

Ars Nova Student Contract

The Ars Nova Story

Thank you for choosing to grow and develop your musical knowledge and skills with *Ars Nova*! *Ars Nova* is Joel Clay, a professional musician and worship leader in Colorado Springs. Mr Clay's experience is broad, and includes playing, performing, and teaching multiple instruments, writing original music, live and studio music production, and considerable technical skills in pro audio, video, and lighting. He began, as many do, with piano lessons at a young age before later taking up guitar and bass guitar. Throughout his teen years, his interest in writing and recording music grew, and as a result, he decided to attend college to study music composition. He graduated from Colorado Christian University with a B.A. in Music, and soon began teaching instrument, voice, and songwriting lessons to students of all ages in Colorado Springs. Additionally, upon returning home from school, he was brought on staff at his home church, Redemption Hill Church, as an assistant to the music ministry, band director, AVL technician, and stage and equipment manager.

Mr Clay saw a need, both in his personal students and the volunteer musicians at church. Most did not have access to the resources needed to grow their skills and talents. *Ars Nova* began as a means to create resources and make them available to both his students and the Church. A large part of this endeavor is the creation of a series of books titled Connect the Dots, which offers a comprehensive method for students to grow. However, the primary purpose of *Ars Nova* is to partner directly with local churches to sponsor music lessons for members of their communities. Through this partnership, churches have an opportunity to resource and train their worship team members, minister to their congregations, and reach their surrounding neighborhoods through the power of music.

Ars Nova is Latin for "new art" and refers to the historical period of the same name in which musical development was directly connected to the Church. Most notably, 14th century composer and church official Guillaume de Machaut is credited with composing his seminal work, *Messe de Notre Dame*, which is known as the first ever complete setting of the Ordinary of the Mass. Today, *Ars Nova* exists to participate in and contribute to the continuation of this great legacy of developing new musicians and new music, and serving the Church.

Lesson Details and Safety

All lessons are between 30-45 minutes in length and recur on a bi-weekly basis (one lesson per student per two weeks). Individual student lessons take place in the student's home. Church-sponsored lessons will take place on church property in a reserved room. Since lessons always take place in a safe location, *Ars Nova* and Joel Clay are not responsible for the safety of the student or their property, including the safety of any persons accompanying the student and their property.

Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Lessons will never take place in a blocked-off or locked room, or any otherwise inaccessible space. Any student's parent, guardian, and/or pastor is welcome to observe and interact with the lesson

without interfering. However, if the student is not comfortable with being observed, the observer will be asked to step out, but must not leave the immediate area.

Regular in-person lessons may be substituted by regular online lessons via Zoom only in special cases as agreed upon by the student and *Ars Nova*. In-person lessons are incomparable to Zoom, so online lessons are highly discouraged unless deemed absolutely necessary for the safety and/or convenience of the student and/or instructor. In the case of snow days, or if driving conditions on any given day are unsafe for the students and/or instructor, all in-person lessons for the day will take place via Zoom.

Extra Details for Church-Sponsored Lessons only

A church may sponsor any number of students, up to eleven students per day. Students must attend the lessons on the property of the sponsoring church in the aforementioned reserved room. A sign will be displayed immediately outside the room indicating lessons are currently taking place. A 15 minute buffer is scheduled as a transition time between lessons.

A church may fully or partially sponsor the cost of their students' lessons and textbooks. If a church is not fully covering the total cost for its students' lessons and textbooks, then that church is responsible for collecting payments from its students before making monthly payment to *Ars Nova*. The sponsoring church is always responsible for the full cost of its students' lessons and textbooks.

If noise levels are a concern, the church is responsible for providing a safe space for lessons to take place which is far enough away from any offices, meetings, classrooms, etc. such that the noise of the lesson will not interfere with daily church activities. Likewise, lessons must also be given in a space where outside noise will not interfere or cause distractions. It is understood that in some cases (e.g. voice lessons), the volume of a lesson may be necessarily higher than others. In such cases, it will not be possible to conduct the lesson at a lower volume. It is always understood that lessons will never be needlessly loud, but lessons must take place in a space relatively unrestricted by noise constraints.

Prices and Payment

The lesson cost is \$60 per lesson, and does not include the cost of a textbook. Lesson lengths are flexible and may last 30 minutes, but no longer than 45 minutes. Invoices are sent on a monthly basis. Each month's invoice will show the number of lessons to be given in the proceeding month, not the number of students which are receiving lessons. Some months' invoice totals will be greater than others, depending on whether there are two or three lesson days per month in the bi-weekly schedule.

Payment must be confirmed before lessons may commence. You may choose your payment method at the end of this document. Invoices are issued on a monthly basis according to the cost of the number of lessons per month. If you wish to cease lessons with *Ars Nova*, please give one month's advance notice in order to avoid overcharging.

If any student is absent from a lesson with no prior notice, a make-up lesson or refund will not be offered. However, an open lesson slot which is sponsored by a church may be filled by any student

in order to not waste the cost of the lesson. Once payment is received for an agreed upon number of lessons, refunds will not possible. Sponsored students are responsible for giving prior notice of an absence to their church in order to reschedule or rescind their lesson slot to another student. *Ars Nova* and Joel Clay will not communicate directly with church-sponsored students outside of lessons as not to supersede any relationship between any church and the members of their community. Make-up lessons can take place in person only if scheduling permits. Otherwise, make-up lessons will take place via Zoom at the earliest convenience.

Student Information and Signature

Ars Nova provides lessons in the disciplines listed below. Please indicate any and all interests.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Singing | ☐ Bass Guitar |
| ☐ Keyboard Instruments | ☐ Music Fundamentals |
| ☐ Acoustic Guitar | ☐ Songwriting |
| ☐ Electric Guitar | ☐ Music Production |

If you are signing this contract as an individual student, give a short description of your personal goals below. What most excites you about music or your instrument? If you are signing this contract on behalf of a church sponsoring any number of students, indicate general emphases you would like your students to focus on in lessons based on your church's needs.

Please indicate your method of payment below.

- ☐ Cash
☐ Check
☐ Card
☐ Digital/Other (please indicate method here) _____

Student/Church name _____

Parent/Guardian/Signatory name _____

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian/Signatory signature _____

Email and Phone # _____

Address _____

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____