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# *Principle Music Courses*

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EQUIPPING MUSICIANS FOR EXCELLENCE

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## **|ORIENTATION MANUAL|**

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# - Welcome -

Greetings, fellow musicians!

We are excited to welcome you to this summer's music course(s). This summer, you will have the opportunity to learn from outstanding instructors in a hands-on musical environment where the first priority is to honor the Name of Christ.

In this setting, you will work towards musical and spiritual goals individually and corporately—goals that will prepare you and your classmates for greater service to the King of kings.

In the following pages, you will find the guidelines, packing lists, travel details, and recommendations that will prepare you for each course. If you have additional questions, email the Music Office at [music@iblp.org](mailto:music@iblp.org), or call (903) 636-2000.

As the class start date draws nearer, please be in prayer that:

- God will prepare you mentally, physically, and spiritually for all that He has in store for you during this course
- God will unify the hearts of all that are attending and instructing
- God would glorify His Word and His Name above all else

We look forward to all that God has in store as we pursue excellence in music together!

For Christ's Glory,  
The Principle Music Team

*“ . . . with my song will I praise Him.” Psalm 28:7*

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# 1. Principle Music's Core Values

**Excellence:** In all our settings and interactions, we want to show respect for a professional environment and conduct ourselves in such a manner that brings glory to the King of kings.

**Respect:** Deferring personal preferences contributes to excellence as a whole. As we come together from countless different backgrounds, we have the opportunity to limit our personal freedoms so that we may build a God-honoring spirit of unity as a class. This includes limiting personal freedoms in the areas of music, dress, and media usage (more on that later).

**Encouragement:** Through attitudes of gratefulness, contentment, and humility, we want to encourage each other through every aspect of the course. This course is an opportunity for you to build healthy relationships with your classmates and instructors, advance your music skills, and honor the Lord in your heart and in your actions. Join us in sharing these values as we come together to glorify God!

# 2. Preparing for Your Courses

**Introduction:** For all courses, build up your aural foundation by listening to excellent sacred and classical music, and by practicing your scales and arpeggios. Practice playing or singing 2-4 octave scales on your instrument: major and their corresponding minor scales in all forms (natural, harmonic, and melodic). The more you listen to excellent music, and the better you know your scales and key signatures, the better the Workshops, and/or Sound Foundations will go for you.

**Instrumental Workshop:** Musicians practice a lot, and hopefully, that includes you. You will get out of the workshop what you put into it. The students who walk away with their musical skills transformed are the ones who practiced well leading up to the workshop (especially in preparing the music you are bringing), and applied themselves wholeheartedly through the week.

- Build up the focus and stamina to play for 3+ hours daily on your instrument. This will prepare you for the combination of your coaching session, any ensemble rehearsals, and personal practice time.
- Prepare two contrasting sacred or classical pieces, one that is faster and more technical, and one that is more lyrical and expressive. Be able to play the notes confidently so that you and your coach can focus on technique, interpretation, expression, and memorization.

**Sound Foundations:** For Sound Foundations Levels 1, 2, & 3: This is a classroom-based course. You will spend an average of six hours each weekday in the classroom, plus 2+ hours each day in choral training and working on homework.

- **Choir and orchestra** — Listen to great choral works performed by well-known ensembles such as the London Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, and others: “Messiah” by George Frideric Handel, “The Creation” by Franz Joseph Haydn, “Elijah” by Felix Mendelssohn. A highlight of Sound Foundations for all students is the exciting time spent in choir and orchestra rehearsals. If you are familiar with this type of repertoire beforehand, you will get even more out of your SF choral experience.
- **Hymnology:** Learn the great hymns of the faith. Get used to singing them mindfully, and playing them confidently. For bonus points, memorize all four stanzas to “A Mighty Fortress” by Martin Luther, and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by Isaac Watts.
- **Music theory** —
  - SF Level 1: know your scales and arpeggios (see above)
  - SF Levels 2 & 3: Review your music theory notes from Sound Foundations Level 1 before taking the placement exam. Then, if you have questions while taking the placement exam, use your notes, textbook, and the internet to research those terms and concepts. Reach out to your classmates if possible and review your music theory together! Finally, remember to practice playing all scales on your instrument: major scales and their corresponding minor scales in all forms (natural, harmonic, and melodic).

