



Summer Arts Institute 2018 Online Application Instructions

Application Deadline: All applications must be completed and RECEIVED by 6 p.m. on February 5, 2018.

The online application is comprised of four required sections:

- Part 1- Studio Selection and Contact Information
- Part 2- Student's Personal Statement
- Part 3- Letter of Recommendation
- Part 4- Certification

IMPORTANT!:

- Students may apply for only ONE studio.
- Incomplete applications will **NOT** be accepted.

To Apply:

1. **Read the program information, studio description, and audition information enclosed with these instructions.**
2. **Prepare your Personal Statement**

Students are asked to write a personal statement of approximately 200-450 words (1200-1500 characters including letters and spaces) total in response to the following two questions:

- What is it that attracts you to and inspires you about your art form?
- What do you hope to gain from your experience with the Summer Arts Institute?

We suggest you write and edit your statement in MS Word or a word processing program and then copy and paste your text into the online application tool. You may also type your statement directly into the online application.

3. **Obtain a Letter of Recommendation**

Please provide one current letter of recommendation in electronic form (word document, pdf or jpg) in support of your application. The letter may be from a current or recent arts teacher, classroom teacher, guidance counselor, private instructor, or your instructor in a non-school arts program. This person should be familiar with your current level of skill, experience, and interest in the art form for which you will audition.

You will upload this document to the online application. Your letter of recommendation may not be sent separately by you or your teacher. We strongly suggest you request your letter of recommendation as soon as possible to allow your teacher sufficient time to write and return the letter to you so you can meet the February 5 application deadline. Please ask the teacher to e-mail you their recommendation, if possible, so that you can keep a copy for your records and you will have the letter in an electronic format.

Instructions for the Recommending Teacher: Please describe your experience teaching or working with this student in regards to their selected art form and indicate how you feel this student would benefit from participation in the Summer Arts Institute (one page maximum). Return the letter to the student for submission as they must upload the letter to their online application in order for their application to be considered complete. If possible, please e-mail the letter to the student so they will have it in an electronic form for easy upload. You may **NOT** submit the letter of recommendation directly to SAI.

4. **Go to <http://www.cvent.com/d/jtqwqk> and complete the online application.**

Please do NOT submit a hard copy/paper version of the application.

To Audition:

1. **Prepare your audition material. See the studio description and audition information section for details.**
2. **Receive your audition assignment**

Audition assignments will be e-mailed by February 14 to all eligible students who submitted a complete application by the deadline. You will receive a letter which will include your assigned audition time, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 or Sunday, March 4. There will be no make-up audition date.

Important: *If you have not received your audition letter by February 20, please contact us for your audition assignment (917-521-3713, summerarts@schools.nyc.gov).*

3. **Attend the audition at your assigned time at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Astoria, Queens on Saturday, March 3 or Sunday, March 4.**

Applicants who complete the audition will be notified of their acceptance status via mail in mid April.

Questions:

Please e-mail us at summerarts@schools.nyc.gov or call (917) 521-3713.



Summer Arts Institute
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Summer Arts Institute

Summer Arts Institute is a free, four-week arts program for New York City Department of Education public school students entering grades 8 through 12 in Fall 2018. This intensive program, to be held at **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Astoria, Queens**, will begin on July 9, 2018. Summer Arts Institute is administered by the New York City Department of Education's Office of Arts and Special Projects. We are proud that this summer will mark our 17th year serving the talented students of New York City.

Students can major in dance, theater, instrumental music (band), string orchestra, vocal music, film, or visual arts. The program is designed for students at an intermediate or advanced level of study in their chosen discipline. Summer Arts Institute offers a unique opportunity for students to work with Department of Education arts specialists, partnering cultural organizations, and guest artists. This experienced team of arts professionals guides students in building a portfolio or audition skills for their next level of study: an arts-focused high school, college, university or conservatory. Summer Arts Institute focuses on three areas: 1) developing students' arts skills and creativity; 2) broadening students' awareness of the arts; 3) helping students recognize and explore career options in the arts and arts-related industries. This intensive summer arts experience connects students to community and cultural resources and promotes lifelong learning in the arts.

