleles always sound good! This class is the perfect introduction to playing a stringed instrument. Students will progress through classes and are then able to join one of our many group string classes, Foundation Musicianship or Roundabout. **We have classes for 3–5 or 4–5-year-olds to suit your schedule and groups for beginners and those who have some experience.**

"Playful, fun, and interactive, it fosters strong teacher-child engagement in a small, friendly group!"

Ukulele (3–5yrs) Absolute Beginner

Tutor(s): Jay Hammond

Wed: 15.45 – 16.15, 11 sessions, £121
Wed: 16.30 – 17.00, 11 sessions, £121
Wed: 17.15 – 17.45, 11 sessions, £121
Thu: 15.45 – 16.15, 11 sessions, £121
Thu: 16.30 – 17.00, 11 sessions, £121

Ukulele (4–5yrs) Absolute Beginner

Tutor(s): Russell Harris, Matt Penson

Sat: 15.45 – 16.15, 10 sessions, £110
Sun: 13.30 – 14.00, 10 sessions, £110
Sun: 14.15 – 14.45, 10 sessions, £110

Ukulele (4–5yrs) Some Experience

Tutor(s): Russell Harris, Matt Penson

Sat: 16.30 – 17.00, 10 sessions, £110
Sun: 12.45 – 13.15, 10 sessions, £110

Young Artists and Young Musicians

Foundation

– bringing the building blocks together

Foundation Framework

At the Conservatoire, we believe in the power of learning together as part of children's musical and artistic **Foundation** – our **Young Artists** and **Young Musicians** learn by watching and listening to each other, and any professional creative will tell you that collaborating and socialising through art and music is the **Foundation** of their developing practice. From this point they attend our classes independently as they move towards producing independently created art and music with the scaffolding support provided by a solid framework.

Foundation Skills

Our thoughtfully devised group courses are structured to develop a wide range of skills, explore new concepts across the arts and build social skills in a fun, informative and collaborative way. We hold termly performances and exhibitions – looking at and listening to the work of other students provides an important opportunity to develop a visual and musical vocabulary about what they see, what they hear, what they like and what they could try next.

Young Musicians

For our **Young Musicians**, high-quality group lessons allow students to develop increasingly sophisticated musicianship, instrumental and vocal skills in a fun and motivating environment. In **Foundation Musicianship**, students meet the orchestra, experience music from around the world, try out the ukulele and even start to compose! Our flagship **Roundabout** programme introduces children to six instruments over the course of a year. They are then ready to choose their favoured instrument for the follow-on programme **Play!** which is designed to help children to progress further through small-group learning. In **Junior Choir** they can sing together, harmonising and exploring how the voice works. **Ukulele** age 4–5 gives them a chance to play and sing together in small, supportive groups.

Young Artists

Our **Young Artists** in **Foundation 4–6** build their skills throughout the term with step-by-step guidance and suggestions to help them along the way, alongside the opportunity to make their own choices and exert creative freedom! The inspiration is from exhibitions currently taking place across London and seasonal events. Children develop their knowledge of colour, texture, and their skills with brushes and scissors, while expanding their notions of what constitutes art with the emphasis still on fun!

The next step in **Foundation 6–11** is building upon and applying the knowledge and skills they already have, developing focus, deepening an understanding of the world and extending their self-expression. Using inspiration from current exhibitions, the tutor guides the children through the creative process teaching a broad range of skills but with more independent decision-making and problem-solving, developing the perseverance to overcome what they may perceive as mistakes.



Welcome to the Conservatoire, bringing the building blocks together

- High-quality, progressive group lessons developing artistic, instrumental, vocal and musicianship skills
- Supportive group teaching taught by accomplished practising musicians and artists
- Improve concentration, memory, imagination and fine motor skills
- Develop social skills – collaborating, listening and taking the lead
- Experience the work of artists, exhibitions, musicians and composers and use this inspiration to create
- Opportunities to perform and exhibit – celebrating our students as emerging musicians and artists
- Explore and develop a wide range of techniques and inspirations
- Strong **foundation** for confidently moving on to our **Specialism** stage: one-to-one instrumental/vocal tuition, complementary music theory and ensemble classes, and specialist art techniques

"The curriculum strikes the perfect balance between structured learning and free expression."



Young Artists Foundation
(4yrs–11yrs)

YA

Young Artists Foundation (4–6yrs)

Tutor(s): Sue Harris, Fiona Berry, Harry Whitelock

Our Young Artists now take the next big step of attending on their own. They gain a fantastic wide-ranging artistic education, forming a bridge into a more structured (but still fun and imaginative!) learning environment where they take more ownership of their work, whilst still being supported. Step by step making done on their own pieces and simplified methods of each material process help children gain confidence with a variety of tools and techniques, helping them transition into their school years. Children's fine motor skills develop at different rates, so scaffolded choices are always offered.

Activities are kept relevant and interesting by linking classes to seasonal activities and celebrations and inspirational artists. As they progress they can move on to Young Artists Foundation 6–11.

Please note these are drop-off sessions.

