

2025 Classical Guitar Program Manual

Information subject to change | Updated 6/13/2025

The Aspen Classical Guitar Program is an intensive four-week program that offers performance class instruction with Director Sharon Isbin and her assistant(s) concentrating on technique, sound production, interpretation of all repertoire, and Baroque performance practices. Advanced students will receive all of their performance class lessons from Ms. Isbin; others may have one or more of their lessons with her assistant. Placement will be determined on an individual basis. Qualified students enjoy many opportunities for performance, including chamber music collaborations. The program culminates with a class concert. Students also have the opportunity to participate in chamber music and guitar ensemble, coached by Ms. Isbin's assistant.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All AMFS participants must adhere to the expectations outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

Classes

The following weekly events are required for all Classical Guitar students:

- Program Kick-Off and First Class: **Tuesday, July 29 from 9:45 am-12 pm** in Freidman Atrium on the Bucksbaum Campus
- Guitar Chamber Music Classes (about 1 class per week)
- Guitar Studio Class (2-3 classes per week)
- The Guitar Class Schedule with exact dates, times, and locations for each class is available through the [Class and Non-Orchestral Performance Schedule](#) on your AMFS Student Portal.

Recitals and Performance Opportunities

In addition to coachings, classes, and lessons, the following performance opportunities are scheduled for Classical Guitar students.

- Community Engagement recital at the Basalt Regional Library
 - **Thursday, July 31, 5:15-6:15 pm** (transportation provided)
- Recital at Anderson Ranch Arts Center
 - **Thursday, August 7, 5-6 pm**
- Music with a View performance at the Aspen Art Museum's trendy rooftop café
 - **Monday, August 11, 6-7 pm**
- Spotlight Program Recital in Harris Concert Hall
 - **Thursday, August 14, 3-4:30 pm**
 - Dress rehearsal: **Thursday, August 14, 1-2:30 pm**

Performance Expectations

The Teaching Assistant and Student Recitals Coordinator will work collaboratively to facilitate performance logistics and printed programs for your public engagements. The deadline to submit repertoire is usually one week prior to the recital. Please be on the lookout for communication regarding programs and repertoire and be respectful of the required timelines. Professional performance attire is required. See the [Student Handbook](#) for more details.

A Recital by Sharon Isbin

All Classical Guitar students will attend the Recital by Sharon Isbin in Harris Concert Hall on **Wednesday, August 13 at 7:30 pm**. See the [Student Handbook](#) for information about the Box Office and how to request tickets.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

See the [Student Handbook](#) for a full list of performance opportunities in Aspen. Popular opportunities for Classical Guitar students are detailed below.

Spotlight Recitals

Spotlight Recitals are a setting for students who wish to perform chamber and solo works. Solo and chamber works are encouraged and most appropriate. Concertos are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Students who are placed in chamber music will receive a preassigned performance date on this series. Those preparing solo projects or ad hoc chamber music projects may apply for a performance date by submitting a Spotlight Recital Application through their AMFS Student Portal. All applications will be sent to Aspen teachers for approval. Opportunities fill quickly in late summer so make sure to arrive at Aspen prepared to apply early. Students may apply multiple times, but priority will be given to those who have not yet performed on the series. See the application form for specific deadlines and recital dates, but the general Spotlight Recital schedule is below:

Harris Concert Hall: Wednesdays and Thursdays

- Dress Rehearsal: 1-2:30 pm, Performance: 3 pm

Aspen Chapel: Thursdays

- Dress Rehearsal: 3:30-4:30 pm, Performance: 5 pm

Aspen Community Church: Saturdays

- Dress Rehearsal: 12-1 pm, Performance: 1:30 pm



Pitkin County Library: Mondays and Fridays

- Dress Rehearsal: 1-2 pm, Performance 2:30 pm

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Teaching in the P.A.L.S. and/or Festival Lessons programs

Students may apply to be a P.A.L.S (Passes and Lessons Scholarship) or Festival Lessons teacher, which is a great opportunity to refine pedagogical skills and mentor a local student while earning an income. The application was due by **May 15** through the AMFS Student Portal.

Hire A Musician

Students interested in gigging in the valley or playing for educational events can apply for the Hire A Musician (HAM) program. Popular events include weddings, parties, and organized busking. Festival students are paid a standard rate, depending on the event type. Interested students can submit the Hire A Musician Performer Application starting **April 15** through their AMFS Student Portal.