



SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

Rock Band and Music Production Program
Registration and Information Packet, Summer 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



After several years of operation, The Animal Farm has seen great success; countless bands have pulled into the property, greeted by the curious banter of chickens and ducks, and the soft white noise of wind-rustled leaves. We've seen bands as far as Australia, Germany, Colombia, Italy, France, Canada, and the continental U.S. stay with us as they chose to work in our space, crafting their next project.

If I could think back to a younger me, when I was in my adolescence and hungry to prove myself and chase opportunity after opportunity, I would have been thrilled at the chance to spend a week in a space like this, collaborating with musicians my age and under the helpful guise of a teacher. Few opportunities existed like this in my teenage years, unless you knew somebody or your family had a connection. I remember being sixteen and running a “resume” to every studio in New Jersey, hoping to find some opportunity to work under an engineer.

I designed this program with the younger “me” in mind. I was the kid that didn't quite fit into the band-orchestra-chorus model of my own school system. I did it, sure; I participated for years in chorus and did the jazz band thing. I was never quite fulfilled. When I was in seventh-grade, my parents left me home alone for about a week, and my uncle would check in on me. I ripped up the basement and built a “studio,” out of a handful of microphones and an old Dell computer. In eighth-grade, I had completed all of the prerequisite courses for an Associates' Degree in Music at Middlesex Community College. I used to attend night classes after school, waiting outside in the dark in late Fall for my dad to pick me up in front of Edison Hall. I spent my adolescent nights learning figured bass and voice leading (7-65-43-42!) with the music theory teacher, Mr. Anderson. I

graduated high school and went on tour for a couple years while getting ready to move to Boston to attend the Berklee College of Music. I lived out of vans with friends and saw the country.

Being a musician might not mean the traditional path. It might not mean first chair in a string section, or principal trumpeter in a jazz band. It might mean taking the path less traveled. And public music education has yet to catch up with the demands of a modern musician in the industry. It means being not only musically proficient, but technically proficient as well. This program was conceived from my own experiences in my adolescence, combined with my experience as a recordist/engineer and through my many years as a public music educator.

This program is an opportunity for kids to learn, hands-on, the “old-school” way of learning audio engineering, with musicians in a room. We'll workshop concepts that often aren't taught until years into an internship in a studio, well into their college years and beyond, and relate it to what they've already learned in school. This experience will be invaluable, whether it preps them for college, or lights the fire for a future career. Like I did when I was kid, we'll “tear down the walls,” and learn the hard way. We'll let the kids have a platform, upon which *they will rock*.

Dr. John Forrestal
Owner, The Animal Farm



Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm provides a safe and supportive environment for young musicians to gain critical, valuable experience performing with peers and working in a professional studio environment. The typical options for gaining studio experience is either via an internship, which is often limited in scope and only available to students either during or after graduating college, at a critical time when they have to juggle career growth with paying expensive rent in a city; or during their time in a private music school. Gaining this kind of experience at a formative age is quite rare, even though this kind of an intensive boot camp will put them leagues beyond their peers.

Students will gain experience rehearsing and having intensive lesson work on their primary instrument. With intensive, hands-on ensemble instruction with an instructor, they will focus on how to bring their talent to an ensemble setting, working with musicians to perfect their skill.

They will also learn what it takes to sculpt their performance to the needs of the studio. They will also learn how to capture their best performance and get the best sound from their equipment they have available. Students will have access to industry-standard recording equipment to produce professional-quality tracks with recording engineers.

Over the five-day intensive, students will be divided into two groups, each group learning one song in two days. Those two days will be spent learning and workshopping the piece, modifying the arrangement to make it unique. Days three through five will then be spent learning the art of multitrack recording; everything from placing microphones and signal flow, to the physics behind sound, transduction and sound waves, phase, leveling and panning, equalization, distortion, compression, and time-based effects like delay and reverb to add depth and dimension. Effectively, they will leave with a finished, polished studio recording, and know exactly what went into the process of making it.

On the last day of the session, families and close friends are invited to attend a short “concert” in the live room, where the students will play through their songs. Additionally, we’ll host a listening party downstairs in the lounge area and control room, where we’ll rotate through the finished mixes, letting families hear the week’s worth of hard work and commitment to recording a song!

