



## NEMPAC Youth Ensembles Information

*Please share these requirements with your private music instructor or music teacher to help you prepare!*

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### 1. Audition Requirements:

Prerequisites to audition: Students must be in grades 4 - 8 for Music Ensemble and grades 7th - 9th for Rock Band and currently enrolled in lessons (either at NEMPAC or elsewhere) and have either had experience on their chosen instrument for at least 1 year, or been in an ensemble/choir for 1 year.

*\*All students should be able to read notated music*

#### For Non-Vocalists:

\*All students should prepare a short piece in any genre and additionally:

##### Guitar:

Should be able to read chord charts and be prepared to demonstrate basic chord knowledge (major, minor triads and major, minor, dominant 7th chords)

Hand Percussion: Demonstrate ability to keep steady time on congas using basic tumbao at various tempos. **(ROCK BAND ONLY)**

Keyboard: Should be able to read chord charts and be prepared to demonstrate basic chord knowledge (major, minor triads and major, minor, dominant 7th chords)

Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, and Trumpet: Should prepare two major scales, one in the low and high register of the instrument

Bass: Nothing in addition to your prepared short piece **( MUSIC ENSEMBLE ONLY)**

#### For Singers:

- Prepare a short piece to sing in any genre (Rock or Classic Rock song if auditioning for Rock Band), with lyrics memorized that best demonstrates your current skills (60 seconds, sung unaccompanied/a capella)
- You will also be asked to vocalize through your range, and sing back pitches after they are played for you on the piano

## 2. Tuition & Rates

\$700.00 / 30 weeks (Two payments of \$350)

\*10% discount for students enrolled in PMI at NEMPAC. Email [info@nempacboston.org](mailto:info@nempacboston.org).

\*\*This is a full-year commitment. Once offered a spot, you will be required to provide a credit card and pay the first 50% of tuition. Your credit card will be saved in your account and the second half will be automatically processed in December. Students have the option to drop after the class or ensemble's Second Class for a 50% credit of the first payment. After that point, no refund or credit will be given.

\*\*\*If you need financial assistance, tuition assistance is available! Please fill out our tuition assistance [application](#) by **August 30th**.

## 3. Schedules and Ensemble Specific Information



**Rock Band "The Hive":** ROCK OUT! This advanced-level ensemble aims to provide students who already play an instrument with the opportunity to join their peers in an instructor-led rock band! Students will develop and build on fundamental techniques on their chosen instruments, as well as valuable team building skills, and ensemble playing. Repertoire ranges from "The Beatles" to "AC/DC" and more!

**Rehearsals:** Saturdays from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at 50 Tileston St. North End starting September 30th and ending May 25th with reserved make-up rehearsals June 1st - June 22nd.

\*No Rehearsals: November 25, December 23, December 30, February 24, April 13

**Performances:** TBD (can include holiday outreach concerts, the perform-a-thon, and more!)

**What Shawn Meehan, the Director, has to say about "The Hive":** After an amazing second year of Rock Band, I'm very excited to see what the coming year has in store for these talented musicians!



**About Shawn Meehan:** Shawn Meehan is a professional drummer and educator residing and teaching in the Boston area. He is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music where he majored in Music Performance.

Shawn has performed on concert stages throughout North America, Europe NEMPAC Percussion Instructor Shawn Meehan and Asia with artists such as Eddie Kirkland, Johnny Rawls, Johnnie Marshall, Phil Guy, Clarence Spady, Mark Polishook, Jim Kelly and Toni Lynn Washington. Currently, Shawn is performing with Eight To The Bar, who was recently invited by the US Embassy in the Republic of Georgia for a goodwill tour of that country. The band keeps a very active performance schedule appearing at festivals, casinos and other venues over 170 times per year. Drumming performances can be heard on several CD's, including Eight To The Bar's, The Romper Room and Robbie Lee Quintet's Live At The Regattabar.

Shawn has really enjoyed teaching at NEMPAC His goal is to teach his students the joys and rewards of practicing and performing music. The skills learned in the study of music carry over to all aspects of life. The discovery of creating a beautiful sound on an instrument can be a revelation for young students. Music is an invaluable form of expression which holds the ability for students to see the unlimited potential in themselves and others.

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**Music Ensemble:** This special NEMPAC ensemble aims to provide students who already play an instrument with the opportunity to join their peers in an instructor-led ensemble focusing on a genre decided upon by the students (Choose between Pop, Blues, Reggae, Rock, Folk, Jazz, and Funk)! Students will develop and build on fundamental techniques on their chosen instruments, as well as valuable team building skills, and ensemble playing. They'll even have a chance to play performances throughout the year for their adoring fans and groupies!

