Faubion Orchestra Private Lesson Information

Private Lessons are offered through the orchestra program and are available to every orchestra student. The private lesson staff includes degreed educators that are handpicked by the directors. Individual instruction is extremely beneficial due to the one-on-one teaching environment. The private teacher is able to design a program that meets each individual student's needs, allowing each student to progress at their own rate of ability. Professional teachers on each instrument will be available to teach these lessons during orchestra class & before or after school if their schedule permits. Much of the individual success throughout the Faubion Orchestra Program can be attributed to the private lesson program and the superior private lesson staff. The high number of students enrolled in the private lesson program in the Faubion Orchestra has allowed a high standard of performance to be maintained. Contact information for our private teachers can be found below.

Private Lessons FAQs
Who takes private lessons?
Each student in the Faubion Orchestra has the opportunity to study privately with a professional musician in our private lessons program. This enrichment opportunity is available to all orchestra students.

Why should we enroll in private lessons?
Enrollment in private lessons is the most significant predictor of a student's success in music. The individual attention available through private instruction provides tremendous enhancement of your child's skills, motivation, and musical enjoyment.

Don't we already get rigorous and stimulating instruction in our orchestra classes?
Yes! However, while the instruction provided in the group lessons of the Faubion Orchestra classes can lift a student to a high level of musical competency, there is no substitute for the individualized instruction that is only available through private study. The individual nature of private lessons means that instruction is catered directly to your child's ability level, and supplementary materials are provided to expand on the full class curriculum. Students enrolled in lessons are able to move at their own fast pace instead of being tethered to the pace of the class as a whole.

Isn't private tutoring just for kids who are struggling?
No. On the contrary, the purpose of the private lessons program is not to provide remedial instruction -- its purpose is to provide supplementary instruction for students seeking to get the most out of their music education.

Who will be my child's private lessons teacher?
Private lessons instructors at Faubion are carefully selected by the orchestra directors and receive the same scrutiny as full-time teachers at the district level before being hired. Most of our teachers hold graduate degrees (masters & doctorate) on their instrument and are professional performing musicians in the area.

Why should I take lessons at Faubion? Couldn't my child take lessons from someone else, like a relative who played the guitar back in 1992?
With private lessons, just as with any worthwhile product or service, you get what you pay for. By studying with a Faubion-approved private lessons teacher, your child will receive instruction that aligns with the philosophy and quality of the Faubion Orchestra. There are quality instructors that do not teach at Faubion, but they do charge a much higher rate as they teach out of their own studios.

When do lessons happen?
Private Lessons are offered once per week either before school, after school, or during your child’s orchestra class, depending on the teacher's availability and your schedule. Private lessons may not happen during any other class besides orchestra.

Shouldn't we try to avoid missing orchestra class to take a private lesson?
Not at all. Taking a private lesson is the best possible reason for a student to miss a bit of orchestra class. In this scenario, a student is trading group instruction for individual instruction -- a good tradeoff by any measure! It’s important to remember, too, that lessons are only once per week, and during-class lessons take only half of one class period. Families are occasionally hesitant about this, however, and they are encouraged to consider before- or after-school lessons, if scheduling is available.

How long is a lesson?
Lessons are 25 minutes each. Lesson lengths and rates are standardized across all of McKinney ISD. Longer lessons may be available outside of the school day by some private lessons teachers, but the standard lesson is 25 minutes.

What is the cost?
Each lesson costs $20, regardless of whether it is a during-class lesson or a before-or-after school lesson. Compared to the rates charged by independent teachers, not under the Faubion umbrella and who are not affiliated with McKinney ISD -- who can charge $50 to $80 per hour -- this is a comparative steal.

How does payment work?
Payment details will be communicated by your lessons teacher, and payment is made directly to them, usually in the form of a monthly check. Please understand that our private lesson teachers make their living teaching our students and students at other schools; in many cases, it is the primary source of their livelihood, in addition to performing. As such, timely payments and 24 hours notice of a missed lesson are important facets of private lessons enrollment. A missed lesson without notice will be charged at the full rate. With proper notice, alternative scheduling can be arranged.

Can we just take a few lessons to get started and then discontinue lessons?
No. The purpose of private lessons is to provide continuous, enhanced instruction to students seeking to get the most out of their music education.

How do we enroll?
Private lessons enrollment is part of the Orchestra Registration process done at the beginning of the school year. It is not too late to enroll if you decline lessons at the time of registration, but it is best to enroll early to ensure teacher availability. Because we hire only the best, our lessons teachers are in high demand, and their schedules fill up quickly! Enroll by completing the Online Private Lesson Enrollment Form.
Meet our Private Lesson Staff

Mi Jang, Violin
mjviolinstudio@hotmail.com

Mi Jang served as a private violin and viola instructor in MISD for over 10 years. She enjoys teaching with all of her heart and hopes many students can enjoy the music. She believes students have many ability and talents. After Ms. Jang moved to United States from Korea, she attended in Plano Senior High school and served a concertmaster in two years in Plano Senior High School Orchestra and was accepted into the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra as a first violin her senior year.

Mi Jang graduated from University of North Texas with a Bachelor Degree in violin performance and received her Masters Degree from Southern Methodist University in violin performance. She was accepted into the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program at the University of North Texas in violin performance and attended for 3 years. She has many years of teaching experience ranging from beginner level through advanced level students. Many students under her guidance have excelled in their performances in school orchestra, all-region and all state. Some students have continued to perform in university programs with music scholarships. She loves helping her students to reach their goals.