Mon: 16.15 – 17.30, 11 sessions, £154

Wed: 16.00 – 17.15, 11 sessions, £154

Fri: 16.00 – 17.15, 7 sessions, £98

Sat: 11.15 – 12.30, 10 sessions, £140

Sun: 11.15 – 12.30, 7 sessions, £98

Sun: 13.30 – 14.45, 7 sessions, £98





Young Artists Foundation (6–11yrs)

Tutor(s): Sue Harris, Lilly Walker, Paula Sanders, Clare Kendall, Harry Whitelock, Fiona Berry

THE Art Foundation course for primary students, providing a stimulating yet informal setting for your child to really enjoy the process and results of creating art across a broad and eclectic range of media and techniques, including model making, printmaking, puppetry, painting and drawing. Building on the foundation of the 4–6 class, our Young Artists will develop creative focus and problem-solving skills, and learn the importance of not being afraid to fail and try again – a true creative growth mindset! All activities are carefully planned to increase visual awareness and above all to stimulate enthusiasm and enjoyment. The class is designed to adapt and cater for all of the age ranges covered. Older students can continue the course independently, or alongside our Young Artists Specialism options.

Mon: 16.15 – 17.30, 11 sessions, £170.50

Mon: 17.45 – 19.00, 11 sessions, £170.50

Wed: 16.00 – 17.15, 11 sessions, £170.50

Thu: 16.00 – 17.15, 11 sessions, £170.50

Fri: 16.00 – 17.15, 7 sessions, £108.50

Fri: 17.30 – 18.45, 7 sessions, £108.50

Sat: 13.30 – 14.45, 10 sessions, £155

Sun: 15.00 – 16.15, 7 sessions, £108.50

"My daughter's absolute favourite class. Such creative topics, inspirations and teaching."



Young Musicians Foundation (5yrs–11yrs)

YM

Foundation Musicianship (5–6yrs)

Tutor(s): Hilary Dolamore, María José Andrade

We have created this musically rich and diverse course to introduce children to the wider universe of classical and world music whilst continuing to deepen their knowledge of musicianship.

There are four strands of learning: Meet the Orchestra with an opportunity to try instruments from the different orchestral families; Walk this World and understand the styles of music making in other countries; Carnival of the Animals where the children focus on a composer and learn how music can be written to illustrate different animals; Jack and the Beanstalk, which is used to introduce pitch and writing short compositions on a 3-line stave with dynamic markings. In addition to the above, they will be learning ukulele and Solfa.

This class is a perfect follow-on from our **Young Musicians Discover** classes (see page 11), and also complements **individual tuition** (page 38), **Junior Choir** (page 19) or **Roundabout** (page 20).

Tue: 17.00 – 17.45, 11 sessions, £132

Sat: 09.00 – 09.45, 10 sessions, £120





Musicianship, Theory & Choir

YM

Create and notate music in our Music Theory classes, developing understanding and skills in aural, composition and general musicianship whilst working towards ABRSM music theory grades. The classes are taught with humour and are grounded in practical experience which really achieves results. This class is for those who attend instrumental or voice classes but are beginners in music theory. The course teaches the basics of reading music to support our youngest learners in their instrumental and vocal studies.

Theory: Beginners to Grade 1 (6–8yrs)

Tutor(s): Ryan Morgan

Sat: 09.00 – 09.45, 10 sessions, £150

Theory: Working towards Grades 1 & 2 (7–12 yrs)

Tutor(s): Ryan Morgan

Sat: 12.15 – 13.00, 10 sessions, £150

Junior Choir (6–8yrs)

Tutor(s): Ryan Morgan

Beginners Welcome!

Our lively Junior Choir has a great time developing singing and musicianship skills and making new friends. We sing in unison and in harmony (with no need to read sheet music), accompanied and a cappella, and we work towards formal and informal performances. New members are always welcome!

Sat: 10.00 – 11.00, 10 sessions, £105

"The choir is fabulous fun. There is a real sense of community and they teach us a lot of technique, without it feeling like teaching!"



Roundabout (5–7yrs)

Programme Lead: Phil Entwistle

This is a 12-month course

Choosing an instrument for a child often means guessing what they will like. The Conservatoire's unique Roundabout programme allows children to find out what they love to play through a structured programme of hands-on trials of six different instrument families.

Over a period of 12 months, Roundabout provides introductions to strings, piano, percussion, guitar, brass and flute; each lesson led by highly qualified musicians and performers and in a class small enough for every child to get the attention they need. Scientific evidence proves that music stimulates our neural pathways, enhancing cognitive functions such as memory, attention and problem solving as well as emotional engagement and regulation. Our aim is for every child to enjoy learning the fundamentals of music and exploring the different instruments.

Please note that this is a year-long course, so when you enrol your child, you are committing to a year of weekly term-time classes at the same day and time every week, with a cost of £260 each term.

Roundabout leads on to our fantastic music programme for 6–9-year-olds – Play!

Thu: 16.15 – 17.00, 10 sessions, £260

Sun: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £260

Sun: 11.00 – 11.45, 10 sessions, £260

"My daughter loves her music class and is growing in confidence."

Roundabout

Six instruments. One year. A world of music.



Roundabout at a glance

Ages	5–7 years old
Course duration	12 months
What children explore	Strings (violin and cello), percussion (djembe and glockenspiel), brass (pTrumpet and pBuzz), flute, guitar and piano (electric keyboard and piano); a half-term on each
Group size	Small groups, maximum 5 children per class
What they learn	Note names, rhythms, pulse, dynamics, introduction to improvisation and composition.
Personal development	Roundabout supports psycho-social development through learning to take turns, enhancing opportunities for expression and communication, expanding creativity, learning to respond to others, caring for resources and sharing music with others. Learning and engaging with music is also proven to stimulate pathways in the brain responsible for cognitive functions and problem solving.
Taught by	Accomplished, practising musicians
Where	Blackheath Conservatoire, SE3
Starting points	Autumn, Spring or Summer Term; join whenever suits your family
Performing together	All groups perform together at the end of year Roundabout Celebration Concert and also benefit from half-termly Chamber Music, Orchestra and Show and Share sessions.



