



Music Factory VA
newsletter

BARNABY'S
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February 2025

Welcome to the first edition of the Music Factory VA's Newsletter!

I am excited to give you a peek inside the world of the Music Factory VA! This monthly newsletter will give you backstage information about our classes, instructors, students and upcoming performances.

We have a lot of news to share this month and we welcome your feedback about what information you would like to see.

Drop us a line at musicfactoryva@gmail.com with your comments, reaction and suggestions!

Keep practicing!

Lane



Instructor Tip: Winterizing Your Instrument

Typically when you first turn the heat on is the time you should be thinking about caring for your instrument. The dry, cold air can wreak havoc on your instrument causing necks to bow, cracks to appear and even, worst-case scenarios, where the bridge detaches from the body. All this is due to the lack of humidity in the winter months, hot, indoor heat and taking your instrument from a warm space to a cold space.

These are some tips to prevent damage to your instrument during this time of the year:

- 1) **Don't set your case down beside radiators, air vents, space heaters or other heat sources.**
- 2) **Keep your instrument in a closed case whenever possible.** This provides a consistent climate and is the first line of defense against dry air damage. You can also purchase a hard shell case that has a built-in hygrometer/thermometer.
- 3) **Case humidifiers** are an inexpensive way to keep a normal level of humidity in the case. You want to strive for 35-50% humidity. You can purchase a humidity packet that goes inside of your guitar. Some popular brands include Boveda and D'Addario which raises humidity in winter and lowers it in the summer. The packets are arranged in the soundhole. You might need a couple of sets in the winter because they dry out. But don't throw them out! They will rehydrate in the summer or you can carefully rehydrate them yourself.
- 4) **If you are storing your instrument out in the open on a stand, you should purchase a home humidifier** and keep it in the room that your instruments are kept. Use a hygrometer to keep track of the humidity levels.
- 5) **Oil your rosewood or ebony fretboards** to prevent cracking, shrinking and raised frets. Do this every 6 months or so, usually when you change your strings. Lemon oil works great as well as D'Addario's hydrate fingerboard conditioner. Don't over-oil the fretboard!

Taking care of your instrument will keep it happy and in great playing shape to survive the winter! Stay tuned for a future article about taking care of your instrument in the humid, Virginia summer months.





Student of the Month Allan

Allan has been a student of mine for around two years. He came to me a complete beginner. Allan has come a long way. He has been a continuous member of the Rock Ensemble and gets better every semester. His rhythm skills have improved and he is starting to play solos.

Allan has always been super prepared. He comes to the ensembles with his roadmaps ready to play. He generously lets everyone play through his amp and pedalboard. I am naming him Student of the Month based on his organizational skills, his preparedness and his generosity especially with other students.

Allan has a strong work ethic and I see him having a bright future as a guitarist in a band of his own one day.



Studio News: Colonial Tavern Residency!

Based on the past success of our rock ensemble performances, Music Factory VA has been invited to begin a monthly residency at The Colonial Tavern on the **first Thursday of the month**. These performances will involve advanced student and professional performances.

We are honored to be given this opportunity and we thank The Colonial Tavern for their support of the Fredericksburg music community! **Our first show is Thursday, March 6 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Please come out to support your fellow students!



MUSIC FACTORY VA
PRAISE ENSEMBLE - OCTOBER 26, 2024

Click the image above to watch our most recent Praise & Worship Ensemble video on our YouTube channel or click this link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5mmO3RH-2w>



Ensemble Highlight: Praise & Worship Ensemble

The Praise & Worship Ensemble gives students of faith an opportunity for group performances of contemporary Christian music and gospel hymns. All ages are welcome. It is a great ensemble to develop your technique and this semester we are particularly focusing on barre chords. The ensemble is primarily acoustic guitar but we welcome other instruments and vocals. **Rehearsals begin soon** and are held once a week on Fridays from 8:00-9:00 pm. This ensemble rehearses for three months and performs locally.

For more information, see our website here.

<https://musicfactoryva.com/new-music-factory-va-praise-worship-ensemble/>



Studio News: Updated Studio Policies

When you become a student at The Music Factory VA, your instructor has chosen to give you a lesson timeslot dedicated to you and your musical journey. Once you have that timeslot, your instructor needs you to respect that time in terms of your practice commitment, your regular attendance at lessons and your financial commitment.

Please review the updated studio policies document on our website. Students will be asked to sign this document this month.

<https://musicfactoryva.com/studio-policies/>

Please note that payment for lessons is due for the entire month on or before your first lesson of the month. If you cannot attend a lesson due to vacation, illness or other reason, you are still expected to pay for that lesson. If a makeup can be arranged, your instructor will provide that, but instructor schedules are very full and makeup lessons are not always possible. An instructor cannot find a student to replace your lesson timeslot for just one or two weeks.

Please also be aware of our sick policy. **Please do not come to your lessons actively ill.** Please contact your instructor for a Zoom or Facetime lesson instead. Your instructors do not receive sick pay and illness is both physically and financially devastating to them.

Thank you for supporting the Music Factory VA!





We have a new website!!
musicfactoryva.com
Check it out for student photos, videos,
ensemble and instructor information.
More features coming soon!



Welcome to Music Factory VA!

Home of Virginia's best musical talent!

All ages, beginner to advanced

Classical

Jazz

Bluegrass, Country, Folk

R&B, Funk, Neo Soul & Pop

Musical Theater, Broadway

Contemporary Christian, Gospel, Christian Rock

Opera

Rock to Metal

Private Lessons

Group Ensembles

Public Performances

540-308-0123

[Email Us](#)

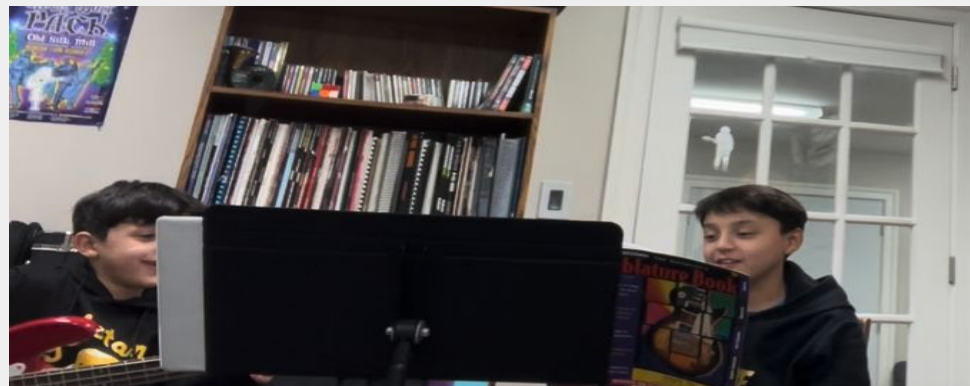
Around the studio



Hannah's new boots bring a fresh take to classical guitar.



Rock Ensemble rehearsals restarted last month because Tuesday nights ROCK at the Music Factory VA.



Nehemiah and Jeremiah took a risk and started singing in their lessons! They sound great and we hope to hear more!



About us

The Music Factory VA provides music education from professionally accredited teachers to students of all ages and musical backgrounds. We offer both private lessons and ensembles. We can accommodate students interested in any style and on any level. We believe that giving students the opportunity to develop skills in a professional performance environment not only encourages students to practice but also builds social and communication skills that will carry into all areas of their lives.

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