



## SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL

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### **What is the mission of Special Music School High School?**

The mission of Special Music School High School (SMSHS) is to develop students who have the skills, competencies and knowledge necessary for successful 21st-century music careers. The school is dedicated to providing talented young musicians the opportunity to pursue serious, pre-professional music studies along with a rigorous academic curriculum.

**Why haven't I heard of this high school before?** SMSHS is a new high school and will open in time for current New York City 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (2012-13) to enter as its first class of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in fall 2013.

**Will you have any Information Sessions?** Yes, we have three Information Sessions scheduled: October 15, October 29, and November 8. They will all be held on the second floor of the Kaufman Center, 129 West 67th Street, at 6:30 PM.

**Where is the school?** The school will be located in the Martin Luther King Educational Complex at 122 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan—in the Lincoln Center neighborhood.

**How large will the high school be?** The high school will admit 50 students per grade, beginning with ninth grade, in the 2013-14 school year; it will reach its full capacity of 200 students in the 2016-2017 school year.

**Who is eligible to apply?** SMSHS accepts applications from any current 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is, or will be, living in one of the five boroughs of New York City in September 2013.

**Do I need to know how to read music?** Yes, you must be able to read basic rhythmic and pitch notation.

**How do I apply?** You must submit a SMSHS application directly to our admissions office by November 15, 2012 *in addition* to listing SMSHS, code number

A85A, on the DOE high school form. The DOE form, which lists all your high school choices, is submitted to your middle school's guidance counselor.

**Where can I get an application?** You can download an application from <http://kaufman-center.org/sms/admissions/application-forms/>, from Kaufman Center's front desk (129 West 67th St in Manhattan), or request that one be mailed to you by calling 212 501 3395.

**Does an applicant need to have studied music for many years?** No, the school is designed to educate and nurture both highly accomplished high-school aged musicians and those who have only recently discovered their passion for music.

**Do I have to have a classical music background?** No, anyone with a strong love of music, in any style, is encouraged to apply.

**What are the admissions criteria?** Acceptance to SMSHS is based on your application, audition(s), and review of your academic record.

**How would you describe the ideal Special Music School High School student?** Any instrumentalist, vocalist, and/or composer, with some musical background, who is passionate about music, who wants to be musically and academically challenged, and who wants to make/study music on a daily basis.

**How many audition rounds will there be?** There will be two rounds of auditions. Anyone interested in the school is encouraged to apply and schedule their round 1 audition according to the instructions in the 'How to Apply' section. The round 2 audition is based on the results of round 1 and is by invitation only.

**How do I schedule a round 1 audition?** Go to <http://kaufman-center.org/sms/admissions/application-forms/> and download an application or pick up an application at Kaufman Center, 129 West 67th Street. Instructions for scheduling your audition are included in the 'How to Apply' section.

**Do I have to audition in person for round 1?** Round 1 auditions may be done in person or via a YouTube video. Instructions for auditioning via YouTube in round 1 can be found in each 'How to Apply' section.

**What do composers do in round 1?** Round 1 for composers consists of submitting an application and all the supporting musical material as specified in the 'How to Apply' section. There are no live auditions for composers in round 1.

**What are you looking for in round 1 auditions?** We are looking to determine your basic instrumental, vocal, and/or composing abilities.

**Do I have to audition *in person* for round 2?** Yes, everyone, including composers, must audition in person for round 2.

**What will round 2 consist of?** All applicants, regardless of their concentration, will take a music theory test and will participate in a mini improvisation workshop. In addition:

Vocalists will perform different repertoire from round 1, sight sing and may be asked to sing melodic patterns throughout their range.

Instrumentalists will perform different repertoire from round 1, will play a scale, and sight read.

Composers will meet with members of the audition panel and discuss their music, ideas, and concepts about composing and their compositional process.

**What are you looking for in round 2 auditions?** In addition to hearing different music than what is presented in round 1, we are looking to determine more fully a candidate's musicianship, including music theory knowledge, creativity, and collaborative skills.

**What instruments are acceptable for an audition?** You may audition on any standard classical or jazz instrument.

**Will you provide an instrument for the audition?** We will provide a piano, electric amp, and drums—and a vibraphone (on request). All other instrumentalists, including harpists, must bring their own instrument.

**Will there be an accompanist?** Yes, we will provide an accompanist. You must bring the music for the accompanist.

**May I audition for more than one concentration or for more than one instrument?** Yes, you may audition for one, two, or three concentrations and/or on more than one instrument. If you are auditioning for more than one concentration (i.e. guitar and composition or voice, composition and bassoon), you *must* fill out separate applications for each concentration. If you are auditioning on two instruments (i.e. oboe and piano), fill out *one* instrumental application; please make note of your second instrument in the appropriate place on the application.

**What is Kaufman Center?** A national leader in the field of music education and one of New York City's most vibrant cultural organizations, Kaufman Center combines the finest in music education for all ages with world-class performance in

the acoustically superior Merkin Concert Hall. Founded in 1952 as a community school for pre-conservatory music training, today's Kaufman Center is home to **Merkin Concert Hall**; **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school; and **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school for musically gifted children.