



Fine Arts Academy

MCGREGOR BAPTIST CHURCH

*Providing Quality
Instruction in the Arts*

Parent/Student Handbook

Dr. Richard Powell, Senior Pastor
Rob Flint, Associate Pastor of Praise & Worship
Jeremy D. Silverman, Director of Creative Worship/Pianist and
Director of the McGregor Fine Arts Academy



Fine Arts Academy
3750 Colonial Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33966

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Dear Students and Parents:

It is an honor to introduce myself to you as the new Director of the Fine Arts Academy (FAA), a ministry of the Praise and Worship department at McGregor Baptist Church, Fort Myers, FL.

I was called to McGregor Baptist Church in August 2010, to serve as Director of Creative Worship/Pianist, a brand new position formed within the Praise and Worship Ministry. Because of my experience in education and my belief in quality music instruction, I was then given the opportunity to lead the FAA. God had been working in my life for over a year to show me and my family His clear will for us to be serving here at McGregor. Having worked for over 15 years in the Tampa Bay area as a professional music producer, arranger, songwriter, conductor, and performer, God wanted me to use my particular skill set less in the commercial music world and full-time within Christian ministry.

Let me share a little about my background and ministry: I have always been involved in music, ever since starting piano lessons at age 5. My family immediately noticed musical gifts and encouraged and fostered those talents. I began performing in local musical theatre groups and all school-based choirs and shows. I started professional voice training in high school and continued my education by receiving a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of South Florida, having studied in the vocal studio of Annetta Y. Monroe. I already had experience with composition and songwriting and wished to pursue a career in film composition after graduating with my bachelors. But, God had other plans in mind. Briefly stated, He put some special people in my life and in the winter of 1998 I accepted Christ as Messiah. This is extremely significant because I grew up in a Jewish home and none of my family are Christians. But, because of dear friends who prayed and witnessed for months, I clearly saw Jesus as the foretold Messiah of the Old Testament.

Because of my new faith, I listened to God's direction and decided to stay and continue with a Masters of Music degree in Choral/Instrumental Conducting, also from the University of South Florida, where I had the privilege of studying with Maestro Robert Summer and Bill Weidrich. I continued working both in academia as Director of Choral Activities at St. Leo University, and the commercial music world as President of SL Entertainment Group, LLC, a premier artist development firm in Tampa. I also began writing and directing Broadway productions throughout the Tampa Bay area.

God has provided me with amazing opportunities to use my talents and education both in the commercial music industry and music ministry. But, He has clearly called me and my family to McGregor to serve in music ministry full-time, and we are so excited to be here.

I am also very excited to see the FAA continue to provide quality instruction of the arts through our wonderful teachers who are masters of their craft. Please be in prayer for the Academy and its personnel, and I will be in prayer for you as we move into a new and exciting year. I will keep you posted on additions to our curriculum and new opportunities. Please feel free to contact me anytime regarding the FAA.

Jeremy D. Silverman
Director of Creative Worship/Pianist
Director, Fine Arts Academy
McGregor Baptist Church

For lots more information about my background, experiences, and beautiful family, please visit:
<http://www.SilvermanMusicMinistries.com>

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of McGregor Baptist Fine Arts Academy is to extend the ministry of and help accomplish the mission statement of McGregor Baptist Church, which exists to do whatever it takes to develop fully devoted followers of Christ. The McGregor Fine Arts Academy functions under the umbrella of the Praise and Worship Department and serves the church by:

- Providing excellent training in the fine arts
- Assisting in meeting students' spiritual needs
- Developing future church leaders
- Acting as an outreach platform for McGregor Baptist Church

OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please contact my Administrative Assistant, Terri Thomas, at terri.thomas@mcgregor.net or 239-790-0304 with any questions or concerns you may have.

MUSIC POLICIES

LESSONS

Lessons are available to anyone ages five and up desiring private instruction in vocal or instrumental music. The instructor may recommend starting lessons with a child when the child gets a little older, depending on maturity and type of instruction. It is always helpful (and sometimes necessary) for the child to be able to read.

SCHEDULING LESSONS

The Fine Arts Academy will try to accommodate students' preferred lesson times and also try to keep families with more than one student enrolled scheduled together. When enrolling for the next semester, we cannot guarantee that the student will have the same lesson day and time. Preference is given to the students who enroll first.

ABSENTEEISM AND MAKE-UPS

Students are allowed two (2) excused absences each semester. **Absences are considered excused if the student notifies the instructor a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the lesson.** The instructor will then schedule a make-up lesson. If the instructor cancels a lesson for any reason, this *will not* count as a student absence and the instructor will schedule a make-up lesson with the student. If a student commits to the rescheduled lesson day/time, and is absent for any reason, the lesson will be forfeited and not rescheduled by the instructor.

TARDINESS

It is very important that students be on time for lessons. Because instructors' schedules are full, lessons will not be extended for late students.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

We will follow McGregor Baptist Church's policies in regards to closings. Please call the church office at (239)936-1754 and listen to the recorded message. Missed lessons and classes will be rescheduled.

