



Special Music School at Kaufman Music Center

"There is no other school offering such a strong music curriculum. It's fabulous. It's the best place to be if your child is interested in music."

– Ramon Radoslav, Special Music School parent

Special Music School (SMS) is a groundbreaking K-12 New York City public school for musically gifted children that combines rigorous academics with an intensive music education. Located on New York City's Upper West Side near Lincoln Center, SMS is the only public school in the U.S. that offers private music education during the regular school day starting in kindergarten. Students build a strong foundation for a lifetime of music through private lessons as well as classes in theory, chorus, Dalcroze Eurhythmics, music history and performance taught by distinguished music professionals.

Special Music School High School

Founded in 1996 as a K-8 program, Special Music School expanded into the high school grades in the fall of 2013, establishing SMS as the only K-12 school in New York City with music as a core subject. At a time of great change in the classical music world, **Special Music School High School** educates young musicians for 21st century music careers, emphasizing improvisation, composition, music technology and contemporary music in addition to building a strong classical foundation. The school is unique even among New York's highly regarded arts high schools in providing talented young musicians the opportunity to pursue serious, pre-professional music studies along with a rigorous Regents-based academic curriculum.

Musical and Academic Achievements

Students excel both musically and academically, distinguishing themselves as performers while consistently scoring near the top of all New York City public schools on statewide and citywide reading and math tests.

- Academically, SMS ranks in the top 2% of K-12 schools citywide; its K-8 program ranks in the top 1%.
- SMS High School students have performed new works by their fellow students at high-profile festivals such as the **Queens New Music Festival** and the **NY PHIL BIENIAL**.
- SMS students have won many music competitions, including the Interschool Orchestra Concerto Competition, the CT International Young Artist Competition, the Chopin International Piano Competition, the Crescendo International Music Competition, the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition, the National Young Virtuosi Recital Competition, the National Flute Association Competition, the Alexander and Buono International String Competition and Kaufman Music Center's International Youth Piano Competition.
- SMS students have worked with well-known artists such as flutists **Sir James Galway** and **Carol Wincenc**, electro-acoustic violist **Martha Mooke**, and composers **Nico Muhly** and **Meredith Monk**.

- The **SMS Vox Nova Chorus** has performed at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall with the Opera Orchestra of New York, at Merkin Concert Hall with the New York Virtuoso Singers and at Trinity Wall Street as part of its Visiting Choir series.
- SMS students regularly perform at prestigious music festivals such as the **Bang on a Can Marathon**, the **Look and Listen Festival**, the **Ecstatic Music Festival®**, the **River to River Festival** and the New York Philharmonic Biennial and have been broadcast on **New York Public Radio**.

How is Special Music School Funded?

Tuition is free for children living in the five boroughs of New York City. SMS is a unique partnership between the NYC Department of Education, which funds the academics, and Kaufman Music Center, which funds the music program through private contributions.

Who is Eligible for Admission?

Children living in any of New York City's five boroughs may apply for admission. Tuition is free. Acceptance of K-2 students is based solely on an assessment of musical giftedness through a series of age-appropriate individual and group activities relating to music; no prior musical training is necessary. Children applying for grades three and above will have an instrumental audition. For admission information, visit KaufmanMusicCenter.org/SMS/admissions, or call 212 501 3390 (K-8) or 212 501 3395 (High School).

Kaufman Music Center is New York's go-to place for music education and performance.

It's where music lovers, from curious fans to renowned performers, come together to explore their musical passions. Founded in 1952 as a community music school, today's Kaufman Music Center is one of the city's most vibrant cultural organizations, home to **Special Music School**; **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school; and **Merkin Concert Hall**.

Special Music School at Kaufman Music Center:

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