



# THE MUSE FOUNDATION

MUSIC, UNITY  SOCIAL EXPANSION

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## Rules and Guidelines

*As of 8/30/17*

Please read and review the following rules and guidelines before enrolling in The MUSE Foundation. There is a student version of the rules on the last page. More information can be found on our website at [www.muse-foundation.org](http://www.muse-foundation.org).

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## WELCOME

The Music, Unity, and Social Expansion (MUSE) Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Boston, MA that enables young adults of all abilities to form pop-rock bands. We encourage you to visit our website [www.muse-foundation.org](http://www.muse-foundation.org) for information regarding our current session.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The MUSE Foundation aims to expand and strengthen the social network of young musicians of all ability levels and specifically cultivate the following skills:

- Confidence: Both young adults with and without developmental disorders lack confidence in their social interactions. The MUSE Foundation aims to increase the social confidence of its participants by both strengthening existing friendships and introducing new ones through playing music.
- Responsibility: Another focus is to empower MUSE students to set and achieve goals as a group; placing commitments and expectations in each other instills a sense of trust within a group.
- Flexibility: Songs will often be transposed into a different musical key to ease the integration of all students and instruments in the ensemble. Playing “covers” as a group requires flexibility from all members.
- Peer Support: A strong peer support system is crucial for young people who feel socially isolated or different. The MUSE Foundation rehearsals will be a completely open and inviting environment.

## HISTORY & FUTURE VISION

The MUSE Foundation was created by Elaine and Miyabe Shields in the winter of 2015. In early 2016 they were joined by Brett Lukaszek and Max Glick and worked together with a fantastic inaugural group of students to form two pop-rock bands, eventually performing a 2-hour concert in front of over a hundred audience members! The four founding members of MUSE are currently the only staff and are dedicated to creating the best possible experiences and opportunities for MUSE students. They would like to see MUSE grow to become a full-time program, have its own space, and eventually become a service provider that employs former MUSE students.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Failure to comply with the following rules and guidelines could result in, but are not limited to, being asked to leave rehearsal early, temporary suspension from band rehearsals, or termination of participation in The MUSE Foundation. MUSE aims to work together with all students and families in order to prevent suspension or termination.



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## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### OFFICIAL ADDRESS:

The MUSE Foundation  
49 Burroughs St. Apt. 2  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

## TUITION/ PAYMENT/ FINANCIAL INFORMATION/ GENERAL INFORMATION

### Miyabe Shields

*Chief Executive Officer, Asst. Musician, Private Music Instructor*

[miyabe@muse-foundation.org](mailto:miyabe@muse-foundation.org)

(714) 222-4004

## BAND/ MUSIC/ PRIVATE LESSON INFORMATION

### Elaine Shields

*Music Director, Private Music Instructor, Board President*

[elaine@muse-foundation.org](mailto:elaine@muse-foundation.org)

(857) 540-3576

## DRUM CIRCLE INFORMATION/ PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Brett Lukaszek

*Director of Public Relations, Asst. Musician, Private Music Instructor, Board Clerk*

[brett@muse-foundation.org](mailto:brett@muse-foundation.org)

## EVENT/ CONCERT INFORMATION

### Max Glick

*Director of Programming, Asst. Musician, Private Music Instructor, Board Treasurer*

[max@muse-foundation.org](mailto:max@muse-foundation.org)

## PRIVATE LESSON INSTRUCTORS

### Connor Blankenship

*Asst. Musician, Private Music Instructor*

[connor@muse-foundation.org](mailto:connor@muse-foundation.org)

### Alison Bieber

*Asst. Musician, Private Music Instructor*

[alison@muse-foundation.org](mailto:alison@muse-foundation.org)



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## CLOTHING

All MUSE Foundation students are expected to wear appropriate and safe clothing to events and practices. Clothing that distracts students, disrupts the practice, or is found to be vulgar and derogatory are not allowed. The staff reserve the right to make the final decision on what is and is not appropriate. If found to be in inappropriate clothing, a student may be asked to change or leave practice.

All MUSE Foundation students will receive a free MUSE band-member T-shirt upon registration. Students should wear their MUSE shirts to all concerts unless otherwise specified!

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- Respect: All band members are expected to treat music directors, assistant musicians, and other band members with respect and consideration. There will be zero tolerance for name-calling and/or other disrespectful behavior.
- Behavior: All band members will follow directors and have a calm voice and body during band rehearsals in order to have a fun and relaxed practice session. Band members with disruptive behavior may be asked to leave a rehearsal. If the behavior continues to be disruptive, the music director may suspend the band member for one or more weeks.
- Participation: Band members are expected to participate positively at each rehearsal. Members can sing and/or play an instrument, and will always try their best. Students will actively listen and take direction from the MUSE Foundation staff.
- Personal Practice: All band members are expected to practice their respective musical contribution as much as possible on their own outside of MUSE Foundation practices and strive to improve each week.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Band members must notify the MUSE Foundation at least 24 hours before an absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. There is a maximum of three (3) unexcused absences allowed during one session. Upon the fourth unexcused absence, participation in the concert performance may be revoked.

## LATENESS POLICY

Being on time is very important so as not to disrupt the structure of the rehearsal. Band members who are more than 5 minutes late will wait quietly until a break in songs to begin participating.

  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDINGS**

Band members and/or their guardians grant The MUSE Foundation the right to make, use, and publish for promotion and non-commercial purposes any pictures or recorded footage in which band members' image and/or performance appear.



\*\*\*\*\* To see some of our video content find us on [YouTube Here!](#)

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

Band members/legal guardians agree to release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue The MUSE Foundation, its associates, and the facility where this activity is held (collectively referred to as *Releasees*) for any and all claims that they have or may have, in the future, against the *Releasees*.