**Piano Arranging Workshop:** Know your scales and arpeggios (see above), and be able to play them for four octaves at varying speeds (quarter notes, eighth notes, triplets, sixteenth notes). Finally, listen to solo classical piano music from each major era of music: the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and the Early Modern eras. Here are some main groups of works to get you started:

- ❑ J.S. Bach: Well-Tempered Clavier, Two and Three-Part Inventions
- ❑ Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven: Sonatas, Rondos, Fantasias, Concertos
- ❑ F. Chopin: Etudes, Nocturnes, Polonaises, Mazurkas, Waltzes
- ❑ Rachmaninov: Preludes, Sonatas, Etude Tableaux

### *3. Preparing for the Schedule*

For each course, expect full days of work, and fun weekends of rest mixed with productive activities (please note, if you wanted a beach vacation, you had better stay home). In addition, check out the schedule in the section below, and begin preparing for an “early to bed, early to rise” routine. Your future self will thank you for it!

Helpful Tip: Be five minutes early for each class, with everything you need for that class. If it's choir class, have your music, a pencil, and a water bottle (Gatorade will be provided during choir breaks). If it's a coaching session, have your instrument, your chart, and all your music ready. If it's a class, have your binder, notes, and pens/pencils for taking notes. And if you're going anywhere in general, have a water bottle. East Texas is HOT and humid during the summer—staying hydrated is crucial for feeling well.

#### **Weekdays:**

6:00am - Wake up, exercise, personal devotions  
7:30am - Breakfast/Team devotions  
8:30am - Chapel & Hymn Singing  
9:30am - 12:00pm - Morning Classes  
12:30pm - Lunch  
1:45pm - 5:15pm - Afternoon Classes  
5:30pm - Dinner  
7:00pm - Evening class, study hall, personal practice, free time  
9:00pm - Curfew  
10:00pm - Lights Out

#### **Weekends:**

- Saturday's: Brunch at 10:30am, Dinner at 4:30pm, 1-2 light classes, room inspections.
- Sunday's: Church at 10:00am, sack lunches, rest and quiet time with the Lord, Dinner at 4:30pm, evening activity such as a group devotional, a session, or a hymn sing-along.

## 4. Master Packing List

\*Please mark everything clearly with your name!\*

- **You + your instrument** (pianos will be provided)
- Bible & journal
- Portable music stand (for string & woodwind players)
- Audio or video recording device, preferably a smartphone, to use during personal practice times
- Laundry detergent AND money for each load (for the dorm laundry machines, bring \$2.00 in quarters **per load**)
- Umbrella & jacket (East Texas gets some pretty rainy days!)
- Cash or debit/credit card for the campus store or supplemental music items (instructors may bring resources that you want to purchase!)
- Metronome - download as an app: [Pro Metronome for iOS](#) / [Pro Metronome for Android](#)
- Tote bag or backpack for a large binder and other class materials
- Pens, pencils, and highlighters, for lots and LOTS of notes!
- Notebook or journal for extra notes and devotions
- (1) Business-size envelope with a stamp per week of courses (e.g. if you are staying for five weeks, bring five stamped envelopes)
- Clothing that aligns with guidelines (see next section)
- Extra hangers, if desired (three are provided in each closet)
- Your favorite snacks for those late-night homework sprints, weekends, or.... just because snacks are great, bring some!
  - Please note: nobody wants to be sick during a music course, so choose well with snacks. Healthy ideas include trail mix, granola bars, protein bars, dried fruit, etc. Please avoid high-sugar energy drinks, soft drinks, candy, and junk food.