Play!

YM

Play! (6–9yrs)

Programme Lead: Elizabeth Marr

This is a 12-month course

This is a year-long course of group teaching on one instrument taught by a range of our outstanding tutors, all of whom are very experienced teachers and performers. It is the perfect preparation year before embarking on one-to-one lessons. The instruments on offer are piano, violin, flute, guitar, percussion and brass (usually trumpet).

Play! is the perfect follow-on course from Roundabout or for beginners who would like to learn one instrument for a full year and graduate from the programme with their Play! Certificate. Children are taught in small groups and, by the end of this year-long programme, will be able to:

- play a short piece from memory
- clap back rhythms
- read and play back a melody
- read simple rhythms and notes
- demonstrate a good knowledge of their chosen instrument

One of the many joys of learning to play an instrument is getting to play alongside other people. To enable this to happen, we run the weekly Play! Together Orchestra, which brings cello, violin and flute together. Please see the combined time of the orchestra and group tuition sessions below.

At the end of terms 1 and 2 (every term for Play! Together Orchestra), there is a performance week for you to hear how your children are getting on. This gives the children an opportunity to perform and be proud of their progress. The year ends with a Celebration Concert where all the children perform within their groups, as well as with all the instruments as a mass Play! Orchestra and are awarded their Play! Certificates.

You will receive an end-of-year report on your child's progress to keep you informed of their achievements.

Please note that this is a year-long course, so when you enrol your child, you are committing to a year of weekly term-time classes at the same day and time every week. Students will need their own instrument and you will be sent advice about this before the course starts.
If you are interested in hiring an instrument please ask our Front of House team for details.

Play! Instruments which include Play! Together Orchestra

Play! Cello (6–9yrs)

Tutor(s): Sophie Baxter

This is a 12-month course

Tue: 16.15 – 17.45, 11 sessions, £225.50

Play! Flute (6–9yrs)

Tutor(s): Elizabeth Marr

This is a 12-month course

Tue: 16.15 – 17.45, 11 sessions, £225.50



Individual Play! Groups

Learn to play the guitar, piano, brass or percussion in the most fun way possible – together! Our motivational and very experienced tutors will guide you through the basics in a relaxed and stimulating environment. These courses are taught across three terms, building a solid foundation for students to move on to individual or shared tuition, or form a group of their own! Students will work towards the structured Play! curriculum but these particular instrumental sessions do not include the orchestral element.

Play! Piano will be taught using pianos and/or keyboards. Due to the set-up of the room, there may be times when students share keyboards/pianos, but this will not detract from their learning experience.

Play! Percussion includes drum kit, djembes, xylophone and other hand percussion.

Learners will need their own instrument. If you are interested in hiring an instrument for the course, please ask our Front of House team for details.

Play! Brass (6–9 yrs)

Tutor(s): Ana Pérez

This is a 12-month course

Sat: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £150

Play! Piano (6–9 yrs)

Age Range: 6 – 9yrs

Tutor(s): Ana Pérez, Christopher Sobiesky, Nicholas Sabisky

This is a 12-month course

Tue: 17.15 – 18.00, 11 sessions, £165

Sat: 10.00 – 10.45, 10 sessions, £150

Sat: 11.00 – 11.45, 10 sessions, £150

Play! Percussion (6–9 yrs)

Tutor(s): Lyle Sauer

This is a 12-month course

Sat: 12.05 – 12.50, 10 sessions, £150

"My son says his tutor is the best at teaching, explaining and giving advice."



Young Artists and Young Musicians

Specialism

Focus on your passion

Why Specialise?

Our **Young Artists** and **Young Musicians** are at a time second only to infancy in terms of the number of developmental changes in the brain – they begin to think differently, looking out rather than in. So, naturally they are keen to hone their skills and specialise. At this exciting developmental point, self-expression and socialising through art and music provide an important emotional outlet for our students.

Young Musicians

With strong foundations, our **Young Musicians** are ready to move on to one-to-one lessons, **Individual Tuition**. With over 80 tutors from different backgrounds, trained at the world's top music schools and in a variety of **specialisms**, we can accommodate differing aspirations – from formal exams to the desire for a creative oasis (and most often a combination of both!).

They can complement their learning with small group music **Theory** classes catering for all levels up to that crucial Grade 5 stage. Their choral journey can continue with **Chamber Choir**, exploring more sophisticated music and learning about how to blend with colleagues and when to use a more soloistic sound.

Young Artists

Our **Young Artists** can continue to build upon their skills in the general Foundation 6–11 course, which is designed to challenge and nurture the differing skills and interests of varying ages, or they can **specialise** in one or more areas that interest them: **Drawing Skills, Painting Skills, Mixed Media, Mould Making, Illustration for Teens, Drawing Fundamentals for Animation** and **Portfolio Building**, all helpful as a creative outlet or to support more formal learning or future further education applications.





Welcome to the Conservatoire, where you can focus on your passion

- Taught by accomplished practising musicians and artists in a stimulating, creative and supportive setting
- Opportunities to exhibit and perform, celebrating students as musicians and artists in their own right
- Continue to develop confidence, self-expression, social skills, perseverance, problem-solving, leadership
- Experience the work of artists, exhibitions, musicians and composers and use this inspiration to develop creativity
- High-quality one-to-one vocal and instrumental tuition (see page 38) with complementary small group teaching in theory and instrumental and choral ensembles
- As schools reduce their creative provision, we offer a solution to explore new opportunities and techniques and to refine skills



Young Artists Specialism (9–18yrs)

YA

Drawing Skills (9–14yrs)

Tutor(s): Paula Sanders, Jonathan Huxley

Beginners Welcome!