ONLINE BOOKSTORE – Instruments, Books, and other Supplies

All instrumentalists are expected to provide their own instruments. If you need help in obtaining an instrument, please contact our office. Books, metronomes and other materials are also the students' responsibility and will be offered at our Amazon online bookstore. Please understand that it is against the law to photocopy music of any kind without the consent of the publisher. Violation of copyright law is not tolerated.

PRACTICE TIME

Practice at home is very important! Progress depends greatly on the amount of time spent in practice and will vary. We recommend that you practice five days per week, and that your practice time equal the amount of your lesson/instruction time. For example, if your lesson is 30 minutes then your daily practice should also be 30 minutes. Lesson time is not practice time!

FINANCIAL POLICIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

TUITION

Tuition is calculated by multiplying the rate per lesson by the number of weeks in a semester. There are 12 weeks in the Fall and Spring Semesters and 6 weeks in the Summer Semester.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

We offer two methods of payment at our academy. Payment in full at the time of registration or an automatic bank draft on the 10th of each of the first three months of the *Fall* and *Spring* semesters. *Summer* semester classes are to be paid in full at the time of registration.

BANK FEES

In the case of insufficient funds, a fee in the amount of \$25 per check or bank draft situation will be charged to the account. Payment by Cashier's Check or Money Order for payment amount and fees will be due at the student's next lesson following notification of the returned check. If payment is not received, lessons will be suspended until the account is settled.

FALL and SPRING Semesters		Registration Amount	Session Amounts	TOTAL DUE
Tuition Paid in Full <i>Amount due by: 1st lesson</i>	30 min. lesson	\$10.00	\$270.00	\$280.00
	1 hr. lesson	\$10.00	\$540.00	\$550.00
Drama Studio I <i>(class-setting—5 student min)</i>	1 hr. session	\$10.00	\$200.00	\$210.00
Drama Studio II <i>(class-setting—5 student min)</i>	1 hr 15min session	\$10.00	\$225.00	\$235.00

SUMMER Semester		Registration Amount	Session Amounts	TOTAL DUE
Tuition Paid in Full <i>Amount due by: 1st lesson</i>	30 min. lesson	\$10.00	\$135.00	\$145.00
	1 hr. lesson	\$10.00	\$270.00	\$280.00

(Drama is only offered in the Fall and Spring semesters at this time)

For bank draft payment plan, add \$15 service charge due at registration

BANK DRAFT		Registration Amount	Monthly Payment	TOTAL PAID
Automatic Payment Plan: (Fall and Spring semesters & only) <i>Amount due by: the 10th day of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd months of each semester</i>	30 min. Lesson	\$25.00	\$90.00	\$295.00
	1 hr. lesson	\$25.00	\$180.00	\$575.00
	Drama I 1hr.	\$25.00	66.67	\$225.00
	Drama II 1hr. 15min.	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$250.00

DISCONTINUING LESSONS, REFUND, and CREDITS

The goal of the Fine Arts Academy is to provide the best qualified instructors available. Faculty will be compensated on a bi-weekly basis regardless of students' attendance. If a student withdraws during the semester, for any reason, a four-week advance written notice is required for reimbursement. The balance remaining after four weeks of notice will be refunded in full. If less than four weeks remain in the semester, no reimbursement will be issued.

GENERAL POLICIES

DISCIPLINE

The instructor will notify parents of any unacceptable behavior. Physical violence or profanity will not be tolerated. If a problem cannot be resolved between the student, parents, and instructor, a meeting will be arranged with the Director. In the event that the problem continues, lessons will be forfeited and no refunds or credits issued. The student will be permanently dismissed.

WAITING AREA/SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

If family members remain on campus during a student's lesson/class, please use the Faith Building lobby or Main Street in the Hope Building or our soon to come designated waiting area. Please do not allow students under the age of 12 to sit unattended in the waiting area. No student is allowed to wander around the church campus before or after lesson/class. Instructors will supervise students during lesson/class times only. Instructors will escort young students to the waiting area where they will be returned to the parent or guardian. It is not the responsibility of the Fine Arts Academy or McGregor Baptist Church to watch children who are dropped off early or left late after lesson/class.

ENTRANCE AND EXIT

Please use the main entrance to the Faith Building for all entrances and exits. Please keep noise levels down when entering to respect our administrative staff working in these areas.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Because we correspond through email, phone and text, it is important that we have your current contact information. Please contact Terri at (239) 790-0304, or terri.thomas@mcgregor.net or come by and fill out a change of address form prior to moving so that student's record can be updated in a timely manner.

HOLIDAYS AND SEMESTER BREAKS

McGregor Baptist Fine Arts Academy is closed for the following holidays:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday in January)
- Good Friday (Friday before Easter)
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (first Monday in September)
- Thanksgiving Day/day after (November)
- Christmas Week (Week between Christmas and New Years)

If your lesson/class falls on one of these days, it will be rescheduled. We also take off one week for spring break. Other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year fall during our semester break.

Please sign this portion stating you understand and will abide by the policies in this handbook **before attending your first lesson.** Thank you!

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____