**Rehearsal Schedule:** Tuesdays from 3:25 - 4:25 p.m. at 50 Tileston St. North End starting September 26th and ending May 21st with reserved make-up rehearsals May 28th - June 18th.  
\*No Rehearsals: October 31, December 26, January 2, February 20, April 16

**Performances:** TBD (can include holiday outreach concerts, the perform-a-thon, and more!)

**What Dan Raney, the Director, has to say about the Music Ensemble** Having performed on various instruments in numerous musical styles throughout my career, I'm particularly excited to continue coaching this group. The wide range of genre possibilities and diverse instrumentation will allow students to take the driver's seat in choosing repertoire.

In this ensemble, students will develop their musicianship as they examine different genres and music decades while learning how to listen to and play with one another effectively.

I look forward to another great year of music-making!



**About Dan Raney:**

Hailing from Mansfield, MA, Dan Raney was born into a musical family. He began playing piano at a young age and started trumpet soon after. Having always been drawn to basslines in music, he began playing bass as a teenager. This led to his acceptance at New England Conservatory, where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in jazz bass performance. While in school, he studied bass with world-renowned jazz bassist, Cecil McBee and voice and songwriting with innovative vocalist, Dominique Eade. A multi-instrumentalist, Dan enjoys teaching a variety of instruments. In addition to teaching, he writes his own music and gigs/records with a number of bands in Boston, playing pop & rock among other genres.

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## **Q & A:**

### **1. How should my child prepare for their audition?**

Every student auditioning should come prepared with one song (no more than 60 seconds!) of their choice to audition on their instrument with. In ADDITION to their chosen song, decide which ensembles they are auditioning for. Then visit the first section of this document to see what additional requirements are needed for their instrument.

Most students will also be asked to demonstrate their skills during auditions - take a look at what they'll be required to demonstrate, and practice that at home! For example, violinists should practice their scales, guitarists should practice as many chords as they can, etc. See above for all requirements!

### **2. What does my child need to bring to auditions?**

Please have them bring their instrument and any sheet music they need! However, keyboard players and hand percussionists will be provided with instruments on site.

### **3. What are the auditions like?**

Very laid back and open! Both directors will be there running the auditions. When the students come in, they should slate! Slating means stating their name, their instrument, and introducing their song. After they've done that, they'll start by playing the song of their choice. After they've played that, the directors will go through some exercises with them and test some different skills such as chords, rhythm, and scales.

### **4. Can my child take a couple of lessons ahead of time to prepare?**

Yes! NEMPAC has some instructors giving lessons before the fall session officially starts. Please reach out to Mary at [monstad@nempacboston.org](mailto:monstad@nempacboston.org) to schedule a lesson and let the instructor know what they need to practice!

### **5. When will I find out if they've been accepted to any of the ensembles?**

You will receive communication from NEMPAC administration with the directors decision on **Monday, September 11th**. If neither of the directors are able to offer your student a spot in their ensemble, constructive feedback about their audition will be provided in the body of the email, with tips on how to further develop! If they ARE asked to join an ensemble, you will have 48 hours to accept or decline their spot. From there, please provide a credit card so we can register your student and process the first 50% of tuition. Your credit card will be saved in your account and the second half will automatically be processed in December.

### **6. Is this a semester based ensemble? Does my child have to re-audition in January? Will there be any performance opportunities?**

No, this is a full-year, 30-week commitment. Yes, there will be performance opportunities, with various holiday events and concerts in December, the Performathon in April and Year End Spring recitals in June, there will be plenty of opportunities to hear your student perform!

### **7. What if my child doesn't like it after a couple of rehearsals and we want to drop out?**

While we hope that's not the case, we understand that this sometimes happens! Students have the option to drop after the ensemble's SECOND REHEARSAL for a 50% credit of the first payment.

**After that point, no refund or credit will be given.**

### **8. What if I don't get into one of the ensembles?**

We do have alternative programs that can help you grow on your instrument and prepare you to audition again in the future.

Vocalists - NEMPAC has musical theatre production programs - one in the Fall and one in the Spring! Be in touch with Kayla at [info@nempacboston.org](mailto:info@nempacboston.org) or visit our website to register.

4th - 6th Grade Eliot School Instrumentalists (Trumpet, Flute, Drums/Percussion, and Clarinet) - If you are in the 4th - 6th grade at the Eliot School, join the Eliot Band Program! Details and sign ups will become available later in September. If you are not a 4th-6th grader at the Eliot school, see below.

All other Instrumentalists - While there are no other opportunities for ensembles or group playing, we suggest speaking with your child's private instructor about increasing their lesson time! Maybe going from 30 minutes a week to 45 minutes, or 45 minutes to 60 minutes!

There are also opportunities for guitar, violin, and keyboard students in 7th and 8th grade to act as teaching assistants in our beginner group violin, keyboard, and guitar classes here at NEMPAC! Apply to be a teaching assistant by **September 12th** at <https://forms.gle/Z5M9ghvfTkHK7VLDA>

### **1. SIGN UP TO AUDITION**

Sign up no later than **August 31st** by filling out this google form:  
<https://forms.gle/LffJzNyWDse5SVRF7>