Drawing Skills is one of the most popular and longest-running children's art courses at the Conservatoire. It is ideal for students who wish to explore and develop their drawing using a range of media and processes. Students work predominantly from first-hand observation with additional use of photographic resources, to enable a deeper understanding of representation through mark-making and colour. The students study the work of other artists, which helps to inform their own practice and expand their visual literacy.

Thu: 17.30 – 19.00, 11 sessions, £203.50

Sat: 09.45 – 11.15, 10 sessions, £185

Sat: 11.15 – 12.45, 10 sessions, £185

Sat: 13.00 – 14.30, 10 sessions, £185

Painting Skills (9–14yrs)

Tutor(s): Sue Harris

Beginners Welcome!

Our Painting Skills classes are designed for students who wish to explore and develop painting techniques and take their skills to the next level. Painting expression is often less developed than drawing techniques as students have less opportunity to try them out (sometimes inevitably involving mess!) than the drawing skills they utilise in everyday life. Students explore colour application and mixing using a variety of media which may include acrylics, watercolour, tempera, ink, oils etc. We also experiment with painting on different materials such as paper, wood, cardboard, glass and canvas. As with our long-running Drawing Skills class, students study the work of other artists to help deepen their understanding and expand their visual literacy of the painted world.

Fri: 17.45 – 19.15, 7 sessions, £129.50

Mixed Media (9–14yrs)

Tutor(s): Seán Myers

Beginners Welcome!

Under expert and friendly guidance, students will create a unique body of art that expresses their talent and artistic identity. Perfectly designed for children and teenagers who want to explore, develop and experiment with drawing, painting, and collage skills within the subject of printmaking. Students will be inspired by their own interests and tutor-led themes, and use of their own photography is actively encouraged. An understanding of research and development and formal elements required for IB and GCSE Art and Design will also be covered and will inform all art produced on the course.

Mon: 17.45 – 19.15, 11 sessions, £203.50



Portfolio Building (8–16yrs)

YA

These courses are designed to take children through the stages of art making from the conception of an idea to the completion of a project – just like a professional artist and helpful in Foundation art course applications. Students work with a broad range of media from printmaking to sculpture in order to broaden their skill base and understanding. Every stage of the design process is documented through drawings and photographs and students are responsible for editing and displaying their work in their portfolio – an all-important part of the artistic process. There is a strong focus on drawing, which sits at the core of visual language development for children. This is a wonderful opportunity to create a unique body of work that expresses creative identity, develops artistic talent, and generates a portfolio to be proud of.

Portfolio Building (8–11yrs)

Tutor(s): Seán Myers

Wed: 17.30 – 18.45, 11 sessions, £203.50

Portfolio Building (11–16yrs)

Tutor(s): Lilly Walker

Wed: 17.30 – 18.45, 11 sessions, £203.50

Mould Making and Casting (10–16yrs)

Tutor(s): Clare Kendall

Beginners Welcome!

Have you ever wanted to turn your clay creations into plaster? Have you ever wondered how lifelike body parts are made in film or TV or how plaster can be made to look like metal for special effect?

Then this course is for you!

In these safely supervised workshops, we will learn a range of sculpting, model making, mould making and casting techniques.

We will sculpt in clay and then learn how to make silicone moulds of our sculptures to replicate them in acrylic resin.

We will choose between a variety of techniques which may include casting terrazzo tiles, creating magical, miniature dioramas, layered resin paintings, body casting with alginate and making botanical resin bookmarks.

Perfect for anyone interested in sculpture, model making, prop making, the decorative arts or anyone with an enthusiasm for 'hands-on' making.

Please note that any plaster or resin items will be available to be picked up after three days from making; this is to allow for drying time.

Thu: 17.00 – 18.30, 11 sessions, £203.50

Illustration for Teens (13–17 yrs)

Tutor(s): Clare Kendall

Beginners Welcome!

Welcome to the world of illustration! Over this course, we will look at how illustration is used and explore different styles and techniques.

Referencing professional illustrators through the years, we will explore the narrative, decorative and informative aspects of illustration and work on project briefs spanning several weeks. Projects in the past have included graphic novels, destination posters, artists' collectable cards and dioramas.

We will touch on using various materials such as pen and ink, charcoal, collage, lino print and paint but ultimately, students will have the freedom to choose which materials best suit them.

This course is designed to help young people use their creativity to express their voice, give power to their messages, gain confidence, and have fun!

Tue: 18.00 – 19.15, 11 sessions, £203.50

Drawing Fundamentals for Animation (10–16yrs)

Tutor(s): Windy van Druten

Beginners Welcome!

In this specialist drawing-based course, students will explore the artistic foundations behind traditional animation through observational drawing, movement, gesture, expression, timing, spacing, and character construction. Guided by specialist animation tutor Windy van Druten, students will develop strong visual understanding and learn how animators communicate movement, emotion, rhythm, and performance through drawing.

Inspired by traditional and classical animation practices, including Studio Ghibli, anime, and hand-drawn animation traditions, the course focuses on developing drawing confidence, expressive mark-making, and the core principles that bring drawings to life.



The course will include gesture and life drawing studies, movement exercises, sequential sketching, character development, and occasional frame-by-frame experiments using a rostrum camera setup to test work in motion.

