

AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM-MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

9 E SHERIDAN AVE., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104

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WWW.BANJOMUSEUM.ORG



THE AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM BEGINS BANJO YOUTH PROGRAM

DEAR PARENTS: Would you like for your child to learn to play a musical instrument that is fun, enjoyable, and certain to have them eager to practice? Would you like for your child to be musically educated in a comprehensive and traditional music education format, while learning in the unique and exciting environment that is the American Banjo Museum? Would you like for your child to develop the discipline and stick-to-itiveness that results from learning to play a musical instrument? These are the goals and objectives of the American Banjo Museum's Music Education Program. Our mission is to help train youth to become well rounded individuals, which will be fostered through teaching students to play America's instrument, the banjo.

WHERE: THE AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM
9 E. Sheridan Avenue (Bricktown)

WHAT: BANJO! Choice of Jazz Banjo or Bluegrass Banjo instruction. Classes will be kept small to allow for individual attention.

GROUP LESSON POLICY: Group lessons will be conducted for both jazz banjo as well as separate classes for Bluegrass banjo. The initial session will begin the 1st week of December (12/2) and continue through January 15th. with breaks during holiday weeks. Starting January 19th, we will continue with our first full 18 week

Winter/Spring Semester which will conclude May 29th.

Lessons will include a one-hour, once per week group lesson aimed at teaching basic playing skills (instrument technique, music reading, music theory, etc.)

and also a one hour weekly ensemble/band lesson which will give students the opportunity to perform in a Youth Jazz Banjo Band or Youth Bluegrass Band. These bands will afford the students many outside performance activities, including anticipated travel trips to festivals and theme parks. In addition, all students will have the opportunity to participate in three annual recitals held at the Museum

BENEFITS: Your child will learn to play a musical instrument in a fun and comprehensive way. The musical skill and knowledge learned here will last a lifetime. Recent research has shown that students who study a musical instrument typically earn higher grades, score higher on standardized tests and develop leadership and social skills that help them later in life.

INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS: Students will need to have their own instrument in order to practice at home. The Museum owns a limited number of instruments that will be offered at a nominal rental fee for the initial 5 week course. After the initial session is completed, students will need to purchase an instrument of their own if they plan to continue. A limited number of scholarships based on need are also available. Total cost of the initial 5 week course including rental instrument, course fee and materials is just \$50.00

BANJO SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS: While the banjo will serve as the core instrument of the Museum's Music Education Program, we will also offer instruction in guitar, mandolin, electric bass, and ukulele. These kindred fretted instruments will be taught in the banjo class format, however, students may also elect to take a 30 minute once per week private lesson. Non-banjo students will be encouraged to also participate in a weekly ensemble/band class. The "Banjo Support" students will augment these ensembles by adding

The Baldwin Banjo Band 2009
Directed by Douglas Back



the proper instrumentation needed to have an effective Banjo Band or Bluegrass Band.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: Museum Education Director Douglas Back is an award winning teacher and musician. Before his recent arrival to Oklahoma City, he directed the nation's only full time public school fretted instrument program at Baldwin Arts and Academic Middle Magnet School in Montgomery, Alabama. In that capacity, he directed student banjo bands, a youth Bluegrass ensemble, classical guitar classes and student mandolin orchestras. He was twice named teacher of the year by the Montgomery County School District, and in 2003 he was awarded the prestigious "Teacher of the Year Award" by the International Network of Performing Arts Schools, a worldwide organization of over 150 schools. As a musician he has toured internationally, and has authored and recorded many books and cds, many which are published through Mel Bay Publications, A sample of one of his previous middle school student ensembles can be heard on the website, <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/fretworksbfyo>.

WHEN AND HOW TO GET STARTED: Fill out the application below and bring it by, or mail it to the American Banjo Museum, 9 E. Sheridan Ave., Oklahoma City, OK, 73104, 405/604-2793. Upon receipt of your application you will soon be contacted regarding scheduling.

STUDENT APPLICATION:

Name _____, Age _____, Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Grade in School _____, School Attending _____

Instrument of Choice -Circle One (Jazz Banjo, Bluegrass Banjo, Acoustic Guitar, Classical Guitar, Mandolin, Ukulele, Electric Bass)

I am interested in having my child attend:

Group Lessons _____ Private Lessons _____ Please circle up to three time slots that will work for you Including a band lesson time on either Friday or Saturday.

TUESDAYS 3:00PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	WEDNESDAYS 3:00PM- Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 9-11	THURSDAYS 3:00PM- Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	FRIDAYS 3:00PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	SATURDAYS 11:00 AM- Youth Banjo Band Class-Ages-11-14
4:00 PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	4:00 PM-Beginning Bluegrass Banjo Class-Ages 14-18	4:00 PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class -Ages 9-11	4:00 PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	12:30-Youth Bluegrass Band Ages-12-18
5:00 PM-Beginning Bluegrass Banjo Class -Ages 12-14	5:00 PM-Beginning Bluegrass Banjo Class -Ages 12-14	5:00 PM-Beginning Jazz Banjo Class-Ages 12-14	5:00 PM Youth Banjo Band Class-Ages 12-14	1:30-5:00 PM Private Lessons

This is a tentative schedule. It will be subject to change depending on the number of applicants. The Museum will do their best to accommodate parent scheduling needs for both group placement or private lessons. All lessons will take place at the Museum. Parking is available at parking meters nearby, or parents may simply wish to drop students off in front of the Museum and return to pick them up. A friendly staff member will be nearby at all times to greet and assist your child.

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THE BANJO IS CHARACTERISTICALLY A HAPPY INSTRUMENT.

HAVING A BANJO PLAYER IN THE FAMILY IS SURE TO BRING A SMILE TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD!

