

Peer Music Teaching Program Outline

ARMTA UofA Collegiate Chapter

1. Purpose & Rationale

The Peer Music Teaching Program aims to:

1. Provide volunteer experiences and professional development through low-stakes but hands-on, structured music teaching opportunities;
2. Nurture a next generation of music teachers, regardless of their academic background and previous teaching experience;
3. Make music lessons accessible to university students, regardless of their musical background and financial hardships;
4. Become a signature program of the Chapter's identity, attracting active membership and fostering a community of diverse musicians across the campus;
5. Cultivate a more meaningful and closer professional relationship between the Collegiate Chapter and its parent organization, ARMTA - lesson observations, mentorship, and recital opportunities through ARMTA

This initiative differentiates from other student clubs at the U of A by focusing on *teaching university peers* instead of youth-at-risk populations.

2. Structure

- **Program Cycle:** Runs year-long, but the registration has two cycles to allow more participants. The first registration cycle is mid-late September, and the second registration cycle is mid-November-early December. (Ideally, the first cycle should be late August-mid September.)
- **Registration:** Interested members complete [a sign-up form](#) to be a peer tutor, indicating instrument preference, availability, and goals. Both peer tutors and peer tutees must hold a membership in the Chapter and sign up via Google Form to participate in the program.
- **Training - Teaching Observation:** The lesson observation with an experienced music teacher is a mandatory training required for peer teachers. Peer teachers must complete a minimum of one teaching observation session before starting to teach. Throughout the year, members must complete two more observation sessions with different teachers to gain broader experiences with different teaching styles and methods. The Chapter will provide a spreadsheet containing the information (email address, instrument, location, and days of the week available for observation) of willing ARMTA teachers, University of Alberta music department professors, and advanced music students who are currently teaching. Peer teachers will need to contact a teacher of their choice to request an observation session.

Some ARMTA teachers are available to provide an additional benefit of a mentorship during the period of the given academic year, acting as a mentor teacher at the peer teacher's request. Mentorship is only available after observing a lesson by the mentor

teacher. This mentorship will allow peer teachers the opportunity to ask teaching-related questions and discuss their findings in 30-minute-long monthly progress virtual/in-person meetings. To ensure an effective mentorship, peer teachers can have only one mentor teacher per academic year. If a peer teacher has observed more than one ARMTA teacher who provides this benefit, the peer teacher may choose who they want as a mentor teacher. (Looking for ways to acknowledge the service of the ARMTA teachers participating in the observation/mentoring program with Marlaine)

- **Matching:** Once the first observation is completed, the peer teacher must email the Chapter the name of the teacher they observed, the date of the observation, and key takeaways/reflections. This will allow us to add them to our list of available peer teachers, which we will use for peer students to select their teacher from.
- **Lesson Format:**
 - Weekly/biweekly lessons lasting for 30 minutes
 - A maximum of 2 peer students per peer teacher
 - Held in the UofA Fine Arts Building practice rooms (need permission from the department)

3. Evaluation

- Mid-semester feedback survey from both learners and teachers.
- Potential for more regular member meetings, where peer teachers and peer students share their reflections and progress.
- **End-of-year recital through our ARMTA association benefit (in March or April)**

Benefits

For Peer Teachers:

- Gain real teaching experience in a structured, low-stakes environment.
- Professional growth in pedagogy and lesson planning.
- Opportunity to add volunteer teaching to CVs or scholarship applications
- Access to the UofA music practice rooms

For Peer Students:

- Learn an instrument affordably and accessibly.
- Participate in music-making as a part of campus life.
- Option to perform in an informal end-of-term showcase.
- Access to the UofA music practice rooms

For the Chapter & ARMTA:

- Establishes a *signature, sustainable project* that builds identity and reputation.
- Creates ongoing engagement beyond one-off events.
- Encourages mentorship and the exchange of teaching resources.