NOTE: For Sound Foundations students that are flying: you will be given a syllabus (2-3" binder) of class notes at the course, as well as a hymnal, and some small pamphlets and materials that you will want to take home! For any Workshop students, you will receive small folders with notes and materials, but nothing bulky! Hopefully knowing this ahead of time allows you to pack and plan your luggage accordingly.

## **Packing List Continued: What NOT to Bring**

- Contemporary or popular music that may be questionable or distracting for you or your fellow classmates
- Video Games (if you have gaming on your phone or device, you will be asked to lock those apps up, or completely refrain from accessing them for the entire duration of the course)
- Clothing that does not meet guidelines (see next section).
- Junk food and sugary drinks—let's stay healthy together!

**Did you leave something home?** We're 30+ minutes away from any town with sizable shopping options (i.e. Walmart), nor does the course schedule allow for any shopping sprees! While in Big Sandy, Amazon.com and Walmart.com are your best go-to options. If you don't have your own account, no worries, students can pool orders together to meet free shipping minimums. Feel free to check in with your team leader for assistance if needed.

**Campus Bookstore & Coffee Shop:** There is a small store on campus with simple options for small things you may need refills of (snacks, personal hygiene items, etc.). Expect convenience store prices. There is also coffee served here... but again, don't binge on caffeine or sugary drinks too often. This shop is usually open on weekdays from 1:00-2:00pm.

### **To receive mail and packages, address them to:**

(Students' name), C/O Principle Music Courses  
1 Academy Blvd, Big Sandy, TX, 75755

**Lost & Found Policy:** IBLP and Principle Music Courses cannot be responsible for any lost or damaged items during your stay. If you misplace something during the course, it will most likely turn up on the Lost & Found table in the study hall, where it will be held for 24 hours. Items not claimed within three days of your departure date from campus will be discarded.

## *5. Dress Code: What to Wear*

Lead the way among your classmates by wearing clothing that is traditional, classic, and professional, inviting your peers to take you and your skills seriously. As we focus on equipping students for excellence, our choice of clothing can drive us toward or distract us from that goal.



## **Young Ladies' Attire**

### In the Classroom: Business Professional

Wear this:

- Professional and feminine outfits: dressy tops w/skirts or dresses (Pants for females are only allowed during recreation times.)
- Modest fitting clothes that do not accentuate anything physical

Not that:

- Sleeveless tops, shirts that cling and accentuate the chest, low necklines that could suggest cleavage, skirts that come above the knee when sitting, any kind of ragged or lettered clothing, sneakers, flip-flops, or clothing that is decidedly trendy or casual.

### In Recreation: Casual

Wear this:

- Modest-fitting shirts that do not show skin/cleavage in athletic positions.
- Skirts that reach over the knees when standing with leggings/pants underneath (pants must reach over the knee), or loose fitting capris (below the knees) or pants
- Casual shoes: sneakers, flip flops, etc.

Not that:

- tank tops, sleeveless tops, shorts, or any stretchy and tight-fitting clothing

### Concert Attire: Formal

Formal, solid black tops/skirts or dresses, Sleeves must reach over shoulders, skirt must reach ankles or floor, Sashes or rosettes (provided at course), black dress shoes (no high heels, please)

## **Young Mens' Attire**

### In the Classroom: Business professional

Wear this:

- Professional and masculine outfits: dress slacks and collared shirts; ties are appropriate but not required.

Not that:

- Skinny jeans, tight-fitting shirts, any kind of ragged or lettered clothing, sneakers, flip-flops, or clothing that is decidedly trendy or casual.

### In Recreation: Casual

Wear this:

- Modest-fitting shirts that do not show skin in athletic positions
- Loose-fitting pants or shorts that reach the knees when standing
- Casual shoes: sneakers, flip flops, etc.