At the end of the week, students will leave with:

- * Multitrack sessions provided as raw, unmixed stems (for their own independent mixing) †
- * Multitrack stems with processing added (so that they can hear how it sounded in the session—right out of the box!) †
- * Final .WAV files of each mix, with and without a master.
- * A ton of free resources, and the skills and confidence to continue mixing!
- * A super cool tee shirt that they can wear to show their participation!
- * A group of friends both new and possibly old!
- * Memories that will last a lifetime!
- * A 50% discount for an eight-hour session at the studio, to mix a future project, record vocals, record an instrument, prepare a college/university demo tape, etc.

† To be delivered at a date TBD after the session concludes

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

JOHN FORRESTAL



Dr. John Forrestal is an accomplished guitarist, mix and recording engineer, videographer, and state-certified educator in the state of New Jersey. He has guest lectured about music at Bowdoin College, Amherst University, Berklee College of Music, Northern Illinois University, Salem State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chulalongkorn University (TH). He has performed at, among other places, Lincoln Center, Kresge Auditorium (MIT), and Harvard University, as well as toured nationally in several acts and as a session guitarist.

He received his Ph.D in Ethnomusicology from Boston University, focusing on the musical traditions of the pii klaung [ปี่กลอง] ensemble from Thailand that accompany Thai martial arts. He holds a dual B.M. from the Berklee College of Music in Composition and Audio Engineering; and an M.M. in Musicology from Boston University.

Currently, John is a high school music production teacher at Somerset County Educational Services Commission, an alternative/behavioral school that provides out-of-district educational services for students across New Jersey. He owns and operates The Animal Farm, a recording studio in Flemington, NJ, as well as Forrestal Creative, a video production and editing company with his wife, Lina.

JAMES APPELEGATE



James Applegate is a drummer, performer, and music educator based in New Jersey. With years of experience performing in rock, metal, pop, and contemporary music settings, he is passionate about helping musicians develop both their technical skills and stage presence.

James has worked with students of all ages through private instruction, music schools, and performance-based programs, focusing on building confidence, creativity, and musicianship through real-world musical experiences. Whether behind the drum kit, in the rehearsal room, or on stage, he believes the best way to learn music is by making it, performing it, and having fun in the process.

James has management experience, formerly managing a highly successful School of Rock franchise. He has toured nationally in countless metal bands, and is a seasoned recording artist. He currently is a music teacher at Somerset County Educational Services Commission, an alternative/behavioral school that provides out-of-district educational services for students across New Jersey.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE ANIMAL FARM?

The Animal Farm is the name of the recording studio at which the program takes place. It's a professional recording studio that has served bands as far-reaching as Italy, Australia, Germany, and the US of A.

WHAT'S WITH THE COW IMAGES EVERYWHERE?

The name of the studio came about because of our rescue cow, Harold (he's technically a steer: no, you cannot milk him). We have raised him since a baby, and he is a favorite around the grounds. Everyone that visits likes to give him pets, scratch under his chin, and try to feed him apples and carrots (he's very picky: I think he'd rather eat Taco Bell).

The logo came about from a picture I took of him years ago, on a warm Summer evening. The light was perfect and it is as if he knew he was getting his picture taken. The logo is, in fact, a younger Harold!

WHAT AGE RANGE DOES THE PROGRAM SERVE?

Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm is for high school students, grades 9-12. High-flying eighth graders may also apply. Students should be comfortable working with others, proficient on their instrument (specifics: please see the registration packet), and okay with independent and group work.

I WANT TO BOOK STUDIO TIME FOR MY UNCLE. HE SAW THE PICTURES AND THOUGHT THE STUDIO LOOKS COOL. HOW DO I GO ABOUT THAT?

Sure! You can email us at theanimalfarmnj@gmail.com; or you can visit our studio instagram at [@theanimalfarmnj](https://www.instagram.com/theanimalfarmnj).

DO YOU OFFER PRIVATE LESSONS?

Absolutely! Speak to one of us if you are interested in continuing lessons with either of us at the end of this program.

I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS, SINCE THIS PROGRAM IS NEW AND THERE ISN'T MUCH OUT THERE YET. HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD IS SAFE?

This is probably the biggest question we've doted over as well. We get it: both James and I are parents, with young children of our own. We know the apprehensive feeling of dropping your child off at an unfamiliar space (especially the more informal ones) and worrying about their safety.