Windy van Druten specialises in Classical and Traditional Animation, having studied Classical and Computer Animation in Vancouver, and holds an Animation degree from the University of Westminster.

Sat: 15.00 – 17.00, 10 sessions, £200

Young Musicians Specialism (7–18yrs)

YM

Chamber Choir (9–16yrs)

Tutor(s): Ryan Morgan

Beginners Welcome!

Come and join our Chamber Choir and develop your singing and musicianship skills whilst working towards formal and informal performances. We learn a wide range of traditional, popular and classical music, including singing in harmony, both accompanied and a cappella.

Sat: 11.00 – 12.00, 10 sessions, £105

Ukrainian Choir (All Ages)

Tutor(s): Marharyta Myts

Come along to the Conservatoire's Studio to take part in this Ukrainian Choir for all ages. Under the guidance of choir leader Marharyta and accompanist Oleksandr, you will sing Ukrainian songs as well as music from other repertoires and genres. This is a group class open to Ukrainian participants of all ages – bring your friends and meet new people!

Sat: 14.00 – 15.45, 10 sessions, free

Musicianship and Theory

YM

Create and notate music in our Music Theory classes, developing understanding and skills in aural, composition and general musicianship whilst working towards ABRSM music theory grades. The classes are taught with humour and are grounded in practical experience which really achieves results.

Theory: Grades 1–2 (7–12 yrs)

Tutor(s): Ryan Morgan

These classes are for those who attend instrumental or voice classes but are beginners in music theory. The courses teach the basics of reading music to support our youngest learners in their instrumental and vocal studies.

Sat: 12.15 – 13.00, 10 sessions, £150

Theory: Grades 2–3 (9–14yrs)

Tutor(s): Lexi Turvey

This class lays the foundations of all the important concepts for the higher grades, developing a greater understanding of the notation of Western music. Key concepts in this class include major and minor keys and scales, rhythm writing and time signatures.

Sat: 11.55 – 12.40, 10 sessions, £150

Theory: Grades 4–5 (11–18yrs)

Tutor(s): Nicholas Sabisky

Learn all you need to know to gain your theory Grades 4 and 5 with confidence. This class builds on the topics covered in Grade 3 and is focused on enabling young musicians to develop a strong understanding of musical notation for the Grade 5 theory exam – a prerequisite for anyone taking higher instrumental grades. The course focuses on sight-reading, writing rhythms and composing melodies.

Wed: 18.30 – 19.15, 11 sessions, £165

"The teacher makes a lot of effort to interact with each child and engage with them."

"Superb level of tuition. Dedicated tutors who tailor the class activities to all participants."



Artists and Musicians

Adults

South East London's creative home

Inspired by our original founding purpose, nearly 150 years ago, we continue to offer a diverse range of courses for the local adult community. We want to enhance and transform lives as you discover new skills or rejuvenate old ones, build confidence, and enjoy a new creative and social outlet, so come to the Conservatoire and escape from the pressures of the world, take time out for yourself, meet new friends, and exercise your imagination.





- Taught by accomplished practising musicians and artists in a stimulating, creative and supportive setting
- Whether taking up something new, picking it up after a gap, or continuing a life-long practice, enjoy the space to develop skills and self-expression
- Wide variety of music and art groups to choose from, catering for everyone from beginners to experienced artists and musicians
- Opportunities to exhibit and perform
- Meet other people who share the desire to create
- A beautiful purpose-built art studio for art classes, exhibitions and music performances – a rare thing!!



To book a course call 020 8852 0234 or visit www.conservatoire.org.uk

Adult Art

Atelier Conservatoire: Developing Drawing and Painting Projects

Tutor(s): David Webb

Some Experience Necessary

Are you looking to establish your studio practice and would you like space and guidance to further progress your work alongside the mentoring of a successful artist/tutor and the collaborative support of your fellow students? Structured like a continental atelier, the course allows artists with self-initiated projects (at all stages of development) to explore the creative journey from initial ideas to finished pieces. You will develop your visual research methods, technical experimentation, and critical awareness whilst working towards the completion of your own projects in drawing, painting and mixed media.

Some experience of painting and drawing and a good level of self-motivation are essential as projects are self-initiated (with tutor advice).

Mon: 09.45 – 13.45, 11 sessions, £390.50

Thu: 09.45 – 15.15, 11 sessions, £484



Colour Studio

Tutor(s): Paula Sanders

Beginners Welcome!

This evening studio course sets out to embrace the contribution and enjoyment of colour as a key element in visual art. We will explore colour mixing techniques and colour relationships, looking at the work of different artists to generate ideas. These supportive sessions will provide the opportunity to develop drawings with a range of media including pastel, pen and ink; painting with acrylic, watercolour and oil as well as collage and mixed media work. Suitable for those drawing or painting for the first time or returning to improve and develop their practice.

Wed: 19.15 – 21.15, 11 sessions, £236.50

Drop-in fee: £25.80

Drawing Materials and Techniques

Tutor(s): Kirsten Lyle

Beginners Welcome!

Drawing Materials and Techniques is a course for students of all levels and experience to explore and gain confidence in using a range of media in order to develop their own drawing skills and style. The materials we explore include pencil, charcoal, pastels (soft and oil) and ink, as well as a variety of drawing grounds and papers. During the course, the history, contemporary use and unique characteristics of each medium inform the exercises including site, measured line, contour, gesture and modelled drawing.

Fri: 10.00 – 13.00, 10 sessions, £305

How to Draw

Tutor(s): Victoria Rance, Paula Sanders

Beginners Welcome!