Not that:

- Shorts that are too short (above the knee), sleeveless tops, or any stretchy and tight-fitting clothing

### Concert Attire: Formal

- Solid black suits with solid white shirts underneath (no exceptions)
- Ties (provided at course)
- Black dress shoes, dark socks

## 6. *Important Travel Details*

**FOR THOSE DRIVING:** Arrive at the campus (International ALERT Academy, 1 Academy Blvd, Big Sandy, TX, 75755) by 3:30pm the **Saturday** that your course begins. Dinner is provided in the dining room from 4:30—5:00pm. After that, the fun begins with refreshments and Orientation in the Auditorium at 6:30pm.

Plan to leave by 12:00pm on the **Saturday** that your course ends. Tuition covers your meals and lodging through that Saturday's brunch. Any extra meals or nights on campus should be arranged separately and paid for at your own expense. If you are interested in organizing a carpool from your area, let us know so we can connect you with other students.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THOSE FLYING:**

Complete the [Travel Information form](#) no less than **two weeks prior to your course's start date**.

### **Flight Arrivals**

- Class staff will meet you at your airlines' arrival curb.
- For flights into Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) or Dallas Love Field (DAL), plan to arrive **before** 2:00pm on the Saturday that your course begins.
- For flights into Tyler Pounds Regional Airport (TYR), or East Texas Regional Airport in Longview (GGG), plan to arrive **before** 3:00pm on the Saturday that your course begins.

### **Flight Departures**

- Class Staff will deliver you back to your departing airline curb for your departing flight.
- For DFW or DAL, plan to depart **after** 12:30pm on the Saturday that your course ends.
- For TYR or GGG, plan to depart **after** 10:00am on the Saturday that your course ends.

For travel questions, email [music@iblp.org](mailto:music@iblp.org) or call the ATI office at (903) 636-2000.

## 7. *The Final Concerts*

All concerts will take place on campus at the International ALERT Academy & IBLP Campus.

[To visit the Final Concerts webpage, click here >>](#)

In addition, we would love for your friends and family to reserve meals and lodging on campus around when they bring you to the course, or for any of the final concerts! To reserve your meals or lodging, or for more info, contact our Events Department at 903-636-9201 or email: [events@alertacademy.com](mailto:events@alertacademy.com).

## 8. *Media Guidelines*

During courses, we encourage students to use their personal devices responsibly, and safely, within the following guidelines. If students are unable to abide by these guidelines, they will be asked to turn their device into their team leader or the Music Office.

Our standards for media content and usage come from Scripture, with passages such as Ephesians 5:1-21, and Colossians 3 giving principles that we willingly follow and embrace. Primarily, we want our devices to be tools that we use for intentional communication and education. Here are some guidelines that will clarify how students should handle their devices for the duration of their time on campus.

### **Phones & Personal Devices**

What IS okay:

- Enjoying phone calls, video calls, or messages with parents and immediate family members during free time.
- Using the tool-like apps on your device to enhance your private learning experience, including a metronome, camera, notes, etc. (note: please do not use your phone in the classroom, see below).
- Listening to course-approved music or audio Bible during free time.
- Using devices between classes and before curfew.

What is NOT okay:

- Sharing media with other students, including but not limited to all forms of social media, or any outside music or videos (more on music below).
- Using devices in class or after curfew. In case of an emergency, please excuse yourself from class and use your phone in the lobby or hallway areas. For note-taking, you will be given all the materials you need in your binder and in PowerPoints.
- Listening to personal music or media on an open device during free time (in consideration of your classmates, please use earbuds).

Relationship Clause: If you have a boyfriend or girlfriend that you desire to communicate with during the course, please limit your communication to the weekends, and conduct your calls in a private location.

**Playing & Listening to Music:** At each course, our choices of musical repertoire draw from classical or sacred selections that will feed us mentally and spiritually. We will avoid contemporary styles that may be edifying in some settings, but could cause conflict in others.