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## BAND REHEARSALS

Each MUSE band is expected to practice once a week for an hour together.

## PRACTICE LOCATION

Unless otherwise stated, all band rehearsals take place at the Brookline Teen Center:

40 Aspinwall Ave.  
Brookline, MA 02446  
[www.brooklineteencenter.org](http://www.brooklineteencenter.org)

## NUMBER OF BAND MEMBERS

The ratio of student to staff band members will never exceed 2:1.

## BAND MEMBERS

During the first few weeks of a session, the MUSE Foundation will assess the total population of students and arrange the bands accordingly for that semester – this includes choosing which instrument is needed in each band. There are many factors that will be taken into account. If a student has a strong preference for their band placement, they can personally submit a request in person to the music director. However, the MUSE Foundation music director will make all final decisions.

## SONG CHOICES

Student band members will be expected to choose 3-5 songs that they are interested in learning with their band at the beginning of the semester. The final list of songs that the band will perform at the concert is decided by the MUSE Foundation staff.

## DEDICATION TO THE BAND

Student band members must understand that when they join a MUSE Foundation band they are making an important commitment. For the best possible experiences and outcomes, all band members must be present at rehearsals.



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## PRIVATE LESSONS

The MUSE Foundation staff members may provide private (one on one) or semi-private (two on one or two on two) lessons outside of band rehearsals. These lessons will focus more on strengthening technical skills and less on the flexibility of working within a band.

## LOCATION

Private lessons are held at a location mutually determined by the instructor and student.

## ENROLLMENT

Private lessons are given on a first-come, first-serve basis and up to the discretion of the MUSE Foundation staff. If interested in enrolling in private lessons, please contact the instructor directly. Instructors and their areas of concentration are listed below.

## INSTRUCTORS

Alison Bieber - vocals, guitar, piano

Connor Blankenship - piano, songwriting, music theory

Max Glick – bass, percussion, music theory, songwriting

Brett Lukaszek – percussion, guitar, vocals, songwriting

Elaine Shields – violin, vocals, improvisation

Miyabe Shields – guitar, ukulele, vocals, songwriting





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## DRUM CIRCLE

The MUSE Foundation offers a weekly drum circle for students who wish to eventually join a band, but are new to playing music in a group.

## NUMBER OF DRUM CIRCLE MEMBERS

In order to ensure each student receives enough direction, the number of students in a drum circle will not exceed six (6).

## INSTRUCTORS

The drum circle will be facilitated by the rhythm specialists Brett Lukaszek and Alison Bieber. Please direct all questions relating to the drum circle to them.

## DROP-IN PAYMENT

Payment for the drum circle will be on a drop-in basis. The fee will be \$25/session and invoices will be sent out at the end of each month. Students may also opt to pay for the entire session. The Fall 2017 session will consist of 13 rehearsals = \$325.







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## TUITION

There are three (3) different tuition levels: private lesson packages, and band rehearsal + private lesson packages, and band rehearsal package. These are the standard rates for a 12-week session, unless otherwise communicated by The MUSE Foundation.

### Private Lesson Package Options:

- A) 12 one-hour private sessions for \$840
- B) 12 forty-five minute private sessions for \$630

### Band Rehearsal + Private Lesson Package Options:

- C) 12 one-hour private sessions and 12 group rehearsals for \$1140
- D) 12 forty-five minute private sessions and 12 group rehearsals for \$990

### Band Rehearsal/ Drum Circle Package:

- E) 12 group rehearsals for \$540
- F) 13 drum circle rehearsals for \$325

Here is a breakdown of the cost per session; please note that students who enroll in private lessons receive a discount for group rehearsals.

Drum Circle	Group Rehearsal	Private Lesson		Group Rehearsal or Drum Circle + Private Lesson	
		1-hr	45 min	1-hr	45 min
\$25/session	\$45/session	\$70	\$52.50	\$95/week	\$82.5/week

## PAYMENT

There are two (2) payment options:

- 1) Pay tuition for the entire semester in full by the fourth week of the session
- 2) Pay four (4) equal installments at the end of each month of the session

*\*\*For example – Kevin and Korey both participate in the same band rehearsal session with no private lessons. Kevin picks payment option 1 and pays \$540 by the fourth week of the session. Korey picks payment option 2 and pays \$135 each month.*

Checks should be made out to “The MUSE Foundation” and mailed to the official address (see Page 2) or given to a MUSE staff member in person.



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When I join MUSE, I agree to follow these rules:



**Be Respectful:** I will be respectful towards my band members and music teachers. If I have an issue with anyone in my band, I will wait to tell the music director in private. It is never okay to make fun of others or call anyone a name.



**Listen and have good behavior:** I will follow directions and have a calm voice and body during band practice in order to have a fun and relaxed practice session. If I am not listening to directions, I could be asked to leave practice.



**Participate and try my best:** As a band member, I am expected to participate positively at each rehearsal. This means that if I'm at practice, I will sing and/or play an instrument, and I will always try my best. I will participate in all songs chosen by the director.



**I will come every week:** Joining a band is a commitment; it is expected that all band members will come to band practice each week. If I need to miss a practice, I will email Elaine to let her know.



**I will try my best not to be late:** Being on time is very important. If I am more than 5 minutes late, I will wait until a break in songs to join playing. If I know I will be late, I should email Elaine.

I understand that:



**Band groups are decided by MUSE:** All band groups are decided by MUSE, and new members may be added at any time. Sometimes a group member may be moved to another band. The music played in bands will be decided by MUSE. Musical parts and instruments played in each song will be decided by MUSE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_