In the first half of the term the course will cover basic drawing skills and techniques with different materials: using charcoal and rubber; drawing with pencil, line and measuring techniques; hatching with a pencil and other ways to shade and create tone; ways to create a feeling of space using perspective, angles and ellipses. In the second half of the term the focus on subject and materials varies (as students often repeat the class). For example: drawing the figure with watercolour pencils; using different types of pen and inks with still life; and drawing landscapes in colour with soft pastels or ink line and watercolour.

Suitable for all levels, including beginners.

By the end of this course, you will feel confident about working at home to develop your own style.

Mon: 14.00 – 16.00, 11 sessions, £236.50

Tue: 19.00 – 21.00, 11 sessions, £236.50

Drop-in fee: £25.80

How to Paint

Tutor(s): Jennie Russell, Sophie Cook

Beginners Welcome!

Welcome to our How To Paint class at the Conservatoire. This is a beginner-friendly class, but also suitable for those with painting experience. Come along to experiment and learn with different painting styles, techniques, and mediums, guided by your expert tutor. Suitable for all levels, including beginners. By the end of this course, you will feel confident about working at home to develop your own style.

Tue: 13.30 – 15.30, 11 sessions, £236.50

Thu: 19.30 – 21.30, 11 sessions, £236.50

Drop-in fee: £25.80



Landscape Painting

Tutor(s): Alex Pemberton

Beginners Welcome!

The aim of this course is to develop drawing and painting skills when working outside directly from landscape. We will be working outside in locations in Blackheath and Greenwich, which offer an amazing variety of landscape subjects.

The first sessions will concentrate on drawing and techniques useful for landscape, with a theme addressed each week, such as composition, perspective, proportion, light. Later this will lead into painting techniques and use of colour such as colour mixing, brushwork and washes. These techniques will include the use of oils, acrylics, watercolour as well as drawing mediums.

In the first half of the Spring term, most sessions will take place in the studio where we will work from secondary sources and explore techniques and approaches to landscape. We will look at work by painters of landscape, and a range of methods will be demonstrated. We will also work outside, when possible, to have a more direct experience of landscape subjects.

In the second half of term sessions will take place off site in locations local to Blackheath and Greenwich with some follow up sessions in the studio. Please therefore come prepared to be outside for the sessions.

This course is for both beginners and experienced students.

Tue: 13.15 – 15.45, 11 sessions, £286

Drop-in fee: £31.20

Life Drawing

Tutor(s): Victoria Rance, Jonathan Huxley

Set in our stunning Victorian art building, this course is designed for beginners as well as those for whom life drawing is already established in their artistic practice.

We draw from both male and female models and have poses varying from one minute to two hours.

This course is a wonderful opportunity to explore drawing in a variety of media from the live model with tuition and guidance tailored to suit each individual according to their needs. All of this comes together to help you build confidence in line, tone and proportion.

There is a drop-in option for this course, so you can come along for the whole course, or attend as many of these classes as you wish. Why not try our new Saturday afternoon class! Basic materials provided.

Mon: 19.30 – 22.00, 11 sessions, £302.50

Thu: 10.00 – 12.30, 11 sessions, £302.50

Sat: 15.00 – 17.30, 10 sessions, £275

Drop-in fee: £33

Life Painting

Tutor(s): Fergus McHardy

Join us for one of the few opportunities to experience Life Painting in South London. You'll develop confidence and skills in painting directly from the model and explore a range of techniques including colour mixing to capture the effects of light and shadow, spatial qualities and the exquisite forms of the body. These classes offer a chance to paint from both the nude and clothed figure. There will be four nine-hour poses across the term. A new pose is set every three weeks alternating between seated, standing and reclining. Tuition is available if required, with particular emphasis placed on producing paintings based on strong drawing.

Tue: 10.00 – 13.00, 11 sessions, £335.50

Drop-in fee: £36.60

Painting Materials and Techniques

Tutor(s): Kirsten Lyle

Beginners Welcome!

Painting Materials and Techniques is a course for students of all levels and experience to explore and gain confidence in using a range of media in order to develop their own painting skills and style. The materials we explore include acrylic, watercolour, gouache and ink, as well as a variety of painting grounds and papers, brushes and equipment. During the course, the history, contemporary use and unique characteristics of each medium inform the exercises including colour composition, brushwork techniques and painting from observation.

Wed: 12.30 – 15.30, 11 sessions, £324.50

Portrait Painting

Tutor(s): Lee Fether

Beginners Welcome!

Come along to explore portraiture in this beginner-friendly class, designed for artists of all levels to develop their skills in portraiture while encouraging experimentation.

Students will strengthen their observational abilities, learning to judge proportions, understand the underlying structure of the face, and investigate how different artists have approached these challenges. The course also covers how to handle light, shadow, and skin tones in paint, working in oils (or acrylics if preferred). Alongside these technical elements, students will be encouraged to consider expression, context, and narrative – how a portrait can convey identity or tell a story. As the course progresses, students will have the opportunity to paint portraits of a variety of sitters in the studio.

Lee has over fifteen years of experience as a practising artist in Greenwich, specialising in portrait commissions and landscape drawings. Lee's portrait of broadcaster and author Michael Rosen can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery.

Thu: 19.00 – 21.30, 11 sessions, £302.50

Drop-in fee: £33



Printmaking

Tutor(s): Seán Myers

Beginners Welcome!

