



DES MOINES SYMPHONY
ACADEMY
Summer String Chamber Camp
Frequently Asked Questions

“This camp seems intense! Is it too much for my 8 year old?”

We absolutely understand where you’re coming from! Each class will last between 30-60 minutes in length with ample breaks between. During these breaks there will be music to dance to, stretching exercises, and general down time.

“We just started a year ago – but my child is playing Etude, can we still apply?”

We will look forward to your child’s application *next* year. We have set the guidelines at Suzuki Book 1, Minuet 1 to insure they will be able to play in an ensemble. We are excited about your interest and encourage you to keep up the hard work!

“Will the theory classes be tailored to the level of my student?”

Yes, we will have a placement exam (Iowa Music Teachers Association) at the beginning of camp. This is not a test but simply to gauge which level your child needs to be placed to best fit their educational level.

“What do I need to bring to the audition and do I have to have my music memorized? Will there be an accompanist?”

Bring your instrument and music. No, you do not need to memorize your music. No, there will not be an accompanist provided for your audition. Because the audition is only 3-4 minutes you do not need to have an accompanist.

“When will I know if I made it in to the camp?”

We will send admission letters by May 21, 2018. Music will be mailed by June 1, 2018 so you can begin practicing your part with your private lesson teacher.

“Can my child bring electronics?”

Your child may have their cellphone on them. We do not allow tablets, computers, or gaming devices. Your child will be encouraged to only use their phone during break times to create the most bonding opportunities with their ensemble. The Camp Director will have their phone on them at all times in case of an emergency.

“Are the Camp Instructors trained on Student Safety?”

The Des Moines Symphony & Academy take the highest priority for your children’s safety while in our care. All Faculty have gone through background checks. Faculty will wear Des Moines Symphony Chamber Camp T-Shirts throughout the week as to be easily identified. Each member of the Faculty has been trained on emergency evacuation procedures in the event of a natural disaster or fire. The Camp Director has been trained in CPR & First Aid. We also require a parent/guardian to pick their child up from the “check in” location to ensure we are passing the care to an adult registered with the camp.