To help quell those feelings, rest assured that we both are certified teachers in the state of New Jersey. Meaning, we've both been extensively background-checked, fingerprinted, and vetted. We work with children of all ages on the daily basis during the school year.

I, Dr. Forrestal, also have formal training in First Aid, CPR, and AED, and have completed numerous Epi-Pen trainings. I have six years of experience teaching in the K-12 system in New Jersey, and cumulatively fourteen years of working with children and adults in educational settings.

All public rooms in the studio (i.e., no bathroom!) has 24/7 camera monitoring, with in-camera and DVR recording backup. This is to ensure the safety of all participants and teachers in this program. Additionally, the studio carries an additional short-term insurance policy for these summer programs, including general liability, professional liability, and injury. All rooms are outfitted with smoke/fire/CO detectors and fire evacuation maps. There are lit exit signs posted in the hallway to indicate the nearest exit for guests. Additionally, we keep a stocked first aid kit on-hand, in the event of any cuts, bumps, or bruises.



REGISTRATION



SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

CAMP REGISTRATION

Camp Provider: The Animal Farm, 1150 Croton Road, Flemington, New Jersey 08822 • (908) 800-2379

Student Information (one form per student, please)

First & Last Name

Nickname

Age

First time at The Animal Farm? (circle) YES NO T-Shirt Size (Unisex, Gildan's 50/50 Blend): _____

Years of musical experience: _____ Instrument (choose one): _____

Musical Skill level (please circle):

Read staff/5-line notation: YES NO Read tablature notation (guitarist/bassists): YES NO

Years of Experience on Instrument: _____ Vocalist Range (i.e., Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone): _____

Private Instructor: YES NO Name of Private Instructor: _____

Name of Private Instruction School (if applicable): _____

What does your Student hope to get from this Camp? _____

What do you hope your Student gets from this Camp? _____





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Enrollment in any Camp session will only be deemed complete when all required forms, signatures and amounts due have been received by The Animal Farm. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about The Animal Farm's Camp or enrollment process.

COMPLETED CAMP REGISTRATION, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, PHOTO RELEASE (OPTIONAL), INITIAL DEPOSIT, AND EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

Completion of the Camp Registration and remittance of the Initial Deposit will only temporarily reserve your child's place in the selected Camp session(s) and only if sufficient vacancies exist at the time of receipt.

If a selected Camp session is already fully reserved, you will be notified and given the option of being added to the wait list for that session, selecting another session, or receiving a refund of your Initial Deposit for that session.

The Initial Deposit is nonrefundable, except for wait-listed sessions, which may be cancelled by either party, and any session cancelled by The Animal Farm.

Incomplete Camp Registrations will not be accepted, and no enrollment will take effect until the completed Camp Registration, Release of Liability and required deposit(s) are received and acknowledged by The Animal Farm.

Please note that the Photo Release, while appreciated, is not required.

WAIT LIST

Following July 20, 2026, all wait-listed applicants will be notified of any remaining vacancies and all unused Initial Deposits refunded.

FINAL PAYMENT

The Final Payment, equal to the Total Cost less the Initial Deposit received for each Camp session, is due by July 20, 2026. Failure to pay the Final Payment on the above date will result in forfeiture of both the Initial Deposit and the Second Deposit paid for that Camp session and cancellation of the enrollment.

TOUR OF THE FACILITIES

If you or your child have first-day jitters, or just want to get the lay of the land ahead of time, please feel free to schedule a tour of our facilities and meet our staff in advance. A pre-Camp tour is strongly recommended for younger, shyer, and/or first-time students.

PAYMENT

All payments may be made via cash, check (payable to John Forrestal dba The Animal Farm, in person or mailed to 1150 Croton Road, Flemington, NJ 08822), or by Stripe on the website. Payments not yet due may be made in advance to secure booking.





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

All students must arrive on-time and prepared. They should bring the following items daily:

- Cell Phone
- Water Bottle
- Packed Lunch (we do not provide lunch for students, except for the final day (Friday).
- Snack

Though these items are optional, we recommend bringing:

- Pencil and Notepad
- Folder (there will be some paper handouts, but there isn't any expectation that they hold onto them. We just feel some ideas are best communicated through writing).