At Principle Music Courses, we want to teach you how to be excellent in music, and upon your return home, it is up to you to seek the Lord on what “excellence in music” looks in your own life and ministry.

Think of your time here in this way: If you were a culinary student attending a cake-baking workshop, you would leave your grilling supplies at home. Since you are attending a course that is focused more on classical and conservative music, leave other music at home. In this way, you and your classmates can benefit the most from the goals and opportunities of this environment. When in doubt, err on the side of conservatism.

***Exception: if you have music that needs to be rehearsed for professional or required educational purposes (i.e. an upcoming gig or recital), simply let us screen it before you play it. And when in doubt, just ask!***

Our guiding principle for all of our media usage and interpersonal communication is **Philippians 4:8** -

**“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”**

## 9. Course Conduct

**A call to maturity:** We desire that our spirit, behavior, and emotions reflect a heart and life surrendered to Christ and devoted to following Him. This is a high and beautiful calling that we invite all students to joyfully embrace. To begin, here are some foundational character qualities that will be helpful for you to think about as you prepare to join us this summer.

- **Diligence**—if you want a vacation, go to the Bahamas. If you want to work on skills that will benefit you for life, come spend your summer with Principle Music Courses.
- **Deference**—your roommates, classmates, team leaders, and even your instructors will be at different levels of maturity. Remember that in Christ, we are one. Let’s put our differences aside and seek to bless one another with Christlike attitudes and actions that display loving spirits, and servants’ hearts.
- **Punctuality**—classes will start on time, and attendance will be taken. With that, we do our best to set you up for success on the schedule!
- **Humility**—at the end of the day, it’s not about you, your preferences, or your supposed strengths or weaknesses. Everything in the Christian life, and everything in these courses, is about Christ in you—His enabling, His provision, and His grace. If that is your perspective coming into this class experience, you will thrive, and more importantly, you will glorify Christ.

**Rule of Three:** At these courses, we value trust, safety, and accountability in all of our interactions with each other. To achieve this, we stick to a “rule of three,” where 3+ people are present in every situation.

This is especially important in the following situations:

- Minors: (any individual under age 18) No minor should ever be alone with another individual for the duration of their time on campus.
- Guys vs. Girls: No guy should ever be alone with a girl, and vice versa.

Public locations where this is optional, but **strongly** recommended:

- lobbies, hallways, classrooms, auditoriums, or any public area in open view.

Private locations where this is required, with **no** exceptions:

- bedrooms, offices, practice rooms, or any closed off area not in public view.

**Guy & Girl Interactions:** Remember the Core Values of excellence, respect, and encouragement in all your interactions, and let purity be your guiding principle as you interact with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Here are some further recommendations.

**What is okay:** Interacting professionally in GROUP and public settings (remember the Rule of Three!), conversing around the course content, and engaging in discussions and activities that build fellow students up in the course

- Aim to treat all classmates of the opposite gender as equals in pursuit of the common goal: excellence as individuals for the glory of God and maintaining a respectful level of restraint in all interactions.

**What is NOT okay:** Interacting casually in PRIVATE or enclosed settings (remember the Rule of Three!), conversing extensively outside of course content, and engaging in activities that are not scheduled or do not relate to the course.

- Avoid treating certain classmates of the opposite gender with special attention, or engaging in actions and conversations that could be regarded as flirtatious or too inviting.

NOTE: As we pursue a healthy course experience for all students, we ask that you refrain from engaging with other individuals (even those of the same gender) in any interactions that could appear cliquish, or overly affectionate. While we as a class and as teams within each class will unite to help each other through hard days, or stretching assignments, cliquing up with a classmate as an “emotional support partner” or singling any classmates out as your “bestie” is not recommended. Handle yourself **professionally** around your classmates. In the case of exceptional needs, please go to your team leader who can walk with you through what you are struggling with.

