

West Coast Summer Music Camp: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, 2026

Q: If I want to play chamber music, does this have to be arranged before camp?

A: All coached chamber groups have been organized before camp. Additionally, you can get together with others informally outside of the scheduled session times. There will be a notice board to let people know that you'd like to play, so bring your music along.

Q: Is it essential to take part in performances?

A: No one is compelled to perform. For chamber groups, everyone has to feel comfortable with the idea before the coach will recommend performance at the end-of-week concerts. If you have strong feelings for or against performing with your chamber group, please let your coach know after the orientation session on Sunday evening.

Q: Do I have to pre-register for classes?

A: No (other than being part of a coached chamber group).

Q: Can I sample different classes or do I have to commit to classes on the first day? How soon do I have to commit?

A: In fairness to other players, commitment to organized chamber groups is expected, although these groups can be adjusted early in the week if the assignment is inappropriate. It's OK to sample most of the larger groups, but a decision should be made no later than Wednesday. A few classes are run on a drop-in basis. Please check with the instructor on the first day of class.

Q: If I'm attending as a singer, do I have to be able to sight-sing?

A: No; some familiarity with musical notation is sufficient for most singing classes.

Q: If I'm attending as an instrumentalist, how good a sight-reader do I need to be?

A: You do not have to be able to sight-read well, although it helps, since practice time is often limited.

Q: I am primarily an instrumentalist. Can I take classes meant for singers?

A: Absolutely! Classes are open to everyone. We encourage you to try something new!

Q: When and where can I practice?

A: Any of the classrooms may be used as practice rooms when they are not being used for a class. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the rooms. Sign up early in the week, but for no more than 60 minutes per day. You may also practice in your residence room between the hours of 8am and 10pm, except during Quiet Hour (2-3pm). Check pages 3 and 4 of the Camper Booklet for the location of practise rooms.

Q: Do I need a car while I'm at camp?

A: If you are staying on campus it shouldn't be necessary as all activities on campus are within walking distance of each other. Mill Bay has a small town centre with a grocery store, coffee shop, etc. that's two blocks from campus.

Q: Can I invite friends and family to the concerts?

A: Please do. We welcome an audience at our concerts.

Q: Can I arrange private music lessons with the faculty?

A: Many of the faculty are willing to give a private lesson, time permitting. The student and instructor together determine the time and fee.

Q: Are there any additional fees or charges once I get to camp?

A: Although no money is required at camp, you may want to bring some cash to acquire books, printed music or CDs available by donation in support of our annual fundraiser. In addition, we usually collect cash for tips for the Brentwood kitchen staff.

Q: Will there be a choice of meals?

A: All meals are served buffet-style. Campers who indicated on their camp form that they are vegetarian or have other dietary restrictions will be accommodated by special meals.

Q: Is there WiFi access on campus?

A: All buildings and residences have free WiFi access.