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING

The studio is located on a working farm, on our residences. That being said, in the summer, the animals may draw some flies, and there occasionally are bugs. If it rains, some of the grounds can become muddy. We recommend students wear clothes that are appropriate for the season and for the environment, i.e., no brand-new, fancy sneakers. An old/worn pair of sneakers, jeans, and a tee shirt is appropriate. Dress comfortably yet appropriate for the weather. The studio does have air conditioning, so consider packing a light hooded sweatshirt.

LUNCH, SNACKS, AND REFRESHMENTS

There will be small breakfast snacks for when students arrive, on a first-come, first-served basis. They may range from donuts, to pre-packaged foods, to bagels, or similar.

We will take a thirty-minute lunch break at 12:30PM. The studio does not provide a daily lunch, with the exception of the last day of the session (Friday), during which we provide cheese pizza and throw a "listening party and concert" for students, families, and friends. Please have a lunch packed (cold or hot is fine). We have microwave, convection oven, and hot-plate heating options in the studio, as well as a water kettle for hot water for tea or soup. There is a refrigerator on the premises for students to stow their lunches.

We provide complimentary bottled water for students and families.

We will provide snacks for students as well. Small, pre-packaged foods (nuts, granola bars, cookies, chips, fruit, cheese, etc.) will be kept on the premises, for students in the event they are hungry. It is the student and family's responsibility to confirm allergies.

If your child has dietary restrictions, we must be made aware of them well in advance of the session, so that we can plan accordingly. Please list any dietary restrictions below.

Are these restrictions due to an allergy? (Please circle) NO YES (NOTE: Student must be accompanied by an EpiPen)





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

VITAL ITEMS

If your child requires an inhaler, an EpiPen or any other vital item, it's important that you disclose this information to us in advance, and that you ensure these items are provided your child for the duration of your child's session.

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR STUDENT

Please tell us anything you are comfortable disclosing that will help The Animal Farm provide your Student with a safe, comfortable, enjoyable experience.

Does the Student have any conditions, medical or otherwise, of which the staff should be aware? (This includes, but is not limited to, asthma, seizures, acute anxiety, phobias, ASD, dyslexia, etc.)

Is there any medication or device, including, but not limited to, an inhaler or EpiPen, that the Student will or may require while at Camp? (NOTE: Students must be able to self-medicate, except in the case of an emergency, which you must sign off on below).

Please initial next to the following.

The medical items (medicines, inhalers, EpiPen) listed above will be provided daily to my child, and they are informed that it is their sole responsibility to keep them in their bags or on their person.

I am fully aware that The Animal Farm does not keep medical personnel on its staff.

In the event of an emergency, I authorize The Animal Farm to assist the camper with self-administration of the above medicines only. Any prescription medicines not listed above must be provided by parents, and self-administered by students.

I authorize The Animal Farm to provide wound dressing or bandages, in the event a student gets a scrape or cut.

I authorize The Animal Farm to provide over-the-counter medication (OTC) such as Benadryl, Tylenol, or Ibuprofen in the event my child needs or requests for a headache or allergies, at the age and weight-appropriate dose.





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

PICKUP AND DROP-OFF

Please note that anyone picking up a child will be asked to show a legitimate form of identification (driver's license, passport, etc) on their first visit to The Animal Farm. For parents and legal guardians, they will not be asked on subsequent visits, provided they are noted below as allowed to pick up. Individuals other than legal parents or guardians will be asked to show ID for each pickup each time.

Please arrive promptly for pickup. A 15-minute grace period is provided for late pickups. After-care is available until 6:00 PM for an additional fee of \$200 per child, per session.

Please call us as soon as possible if you know you will be late. Three late pickups within one camp session will result in the parent/guardian being billed according to our after-care policy, at our discretion.

CUSTODIAL PARENTS AND / OR LEGAL GUARDIANS FOR PICKUP AND DROP-OFF

Please list all parents and / or legal guardians allowed to assist with pickup and drop-off.

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Circle to authorize the following: PICKUP DROPOFF

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Circle to authorize the following: PICKUP DROPOFF

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Circle to authorize the following: PICKUP DROPOFF





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

INDIVIDUALS, OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE, AUTHORIZED TO PICKUP AND/OR DROP-OFF THE STUDENT

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Circle to authorize the following: PICKUP DROPOFF

Name: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Circle to authorize the following: PICKUP DROPOFF

Please initial next to the following.

