

The mission of the Kids On Stage Summer Academy is to provide world-class experiences in the visual and performing arts that, through process, performance, and production, empower students to be self-disciplined, lifelong learners.

2009 Class Offerings

Acting I: An overview of all aspects of the actor's craft, this class provides students with the basics of script reading, improvisation, blocking/stage movement, acting exercises, projection, and more. Students work together to learn and perform a scene. (Ages 7-10)

Acting II: Building on the skills learned in Acting I, this class provides a review of acting essentials, while going deeper into character study and motivation. This is a great class for actors who want to delve into how to create a memorable character and connect with an audience. (Ages 11-17)

Advanced Musical Theater: Students in this class will learn vocal parts and choreography from the hottest new Broadway musical productions! Also included in this class will be discussion and tips on making the most of your musical theater audition, resume and photo info, and building a character for musical theater. (Ages 11-17)

Advanced Songwriting: Working with top industry pro songwriters, students will co-write in small groups. Songs will be performed by a full band at the Music and Arts Festival at the end of the week. Limited to 30 students, this class fills up quickly. (Ages 11-17)

African Drumming: In this class, students will learn to understand the principles and techniques of performing African drum music and working with multi-part rhythms. Taught by highly energetic and entertaining instructors, this class is a long-standing favorite at Summer Academy. The Saturday class performances are among the highlights of the Music and Arts Festival days, involving audience participation and even the occasional conga line. (All ages)

All Star Band: An opportunity for middle and high school age musicians to work with top rated Nashville session players and producers, All Star Band at KOS has become legendary! Students are assigned to bands according to musical interest and skill level (existing bands may request to work together). The All Star Band concert on June 20th will combine music with state of the art sound, lighting and video technology, with top industry pros capturing it all on audio and video. This is an opportunity unmatched in the U.S. and students will be accepted on a first-come basis, so sign up early to guarantee your spot in All Star Band. (Ages 11-17)

Art Adventures: The KOS art faculty counts among its members some of the most accomplished, award-winning teaching artists in the Southeast. This class, geared especially toward young artists, uses several different media, techniques and processes, in a revolving 4-year curriculum, so ages 7-10 can take it every year and create completely different pieces each summer. Taught in a nurturing, non-competitive atmosphere. (Ages 7-10)

Bass I & II: Learn to play the electric bass from one of Nashville's top session players! Designed for all ages, Bass I is for beginners and Bass II is for students who already know how to play and want to learn the techniques and tricks of the pros. (All Ages)

Beginning Drawing: This class, designed for young artists, explores the techniques used to draw with skill and artistry. Taught by an award-winning local teaching artist who works extensively with young children, this class is an excellent introduction to the fundamental artistic skills that will carry students into more advanced work in the future. (Ages 7-10)

Beginning Musical Theater: Designed for kids who LOVE musical theater, this entertaining class will take younger kids through the process of learning songs and simple choreography from hit musicals like “Mary Poppins”, “The Sound of Music”, “The Lion King”, and more. Students will perform their songs at the Music and Arts Festival, Saturday, undoubtedly to great applause! (Ages 7-10)

Beginning Songwriting: An excellent introduction to songwriting for younger writers, this class introduces students to song form, rhyme, and the creative co-writing process. The entire class works together with a pro Nashville songwriter to create a unique song. Each student will receive a CD of their class’s song. (Ages 7-10)

Concert Production & Tech Support (So, You Want To Be A Roadie?): This class, broken into three disciplines; sound, lighting, and video technology, provides students with the opportunity to work with and learn from three of the music industry’s top audio engineers, lighting designers, and videographers. Students will be actively involved with lunchtime concerts, as well as the Music and Arts Festivals held each Saturday. An incredible opportunity for anyone interested in learning the ropes of the most marketable jobs in the music industry today. (Ages 11-17)

Dance I & II Hip Hop: Students will learn modern American Hip Hop dance moves in a fun, yet challenging class. By week’s end, students will have mastered an entire Hip Hop dance routine. Taught by KOS alum Tony Speight, this is one of the most popular classes at Summer Academy and fills up very quickly. (Hip Hop I is for ages 7-10 and Hip Hop II is for ages 11-17)

