Santa Barbara Strings Student/Parent Contract
2026-2027
EARLY STRINGS TRAINING PROGRAM

Student Name: _____

Instrument: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Congratulations on being a part of Santa Barbara Strings' Early Strings Training Program. It is an exciting time to begin your musical journey and become a part of a diverse and vibrant music-making community. By signing this contract, your family is accepting the opportunity for your child to become proficient in a string instrument by participating in private and group lessons.

OVERVIEW

Students in the Early Strings Training Program are matched with an accomplished faculty member and receive private lessons in violin, viola, cello, or bass. Additionally, our students have the opportunity to participate in group lessons where they will be introduced to the joy of music making and playing with others. One of our faculty's objectives is to prepare students in the Early Strings Training Program to eventually move into our beginner-level orchestra, Toccata.

Below is a list of expectations for students and their families in the Early Strings Training Program. These requirements are integral to each student's success.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance in private and group lessons is mandatory.
- Students are expected to arrive on time for their private lessons.
- Students must arrive at group lessons 10 minutes early to unpack and tune.
- Up to **4 absences** from weekly private lessons will be excused for the year.
- Up to **2 absences** from monthly group lessons will be excused for the year.
- An accumulation of **4 late arrivals** is counted as 1 absence.
- Excused absences are due to unavoidable conflicts or a sudden illness or emergency. If the student must miss a group lesson, send an email to sbstrings@gmail.com as soon as possible. Contact your private teacher to learn about what to do if the student can't attend a scheduled private lesson.

PRACTICE AND PREPARATION

- Students must bring their instrument, music books, notebook, and a pencil to every lesson.
- Students are expected to complete all weekly practice assignments. Individual practice time outside of lessons is essential for musical development.
- Families are encouraged to be involved in their child's musical life and should expect to have to remind students to practice. The teacher may require a family member to attend weekly lessons and assist with practicing at home.

CONDUCT

- Students are expected to be respectful and fully engaged during lessons.
- Students are expected to have a positive attitude and be supportive of their peers during group lessons.
- Santa Barbara Strings will not tolerate any form of physical or emotional abuse. Disrespectful or inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the program.

CARE OF INSTRUMENT

- Students and families must maintain the best possible care of their instrument to make sure it is in the best playable condition for every lesson.
- Instruments must be properly stored in their cases when they are not in use.
- Instruments should never be exposed to extreme heat or cold. This includes direct sun exposure and leaving the instrument in a hot or cold car.
- Students must regularly clean rosin residue off the instrument with a cleaning cloth.
- Bow hair must be loosened after each use. Please avoid directly touching the bow hair.

COMMUNITY

Students and their families in the Early Strings Training Program are expected to be active members of the Santa Barbara Strings community. In addition to taking music lessons, students are encouraged to attend Santa Barbara Strings concerts and events. Information about upcoming events can be found at santabarbarastrings.org/concerts. Students in the Early Strings Training Program may even be invited to perform in a Santa Barbara Strings concert, depending on the progress.

Another way families can be active members of the community is by volunteering. We ask that our families participate in making our program happen, which lowers our operational expenses and helps keep the tuition costs as low as possible. Please contact sbstrings@gmail.com to learn more about volunteering opportunities. 2

EXPECTATIONS

If a student does not meet the expectations described in this contract, Santa Barbara Strings reserves the right to remove scholarship support, cancel instrument loan, and/or remove your student from the program.

By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this contract. I agree to maintain a copy of this document for future reference.

_____ _____

Student Signature (if student is over age 10) Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date