I acknowledge that no one not listed above will be permitted to pick up the Student from Camp. _____

I acknowledge that the Camp staff reserve the right to ask to see identification from anyone that is picking up a Student. _____

I understand that all Students must be picked up within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled session end time. _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In the event a parent, guardian, or authorized individual cannot be contacted by phone or email, please list who should be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Name: _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Phone (Home): _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Phone (Home): _____ Address: _____





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

We want this be a great experience for both you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via phone at (908) 800-2379, or email at theanimalfarmcamp@gmail.com. We are also happy to hop on a virtual call to chat!

ACCEPTANCE

I understand and accept all the information and terms on all pages of the Camp Registration, and have provided full and accurate answers to all questions and prompts.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE

I agree to the release of photographic and/or video content of my child's likeness, partaking in events during Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm, for promotional purposes. I grant The Animal Farm permission to use their likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including social media.

YES

NO

AUDIO RELEASE (VOCAL RECORDINGS)

By participating in Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm, instrumentalists grant The Animal Farm the right to use audio recordings produced during the camp solely for promotional purposes.

I hereby grant The Animal Farm the right to use any vocal audio recordings produced during Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm for promotional use only. These recordings may be edited and repurposed as promotional media for use on social media and in other publications. If your child is an instrumentalist (i.e., not a vocalist) in the camp, please circle "not relevant."

YES

NO

NOT RELEVANT

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND SIGNATURES

Please sign and date below.

Full name of Student's parent/guardian (please print)

Signature of Student's parent/guardian

Date

Signature of John Forrestal, Director, representing The Animal Farm





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

DATES AND SCHEDULE

For Summer 2026, Summer Sessions at The Animal Farm will run for three five-day sessions. Please reserve your session(s) today. Each session will be doing two different songs: please choose the session you are most interested in. If your session is full, you will be notified immediately.

			Full Day 9:00AM–4:00PM	Amount Due
Date	Session	Days		
July 27–July 31	90's Grunge	5	\$500	
August 10–August 14	Sweatervest Serenade	5	\$500	
August 17–August 21	Get in the (Nu-Metal) Pit!	5	\$500	
			Subtotal, all sessions	\$
			Sibling Discount, if applicable, at \$150 per session per child	\$
			OPTIONAL: Aftercare (\$200 per week-long session, per camper: please total here)	\$
			Total Camp Cost	\$
			Initial Deposit due at the time of Reservation, half of Total Camp Cost	
			Final Payment Due by July 20, 2026	
			Total deposits received	
			Balance due	\$



AUDITION



INFORMATION



SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

AUDITION INFORMATION

Because of the small cohort sizes and the ensemble nature of the program, we have to be selective about how and where we place students. This program is not for absolute beginners; it is assumed that your child has at least a year or two of consistent musical training, whether that is a public school program or private instruction.

Below are the prerequisites to participate in this program. Without these prior skill sets, your child would likely struggle to keep up with their peers, and it would adversely affect their experience and their peers' experience.

For recordings, a simple iPhone recording is fine. Please record in a fairly quiet environment. A living room is fine. Separate videos are fine, as is one long-form video; no need to edit out downtime between passages/excerpts. Students can either play from memory, or alongside a recording with headphones on, or with the original music amplified.

For guitars and bass guitars, any type of guitar (acoustic steel string, nylon string, electric guitar) is suitable, for the purposes of the audition material.

For drummers, any type of set (acoustic, electronic) is fine, provided that the drum sounds for the electronic kit are audible through an amplifier.

For keyboard, any size or type of keyboard is appropriate, provided it demonstrates the student's ability to play with both left- and right-hand technique. 25-key keyboards are not suitable, but a 49-, 61-, or full 88-key piano is suitable. Both acoustic or electric instruments are fine.

EXAMPLES OF SUITABLE SONGS FOR AUDITION

Stuck on what to use as suitable material? Here is a list of age- and skill-appropriate songs that can be used as audition material (and songs that are likely ones we may choose for the session!):

- * Foo Fighters: Everlong; My Hero; Monkey Wrench
- * The White Stripes: Seven Nation Army
- * Nirvana: Lithium; Smells like Teen Spirit; Something in the Way; Polly
- * Weezer: Buddy Holly; Undone (The Sweater Song); Say it Ain't So
- * Green Day: Welcome to Paradise; When I Come Around; Basket Case
- * Oasis: Songbird; Wonderwall
- * Imagine Dragons: Natural, Believer
- * Metallica: Fade to Black; Nothing Else Matters; Enter Sandman
- * Vance Joy: Riptide
- * Bon Jovi: It's My Life

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please send all submission materials by email to: theanimalfarmcamp@gmail.com. Please make sure videos are properly labeled, and in the subject, please write, "Audition Materials: [STUDENT NAME]."