Dance I & II Modern/Jazz: Students will learn and incorporate the techniques of American Modern and Jazz dance styles, taught by an instructor who studied at the prestigious Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City. Students will gain strength, flexibility and agility, while having fun and working in an encouraging, non-judgmental environment. (Modern/Jazz I is for ages 7-10 and Modern/Jazz II is for ages 11-17)

Digital Photography A-Z: In this cutting edge digital photography class, students will learn the processes of photo lighting and composition, and spend two full classes photographing buildings and landscapes in and around Leipers’ Fork. They will also build a slideshow of their work. A signed permission form will be required, as students will be taking field trips off campus. It is helpful to bring a digital camera but KOS will provide cameras to any students who do not have them. (Ages 11-17)

Garage Band: Garage Band is the quickest, most user-friendly computer program on the consumer market today for those who want to create, perform and record music. Students will learn how easy it is to turn a Mac into a recording studio, mastering interface and basic recording techniques, along with arranging, editing and mixing tracks, and adding effects. Students will take home a CD of their tracks at week’s end. (Garage Band I is for ages 9-12 and Garage Band II is for ages 13-17).

Graphic Design: A great hands-on introduction to the many elements of computer-assisted graphic design, this class takes students from idea to sketch to final project in only a week! Students will learn about proportion, positive and negative space, grids, design, color theory, typography and more, using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, the industry standard for professional designers and illustrators. (Ages 11-17)

Guitar I & II Beginning: With four guitar instructors, students are able to work within a small group specifically designed to meet them at their skill level. Guitar I focuses on basic guitar concepts, rhythms and chord progressions. Guitar II delves into several musical styles, exploring Blues, Rock and even Jazz licks and advanced chording. Guitar I is for beginning to young intermediate players, while Guitar II is for more advanced players. (All Ages)

Haciendo Musica: Spanish for “Making Music”, this class will introduce children ages 7-10 to the wonders of Latin rhythms and music through percussion instruments – congas, bongos, claves, maracas – voice, and simple movements. Children will accompany modern Latin grooves to songs from Louis Prima, Los Lobos, The Buena Vista Social Club, Elvis Crespo and others, in a joyous celebration of classic and current Latin music styles. (Ages 7-10)

Harmonica I: This class just added! Taught by renowned country/blues singer/guitarist and harmonica player Chris Janson, this class will teach students the basics of the instrument, simple blues and rock riffs, and how to build a great solo in just five days! Each student will be assigned his/her own harmonica, which will be used by only them. Selected students will perform at Saturday night’s mainstage performance. This is an incredible opportunity to learn from one of the best harmonica players in music today – and only at Kids On Stage! (Ages 11-17)

Improv Acting I & II: Learn simple, step-by-step techniques and games used by actors at Saturday Night Live, Second City and The Groundlings, to develop a quick wit, a creative perspective, and the confidence on stage to be an outstanding improvisational performer. This class provides practical solutions to such problems as, “How do I know what to say?” and “I just can’t be funny”. Great for musicians, actors and anyone who wants to be comfortable on stage or in a group situation. This class will also develop emcees for the lunchtime and Saturday concerts! (Improv I is for ages 7-10 and Improv II is for ages 11-17)

Jazz Band: For intermediate and advanced musicians only, the KOS Jazz Band is a great chance to work with a pro jazz player and producer on classic and contemporary jazz pieces. Students must be able to read music to be in this class. Guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, horns and other instruments are welcomed. Vocalists will be accepted by audition with the Jazz Band director. Students must be available for the Saturday night concert at the conclusion of the week (June 15th or June 20th). (Ages 11-17)

Keyboard I: Learn the basics of playing and reading music, including note names and values, basic chords and scales, ear training, theory, and right hand melodies. This is a fun and challenging class for beginners and young intermediate players. (All Ages)

Keyboard II (Intermediate/Advanced): This class, for students who can already read music well, focuses on common chord progressions used in Blues, Rock and Pop music. Students will learn to read basic chord charts with letters and the Nashville Numbers System, and learn the techniques of accompanying and playing in bands. (Ages 11-17 – students younger than 11 with permission by the KOS director).