This course covers a full introduction to lino, mono, photo transfer and drypoint printmaking techniques, with full instruction from a professional printmaker. This course can be taken as a standalone course but studying for more than one term allows students to specialise in one or two techniques, to fully explore the process and develop their artwork further. Suitable for complete beginners or those with some knowledge of printmaking.

Wed: 19.00 – 21.00, 11 sessions, £286

Thu: 13.00 – 15.00, 11 sessions, £286

Drop-in fee: £31.20

Seeing the Landscape Simply

Tutor(s): Sophie Cook

Beginners Welcome!

This course explores the art of simplifying the landscape in oils/acrylics and studies the structural clarity of masters such as Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot and Paul Cézanne. Through master copies, students will deepen their understanding of atmosphere, depth, colour harmony and composition by learning how great painters organised shape, tone and edge to create powerful landscape paintings. The course will also look at the expressive colour simplifications of Nicolas de Staël, offering contrasting approaches to observation and abstraction.

Weekly studio exercises may include limited-palette landscape studies, tonal thumbnail sketches, colour-mixing drills, atmospheric perspective exercises, reduction of complex scenes into major value shapes, brushwork studies from master paintings, and small plein-air studies developed into resolved studio compositions. Suitable for both developing and experienced painters, the course encourages a thoughtful and practical engagement with landscape painting traditions while helping students find a more personal visual language.

Mon: 19.30 – 21.30, 11 sessions, £236.50

Drop-in fee: £25.80

Working in Watercolour

Tutor(s): Sophie Knight

Beginners Welcome!

All levels are welcome to come and explore watercolour! Over this course artist Sophie Knight will show you some of her own methods which will help you to really have fun with the medium and work more impulsively. Starting with a few simple exercises for applying washes, Sophie will show you how to achieve amazing things with just four colours. Taking inspiration from photographs of landscape and seascape. Sophie will show you some ways to apply the paint quickly using large colour washes and learning to cover the paper quickly so that you can develop a large composition. "I will show you some techniques for working 'wet on wet' and drawing directly with your brush, we can also create large washes of rich colour by squeezing the paint straight onto damp paper." Whether you are a beginner or have a little bit of experience but would like to develop a sense of freedom with watercolour, this course would suit you. Sophie Knight is a member of The Royal Watercolour Society and has her work in the British Museum, the House of Lords and several high-profile collections.

Fri: 12.30 – 15.30, 10 sessions, £295

Adult Music

Blackheath Baroque Ensemble (18+yrs)

Tutor(s): František Brikcius

Grade 6 standard and above

Our Baroque Ensemble is an exceptional training ground for music from the Middle Ages to the early 19th century. Players of recorders, flutes, oboes, strings, piano/harpsichord, viola da gamba, theorbo, lute and archlute are welcome to join our thriving community of instrumentalists who share a love for making Early Music. The Conservatoire also has its own harpsichord, a French-style five-octave single manual.

This ensemble offers students of Grade 6 and above the opportunity to play with a wide range of instruments in a chamber setting. We explore the orchestral repertoire written before 1800 in a historically informed way with mostly one or two instruments per part, usually working towards a termly performance. The classes are friendly and welcoming, and music is played and enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere. Students generally have access to a music room to warm up for half an hour beforehand.

Wed: 20.00 – 21.00, 11 sessions, £247.50

Flute Choir

Tutor(s): Megan Storer

A group for flautists of all ages who are Grade 2 or above. An opportunity to meet fellow flautists and play together as an ensemble in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, usually working towards a termly performance. If you would like to refresh your flute playing and are not yet at Grade 2 level, please contact our tuition team to arrange individual tuition (tuition@conservatoire.org.uk).

Tue: 19.45 – 20.45, 11 sessions, £170.50

Group Violin

Tutor(s): Elena Sánchez

Come and learn to play in a relaxed, friendly and supportive atmosphere. You will receive outstanding tuition in a small group in a supportive and relaxed environment – an opportunity to explore the violin and have fun at the same time. Many members follow their Group Violin session with group playing in the String Ensemble, and you receive a 10% discount on your fees if you attend both courses. If you would like to learn violin but are not yet Grade 4 level, please contact our tuition team to arrange individual tuition.

Tue: 18.45 – 19.30, 11 sessions, £192.50



String Ensemble

Tutor(s): Elena Sánchez

Come along to join the Conservatoire's String Ensemble! Whether you are a seasoned ensemble player or just starting out on playing in a group, you are welcome. The group is made up of all of the string family instruments, and we play music of all kinds, sharing music together and learning some chamber music, as well as iconic works from classical to jazz. This group is a perfect supplement to your individual learning or Group Violin tuition, which runs directly before it (you receive a 10% discount on your fees if you attend both courses!).

Tue: 19.40 – 20.40, 11 sessions, £198

Singers Unlimited

Tutor(s): Anita Tofts

Beginners Welcome!

A group class where singers bring along a solo to perform (unaccompanied or with piano) in front of their peers. The class is led by experienced piano accompanist and choral leader Anita Tofts. A friendly and nurturing masterclass environment where singers learn from listening to each other as much as from their own performance. The amount of feedback given varies from singer to singer and week to week, sensitively gauged by the course leader. All musical styles welcome. Those who need to be accompanied should supply their own sheet music or notify Front of House (info@conservatoire.org.uk) in advance of each class.

All are welcome, and this class has a strong history of mature singers.

Wed: 12.30 – 13.30, 11 sessions, £82.50

Drop-in fee: £9

Ukrainian Choir (All Ages)

Tutor(s): Marharyta Myts

Beginners Welcome!