**Final Thoughts:** If you’re in doubt, just go without. Screen your activity and conduct ideas by asking:

- Does this action honor the Lord?
- Would I regret it if the Staff or an Instructor saw me doing/wearing/trying this \_\_\_\_\_?
- Will this \_\_\_\_\_ encourage or benefit my fellow classmates, the instructors, AND the staff?

In closing, have fun! And remember that we are all here to enjoy making music together for the glory of God. Collaborate with your classmates and instructors at every level, and let’s encourage each other to do great things for God with our music!

## 10. Course Structure & Communication

**Leadership & Staff:** We're joyfully here to serve and invest in each of you! For all questions and concerns, please work your way through the channels as outlined below, and know that you'll get to meet all of these folks at your class's orientation on-site.

- **Level 1: Team Leaders:** There will be one leader per suite (two rooms per suite), with seven students per suite/team. Team leaders will be responsible for monitoring all room activity, taking attendance at class, and making sure the basic needs of students are met. Team Leaders will have daily meetings with staff to communicate needs and questions.
- **Level 2: Music Office Staff:** message and contact during all business hours
- **Level 3: Course Coordinators:** Office staff will communicate with Coordinators
- **Level 4: Directors:** Coordinators will communicate with Directors
- **Instructors:** [Coming from across the nation from a variety of professional backgrounds, meet the instructor and staff line-up by visiting your course's webpage.](#)

**Course Communication:** Remember the outline above? Ask your team leader first, office staff second, coordinators next, and finally, they can go to the directors for you. For class-related questions, ask your instructor in that class, if possible. Everything can work smoothly if we all stay in this line.

- **Contacting the Music Office:** Message [music@iblp.org](mailto:music@iblp.org) on Google Hangouts or email [music@iblp.org](mailto:music@iblp.org). If you do not have a smartphone, pair up with a student who does. The Music Office will respond to all questions between business hours, 8:30am—5:30pm. Please do not enter the Music Office or any Staff Office without permission.
- **Announcements:** You will be emailed a Google Hangouts link to join your course's group chat by your course start date. Please keep this chat to announcements from staff only!
- **Office Hours:** Try and keep your questions to business hours (see above). For emergencies, get in touch with your team leader, who can connect you with resources and help.
- **Meetings:** Instructors and Staff will be periodically having meetings in the Study Hall and in the Music Office. When any of these doors are closed, please do not knock or enter. We would like to get through each meeting quickly so we can get back to doing what we love best, being with you, the students!



# 11. How to Share These Courses

It's not too late to bring a friend! For additional information or to request brochures, contact the ATI office at (903) 636-2000, or at [ati@iblp.org](mailto:ati@iblp.org).

Here are some sample talking points to tell friends and family where you will be going this summer:

YOU: "I am headed to study music in Texas this summer!"

FRIEND: "Sounds like fun! What do you think it will be like?"

YOU: "Well, I expect it to be a spiritually enriching, mentally challenging, fabulous musical experience!"

FRIEND: "Great! Give me some details..."

YOU: "I'll get to study with instructors from around the nation, and work with them on various projects, such as..."

- "Improving on my performance technique, getting tips on how to practice well, and learning how to handle my instrument professionally (Instrumental Workshop)
- "I will also be building skills in music theory, history, and learning the history of hymns, writing my own songs, and even taking a passage of Scripture and setting it to music (Sound Foundations levels 1, 2, 3)
- "At the end of the summer, I'm looking forward to a workshop where I will learn how to improvise and arrange at the piano (Piano Arranging Workshop)
- "Outside of class, I'll have some free time and opportunities to fellowship with other students. I'll also get to do really fun things like conduct an orchestra, sing in a choir, and play with different ensembles in a final concert to which, hey! You're welcome to come!"

[For final concert info, click here >>](#)

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To share these courses with a friend, use these links:

- Website: [familyconferences.org/music](http://familyconferences.org/music)
- Facebook [@principlemusiccourses >>](#)
- Instagram [@principlemusiccourses >>](#)