Lights, Camera, Action: (Television Production): In this fun and exciting class, young students will write, direct and star in a live TV newscast program! Everyone will be a part of the production crew, which includes camera operator, audio engineer, technical director and graphics, as well as take a turn as “on-camera” talent. Every student will receive a copy of his or her class’s broadcast at the end of the week. (Ages 7-10)

MegaPixels: One of KOS’s most enduringly popular classes, MegaPixels introduces students to the essentials of fine art digital photography and manipulation, using the computer program Photoshop. In this class, students take digital photos, then create and edit their images for print, email and the web. If you have a digital camera, bring it with you. If not, KOS will provide one. (Ages 11-17)

Mosaic Mischief: Unlock the ancient mysteries of tile and grout, and join us in making Mosaic Mischief! It doesn’t matter if you are a beginner or more advanced; in this class you’ll learn and experience the techniques, terminology and tools to effectively break things and put them back together in a whole new way. The class will make solo and group projects. Last year’s classes created animal mosaics that are now a part of the Steve Irwin (Crocodile Hunter) Memorial at the Australia National Zoo. (Ages 11-17)

Paper Caper: This fun class for young artists combines ancient technique with modern creativity and a bit of last semester’s recycled homework papers to create beautiful, unique handmade papers. From these, students will create hand-bound books, boxes and other interesting works of art. (Ages 7-10)

Photography I & II: These immensely popular classes, taught by nationally-recognized photographer and artist Annie Goetze and her son, Nathan Collie, explore the artistry and skill of “analog film”. Students will learn about composition and lighting, then take black and white photos, which they will then hand color with paint and/or colored pencils. (Photography I is for ages 7-10 and Photography II is for ages (11-17)

Pottery: Designed for older students, this class, taught by Fulbright Scholar and artist Heather McHugh, will explore the fundamentals of designing, throwing and painting functional and decorative pottery pieces. (Ages 11-17)

ProTools: Learn the digital audio recording program that is the industry standard, used in major recording studios all over the world. ProTools utilizes cutting edge audio technology to record, edit and mix everything from small independent projects to major-label CD's. Each student will record and mix their own projects, taking home a CD of their work at the end of the week. (Ages 13-17)

Recording Arts: Working with a seasoned Nashville pro audio engineer and producer, students will learn basic and advanced studio recording and production principles of sound. Aspects covered include microphones and mic technique, signal flow, tracking, overdubbing and mixing, using a computerized automated digital console and digital hard-disc recorder. This class is limited to 6 students and fills up quickly, so register early to reserve your space. (Ages 11-17)

VJ: Video Journalist: Last year was the first for Video Journalist classes, and our VJ students ROCKED. A huge hit at the Saturday Music and Arts Festivals, their pieces were simply amazing; a mixture of witty writing, solid reporting, great interviews, skillful shooting, terrific music, and creative editing. This year we throw down the gauntlet, inviting hard working and creative students to step up and create a memorable piece of digital journalism of their own for Kids On Stage posterity. (Ages 11-17)

Violin: Using the beginning Suzuki method, this class, geared for younger students, is full of fun and musical adventure, as students learn to play several songs, from "Twinkle Twinkle" to an accompaniment to the theme from "Star Wars" all in one week! Violins are provided. (Ages 7-10)

Vocal Performance I & II: Maury and Raquel Kelley, owners of J. Kelley Studios in Franklin, have set the standard for Vocal Performance. Training hundreds of kids, ages 6 through 18 over the past several years, they have developed a curriculum of vocal technique and performance skills for both solo and group performers that is unmatched in the industry. We are proud to welcome them back to Summer Academy to work with student groups in lead and harmony vocals, stage movement, performance etiquette, and professional behavior. Students will learn vocalization techniques, breathing, and pitch control, all culminating in a highly entertaining performance on at the Saturday Music and Arts Festival. (Vocal Performance I is for ages 7-10 and Vocal Performance II is for ages 11-17)

Web Design I & II: Covering the basics of website design and creation, students will learn to access the wealth of creative resources available via the Internet. Web Design I will cover basic HTML, while Web Design II will continue into upper-level skills in HTML, image animation, and web media. Emphasis on quality web design and multimedia integration, as well as emerging technologies. This is a fun and engaging class, with virtually endless creative possibilities. (Web Design I is for ages 9-12 and Web Design II is for ages 13-17)



Special Note

Remember that the Summer Academy runs through Saturday. The Saturday schedule will start at 1:00pm with performances throughout the afternoon, including art and photo shows, and will conclude after the 6:30pm concert.