



There's a month-long submission window each fall; the program's Facebook page has updates. Applications include recordings and scores and a statement of purpose, plus details on fitness level and backcountry experience.

2 THE WALDEN SCHOOL'S CREATIVE MUSICIANS RETREAT

Dublin, New Hampshire
waldenschool.org

The Walden School's Creative Musicians Retreat focuses on composition, performance (choral and instrumental), and pedagogy. Students can study one or more. The retreat takes place on a picturesque campus near Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire for eight days in June. There are master classes,

workshops, private lessons, seminars, and composers' forums, plus plenty of time to hike, play tennis or basketball, swim, canoe, or kayak in nearby Dublin Pond.

String teachers of all levels might be interested in the Walden School's pedagogy focus. This includes daily workshops covering Walden's unique musicianship course, led by Loretta Notareschi and Osnat Netzer. It's aimed at music teachers interested in bringing Walden's approach of learning music from many angles into their classrooms. Caroline Mallonée, director of the Creative Musicians Retreat, says it's "a unique approach to teaching music to students of all levels, and in a variety of learning environments, including classroom teaching, private teaching, and ensemble rehearsals." Instruction uses Curwen hand signs and incorporates score study,

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counterpoint, contemporary topics, and electronic music.

“The pedagogy classes were fantastic, but the biggest impact on my teaching was the way that composition—and music making—is framed as an exploration of sound,” says Katie Condon, a musician and educator who participated in 2016.

The retreat’s composition focus includes lessons, such as pedagogy and master classes on conducting. It’s open to professionals and amateurs. Participants have their new work performed at a composer forum by the ensemble-in-residence, the Mivos Quartet. The composer-in-residence (Christopher Theofanidis in 2018) leads a discussion about the piece and composers receive professional audio recordings of their works.

“The experience is truly holistic; you switch between being a teacher and a student multiple times over the course of a day,” says Nate Trier, a music teacher who participated in 2017. “Walden’s pedagogical approach gives a solid grounding in the universal elements that

all of these styles of music have in common—it has been immensely useful in my class.”

Enrollment is limited to 40 participants. Application deadlines are on the website, and start during the winter before the camp.

3 THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VIOLIN MAKERS WORKSHOP Claremont, California scvmw.com

Now in its 12th year, this three-week workshop occurs each June at Pomona College. Founder and luthier Jim Brown says it’s aimed at passionate aspiring makers who have a deep interest but can’t take off three years or even three months for a full-time program or apprenticeship.

“They’ll spend weeks, months, theorizing, gathering, but how much have you cut? That’s what you’re paying us for,” says Brown. “We’re here for the serious student who just wants to learn. I can’t tell you how much fun these people have. They’re just aglow.”

Students work from 8 AM to 5 PM. Brown clarifies that it’s a “violin maker’s workshop—not a violin-making workshop” and students shouldn’t expect to go home with a completed instrument. Several participants return each year, picking up what they can. Luthier Michael Darnton instructs participants in the Cremonese style, while bow making takes place in a separate room, led by either Lynn Armour Hannings or George Rubino. Each day features demonstrations and one-on-one sessions with instructors. Lessons can shift according to the exact stages of students’ projects. For novices, Brown offers remote preparation beforehand.

The workshop includes two meals a day and housing. Students purchase their own tools. Due to the rigor of the program, there aren’t organized recreational activities, but Brown says it’s easy to socialize in nearby Claremont. New dates are announced at the end of June and the program is limited to 12 participants. ●

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