The Summer Arts Institute staff works diligently with students to move them to their next level of expertise and personal growth as young artists. The daily schedule includes studio work and experiences with professional artists, both on and off-site. In the studios, students develop and improve their technical skills and creative expression in their selected art form. Time is dedicated to rehearsals, attending professional performances, visiting professional arts venues and exploring potential careers. Students are given opportunities to perform in selected venues around New York City, and to show their original work in an informal, cabaret-like setting called the SAI Café. The Institute culminates with an exhibition and live performance for families and the local community showcasing the students' work from all studios.

Our lead cultural partners in the 2018 Summer Arts Institute are American Ballet Theatre (Dance), Midori & Friends (String Orchestra), Roundabout Theatre Company (Theater – Middle School), Theatre for a New Audience (Theater – High School) and Tribeca Film Institute (Film).

Admission to the Summer Arts Institute is by application and audition. Students may apply and audition for only ONE studio. Prior attendance in the Summer Arts Institute is not a guarantee of acceptance in the upcoming SAI. All students are accepted on their current application and audition.

To Apply: Apply online at <http://www.cvent.com/d/jtqwqgk>. Applications must be RECEIVED by 6 p.m. on **Monday, February 4, 2018**.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts. All eligible students who submit a complete application by the deadline will be assigned a specific audition date and time. Audition assignments will be mailed to students by February 14. There is no make-up audition date.

Questions: Please e-mail us at summerarts@schools.nyc.gov or call (917) 521-3713.



Studio Descriptions and Audition Information

Dance-Middle School - Open to students entering grades 8 and 9

Dance-High School - Open to students entering grades 10, 11 and 12

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE, America's National Ballet Company® (ABT) is the cultural partner for dance in the Summer Arts Institute. Students will work to improve their dance technique, skills at improvisation and choreography, and performance qualities. Exploring collaborative approaches in dance composition and attention to proficiency in dance technique are primary instructional goals. Classes in ballet, taught by ABT master teachers, and modern dance techniques, taught by an experienced Department of Education dance teacher and guest teachers, will be enhanced with workshops in complementary styles and genres. Students will be exposed to works of classical ballet, modern masterworks, and the work of emerging choreographers. Technique classes and compositional studies are designed to prepare students for specialized high school and college dance programs. Visiting guest faculty and choreographers will offer valuable insight into the professional dance world. Weekly opportunities for students to present their work in progress will hone performance skills. The program culminates in a performance of a new piece created during the Institute and will include student-generated work. For more information on our partnering organization, American Ballet Theatre, please visit their Web site, www.abt.org.

Audition Format: Ballet and Modern technique class, improvisation, and individual interviews, during which you will perform your solo audition study. Be prepared to spend a half day in the audition (8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.).

Prepare: **Middle School Applicants (entering grades 8 and 9)**
Create a one-minute original solo dance study expressing the theme of "going places", using traveling movements, movements in place, and level changes. Any style of dance is acceptable, and you may create your own movements not based on a particular style. You will perform without music, and should be prepared to answer questions about your solo after showing it.

Suggestions:

- Include movement sequences that travel along a pathway and movements done in place
- Consider how you are addressing the theme "Going Places" as you develop your dance study from where it starts to where it ends

High School Applicants (entering grades 10, 11 and 12)

Create a two-minute original solo dance study showing both your creativity and your technical proficiency, reflecting what you have learned in dance thus far. Base your solo on a theme, idea or mood. Show a clear beginning, a middle section that develops the idea, and a clear ending. You will perform without music, and will be asked to describe your choreographic process and choices after performing.

Suggestions:

Present yourself as a dancer through your movement vocabulary, clarity of intention and use of focus.

Edit carefully to stay consistent with your chosen theme, idea or mood

Develop and vary your movement phrases to display your craftsmanship in dance composition.

Film - Open to students entering grades 10, 11 and 12

The TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE will partner with the Summer Arts Institute to provide the filmmaking studio. This workshop is designed for students with video production or related arts experience who are interested in exploring higher education and career opportunities in media and film. Through hands-on instruction, students will learn to master the technical and creative skills necessary for professional level work. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of filmmaking while being encouraged to think critically about their communities and the world around them. Students will write, produce, direct, and edit their own film projects, shooting in locations around the City under the supervision of the instructors and using state-of-the-art equipment. By the program's completion, each student crew will have produced a short film (either fiction, non-fiction or experimental and based on a pre-determined theme) and a personal film statement (non-fiction). For more information on Tribeca Film Institute, please visit their Web site, www.tribecafilminstitute.org.