Come along to the Conservatoire's Studio to take part in this Ukrainian Choir for all ages. Under the guidance of choir leader Marharyta and accompanist Oleksandr, you will sing Ukrainian songs as well as music from other repertoires and genres. This is a group class open to Ukrainian participants of all ages – bring your friends and meet new people!

Sat: 14.00 – 15.45, 10 sessions, free

Women's Choir

Tutor(s): Anita Tofts

Beginners Welcome!

Come along to join Blackheath Conservatoire's Women's Choir, which has been running for over 30 years! A relaxed yet stimulating session, led by Anita Tofts – an experienced, nurturing choir leader. Each rehearsal provides a gentle mental and physical workout – a focus on music-making away from weekly cares and routines. It's challenging, fun, great for mental health and emotional wellbeing, and the choir are good company! No music-reading ability necessary – we use sheet music, but also learn by ear and from memory. There's a set list of music each term, to build up vocal and choral technique, musical style and confidence. Each term usually finishes with an informal performance for friends/family to celebrate our singing!

Wed: 11.00 – 12.00, 11 sessions, £110

Drop-in fee: £12

Individual Tuition

High-Quality Individual Lessons for Children and Adults

- We teach over 600 students weekly, from primary school children to adults, at all levels and in all styles. Lessons are available in piano, voice, strings, brass, woodwind, guitar, and percussion — if we don't offer it, we'll try to find a tutor who can!
- Tutors at the Conservatoire are highly qualified professionals, trained at leading conservatoires, including the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban, and prestigious institutions across Europe and beyond.
- For those taking exams, tutors prepare for ABRSM, Trinity, MTB, Rockschool, LCM and I-PATH. As an ABRSM exam centre, we also provide aural prep lessons and accompanists for exam students.
- If you prefer to learn for fun or maintain your practice, we match you with a tutor suited to your needs.
- We offer performance and workshop opportunities, theory classes, and ensembles for all ages. Students can improve their technique, connect with others, and benefit from discounted rates.

You can enquire about lessons by contacting the Individual Tuition team on tuition@conservatoire.org.uk



- Flexible lessons are available in 30, 45, or 60-minute formats, with off-peak options until 9pm. Enrol anytime! We're open Monday – Friday 9am – 9pm, Saturday 9am – 6pm, and Sunday 9am – 5pm.
- Students receive regular feedback and annual reports, with younger students getting a 10% discount on children's choirs.
- At the Conservatoire, you'll be nurtured, inspired, and supported in a lifelong musical journey.

Spring 2027 Fees

Standard (Mon – Fri, 4 – 7.30pm, all day Sat and Sun)	
30 minutes	£32.00
45 minutes	£48.00
60 minutes	£64.00
Off-peak (Mon – Fri, 9am – 4pm and 7.30 – 9pm Sat and Sun)	
30 minutes	£26.50
45 minutes	£39.75
60 minutes	£53.00



Important info

Telephone us on 020 8852 0234 or pop in to book a course or ask a question.

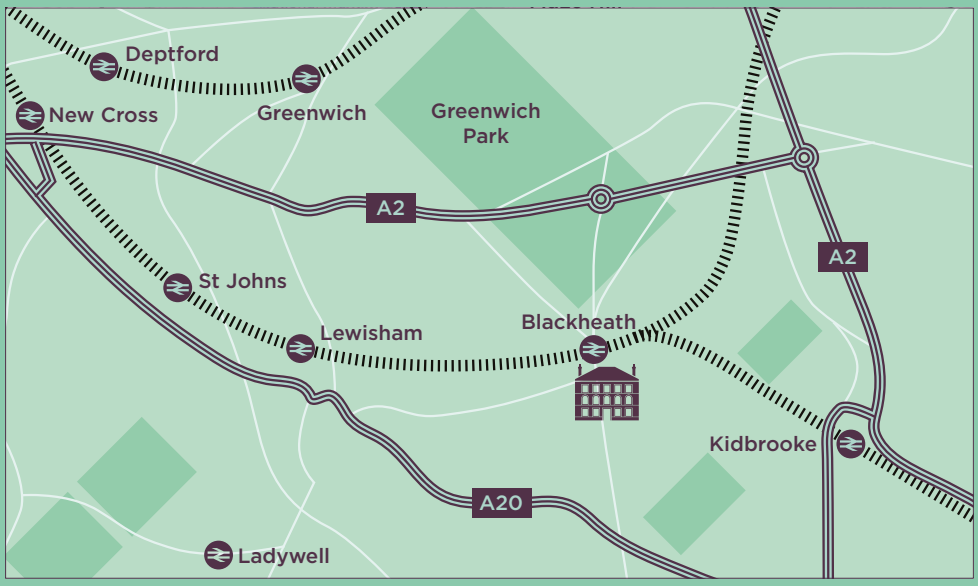
Opening Times	Term Time
Monday – Friday	9am – 9pm
Saturday	9am – 6pm
Sunday	9am – 5pm

Spring Term Dates

Monday 4 January – Thursday 25 March 2027

Half Term (no group classes)

Monday 15 February – Sunday 21 February



Find us at

19–21 Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9RQ

Local Buses

54 – 89 – 108 – 202 – 380 – 386 – Superloop 4

Stay in touch

T: 020 8852 0234
E: info@conservatoire.org.uk
www.conservatoire.org.uk

@TheConservatoire

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@blackheathconservatoire

Sign up to the newsletter to be the first to know when the new events launch: www.conservatoire.org.uk/newsletter