KeyReel Raskolenko, Violin and Viola
raskolenko@gmail.com

Uzbekistan born multi-instrumentalist KeyReel Raskolenko has been described as “world class as a violinist and composer.” He has performed and recorded with many musicians across North America and Europe. A virtuoso player on 4-string and 5-string acoustic and electric violins, he is a classically trained musician with experience in classical chamber and orchestra music, fiddle music, improvisation, and music composition. While his fiddling is rooted in the Cape Breton style, he is equally versed in playing classical, Irish, Scottish, and American Folk music. He has taught and performed at prestigious festivals such as the Cape Breton Fiddler’s Association (Canada), Celtic Colours (Canada), and Summer Music Intensives (Texas), and has also toured extensively across Europe and Asia with classical chamber and fiddle music.

In addition to teaching and performing, KeyReel also composes for many instruments, including violin, string quartet and orchestra. His works have been performed at the Great Hall of Gnesin’s Academy, the Moscow House of Composers, and Texas Christian University.
Keyreel graduated from the Gnesin’s Russian Academy of Music with his BM and MM degrees for violin in 2005, and Artist Diploma in 2018 from Texas Christian University, where he was a student of Dr. Elisabeth Adkins. He is also a member of several orchestras in DFW area. In addition to his classical program and fiddle life, he studies and plays jazz and occasionally performs solo and rock events in DFW area on his 5-string electric violin.

Michael Moore, Viola
michaelmoore918779@gmail.com

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Michael has always had a passion for music and teaching. He began playing viola in school at age eleven, where he first discovered his love for performing with orchestras. This led him to participate in the 2010 OMEA All State Orchestra and 2010 National Honors Orchestra in Indianapolis. Later, while attending Oklahoma State University where he received his bachelors in viola performance, he played with Symphony of Northwest Arkansas (SONA), Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra, and held a position in the Tulsa Signature Symphony. During this time, he also attended the Eastern Music Festival from 2012-2014, where he played in masterclasses for acclaimed violists such as Robert Vernon.

After graduating from OSU, he earned his Masters Degree in viola performance at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Dr. Susan Dubois. Michael continues to play with local North Texas orchestras and also teaches violin and viola in the DFW area. Aside from classical music, Michael has also concertized with noteworthy performers such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Lindsey Sterling, Evanescence, and Josh Groban. His goal as a teacher is to help his students grow musically and personally while focusing on economical playing and effective practice techniques that can be applied to all aspects of life.

Fang Shen, Cello
fangshencello@gmail.com

Fang Shen is a private cello instructor in McKinney ISD. Born in the city of Wuhan, China. Ms Shen began her formal music studies and training at the Middle School Attached to Wuhan Conservatory of Wuhan at the age of 12. She received her higher education at Wuhan Conservatory of Music and received her Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s Degree at same university respectively in 2002 and 2012. After graduation, she worked with the Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra for over 12 years as an Associate Professor and Association Principal Cello.

Ms. Shen has over 17 years of experience in cello performance and pedagogy. During her years serving in the Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra, she participated in such influential performance as “The First Spring of Symphony “ held in the National Center for The Performing Arts, Beijing, China in 2008; ”The Asian Music Festival “ held in Tokyo, Japan in 2009;
Thirteen times of National Tour Performances sponsored by Poly Theatre in Wuhan, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Qingdao, Wenzhou, etc. in 2011; and over hundreds of large scale symphony concerts in celebration of 100 years of Anniversary of Xinhai Revolution in 2011. The performance of Ms Shen in her recital in Wuhan in 2012 earned her an invitation to be interviewed by Hubei Music Radio Station about her recital and music career. Years of her efforts earned her the Gold Medal of Professional Musician’s Orchestra Competition in 2012 and excellent teacher of the year in 2009, 2011 and 2013. She is now a Chinese Musicians’ Association Judge Certificate holder.

In 2014 when she came to the United States, she held her first recital in Cedar City where she taught. Shen was a Visiting Professor and guest musician in the Music Department of Southern Utah University. While at SUU, she was responsible for teaching the cello master class, performing with SUU String Ensemble and Orchestra and doing research in cello pedagogy in 2014-2016.

Nancy Heffernan, Bass
Basslady480@aol.com
Originally from Syracuse, New York, Nancy Heffernan is a retired teacher whose career spanned multiple states serving in public and private schools from 4th grade through college. Ms. Heffernan received her Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Ithaca College and a Master of Music Education Degree from Northeast Louisiana University (now ULM). She has consistently performed in symphony orchestras on bass since college both as principal bass and section bass.

Ms. Heffernan spent fifteen summers as a volunteer teacher at summer music camps with Ecole Ste. Trinite in Port-au-Prince, Haiti as a director, ensemble coach, section coach, and performer. She served as president of CODA (Caddo Orchestra Directors Association), Treasurer of CMEA (Caddo Music Educators Association), and is a member of TMEA, TMAA, ISB, and TODA. Ms. Heffernan has hosted numerous solo contests and orchestra festivals, and is a frequent judge for UIL contests around the state of Texas and beyond. In her free time she loves to travel, spend time with her family, read and do crossword puzzles.