Basic/introductory level filmmaking/video production or related arts experience is encouraged for application to this program. Basic filmmaking experience may include screenwriting and/or storytelling, camera operation, interviewing subjects, experience with sound and lighting, and editing on Final Cut Pro or similar programs. Related arts experience can include photography, creative writing, digital art, etc. Applicants need not have taken a previous film/video production class and do not need experience in all areas listed above.

Note: The film studio will have two mandatory, full-day Saturday workshop sessions in June prior to the start of SAI, dates to be announced. A screening of the completed film projects will take place during the final week of July.

Audition Format: Individual Interviews.

Prepare and bring: Please answer each question below in 100 words or less (typed and double-spaced).

1. Writing Sample

Please answer each question below in 100 words or less (300 words total, typed and double-spaced).

- A) Imagine you were given a video camera and a crew to shoot a film about New York City. What would you choose to focus on that would be most representative about your experience of the City? What genre would your film be (a documentary, a narrative, an experimental film)? What type of music would you use? What would be your point of view? Why?
- B) Talk about two films you have seen recently that you thought were "powerful," one documentary and one narrative. Describe why and how these films affected you.
- C) Why is film a medium that you are interested in? What do you think you are able to convey with film that you wouldn't be able to if you were working in an alternate art form?

2. Work Sample

Please bring to the interview one of the following:

- A) At least one and no more than three work samples on DVD (Preferred)
DVDs should be marked clearly with your name and contact information and will not be returned.
- B) A portfolio of eight to ten pieces of original photography or visual art presenting a series of images that tells a story.
- C) A film-related writing sample such as a script or storyboard.

Instrumental Music (Band) - Open to students entering grades 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

Please note that the instrumental program does **not** include orchestral strings, guitar, or piano.

The instrumental music (band) studio is designed to enhance, challenge, and refine the musical skills and techniques of young, aspiring instrumental and percussion musicians. The curriculum develops music performance and sight-reading skills through the understanding of a rigorous and challenging musical repertoire. Experienced Department of Education instrumental music teachers and visiting guest artists provide individual feedback and small group music instruction and create opportunities for student musicians to participate in large and chamber ensemble settings. Preparing students for high school and college instrumental music auditions is also a component of this program. All instrumental music students participate in a culminating performance featuring a variety of musical selections.

- Audition Format:** Performance of one prepared selection before music faculty, performance of a scale on demand to be selected by adjudicator and assessment of sight reading ability.
- Prepare:** One musical selection in any style to demonstrate ability and talent (length of selection is not critical). Memorization is not required.
- Bring:** Please bring your instrument and a copy of your audition sheet music with you. Percussion and tuba will be provided.

String Orchestra - Open to students entering grades 8,9,10, 11 and 12

Please note that the String Orchestra studio does **not** include guitar or piano.

The String Orchestra Studio is in partnership with Midori & Friends. The string orchestra studio is designed to develop the potential of young, aspiring string players. Students will be encouraged to expand their artistry and strengthen their playing technique through the study and performance of diverse repertoire. Experienced Department of Education string teachers and visiting guest artists will provide instruction and feedback in individual and small group settings. All student performers participate in a culminating performance of their repertoire. For more information on Midori & Friends, please visit their Web site, www.midoriandfriends.org.

The SAI string orchestra studio is limited to students who play violin, viola, cello or string bass.

- Requirements:** Student must be able to demonstrate the ability to play in 1st, 3rd and 5th position. Student must be able to play with a sustained vibrato.
- Audition Format:** Performance of one prepared selection before SAI music faculty. Sight-reading ability will be assessed, as will the ability to play a major scale chosen by the faculty.
- Prepare:** One musical selection in any style to demonstrate playing ability (length of selection is not critical). Memorization is not required.
- Bring:** Please bring your instrument and a copy of your audition sheet music with you. Cellos and string basses will be provided.