For families with multiple siblings, please send separate emails for each child.





Guitarists should be able to read tablature (TAB) notation. They should prepare a short audiovisual recording of themselves playing to a song of their choice. The excerpt need not be longer than a minute. It should demonstrate the range of their skills. It can be any style or genre they prefer, however most students will lean towards contemporary punk/rock/metal/indie.

We do not advertise for a “lead guitarist” position for the program, however depending on the skill level of the students in a session, we will try to incorporate their talents into the song arrangement as best possible.

Guitarists should be proficient reading and playing TAB notation from music like the following passage. Tempo is provided: the song is in a contemporary rock style: the original version is for electric guitar, with distortion, at an upbeat pace of 120bpm.

The Animal Farm • 1150 Croton Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 • (908) 800-2379 • theanimalfarmcamp@gmail.com • [@theanimalfarmsummersessions](https://www.instagram.com/theanimalfarmsummersessions) • [@theanimalfarmnj](https://www.instagram.com/theanimalfarmnj)





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BASS GUITAR

Bass Guitarists should prepare a short audiovisual recording of themselves playing to a song of their choice. The excerpt need not be longer than a minute. It should demonstrate the range of their skills. It can be any style or genre they prefer, however most students will lean towards contemporary punk/rock/metal/indie.

Bass Guitarists should be able to, at minimum, read tablature (TAB) notation, and play with a pick and/or with fingers.

Example songs: Green Day's "American Idiot", or Coldplay "Viva la Vida."

For the example song below, tempo is provided: the song is in a contemporary rock style: the original version is for electric bass, at an upbeat pace of 120bpm.

Verse 1
♩ = 120

9 Pre-Chorus

13





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DRUMS

Drummers should prepare a short audiovisual recording of themselves playing to a song of their choice. The excerpt need not be longer than a minute. It should demonstrate a range of their skills. We need not hear the original “track,” but it should be noted in the submission what song they are playing to. They can either play from memory, or alongside a recording with headphones on.

Drummers should be able to, at minimum, be able to: listen to and approximate playing back a drum beat by rote (at the beginner-intermediate level); understand basic rock eighth-note drum beats; and be familiar with dotted and syncopated rhythms in both feet and hands (example: Foo Fighters’ “The Best of You”).





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

PIANO/KEYBOARDS

Keyboardists should prepare a short audiovisual recording of themselves playing to a song of their choice. The excerpt need not be longer than a minute. We need not hear the original “track,” but it should be noted in the submission what song they are playing to. They can either play from memory, or alongside a recording with headphones on.

Keyboardists should, at minimum, be able to: read simple grand-staff notation at the beginner-intermediate level; play right-hand close-voicing triads with left-hand single-note root-position bass; listen and approximate playing back a rhythm or pattern by rote; play dotted and syncopated rhythms in both hands. While not required, knowledge of basic pedaling (damper) is preferable.

Ideally, a keyboardist is able to read or perform by rote the examples below. The first excerpt is the introduction to Coldplay’s “Clocks;” the second excerpt is the first four measures to the Beatles’ “Hey Jude.” For “Clocks,” the right-hand is required; the left-hand is optional.





SUMMER SESSIONS *at* THE ANIMAL FARM

VOCALS

Vocalists should prepare a short audiovisual recording of themselves singing to a song of their choice. The excerpts need not be longer than a minute. We need not hear the original “track,” but it should be noted in the submission what song they are playing to. They can either sing from memory, or alongside a recording with headphones on.

If they are singing from memory, they should use a reference pitch before singing to establish proper intonation. The “N-Track Tuner” app has a “tuning fork” option, otherwise there are numerous options on the internet. They should demonstrate their vocal range, with good vocal technique (e.g., breath support, diction, control over vowel shape and posture).

Vocalists should, at minimum, be able to: listen and approximate singing back a melody by rote; sing in-tune with accompaniment or a backing track; keep time and follow a beat; and a willingness to perform in front of others.

Please note that the songs we choose for the ensembles will be in their original keys, so we may need to adjust vocal melodies to fit a singer’s range.

