Eligibility

Students entering grade seven through graduating grade 12 are eligible to apply. Acceptance may be contingent upon receiving a teacher recommendation. Auditions and placement video submission may also apply. See session descriptions for specifics.

Scholarships

Did you know nearly 60% of Birch Creek students receive partial scholarships? Applications are available on our website, BirchCreek.org/Academy, or contact our Registrar for more information. Academy application requirements must be met before scholarship applications are considered. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and are based on financial, merit and instrumentation needs.

Online Application Procedure

Application information is available at BirchCreek.org/Academy. There is a $100 application fee that is applied toward tuition and refundable if you are not accepted into the program. Applications will be reviewed beginning on February 1, 2024 and will continue to be reviewed until all positions are filled. Tuition is $2,400 for two-week sessions.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is Birch Creek's policy to maintain a safe and supportive learning and living environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, bullying and free from discrimination based on race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.

Questions

Contact our Registrar with any questions you may have at: Registrar@BirchCreek.org or (920) 868-3763.

Student Comments

“There’s nothing quite like getting to perform with world class musicians surrounding you.”

-Catie B.

“Birch Creek is an amazing place with brilliant faculty and opportunities.”

-Adam B.

“This experience has been an influential motivator to continue my path in music.”

-Chris F.

“The amazing faculty and encouraging peers made these two weeks life-changing!”

-Chloe M.
**About Birch Creek**

**Our Mission:** To provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.

Birch Creek, located in the heart of Wisconsin’s beautiful Door County peninsula, is a young musician’s dream. Founded in 1976, this unique summer music academy and concert venue provides talented instrumental students (entering grade seven through graduating grade 12) advanced training as well as the opportunity to perform publicly with some of the top music professionals in the country. Birch Creek offers four 2-week residential summer sessions in Percussion, Steel Pan & World Music; Symphony, and Big Band Jazz (two sessions).

**World-Class Faculty**

Birch Creek is known for its acclaimed faculty of professional performers and top music educators who come from prestigious universities, private studios and ensembles from across the country.

**A Mentoring Environment**

With a 2:1 ratio of students to faculty, our accomplished faculty musicians teach and perform alongside each student ensuring everyone receives attentive, individualized mentoring.

**Live the Life of a Professional Musician**

Numerous public performances are a key part of the Birch Creek experience. At Birch Creek, students perform in up to eight public concerts per session, in addition to multiple ensemble performances.

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**Percussion, Steel Pan & World Music**

June 16 - June 29, 2024

**Jazz, Pop & World Percussion**

With its unique focus on jazz, popular, commercial, and world percussion, this session offers students a percussion experience like no other summer music program. Session participants become part of an immersive learning community centered on individual growth in both small and large group settings. Every day, students work side by side with accomplished, energetic, and caring percussion performers and teachers. Each season features new arrangements or compositions written especially for Birch Creek by the program’s creative staff. Students play in as many as eight public concerts, plus pre-concert ensembles each concert night. With a new emphasis on improvisation, world and pop music, students gain confidence and performance experience in this engaging music environment.

**Symphony**

June 30 - July 13, 2024

**Symphony Session**

Students rehearse and perform side by side with faculty and teaching assistants. In this nurturing environment, they quickly develop excellent practice habits and rehearsal skills. Seven public concerts, showcasing four different programs, are performed during the session, putting into practice the skills learned. The Symphony Session offers multiple opportunities for chamber music performances, including prelude music before the orchestra concerts and an afternoon of chamber music on the final day of the session. Auditions are required for acceptance because of the high technical level expected. Available options include in-person audition, uploaded video or virtual audition. See the Birch Creek website for audition requirements and the 2024 repertoire.

**Big Band Jazz**

July 14 - July 27 | July 28 - August 10, 2024

**Jazz I & Jazz II Sessions**

Students receive a learning experience at levels of jazz performance unique to Birch Creek. Our program provides an effective combination of experiences to master the fundamentals of jazz while establishing professional attributes. This includes expert instruction during the day and the opportunity to hear world-class music faculty perform in the Birch Creek Jazz Orchestra at night. Students participate in eight public performances each session, and there are multiple opportunities to play in pre-concert and outreach concert combos. The only difference between the Big Band Jazz I and II sessions are the dates and the faculty. A teacher recommendation is required for new students seeking admission to the Big Band Jazz I and II sessions. Drum and saxophone applicants must submit an audition.