Theater-Middle School - Open to students entering grades 8 and 9

Theater-High School - Open to students entering grades 10, 11 and 12

The theater studios are in partnership with ROUNABOUT THEATRE COMPANY (MS) and THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE (HS). While tailoring instruction and student work to address age appropriate theatrical training, both studios focus on individual audition preparation and monologue work, partner and multiple person scene study and ensemble musical theater. Drawing from acclaimed contemporary and classical plays and musicals, students further develop their acting and performance skills exploring all aspects of a dynamic theater artist including exposure to the triple threat skills of singing, dancing and acting. Additional training focuses on actor preparedness, professionalism and the confidence to command the stage. Students will also engage in a variety of intensive physical exercises as well as vocal training to increase range and projection abilities. Students will learn about theatre as a business, access important works of theatre history and experience the New York theater community. The abilities to read well, communicate and understand complex text are assets in this program. Theater studio students should be prepared to take direction, collaborate and engage in group planning and creative work. The work of these studios culminates in staged scene work and an ensemble theater piece as part of the Summer Arts Institute final performance.

For more information on the Roundabout Theatre Company, please visit their Web site, www.roundabouttheatre.org.
For more information on Theatre for a New Audience, please visit their Web site www.tfana.org.

Audition Format: Perform an age appropriate individual contemporary or classical monologue and participate in a two-person scene with provided sides. Actors will sing as an ensemble. The selected song will be approximately 16 bars from a popular musical. An MP3 of the required track will be sent in advance of the audition.

Prepare: A 90 second memorized age appropriate monologue from a published play of your choice. Appropriate playwrights might include (but are not limited to) August Wilson, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Beth Henley, Neil Simon, Thornton Wilder, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Edward Albee, Lillian Hellman, Laurie Brooks, Caryl Churchill, David Hwang, Paula Vogel, Susan Lori Parks, Sam Sheppard, Lorraine Hansberry, Wendy Wasserstein, Christopher Durang, Craig Lucas, Jose Cruz Gonzalez, Laurie Brooks, David Wood, etc. Applicants are encouraged to read the play from where their monologue is excerpted rather than selecting one from a monologue book.

AND

A 16 bar musical theater song to be performed as a group during the audition. Students will be sent an MP3 of the required song in advance of their audition. Ability to perform as an ensemble will be the emphasis of the audition not the individual's singing ability.

Visual Arts-Middle School - Open to students entering grades 8 and 9

Visual Arts-High School - Open to students entering grades 10, 11 and 12

Visual arts students will develop skills and knowledge needed to produce competitive portfolios for specialized art programs. Students will work with at least two media over the course of the Institute. Emphasis will be on drawing and painting, developing students' observational skills, and stimulating their conceptual and imaginative thinking. Students are provided regular opportunities to share their work with peers and receive feedback. Written self-reflections on their experiences and processes, and maintenance of a sketchbook journal will help develop students' artistic identity. Engagement with community partners, interaction with professional artists, and museum visits enhance the students' learning experience.

Audition Format: Portfolio evaluation, individual interview, and completion of one drawing from observation.

Prepare and bring: Portfolio of unframed, original works which demonstrate competency in one or more of the following media: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and media technology. Middle School applicants should bring a minimum of five, but no more than eight pieces. High School applicants should bring a minimum of eight but no more than ten pieces. Please include hard copy format of any digital art.

Note: The drawing exercise and interview will last approximately one hour and 30 minutes.

Vocal Music-Middle School - Open to students entering grades 8 and 9

Vocal Music - High School - Open to students entering grades 10, 11 and 12

The vocal music studios are designed to enhance, challenge, and refine the musical skills and techniques of young, aspiring vocal musicians. The curriculum develops music performance and sight-reading skills through the understanding of a rigorous and challenging vocal music repertoire. Experienced Department of Education vocal music teachers and visiting guest artists provide individual feedback and small group music instruction as well as instruction in music theory. Preparing students for high school and college vocal music auditions is also a component of this program. All vocal music students participate in a culminating performance featuring a variety of choral musical selections.

Audition Format: A solo performance with accompaniment (must bring in sheet music) of one prepared selection before music faculty, voice assessment, rhythm and tonal memory test.

Prepare: One musical selection in any style to demonstrate vocal quality and range (length of selection is not critical). Examples of appropriate selections: "The Star Spangled Banner," "Amazing Grace," "Over the Rainbow," and "You'll Never Walk Alone." Memorization of selection is not required.