

You're a member of your school's band or orchestra. You also participate in your AYSP ensemble. Have you ever wanted to try private lessons on your AYSP instrument? Do you think you could really benefit from taking private lessons in addition to the music ensembles in which you already participate?

**We know you can!** Private music lessons can offer you even more than your school or AYSP ensemble alone can offer – just consider a few of the wonderful benefits of private music lessons:

**One-on-one attention:** While the ensemble class or rehearsal setting focuses on the group as a whole and offers little to no individual attention, a private teacher is able to note areas of struggle and give individual-specific assistance, including with the ensemble music itself.

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**Wider variety of music:** Students in an ensemble rehearse and perform music written for an ensemble, whereas students taking private lessons can also learn music written for the solo instrument and therefore expand their interest in and knowledge of a much wider variety of music than what they learn and perform as members of an ensemble.

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**Unique learning style:** Every student learns a different way. Some are aural, some are visual, some are hands-on, etc. Private lessons help students achieve their musical goals more quickly, because instruction can take into account each student's learning style, and this learning success translates into a more satisfying ensemble experience for the students as well.

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**Sense of identity:** Private lessons can give students a sense of identity. It is a special time just for them where they can meet with their teacher and work together to improve their own skills and build confidence. A class or large ensemble setting is a wonderful way to connect with others who share your interests in music and music making, and private lessons can really enhance that sense of individual identity and connection with music.

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**Individual skill growth:** Since an ensemble is made up of several, if not many, individual student musicians comprising a spectrum of skill levels, private lessons can really allow a student to focus on developing individual skills at his or her own pace. Students who take private lessons serve as leaders and role models for other students within their ensembles.

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**Greater accountability:** Private lessons teach personal discipline and build a strong work ethic, character traits absolutely necessary for success in life.

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The Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program wants every student to succeed, to grow as a musician, and to reach his or her musical goals. That's why we are offering our new Private Lesson Program to all current AYSP students in grades 6-12 who are **not already taking private lessons** on their AYSP instrument. Read on to see how it works:

## Step 1: The Trial Lessons - Fall Semester

Once a student applies and is accepted to participate in AYSP's Private Lesson Program, we'll pair the student with a local private teacher who has agreed to participate in the program. The student and teacher will schedule **4 weekly trial lessons together**, with each lesson being either 30 or 45 minutes, depending upon the skill level of the student. The cost to the student for each trial lesson is \$10 (or a total of \$40 for all four lessons), which the student will pay to AYSP.\* AYSP will pay the teacher directly an agreed-upon fee for the lesson (usually \$40 for a 30-minute lesson, or \$55 for a 45-minute lesson).

*\*Financial assistance and optional payment plans are available for eligible students to help with the student portion of the cost of private lessons, including the four trial lessons. Contact AYSP's Accounts Coordinator, Dorothy Whisler, for information about financial assistance.*

## Step 2: Ongoing Private Lessons - Fall Semester

After the four trial lessons, the student and teacher will determine whether they want to continue to work together. If they both wish to continue, the extent to which AYSP will continue to subsidize the cost of ongoing lessons will be considered based upon (1) the student's need for financial assistance (using the same federal Low-to-Median Income guidelines that AYSP applies for regular AYSP tuition assistance); and (2) the teacher's assessment of the student's overall attitude and willingness to work hard as demonstrated during the four trial lessons. AYSP will host a recital at the end of each semester at the AYSP building, and all AYSP students enrolled in the Private Lesson Program are expected to participate in that recital.

The ongoing cost to the student for private lessons after the four trial lessons (based on a teacher rate of \$40 for a 30-minute lesson and \$55 for a 45-minute lesson) would look like this:

**30 minute lessons (beginning/early intermediate level students)**

Student's AYSP Financial Aid Status	Private Teacher Fee Per Lesson	Student Portion Per Lesson	AYSP Portion Per Lesson
90% assistance	\$40	\$4	\$36
50% assistance	\$40	\$20	\$20
25% assistance	\$40	\$30	\$10
No assistance	TBD	TBD	\$0

**45 minute lessons (intermediate level students)**

Student's AYSP Financial Aid Status	Private Teacher Fee Per Lesson	Student Portion Per Lesson	AYSP Portion Per Lesson
90% assistance	\$55	\$5	\$50
50% assistance	\$55	\$27	\$28
25% assistance	\$55	\$41	\$14
No assistance	TBD	TBD	\$0

## Step 3: Ongoing Private Lessons - Spring Semester

At the end of the fall semester, AYSP will ask for feedback from both the student and the teacher about how the private lessons went during the semester. If AYSP has continued to pay for some portion of the lessons after the four trial lessons, we will essentially need to know whether AYSP should continue to provide financial support for lessons in the spring semester. For example, if a student was consistently late to lessons, missed one or more lessons without communicating with the teacher in advance, or persistently came to lessons unprepared and not having practiced during the week, it would not make sense for AYSP to continue to pay for those lessons, when another student might benefit from the financial resources AYSP has to assist him or her.

To apply for AYSP's Private Lesson Program, complete the application form on the Private Lesson Program page of the website. If you would like to request financial assistance with private lessons and are not already receiving financial tuition assistance for AYSP ensemble participation, be sure to complete a financial aid application as well as the Private Lesson Program application form.